



## **Robert A. Petzel, M.D.**

## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Washington, D.C.

Robert A. Petzel, M.D. was appointed Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in May 2009.

He is Network Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23) based in Minneapolis, Minn. In this position, Dr. Petzel has responsibility for executive leadership, strategic planning and budget for eight medical centers and 42 community based outpatient clinics that serve veterans in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Western Illinois and Western Wisconsin.

Dr. Petzel was appointed Director of Network 23 (the merger of Networks 13 & 14) in October, 2002. From October 1995 to September 2002, he served as the Director of Network 13. Prior to that, he served as Chief of Staff at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Dr. Petzel co-chairs the National VHA Strategic Planning Committee and the VHA System Redesign Steering Committee.

Dr. Petzel is particularly interested in data-based performance management, organization by care lines, and empowering employees to continuously improve the way we serve our veterans. He is involved in a collaborative partnership with the British National Health Services Strategic Health Authority.

Dr. Petzel graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., in 1965 and from Northwestern University Medical School in 1969. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and on the faculty of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

*May 2009*



**Acting Principal  
Deputy Under  
Secretary for Health**