

OVERVIEW OF VHA RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides an overview of Research and Development (R&D) research initiatives.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:** The Office of Research and Development (ORD) and its four research services (Medical Research Service (MRS), Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D), Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D), and the Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)) address a common mission and adhere to common policies. Many ORD research initiatives and programs are unique to a research service or are managed differently among the research services. However, there are some programs which uniformly apply to all four services. This VHA Directive provides an overview of these ORD-wide initiatives.
- 3. RELATED DIRECTIVE:** VHA Directive 1200, to be published.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The VHA Office of Research and Development (12) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be referred to ORD at (202) 273-8284, or by facsimile at (202) 273-6526.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** None.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This document is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of October 2006.

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OVERVIEW OF VHA RESEARCH PROGRAMS

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides an overview of Research and Development (R&D) research initiatives.

2. POLICY: It is VHA policy that all research sponsored by the Office of Research and Development (ORD) and its four research services (Medical Research Service (MRS), Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D), Health Services Research and Development Service (HSR&D), and the Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)) address a common mission and adhere to common policies. In addition, shared principles, including prioritization of research proposals on the basis of scientific merit, fiscal responsibility, and high standards of scientific integrity, govern all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) research activity.

3. ACTION

a. VHA ORD is responsible for all VA research which constitutes a unified, increasingly integrated enterprise, with centralized leadership and administration.

b. Ongoing ORD programs are of two general types:

(1) Programs that are the same for the four VHA Central Office research services; and

(2) Programs that differ among the four services (i.e., programs that are unique for a service, as well as common programs with significant differences in implementation).

c. For convenience, the common programs are described in Handbooks designated as ORD-wide programs, and the service-specific programs are organized by research service.

d. In addition to its ongoing programs, ORD is responsible for developing and sponsoring, as needed, special initiatives and programs to meet temporary needs. **NOTE:** *These time-limited programs are described in intermittent R&D Information Letters or Program Notices, rather than VHA Handbooks.*

4. DEFINITIONS

a. The following research programs are encompassed under ORD and are detailed in supporting VHA Handbooks (the 1201 series), soon to be published. **NOTE:** *As additional common programs are identified, ORD will develop supporting policy documents.*

(1) **Programs for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Native American Serving Colleges and Universities.** This VHA Handbook provides information regarding the Collaborative Research Program and the Research Experience Program between interested scientists at VA medical facilities and faculty and students at minority-serving academic institutions.

(2) **Associate Investigator Program.** This VHA Handbook announces guidelines and procedures for the Associate Investigator Program.

b. The following research programs are encompassed under ORD, but are assigned to a research service for program management. These programs are detailed in supporting VHA Handbooks to be issued by the respective service as indicated below.

(1) **Nursing Research Initiative.** The Nursing Research Initiative is managed by HSR&D. Policies and procedures related to the Nursing Research Initiative are described in VHA Handbooks issued by HSR&D (1204 series), soon to be published.

(2) **Epidemiology Research (to be published).** The Epidemiology Research Program is managed by the MRS. Policies and procedures related to the Epidemiology Research Program are described in VHA Handbooks related to the MRS Merit Review Program (1202 series), soon to be published.

***NOTE:** Ongoing research initiatives and programs which are either unique to a research service or are managed differently among the services are described in VHA Handbooks to be issued by the services.*