

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: September 13, 2004

From: Chief Officer, Office of Research Oversight (ORO) (10R)

Subj: ORO Sessions at the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research Meetings

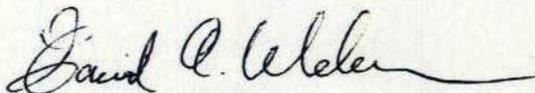
To: Associate Chiefs of Staff for Research and Development and Research Coordinators, VHA Facilities with Federalwide Assurances

1. I want to bring to your attention to two sessions the Office of Research Oversight will facilitate at the meeting of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) this year. These are in addition to VA Day at PRIM&R being organized by the Office of Research and Development. The PRIM&R meeting, to be held in San Diego from October 28 -31, is described at http://www.primr.org/education/2004_IRB/overview.html . This year the PRIM&R theme deals with good communications among partners to ensure protection of human subjects in research.

2. ORO will present a breakout session on Friday, October 29, from 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM, entitled "What's New at the VA? Approaches to Ensuring Compliance in Human Subjects Protections (Session C5)." It will feature a review of ORO's current and planned compliance activities. The ORO Regional Office Directors will present examples of compliance issues in human subjects research that ORO has encountered. The session will provide suggestions about what to watch for to avoid problems and how to correct them if they occur. Time will be allotted for questions and answers.

3. The second ORO session is on Saturday, October 30, from 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM, entitled "Special Issues When Doing Research at a VA Facility: Communications Between VA and Academic Affiliates (Session D-19)." At this breakout, we plan to review Federalwide Assurance issues, specific requirements for review of VA research that may differ from those of the affiliate, what VA and affiliates must consider when they share aspects of their human research protections programs and work together to achieve compliance. We have invited VA and affiliate staff who have developed good communications. Again, we plan for time for dialogue and questions and answers from the experts from VA and affiliates who make their partnerships work.

I hope that if you or your staff are planning to attend PRIM&R this year, you will attend the ORO sessions and participate actively in discussion of these areas that are vital to the quality of our VA research program.



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Chief Officer, ORO (10R)