



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

IL 10-2009-002

In Reply Refer To: 111

January 9, 2009

UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER

**2009 MARSHA GOODWIN-BECK INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN GERIATRICS**

1. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter announces that nominations are being solicited for the Marsha Goodwin-Beck Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics.
2. These awards, honoring Marsha E. Goodwin-Beck, Registered Nurse-Certified (RN-C), Master's Degree of Arts (MA), Master's Degree of Science in Nursing (MSN), former Director of Geriatric Programs, recognize outstanding geriatric health care providers and leaders in the interdisciplinary care of older veterans. The recipients of these awards need to show a sustained commitment to the needs of veterans in their advancing years. Marsha Goodwin-Beck, RN-C, MA, MSN, served as VHA's Director of Geriatric Programs for 14 years. During that time she exemplified the ideal in national leadership in geriatrics. Her intelligent, articulate, and passionate approach to the geriatric health policy challenges of the day made her an effective spokesperson on any and all long-term care issues.
3. Two award categories have been established: Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery and Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.
 - a. **Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery.** The recipient is an individual health care provider in any health care setting who has demonstrated excellence in "hands on" direct geriatric patient care.
 - b. **Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.** The recipient is an individual health care provider in a leadership or management position who has demonstrated excellence through exceptional support for direct patient care providers, for geriatric education and training, or for geriatric health policy leadership, including support of innovations enhancing the quality of direct geriatric patient care delivery, education, and training.
 - c. One award per category is given annually. The nominees must be employed by VHA currently at least 5/8th time in any health care profession. Each winner receives a plaque and a \$5,000 cash award.

IL 10-2009-002
January 9, 2009

d. Each facility Director, VHA Central Office Chief Consultant, Clinical Program Director, or Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) Director may nominate one candidate in each category per year.

e. An evaluation committee appointed by the Chief Patient Care Services Officer reviews all nominations. The evaluation committee recommends final nominees through the Chief Patient Care Services Officer to the Under Secretary for Health, who approves the final selection.

4. Attachment A lists the criteria for nominations and package submission. Inquiries may be directed to Marcia Holt-Delaney (114) at 202-461-6769.

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP
Under Secretary for Health

DISTRIBUTION: CO: E-mailed 1/12/098
FLD: VISN, MA, DO, OC, OCRO, and 200 – E-mailed 1/12/09

ATTACHMENT A

THE PROCESS

1. CRITERIA

a. **Award for Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery.** There must be evidence that the nominee:

(1) Exemplifies excellence in the delivery of geriatric care and has had an effective role in improving the quality of health care for aging veteran patients.

(2) Has been a positive role model for the health care profession and is recognized by management and colleagues for excellence and dedication in the provision of geriatric care.

(3) Works effectively with the health care team to promote excellence in the interdisciplinary delivery of clinical care in geriatrics.

(4) Is recognized by the patients served, or their families, as an outstanding health care practitioner.

b. **Award for Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.** There must be evidence that:

(1) The nominee's leadership exemplifies Marsha Goodwin-Beck's excellence in leadership and has significantly contributed to improving the quality of geriatric patient care, education and training, or health policy either locally, throughout the network, or nationally.

(2) The nominee supports originality, creativity, and innovation in the delivery of direct geriatric clinical care, education, and training.

(3) The nominee's outstanding leadership is recognized by management, colleagues, and subordinates.

2. NOMINATION PACKAGE: The nomination package needs to include:

a. A letter from the facility Director, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Central Office Chief Consultant, Clinical Program Director, or the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) Director, addressed to the Chief Patient Care Services Officer, summarizing the basis for the nomination. The transmittal letter is to include nominator's name, office, mail symbol, and telephone number.

b. Concurrence by the facility Director and Network Director for field nominees, or the VHA Chief Officer for VHA Central Office nominees.

c. A current curriculum vitae, resume, or other summary of education, training, and work history.

IL 10-2009-002
January 9, 2009

- d. Three letters of support outlining the nominee's contributions.
- e. A summary of the nominee's achievements clearly identifying the nomination category. The summary is not to exceed three pages in length and must address the items under criteria 1a or 1b.
- f. Submit an original and five copies of the complete nomination package to: Chief Patient Care Services Officer (114), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.
- g. The nomination package is due to the Chief Patient Care Services Officer (114), no later than March 31, 2009. Final nominations are due to the Under Secretary for Health no later than April 15, 2009.