

**JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD
PROCEDURAL HANDBOOK**

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides information and procedures relating to the nomination, application, review, and selection process for the annual John B. Barnwell Award.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENT:** This is a new VHA Handbook that provides information and procedures relating to the nomination, applications, review, and selection process for the annual John B. Barnwell Award. The Barnwell Award is the Clinical Science Research and Development's Service highest honor for achievement in clinical research.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** VHA Directive 1200.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The VHA Office of Research and Development, Clinical Science Research & Development Service (10P9C) is responsible for the content of this Handbook. Questions may be referred to 202-443-5600.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** None.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This VHA Handbook is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of July, 2019.

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CONTENTS

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PARAGRAPH	PAGE
1. Purpose	1
2. Background	1
3. Scope	1
4. Eligibility	1
5. Nomination Process	2
6. Barnwell Award Application	2
7. Barnwell Award Review Committee	3
8. Barnwell Award Criteria	3
9. Barnwell Award	3
10. Responsibilities	4

JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD PROCEDURAL HANDBOOK

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Handbook provides information and procedures relating to the nomination, application, review, and selection process for the annual John B. Barnwell Award for outstanding achievement in clinical, behavioral and/or methodology research. **AUTHORITY:** 38 U.S.C. 7303.

2. BACKGROUND:

a. The John B. Barnwell Award (Barnwell Award) is the Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR&D) Service's highest honor for outstanding achievement in clinical research.

b. The Barnwell Award was established in 2007 to honor John Blair Barnwell, M.D., distinguished educator and physician-scientist, who was the Director of Research and Education at the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)) Central Office in the 1940s. Prior to joining VA, Dr. Barnwell was a Professor at the University of Michigan and also held positions as Director of the Tuberculosis Division at the Veterans Administration (1946 to 1960), and President of the National Tuberculosis Society (1946). Honors and awards received by Dr. Barnwell include the Trudeau Medal (1950), at the time the highest honor bestowed by the National Tuberculosis Society, the Dearholt Medal from the Mississippi Valley Conference on Tuberculosis, and the Bruce H. Douglas Award from the American Thoracic Society.

c. Dr. Barnwell's contributions to VA include the formation of the Veterans Administration-Army-Navy Cooperative Studies in the Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis Program, which pioneered the model of the multi-site clinical trials to test treatments for tuberculosis following World War II. Furthermore, Dr. Barnwell's leadership inspired enthusiasm and passion for the care of patients and fostered a tradition of top-level clinician-researchers within VA. Through his efforts, the depth and quality of VA patient care was greatly enhanced with the influx of broad, multi-disciplined talent in medicine and science.

d. In the spirit of Dr. Barnwell's prolific professional accomplishments, the Barnwell Award aims to recognize senior VHA investigators who have achieved national and international acclaim for clinical research accomplishments in areas of prime importance to VA's research mission and who have also demonstrated a high level of clinical commitment to the patient population.

3. SCOPE: The Barnwell Award is given for outstanding scientific achievements in clinical, behavioral and/or methodology research that advance the diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment of diseases and disorders in the Veteran population. Although the award may occasionally recognize a single exceptionally-influential contribution, it is generally expected that recipients will have made notable sustained contributions that lead to treatment advances related to diseases and conditions that are relevant to Veterans' health care.

4. ELIGIBILITY:

a. Clinical research recognized by the Barnwell Award should reflect influential scientific efforts that impact clinical implementation of new diagnostic, interventional/treatment, or preventive strategies, and/or provide definitive evidence for informing practice. Such research

could include, but is not limited to: prospective interventional clinical trials (drug, device, or other interventions including behavioral or psychosocial therapy), development of radiological methods, electrophysiological diagnostics, development and clinical validation of laboratory tests, preventive strategies for chronic and/or disabling conditions, development or application of innovative methodological designs, or analytical strategies. Other examples may include rigorously conducted observational studies that focus primarily on populations to address a specific clinical question. Typically, this research will have in large part been conducted within VA medical facilities.

b. To be eligible for the Barnwell Award, nominees must meet all of the following requirements:

(1) **VA Employment Status.** A current VA paid appointment of at least 25 hours per week (5/8ths), or an approved waiver.

(2) **Funded Research.** Current status as the principal investigator (PI) or Study Chair of a funded VA Merit Award, VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) Award, National Institutes of Health (NIH), or Department of Defense (DoD) grant or as a leading biostatistician or pharmacist on an active CSP protocol.

(3) **Presence at VA.** Performed research at a VA facility for at least the previous 5 years.

(4) **Active Funding History.** Minimum of 10 cumulative years serving as PI or Study Chair of funded VA Merit Awards, VA CSP Awards, NIH, or DoD grants or as a leading biostatistician or pharmacist on CSP protocols

(5) **First-time Awardee.** Has not received the Barnwell Award previously.

5. NOMINATION PROCESS: Applicants for the award may be nominated in two ways:

a. VA medical facilities may submit applications to the Director, CSR&D annually by the specified application submission deadline.

b. Qualified applicants may be identified by CSR&D program staff and invited to submit applications by the specified application submission deadline. *NOTE: These applicants must apply through their local R&D Office and will be subject to review and selection by their local R&D Committee and medical facility Director.*

6. BARNWELL AWARD APPLICATION: Detailed instructions on the preparation and submission of a Barnwell Award application package can be requested by submitting an e-mail to vhacobmareview@va.gov. Applications are due by the deadline specified on the submission calendar for the Office of Research and Development (ORD) <http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/process/submission-calendar.cfm>. *NOTE: This is an internal VA Web site not available to the public.*

7. BARNWELL AWARD REVIEW COMMITTEE:

a. The committee consists of Federal government employees, to include VA clinician scientists, former Barnwell award recipients, and representatives from other Federal agencies that fund clinical research. Members are chosen for their scientific expertise and knowledge of the scientific review process.

b. Once the application submission period has concluded, the Barnwell Award Program Manager convenes a committee to review the applications. *NOTE: The Director, CSR&D, and the Barnwell Award Program Manager do not participate in the deliberation and voting for the Award, but may provide information to the committee.*

c. Applications are reviewed based on the criteria outlined in paragraph 8, and the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Director, CSR&D, for consideration and, as appropriate, recommendation to the Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO).

d. At the discretion of the Barnwell Award Review Committee, an application may be retained by CSR&D and reconsidered during the subsequent round of review.

8. BARNWELL AWARD CRITERIA: The Barnwell Award Review Committee bases its recommendation on the following criteria:

a. The significance of the applicant's contributions to a defined field of clinical, behavioral and/or methodology research that has led to the advancement of prevention, diagnosis or interventional/treatment strategies of conditions important to Veterans' health or aligned with VA's research portfolio.

b. The originality of the research.

c. Evidence of contributions to outstanding scientific innovation that have influenced preventive, diagnostic, or treatment strategies of conditions important to Veterans' health.

d. Evidence that the research has had or will have a broad impact on scientific or clinical disciplines and evidence that the nominee's VA employment and support are acknowledged consistently in the nominee's publications and presentations.

e. Evidence of outstanding scientific achievement including, but not limited to: sustained history of national peer-reviewed funding, including current CSR&D support as a PI/Study Chair (e.g., Merit Review or CSP); publications in high quality scientific journals; invited lectures at national and international scientific meetings; evidence of sustained high-quality service and leadership to VA and Veterans in clinical and research areas; membership in and service to national and international professional organizations; editorial service to professional journals; membership on grant review committees; and other national and international research prizes.

9. BARNWELL AWARD: The Barnwell Award consists of:

a. **Personal Cash Award and Plaque.** The recipient receives a personal cash award in the amount of \$5,000 and an inscribed plaque commemorating the recipient's scientific achievements.

b. **Research Support.** The recipient receives additional research support in the amount of \$50,000 per year for 3 years.

c. **Ceremony.** The Barnwell Award is presented to the recipient at an appropriate ceremony.

d. **Publication of Award.** CSR&D publishes the Barnwell Award announcement in a scientific journal related to the recipient's field of research, to honor the recipient. The VA facility at which the recipient is employed receives an inscribed plaque honoring the recipient.

10. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. **Under Secretary for Health.** The Under Secretary for Health, or designee, reviews and, as appropriate, approves the nomination and presents a plaque to the recipient and to the Director of the recipient's VA medical facility at an appropriate ceremony.

b. **VHA Awards Team.** The VHA Awards Team verifies the accuracy of the information submitted in the recommendation, ensures that all VA Awards meet the standards outlined in VA Directive 5013, and assists in coordinating the approval process.

c. **Chief Research and Development Officer.** The CRADO reviews the recommendation of the Director, CSR&D. If the CRADO concurs with the recommendation, the CRADO signs VA Form 4659, Recognition of High Level Performance and submits it for approval through the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, and the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, to the Under Secretary for Health. Upon approval of the nomination by the Under Secretary for Health, the CRADO notifies the recipient's medical facility Director in writing of the Award.

d. **Director, Clinical Science Research and Development Service.**

(1) Reviews the recommendation of the Barnwell Award Review Committee; recommends approval or disapproval of the committee's recommendation; and, if approved, forwards the recommendation to the CRADO.

(2) Ensures award funding is distributed to the recipient's VA medical facility upon approval of the nomination by the Under Secretary for Health.

e. **Barnwell Award Program Manager.**

(1) Convenes the Barnwell Award Review Committee.

(2) Prepares a request for approval of the Committee's recommended candidate to the Director, CSR&D, together with a request for a monetary award of \$5,000, and a VA Form 4659, Incentive Award Recommendation and Approval.

(3) Notifies the recipient's VA medical facility of the Award and instructs the medical facility to provide the monetary award to the recipient and to request reimbursement from the ORD following approval of the candidate by the Under Secretary for Health.

(4) Orders commemorative plaques for the recipient and for the sponsoring VA medical facility.

(5) Coordinates the presentation of the award and placement of the award announcement in a scientific journal related to the recipient's field of research.

f. **Barnwell Award Review Committee.**

(1) Evaluates all applications for the Barnwell Award, received by the published deadline, and recommends the most qualified candidate for the award, based on the specified award criteria, to the Director, CSR&D.

(2) Recommends that no award be made that year if no candidate meets Barnwell Award criteria.

g. **Clinical Science Research and Development Service Scientific Program Managers.**

(1) Identify highly qualified candidates and solicit applications from the ACOS, or Coordinator, for R&D of the appropriate VA medical facility.

(2) At the request of Barnwell Award Program Manager, identify appropriate reviewers for the Barnwell Award Review Committee.

h. **Medical Facility Director.** The medical facility Director, with advice from the facility's R&D Committee, may submit one nomination for the Barnwell Award per round.

i. **Associate Chief of Staff , or Coordinator, for R&D.** The Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS), or Coordinator, for R&D ensures that all required application materials are submitted to ORD by the deadline specified on the submission calendar published by ORD.

j. **Research and Development Committee.** The local facility Research and Development (R&D) Committee evaluates the merits of potential candidates for the Barnwell Award, nominates the single most outstanding candidate, and recommends the nominee to the medical facility Director for approval.