

VA Stroke QUERI Circular, Volume 1, Issue 1

The Stroke QUERI is up and running!

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Health Services Research and Development Service has recently awarded funding for a new Stroke Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI), project #STR 03-168.

The Stroke QUERI is off to a great start with a highly motivated, high caliber team of research investigators, institutional collaborators, National VA and VISN level support.

The kickoff meeting was a great success with a lot accomplished in a short period of time. A majority of the Stroke QUERI team convened at the VISN 8

facility in Tampa, Florida on May 24th/25th to strategize the operations plan for reaching the Stroke QUERI goals effectively and on time.

The meeting was structured in such a way that the Methodology Core, Dissemination Core, and the Translation/Implementation Core met with each goal group and devised a plan to integrate all steps within each goal objective.

This was a highly successful strategy that allowed a lot of crossover between all of the investigators participating on the goal and core groups.

Also present were members of the executive commit-

tee —John Booss, MD, Lawrence Brass, MD, and Clifford Marshall, MS who provided excellent guidance and insight across all groups. Diane Hanks, QUERI Coordinator, was able to attend and provided constructive feedback for the dissemination plans for each goal group.

Dr. Elwood Headley, Director, VISN 8, joined us briefly and challenged other VISNs to provide support to their research centers as VISN 8 provides to the Veterans Healthcare System in the Sunshine Network.

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Upcoming Conferences

July 12 – 14, 2004, **Translating Research Into Practice**, hosted by Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ), Washington, DC
<http://www.ahrpr.gov/>

October 7–10, 2004, **American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) 65th Annual Assembly**, Phoenix, Arizona
<http://www.aapmr.org/assembly/general.htm>

December 1-3, 2004, **Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) National Meeting**, location TBA
<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/queri/>

February 2-4, 2005 **American Stroke Association, International Stroke Conference**, New Orleans, LA
<http://strokeconference.americanheart.org/portal/strokeconference/sc>

Newly Funded Research Projects.....

- "Formative Evaluation of an INR Home Monitoring Program in the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network", L. Douglas Ried, Principal Investigator. Funding Source: VA HSR&D
- "Implementation of Post-Stroke Guidelines in a Multidisciplinary Stroke Clinic", Lawrence M. Brass, Principal Investigator, Funding Source: VA HSR&D
- "Implementing Evidence in the Detection and Treatment of Post-Stroke Depression", Linda Williams, MD, Principal Investigator, Funding Source: VA VISN

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Introducing.....

Pamela W. Duncan, PhD, PT, FAPTA
Research Coordinator, Gainesville, FL

Dr. Duncan is the Research Coordinator for the Stroke QUERI. She is a physical therapist and epidemiologist who is internationally recognized for expertise in stroke rehabilitation. She has extensive experience in health services research and outcome assessment. Dr. Duncan is the Director of the HSR&D/RR&D funded Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center of Excellence (RORC) located at the North Florida South Georgia Veterans Healthcare System. She also serves as the Director of the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies, and is a Professor of Health Services Administration, University of Florida. She has been continuously funded as a VA RR&D and HSR&D researcher for years and has extensive experience in



Pamela W. Duncan, PhD
Research Coordinator

leading multidisciplinary clinical research teams. (e.g. Associate Director of the Center for Health Policy and Research at Duke University where she served as project director of the AHCPH Stroke PORT 1991-1994). Dr. Duncan was a clinical leader in development of the VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines. Dr. Duncan will use her clinical, research, administrative, and health policy experience to lead and manage the Stroke QUERI. Her specific roles will include direction, long-term planning, and operations of the QUERI programs and personnel, including the local and national teams. In collaboration with the clinical director and the associate director of

the research coordinating center she will continue to refine the QUERI agenda and proposals. She will supervise the QUERI Administrative Coordinator and assure projects and deliverables are completed as planned and that the QUERI goals are met. In addition, she will co-lead with Dr. Reker the Goal 1 and Goal 2 teams.

"One of my many goals is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for veterans and increase the access for quality care within the VA healthcare system."

Linda Williams, MD
Clinical Coordinator, Indianapolis

Dr. Williams is the Clinical Coordinator for the Stroke QUERI. Dr. Williams will direct the Stroke QUERI post-stroke depression goal group, serve on the operations committee, and the Translation, Implementation & Evaluation Core (TIEC). Dr. Williams will contribute her expertise in intervention and implementation research, patient centered implementation of best evidence, depression research in patients with neurological disease, and quantitative measurement. She will work with the Research Coordinator to provide overall leadership of the Stroke QUERI and collaborate with the Implementation Research Coordinator. Dr. Williams is a Staff Physician at the Roudebush Veterans



Linda Williams, MD
Clinical Coordinator

Healthcare System, Associate Professor of Neurology at Indiana University School of Medicine, and a Regenstrief Institute Research Scientist in Indianapolis, IN. She is the Associate Director of the VA funded Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-based Practice at the Indianapolis VAMC. She is an accomplished health services researcher, who participates in national guidelines development, has experience leading multi-site intervention studies, and is nationally-recognized for her work to improve outcomes of veterans with stroke. She brings expertise in intervention

and implementation research, patient-centered implementation of best evidence, and quantitative measurement. She has evaluated the impact of variation in VA outpatient utilization after stroke on long-term mortality and the contribution of depression to veterans' post-stroke mortality.

"One of the aims in my current research is to feedback patient quality of life data at the point of service to improve patient outcomes and outpatient process of care for stroke survivors."

Teresa Damush, PhD Implementation Research Coordinator, Indianapolis

Dr. Damush is the Implementation Research Coordinator for the Stroke QUERI. Dr. Damush's primary role will be to serve as the Implementation Research Coordinator and lead the Translation Implementation and Evaluation Core (TIEC). She will work with other TIEC members in identifying and implementing interventions that promote best practice. She will also work with the Administrative Coordinator to disseminate the results of Stroke QUERI findings.

Dr. Damush is Assistant Scientist, Department of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, Research



Teresa Damush, PhD
Translation Implementation
Coordinator

Scientist at the Regenstrief Institute, and Center Scientist at the Indiana University Center for Aging Research. Dr. Damush is a social and health psychologist

with over 6 years experience specializing in behavioral interventions for clinical populations in primary care. Her research focuses on interventions to increase patient self-management and patient behavior changes using principles of goal-setting to increase patient confidence

to self-manage their chronic medical problems. Dr. Damush has experience revising standard patient materials to make them accessible to the urban, vulnerable clinic populations. In addition, Dr. Damush has experience educating patients individually and in group settings.

"The focus of my research is in promoting disease self-management and physical functioning through examining patient preferences and improving patient outcomes."

Executive Committee.....

Lawrence M. Brass, MD, Chief, Neurology Service, VA Connecticut Healthcare System. Dr. Brass is nationally recognized in stroke research and has contributed to the quality of care and outcome literature. Dr. Brass is the chair of the executive committee and will be the bridge between the committee and the Stroke QUERI. Dr. Brass will focus on establishing key collaborations with external organizations and projects. He also serves on the operations committee and Goal 1, Goal 2., and Goal 3.

Barbara Sigford, MD, National Program Director, VHA Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service (PM&RS), and Chief, PM&RS, Minneapolis VAMC. Dr. Sigford has extensive experience in program implementation and will advise Goal 1 and Goal 2 rehabilitation teams to translate findings into clinical care and VA policy.

Clifford Marshall, MS, Rehab Planner for PM&R Program Office of Rehabilitation Strategic Healthcare

Group of VA Central Office, and FSOD Administrator, Austin Automation Center. Mr. Marshall has varied experience in monitoring performance using VA databases and will serve on Goal 1 and Goal 2 rehabilitation teams to assist in the evaluation of the EES program and advocate for development of performance measures for access to rehabilitation.

Bonny Collins, MA, Clinical Performance Measurement Specialist, Office of Quality and Performance, VHA headquarters. Ms. Collins has been monitoring VA programs and care at the national level including specific measures related to vascular risk. She will contribute her expertise in designing and implementing performance measurement programs.

John Booss, MD, National Director of Neurology located at the VA Connecticut Medical Center. Dr. Booss will focus on helping ensure that we are available to partner with investigators throughout the VHA.

George Mensah, MD, Chief, Cardiovascular Health Branch, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Dr. Mensah will contribute his experience and success with active programs currently working to improve stroke care.

Ellen Magnis, MBA, Director of the American Stroke Association and Vice President of the American Heart Association. Ms. Magnis has experience in the development of consumer and professional products, and stroke-related marketing/communications activities. She has experience in evaluating and implementing programs to influence nationwide systems change in the delivery of stroke care. Ms. Magnis will provide her expertise in the area of translation and implementation of research into clinical practice.

Peter Woodbridge, MD, Physician Executive, Ambulatory Care and Community Based Extended Care, Roude-

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Stroke QUERI Mission Statement

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**"Implementation of Research into
Clinical Practice"**



The mission of the Stroke QUERI is to reduce stroke risk and maximize the functional status and quality of life of veterans with stroke by systematically implementing clinical research findings and evidence-based guidelines into routine clinical practice.

The Stroke QUERI has assembled an excellent team of national leaders and research investigators with the intention of continually developing collaborations with other institutions and investigators centered on the VA stroke population to further expand implementation efforts.

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bush VA Medical Center. Dr. Woodbridge's significant accomplishments include clinic process re-engineering to reduce waits and delays, the selection and deployment of a commercial scheduling software system, and the implementation of a Tele-health and disease management program. Dr. Woodbridge will contribute his expertise in ambulatory care and telehome-care services.

Patricia Ryan, MS, RN, Acting Director, VISN 8 Community Care Coordination Service, Acting Associate Chief Consultant, VHA Office of Care Coordination. Ms. Ryan directs all executive and clinical aspects of the CCCS, Tele-health and the Remote Access Call centers for VISN 8. She develops and implements the clinical aspects of the national Care Coordination program and assures the implementation of clinical standards, quality management system and education direction for a program that serves 7500 veterans. Ms. Ryan will provide her expertise in home healthcare and implementation of research into clinical practice.

Research Coordinator

Pamela W. Duncan, PhD

Clinical Coordinator

Linda Williams, MD

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