

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care



Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center

*Discover, Educate and Innovate to
Improve Health for Older Veterans*

FY 2022 Annual Report
June 2023

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes fiscal year (FY) 2023 activities of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) geriatric centers of excellence, the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs). As is evident from even a brief perusal of their work, the GRECCs enhance the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mission in countless ways. GRECCs conduct cutting-edge biological, clinical, and health services research; generate novel and exportable clinical innovations; and provide critical geriatrics-related education to VA's workforce as well as trainees in their academic affiliates. GRECC staff serve as a valuable resource for Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN) and medical centers and hold many crucial leadership positions within them and the larger health care community. Although this report contains many outcomes, including performance measures, it is impossible to quantify all the activities of the twenty GRECC sites.

The GRECCs would not exist nor thrive without the support of their VISNs and host medical centers. On behalf of the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, I offer them a sincere thanks for making this work possible.

I also thank the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee (GGAC), which provides policy guidance to the Secretary about all geriatric issues, oversees the GRECCs, and conducts site visits to each GRECC. The VA greatly benefits from the expertise and thoughtfulness of the Committee in crafting its recommendations for national programs and GRECC sites.

I welcome your thoughts and comments about the GRECC program and the contents of this report. Please feel free to contact me at Marianne.Shaughnessy@va.gov for additional information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Shaughnessy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marianne Shaughnessy, Ph.D., AGPCNP-BC, GS-C, FAAN
National Director, GRECC Program

BACKGROUND, HISTORY, AND OVERSIGHT

GRECCs were formed to prepare for the wave of aging Veterans with unique health needs that was going to challenge the resources and expertise of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The first six GRECCs were initiated in 1976. In 1980, Public Law 96-330 mandated GRECCs to “advance scientific knowledge regarding the medical, psychological, and social needs of older Veterans, and the means for addressing them, through: (1) geriatric and gerontological research; (2) the training of personnel providing health care services to older persons; and (3) the development and evaluation of improved models of clinical services for eligible, older Veterans.”

In 1985, Public Law 99-166 authorized up to 25 sites to be designated as GRECCs. Presently, 20 GRECCs are in operation at 25 sites in 17 Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISN); all VISNs except VISN 15 have at least one GRECC. Three VISNs (8, 10, and 19) each have two GRECCs. Other than the original six GRECCs, each site subsequently chosen has been selected in response to a call for proposals that was then subjected to peer review from both within and beyond VA. A subset of the original applicants was then subjected to on-site reviews by a team made up of members of the VA Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee (GGAC), a group of non-VA stakeholders, and geriatrics experts chartered in the same 1980 legislation that authorized the GRECCs. GGAC is charged with overseeing GRECCs as well as providing input to the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health on aging Veterans and the agency’s programs on their behalf.

By law, each GRECC has a tripartite mission of geriatric and gerontological research, education, and clinical innovation. During FY 2022, the GRECC Director’s Association adopted new Values, Vision, and Mission statements that reflect the nature of their work:

Values: Discovery, education, and clinical innovation are foundational to VHA achieving and sustaining excellence in Veteran-centered health care delivery and health outcomes for older and frail Veterans.

Vision: GRECCs propel VHA toward continuous advancement and application of evidence-based patient-centered preventive, therapeutic, and restorative care to achieve best possible health outcomes, including optimal function and quality of life, for older Veterans and all older Americans.

Mission: GRECCs are interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence for discovery and innovation that:

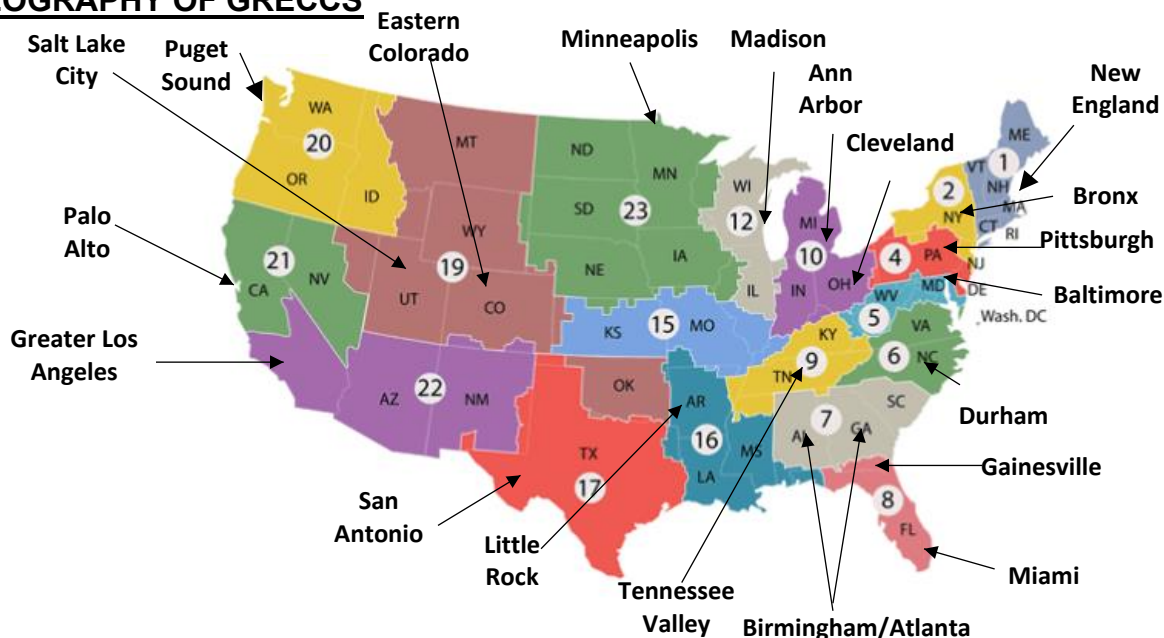
- Conduct geriatrics and gerontological research
- Educate and develop current and future geriatrics and gerontology investigators, educators, clinicians, and leaders
- Develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate models of clinical services that improve care and health outcomes for older Veterans

GRECCs are VHA Centers of Excellence and are therefore subject to the terms for oversight described in Directive 1215, “Standards for VHA Centers of Excellence.” The Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) conducts ongoing oversight of GRECC activities, responds to queries from GRECCs, and organizes cross-GRECC activities, including regular communications among the Directors and each of the Associate Director groups, as well as other ad hoc committees.

Each GRECC submits information on an annual basis about their research, educational, and clinical activities, as well as any challenges in accomplishing goals. This information is entered into a database from which this report is compiled. Performance measures are computed from these data. GEC leadership holds calls with each GRECC to review the report and to discuss plans for the coming year.

In its oversight role, GGAC convenes twice annually in VA Central Office. In FY 2022, two meetings were held and the findings of the FY 2021 annual reports were reviewed. GGAC usually makes site visits to the GRECCs, during which the GGAC Chair, GEC staff, and several committee members review the previously submitted annual reports along with self-studies completed by the GRECCs and interview respective leadership of the GRECC, the VA medical center, the VISN, the University Affiliate(s), and the Advisory Subcommittee. The site visit reports become part of the GGAC’s annual report to the VA Secretary, which by statute, is also sent to the respective Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate VA oversight subcommittees. In 2022, GRECC site visits were conducted virtually and in-person.

GEOGRAPHY OF GRECCS



VA’s Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers

A list of all the GRECCs, including leadership and areas of focus, is included at the end of this report.

GRECCs by the Numbers 2022

These national totals provide some perspective on the scope and overall contributions of the GRECCs:

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Number of GRECCs	20	20	20
Total GRECC Staff	513	522	530
Total GRECC FTE	280.8	315.7	314
Number of aging-related presentations by GRECC staff	2,626	2,209	2,780
Career development awardee mentees	268*	329*	403*
Number of grants and projects awarded	750	928	1,134
Peer-reviewed publications	1,605	1,886	1,858
Grants reviewed	443	972	1,010
Manuscripts reviewed	3,178	3,312	2,993
Trainee slots for allied health	408	296	279
Medicine residents, fellows, and students who rotated through GRECC sites	1,538	1,726	1,816
Total annual grant and projects expenditures	\$168,623,445.89	\$184,688,316.44	\$190,854,604.36
Total qualified research expenditures (subject to VERA)**	\$109,053,709.65	\$120,296,964.22	\$120,972,029.74
VERA allocation for GRECC trainees***	\$ 9,766,610.97	\$ 20,543,780.27	\$ 14,808,966.98

*This sums up the mentees that each GRECC staff person supervised. This was not necessarily as the primary or only mentor, so some mentees may be counted twice.

** Data Sources: Office of Research & Development and Allocation Resource Center

*** Data Source: Office of Academic Affiliations Support Center

GRECC CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of their annual reporting process, GRECCs enumerated their contributions to research, education, clinical, and administrative programs within their VISNs, medical centers, and national program offices. National contributions included dissemination of novel clinical programs, such as:

- Gerofit, an exercise program for community-dwelling older adults that is offered in 34 VA facilities
- AssiSTed EaRly MobIility for HospitalizeD Older Veterans (STRIDE), available at 27 locations and provides a supervised inpatient walking program to prevent disability related to immobility during hospitalization

- Geriatric Emergency Departments, where 13 GRECCs have implemented practices consistent with requirements for geriatric accreditation as outlined by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
- Age-Friendly, where 19 GRECCs have assisted with implementation of Age-Friendly principles at their medical centers
- Coordinated Transitions of Care (C-TraC) is an innovative, patient-centered case-management intervention provided during post-hospitalization to reduce negative post-hospital outcomes and improve Veteran/family and provider satisfaction, available at 11 VA facilities

GRECC national education activities for VA trainees and staff included:

- Geriatric Scholars Program, which infuses geriatrics into VA primary care settings
- GRECC Webinars, monthly webinars on geriatric syndromes provided to VA staff nationwide
- Dementia training for VA staff, made available nationally
- VIRTUAL Geriatrics, formerly known as GRECC Connect, which provides twice-monthly accredited case-based geriatric webinars to rural Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) staff

Three noteworthy educational products for FY 2022 included VA Enteral Nutrition Competency Modules for TMS, with collaboration from the Gainesville GRECC, two pain products, Pittsburgh Pain Practicum and “Pain Medicine at a Glance” from the Pittsburgh and Baltimore GRECCs, and the international Frailty Seminar Series organized by the Miami and San Antonio GRECCs.

GRECCs also contributed at the VISN level to ensure that geriatric research, education, and clinical innovations reached facilities within their VISN. They participated in various research activities that included dementia caregiving, deprescribing, and frailty screening. Education has been offered to VA staff and trainees in hospice and palliative care, Whole Health, caregiver support, dementia, and Age-Friendly principles. Clinically, GRECCs provided COVID Support Groups, Dementia Assessments, care transitions, geriatric medicine telehealth appointments, and Gerofit across their VISNs.

At a local level, many GRECCs have Centers on Aging located within their university-affiliate sites. They study Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, COVID-19 effects on those in long-term care settings, and the effect of exercise on physical function. Clinical programs at the local level include falls prevention, infection control, pain management, Age-Friendly initiatives, and Patient Priorities Care. GRECC educational staff oversee Geriatric Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Integrated Medicine residencies, Health Professions Trainees (HPT), and Fellowship programs. GRECC faculty mentored these trainees as they received geriatric experience in clinic, inpatient, home, and long-term care settings. The GRECCs also provided staff education, which included the Virtual Dementia Tour, COVID handouts, ethics training, interprofessional education opportunities, and telehealth.

Another important contribution, difficult to quantify but regularly brought to light during every GRECC site visit, concerns recruitment of talented and productive clinicians to VHA. Many of the HPT clinical preceptors state that their training experiences in VA began in GRECC and that the interdisciplinary care VHA provides to Veterans remains unmatched in the private sector. Many funded GRECC researcher-physicians report they would not be in full-time academic positions if not for the resources, collaborations, research opportunities, stability, and mix of responsibilities within a GRECC. These scholars bring tangible and intangible assets to their medical centers and university affiliates. They serve as magnets for other recruitments, trainees, and resources, and assist in strengthening ties with academic affiliates. They elevate the visibility, academic environments, and clinical capabilities of their host medical centers and of the entire VHA system.

GRECCs provided material value to their VISNs by several mechanisms. First, research expenditures are “recaptured” by means of the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) research allocation, in which a proportion of the total money spent on a grant is given to the medical center to support the research. (It is analogous to “indirect costs” in National Institute of Health (NIH) grants.) Second, medical centers receive money through VERA for educational activities, based on the number of trainee positions. Third, education projects receive money through various internal and external mechanisms, including the Office of Rural Health. Finally, GRECC staff perform clinical activities that are not related to the GRECC, but that benefit the medical center.

Note: This report contains multiple references to GRECC publications, products, and projects. A searchable database is provided at the conclusion of this report for VA users. Non-VA users may contact Marianne.Shaughnessy@va.gov for access to any of the items referenced herein.

AWARDS

From the dozens of awards and recognitions earned by GRECC researchers, several deserve special mention this year:

- Dr. Judith Howe (Bronx) was elected as the Vice-President of the Gerontological Society of America.
- Dr. Kenneth Boockvar (Bronx) was nominated for the Under Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research.
- Dr. Ula Hwang (Bronx) received the Pioneer in Geriatric Emergency Medicine Award from the Academy of Geriatric Emergency Medicine.
- Dr. Robert Bonomo (Cleveland) was recognized by Clarivate as the Top 1% of Highly Cited Researchers.
- Dr. Eleanor McConnell (Durham) was named as the Senior Associate Editor for the Journal of Post-acute and Long-term Care.

- Dr. Wendy Kohrt (Eastern Colorado) was the first woman to receive the American Physiological Society, Environmental and Exercise Physiology Section Honor Award.
- Dr. Robert Shmookler-Reis (Little Rock) was recognized as a runner-up for Best Paper published in Aging Cell.
- Dr. Jennifer Moye (New England) received the M. Powell Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award in Applied Gerontology.
- Dr. Melanie Koenigshoff (Pittsburgh) received the 2022 Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments from the American Thoracic Society.
- Dr. Amanda Federovich-Hogan (Pittsburgh) was recognized as a 2022 Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation Emerging Leader.
- Dr. Daniel Hall (Pittsburgh) received Diffusion of Excellence funding for dissemination of the Surgical Pause program to 55 facilities by the end of FY 2023.
- Dr. Eric Taday (Salt Lake City) was selected to participate in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) STAR research program.
- Dr. Wes Ely (Tennessee Valley) received the Master of Critical Care Medicine Award by the Council of the Society of Critical Care Medicine for lifetime contributions to clinical care, research, and teaching in critical care medicine.
- Dr. Paul Newhouse (Tennessee Valley) received the 2022 Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry.

In FY 2022, GRECC staff were recognized locally for their contributions. They received numerous teaching awards, and awards for mentoring, research, scholarship, and humanitarian work.

KEY LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

External Organizations:

GRECC faculty are recognized nationally for their expertise in geriatric care and in FY 2022 represented VA in numerous leadership roles:

- Board members for the American Geriatric Society (AGS)
- Chair, AGS Research Committee
- Chair, National Institute on Aging (NIA) Review or Special Emphasis Panel
- Chair, National Institute of Health (NIH) Review or Special Emphasis Panel
- Chair, NIH, Data Safety Monitoring Board
- Chair, Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America, Research Committee

- Chair, American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- President, National Osteoporosis Foundation
- President, American Academy of Sleep Medicine
- Chair, American Urological Association Science & Quality Council
- Co-Chair, National Quality Forum MAP Hospital Workgroup
- Co-Chair, American College of Medical Informatics Strategic Plan Execution Committee
- Chair, National Palliative Care Fellowship Special Interest Group

VA Service:

GRECC staff led and participated in key national VA committees and initiatives, including the Geriatric Scholars Program and the Geriatric Emergency Department Task Force. GRECC staff chaired and co-chaired VISN level committees such as VISN Dementia Committees, Rehabilitation and Extended Care Integrated Clinical Community (REC-ICC) Committees, Age-Friendly Steering Committees, Geriatric Committees, and Research Committees.

Locally, GRECC staff represent leaders in geriatrics by serving as Medical Directors for Community Living Centers or Directors of geriatric programs/clinics, leading Rehabilitation and Extended Care Integrated Clinical Communities (REC ICC) activities, supporting Residents, Fellows and HPTs through geriatric rotations, serving as section Chiefs or Associate Chiefs of Staff for geriatrics, palliative medicine, research and development (R&D), urology, quality and patient safety, geriatric mental health and neuropsychology, and patient safety. GRECC staff also served as chairs or co-chairs for medical center committees for Quality, Safety, and Value, Medication Reconciliation, Institutional Review Boards (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use, Access, Dementia, and Dementia Education, Surgical Quality, Stroke, Strategic Planning, Clinical Research Unit, Research Safety and Institutional Biosafety, and Ethics committees.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

GRECCs are required by statute to conduct research on aging-related topics, including basic biomedical, applied clinical, and health services research. GRECC primary core staffing is recommended to include 5.0 research Full Time Employee Equivalent (FTEE); and an average research effort of at least 40% time by all GRECC research staff is required and enforced as a performance monitor.

GRECC researchers served as principal investigators on more than **1,100** funded projects in FY 2022. The total annual research expenditures for projects with GRECC investigators were over \$134 million, of which 62% was VA-supported research (e.g., Merit, Cooperative Study, Career Development, etc.); 36% non-VA governmental and other peer-reviewed funding (e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH), university support); and 2% private corporation, donated or proprietary funds.

GRECC research topics for 2022 included Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, stem cell and tissue aging, Parkinson's Disease, cardiovascular functioning, osteoarthritis, cancers, stroke, PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and insulin resistance. In addition, GRECC investigators researched incontinence, neurodegenerative disease, frailty, dysphagia, chronic kidney disease and other chronic illnesses, and the biology of aging. Research not only touched on disease and treatment, but it also studied health services, which included transition care, gender difference, drug safety, caregivers, and exercise and mobility.

GRECC staff published more than **1,850** peer-reviewed publications in FY 2022, including some key breakthroughs in advancing the science of geriatrics. Many have direct relevance for the health of older adults. Some of the highlights are:

- Guardianship: A medicolegal review for clinicians (Ann Arbor)
- Novel use of existing technology: A preliminary study of patient portal use for telerehabilitation (Baltimore)
- Considerations for integrated cognitive behavioral treatment for older adults with coexisting nocturia and insomnia (Birmingham/Atlanta)
- The Missing Piece of the Puzzle: High-Quality, Nonhospice, Community-Based Care for Persons with Dementia (Bronx)
- Association of a geriatric emergency department program with healthcare outcomes among Veterans (Cleveland)
- Adapting to CONNECT: modifying a nursing home-based team-building intervention to improve hospital care team interactions, functioning, and implementation readiness (Durham)
- Telehealth for geriatric post-emergency department visits to promote age-friendly care (Eastern Colorado)
- Fall Prevention Practices and Implementation Strategies: Examining Consistency Across Hospital Units (Gainesville)
- Comparing Post-Acute Populations and Care in Veterans Affairs and Community Nursing Homes (Greater LA)
- A Review of Race and Ethnicity in Hospice and Palliative Medicine Research: Representation Matters (Little Rock)
- Neurodegeneration, Alzheimer's disease biomarkers, and longitudinal verbal learning and memory performance in late middle age (Madison)
- The association of a frailty index from laboratory tests and vital signs with clinical outcomes in hospitalized older adults (Miami)

- Lower urinary tract symptoms and incident functional limitations among older community-dwelling men (Minneapolis)
- Assessing What Matters Most in Older Adults with Multi-complexity New England)
- Mobility and What Matters: Moving Kidney Care Toward the 4Ms of an Age-Friendly Health System (Palo Alto)
- Deprescribing trials: A focus on adverse drug withdrawal events (Pittsburgh)
- STEADI Self-Report Measures Independently Predict Fall Risk (Puget Sound)
- Short-term exposure to a clinical dose of metformin increases skeletal muscle mitochondrial H₂O₂ emission and production in healthy, older adults: A randomized controlled trial (Salt Lake City)
- Handbook of the Biology of Aging (San Antonio)
- Can We Improve Delirium Prevention and Treatment in the Emergency Department? A Systematic Review (Tennessee Valley)

GRECCs helped to ensure the high quality of scientific research in America, reviewing 1,101 grants and 2,993 publications, serving on 456 editorial boards and leading local and national research societies. GRECC staff promoted the next generation of research investigators, with 403 research mentoring relationships (a GRECC investigator with a VA or NIH career development awardee).



EDUCATION AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

The GRECCs are charged with a broad education mission: 1) to provide ongoing training in geriatrics for the host facility clinical staff, 2) to provide regional and national continuing medical education, 3) to train medical and health care professions students in geriatrics and gerontology, and 4) to mentor junior faculty and post-doctoral researchers. All GRECCs have close ties to their affiliated medical school(s); many maintain close working relationships as well with other health professional programs (e.g., nursing, psychology, social work, pharmacy, rehabilitation therapies, audiology/speech pathology, dentistry, podiatry, and optometry) of the university affiliate(s) and of other universities.

GRECCs carried out several innovative education projects in FY 2022, aimed at ensuring that VA's workforce has the skills and experience needed to provide high-quality care to aging Veterans. Some of the highlights are:

- Aging, Cognition, and Diversity Speaker Series (Ann Arbor)
- Mentation and positive mental health for older Veterans using interactive games and sharing of best practices (Baltimore)
- Social Determinants of Health; Considerations for Care of Older Veterans published as an interprofessional resource and guide for health care professionals (Birmingham/Atlanta)
- Dementia Care Coordination Program offering individual and group webinars for Caregivers (Bronx)
- GERI-VET, a.k.a. Emergency Room Boot Camp Training (Cleveland)
- Health Disparities Research Curriculum (Durham)
- Interprofessional Case Conferences (Eastern Colorado)
- Virtual Reality Simulation on Delirium (Gainesville)
- Team Based Primary Care for Older Veterans (Greater LA)
- Dementia Education Course for facility staff (Little Rock)
- Late-life depression learning module available nationally (Madison)
- Pain Management with pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic approaches (Miami)
- Cognitively Impaired and Agitated Patient (Minnesota)
- Talking Later Podcast: Veterans Stories of Late-life PTSD (New England)
- Virtual Reality Training on LGBTQ+ and Aging (Palo Alto)
- Community Living Center Course for Hospitalists (Pittsburgh)
- 3D's; Delirium, Dementia, and Depression Pocket Card for providers (Puget Sound)
- Monthly Geriatric Grand Rounds (Salt Lake City)
- GeriEmpower: teaching complex care teams and case managers on geriatric attitudes and knowledge (San Antonio)
- ICU Bundle for Critically Ill Patients focused on interprofessional approaches to symptom management (Tennessee Valley)

GRECCs provided over 3,074,715 **qualified person-hours of educational activities in FY 2022**. These were learning events focused on geriatrics for VA staff and trainees that included an evaluation process. This represents a substantial part of geriatrics-related education in VA. In addition, GRECC staff gave **2,743 lectures** in FY 2022. (Note: These two processes may have some overlap.) The GRECC supported Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) funded Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) sites by providing lectures and organizational support. GRECCs were awarded 41 education and training grants in FY 2022, totaling over \$14 million.

GRECCs served as an institutional home for the Rural Intensive Team Training program, the GRECC-Community Based Outpatient Clinic (GRECC-Connect) initiatives and the Geriatric Scholars program. In FY 2022, the Geriatric Scholars Program (organized through the Greater Los Angeles GRECC) engaged 4,541 learners, offering 86 educational sessions for a total of 2,120,647 person-hours of education/training. This program has broadly enhanced VA's capacity to care for older Veterans across treatment settings.

GRECCs provided medical students, medical residents, and fellows with valuable clinical experiences in geriatrics through a selection of inpatient and outpatient programs:

Medical Discipline	Total Trainees FY 2022
Internal Medicine Resident	566
Psychiatry Resident	57
Family Medicine Resident	52
Other Resident	60
Geriatric Medicine Fellow	93
Geriatric Psychiatry Fellow	13
Other Fellow	59
Medical Student	916
Total Medical Trainees	1,816

The GRECCs also supported many affiliated health disciplines supported by the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), ensuring that they gain clinical experience in the care of older adults. GRECCs also accepted additional trainees from their university affiliates. Each “slot” in the table below represents a full-time position, which may be split across multiple trainees.

Affiliated Health Discipline	OAA Slots	Non-OAA Slots	# Taking VA Job
Audiology/Speech Pathology	37	9	9
Chaplainry	9	8	0
Dietetics	9	3	1
Nurse Practitioner	45	9	1
Nursing	3	7	0
Occupational Therapy	23	8	2
Optometry	24	5	3
Other	0	9	0
Pharmacy	34	69	24
Physical Therapy	15	15	0
Psychology	31	21	3
Social Work	49	14	8
Total	279	178	51

Although it is difficult to track post-trainee and fellowship outcomes, the data collected for this report indicate that at a minimum, 51 (22%) of the OAA-affiliated Health Professions Trainees (HPT) took a job within the VA after completion of their program. This is a slight decrease from FY 2021 where 25% of the trainees accepted VA

employment, but continues to suggest that the GRECCs serve a crucial role in developing geriatric trained clinicians for the VA.



CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

GRECCs are responsible for enhancing the clinical care of elderly Veterans through development, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative approaches to care. Numerous innovative approaches have been developed in GRECCs in the four decades since the inception of the program and many are now part of the mainstream VHA clinical portfolio. GRECCs have a mandate to conduct clinical demonstration programs, by developing, field-testing, evaluating, and disseminating novel models of care for older Veterans. The projects are supported by the GEC Program Office and VISNs through memoranda of understanding. Each has a 2- to 5-year cycle. Not all clinical innovations will succeed, so there is no expectation that every project will be disseminated.

GRECC clinical innovation projects totaled 146 for FY 2022 with 57 in the evaluation stage and 50 disseminated. Innovations included medication safety, dementia care models, exercise, mobility, Age-Friendly initiatives, transitional care, use of telehealth, and geriatric expertise in VA Emergency Departments. GRECC Education for VA staff and trainees is extensive and included GRECC Connect at 9 locations providing geriatric e-consults for primary care providers and Geriatric Scholars providing geriatric education to Primary Care teams across the VA.

GRECC Site	Clinical Demonstration Projects
Ann Arbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerofit • Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Clinic with Behavioral Health and Neuropsychological Evaluation and Management • iTeleOT • Long Term Follow-Up of Deprescribing Initiative at Rural CBOC • Optimizing Safe Medication Use in Older Adults via In-home Telepharmacy • TeleGeriatrics Consultation/Co-Management for Rural Older Veterans • Telepharmacy Model of Care for Safe Medication Use in Older Veterans • Understanding Falls in a Post-Acute Care Setting (CLC)

Baltimore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Renal Insufficiency Clinic (RISC) • Falls and Frailty Clinic • Home Exercise Program for Home Bound Older Veterans (HEX) • Tele-Gerofit • Telehealth Total Joint Prehab demonstration project • Veteran and Companion Dog Foster Program • Vets and Veggies
Birmingham/ Atlanta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-Friendly Health System Adoption • Continence Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) • Expanding Enhancing Quality of Prescribing Practices for Veterans Discharged from the Emergency Department (EQUIPPED) • Expansion of IMPROVE in GeriPACT, enhancing Age-Friendly Care • Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation at ATL VA medical center • Gerofit • GRECC Connect • Mentored Partnership to expand the IMPROVE medication management program • Patient Safety Center of Inquiry-Center for Medication Safety in Older Adults-Evaluation of IMPROVE • Tele-IMPROVE: Remote Integrated Management and Polypharmacy Review of Vulnerable Elders
Bronx/New York Harbor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRECC Connect • Patient Priorities Care • Patient Safety Center of Inquiry Deprescribing Collaborative • Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training
Cleveland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antipsychotic Stewardship • Geri-Vet • Hospice and Palliative Care: See Me Hear Me Comfort Me • Transitional Care Model (TCM)
Durham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "COACH" Integrated Dementia Care Clinic • Dementia Warning Signs to Promote Dementia Detection in Primary Care • Falls Assessment of Medications in the Elderly • Geriatric Evaluation for Telehealth Readiness (Get READI) • Gerofit Dissemination • GRECC Connect/VIRTUAL GERIATRICS • Improving Care of High-Risk Older Adults in the Emergency Department

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Poppies and Volunteers: A Path to Transformed Dementia Care in Hospitals Perioperative Optimization of Senior Health (POSH) • Renal Silver • STRIDE: Assisted Early Mobility for Hospitalized Older Veterans • VISN 6 Bone Health Service
Eastern Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive Listening Devices • ECHCS Fall Prevention Clinic (FPC) • ECHCS GRECC Connect • Gait Speed Screening Initiative • Improving physical rehabilitation for rural Veterans with complex care needs • Interdisciplinary Mobility Program for Veterans in Skilled Nursing Facilities • Physical Function Trajectories After COVID-19 • Safety in Dementia: Development of an Online Caregiver Tool for Firearm, Driving, and Home Safety; Targeted Audiologic Training for Associated Health Trainees and Geriatric Medicine Fellows • Tele-rehabilitation for Medically Complex Veterans During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Gainesville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of culturally relevant and age-appropriate caregiver education and training in collaboration with VA Caregiver Support Program • Dissemination of GRECC Developed Simulation Based Delirium Education • Promoting End-of-Life Care Among VA Healthcare Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic • Safety of Nutritional Care for Hospitalized Veterans
Greater Los Angeles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Intergenerational Approach to Improve Mobility of Older Veterans Using Gerofit Student Volunteers • Implementation and evaluation of the use of the SitMILL MiniTREAD to reduce Hospital-Acquired Deconditioning for Patients on the Acute Geri Team Inpatient Service • Pre Hab (Dissemination) • Prehab to Improve Outcomes in Elective Surgeries in Frail, Older Veterans • Rapid Transition to Telehealth Group Exercise and Functional Assessment in Response to COVID-19 • WLA GeriPACT with Age-Friendly Designation
Little Rock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Care Planning via Group Visits (ACP-GV) • Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs (ACORN) Initiative • Gerofit Geriatric Walking Clinic • GRECC Connect

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay Home Stay Fit • Supportive CTraC • Tai Chi Collaboration for Health and Recovery in Older Veterans Impacted by COVID-19 • TeleGeriatrics Consultation/Co-Management for Older Veterans Impacted by COVID-19 • Tele-memory Clinic • Use of Emerging Technologies to Develop a Fully Automated In-Hospital Patient Activity Monitoring System (PAMS) • VA Connection Plans: A Whole Health Interventions to Promote Social Connections for Veterans
Madison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Care Clinic • Elder Veterans Prevention Program • GRECC Connect/Virtual Geriatrics Enhancement Project • Supportive C-TraC Program • The VA Intensive Dysphagia Treatment Program
Miami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination among Older Adults at the Miami VA • Attenuating the Behavioral, Cognitive, and Disability Effects of COVID-19 in Older Adults • Augmented Care and Timely Intervention for Veterans with COVID-19 (ACTIVE-C-19) • Dementia Prevention Telehealth Group Clinic • Gerofit • Improving Access to Geriatric Care in Rural Areas: GRECC Connect • Veteran Directed Care-An Investigation of Facilitators and Barriers for Program Expansion • VSAFE-SURG/Geriatric Surgery Verification Program
Minneapolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT Dementia Care Model • Post-Operative Delirium • Power Assisted Walker • St. Louis University Mental State (SLUMS) exam
New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-Friendly Health Systems Initiative (AFHS) • Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs (ACORN) • Coordinated Transitions of Care (C-TraC) program-CLC • Coordinated Transitions of Care (C-TraC) program-CORE • Embedded Geriatrics Clinics in Cardiology • Gerofit • Later Adulthood Trauma Re-Engagement Group • Live Long Walk Strong • Live Long Walk Strong-CLC • Patient Priorities Care (Boston and Bedford)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Dementia Caregiver Support Programs • What Matters Most - Structured Interview
Palo Alto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive Assessment Clinic • Geri-Mobile Health • Tele-Dementia Care • VVC Balance, Exercise and Strength (VVC-BEST)
Pittsburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging Backs Clinic • COMPASS (Care-COordination and eMpowerment of PATients in System-to-System) transitional care program • Geriatric Navigator • Gerofit
Puget Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Aging Project – Brain (HAP-B) • MOV-ing FREE-ly (Multicomponent, Otago, Virtual, Falls Reduction, Education and Exercise Class) • Patient Priorities Care (PPC) in Community Living Centers (CLC)-A • Patient Priorities Care (PPC) in CLCs-I • "Telemedicine, Adherence, and Geriatric Veterans: Improving Medication Compliance Using Mobile Technology (TAG-Vets)"
Salt Lake City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of COVER to COVER through new models • GHELP-TC • Rural Access Data Analysis Resource • Virtual Care Connect to Montana-GRECC Connect
San Antonio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-Friendly Health Initiative • DISE (Dementia Immersion Simulation Experience) • Geriatric Pre-Operative Rehab Clinic • Gerofit • GRECC Connect • "Life Sustaining Treatment Decisions Initiative (LSTDI)" • PPC: Implementation of VA Patient Priorities Care in Geriatrics Services • Vital, Important, Optional, Not needed (VIONE) deprescribing initiative in Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Clinic • VISN 17 CLC Needs Assessment
Tennessee Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A personalized provider-based intervention to improve adherence to initial consultation and decrease no-show rates in a GEC program specialty clinic • A Surgery quality metric Veterans Affairs Surgical Quality Improvement Program (VASQIP) based trigger to address "What Matters Most" for Veterans who are high risk candidates for surgical procedures • Embedding Palliative Care in Clinic in Oncology (EPIC-O) • Facilitating Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRECC faculty serve on the Tennessee Department of Health Civil Monetary Penalty Reinvestment Committee (CMP) grant related to COVID-19 prevention and infection control • Implementation of a Geriatric Patient-Centered Medical Home: The Geriatric Patient – Aligned Care Team (GeriPACT) • Implementation of the ABCDEF Bundle in ICUs Across the Globe • Implementing STRIDE in VISN 9 • Reaching Out to Underserved and Rural Caregivers and Veterans with Advanced serious illness Veterans utilizing Video Connect (VVC) Video-Telehealth visits and e-consults • Tele PT for Falls Prevention • TVHS GeriPACT Age-Friendly Practice • VISN 9 Dementia System of Care • VISN 9 GEC Workforce Development • VISN 9 Hospice and Palliative Care System of Care
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PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The system of GRECC performance metrics was developed in 1996 to ensure that all GRECCs meet standardized performance expectations commensurate with a national program. The metrics underwent an extensive reassessment in 2005 and again in 2008, and since 2009 have been the focus of a standing committee (with rotating membership) that continuously monitors the metrics, GRECC performance, and the need to modify them in response to changing VHA and GEC priorities. The measures are described in the table on the following two pages. With very few exceptions, all the GRECC sites accomplished all the performance measures in FY 2022 (see below). The GRECC performance measures were reviewed extensively by the GRECC Performance Measure Committee during FY 2020-2021. The GRECC Performance Measures were updated to align with current priorities and were introduced in FY 2022. See table on pages 20 and 21.

Performance Measure	Target	Ann Arbor	Baltimore	Birmingham Atlanta	Bronx/New York Harbor	Cleveland	Durham	Eastern Colorado	Gainesville	Greater Los Angeles	Little Rock
Timely Negotiated VISN/GRECC MOU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total # of aging-related research projects by research investigators	10+	12	14	57	17	32	25	22	5	45	17
Average # of aging related publications by GRECC Professional Core Staff	3+	11.1	5.8	15.7	13.6	15.9	8.3	11.1	7.7	12.2	3.8
Total # papers and other publications by all Core Staff	21+	58	129	101	105	103	77	66	26	84	26
Percentage of publications listing VA affiliation	95%+	98%	99%	100%	77%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total number of post-graduate mentees, mentored by GRECC staff	5+	16	5	37	17	7	19	42	8	47	5
Total education and training person-hours	1,500+	1,508	12,067	40,998	97,041	6,000	3,235	3,692	4,766	2,816,153	5,361
Number of OAA-supported associated health disciplines	3+	3	5	6	3	6	6	4	4	5	3
Average # of educational presentations-core staff	4+	4.2	7.4	7.5	4.8	6.5	11.1	5	8	7.7	8.3
Number of clinical innovations	2+	8	7	10	4	4	12	10	4	7	11
Number of clinical innovations disseminated	1+	6	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	4
Percentage of time devoted to research	45%+	46%	68%	46%	53%	52%	46%	57%	35%	40%	47%
Percentage of time devoted to education and training	10%+	20%	10%	15%	14%	18%	11%	11%	16%	14%	8%
Percentage of time devoted to non-GRECC clinical activities	<20%	3%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%	8%	1%

Performance Measure	Target	Madison	Miami	Minneapolis	New England	Palo Alto	Pittsburgh	Puget Sound	Salt Lake City	San Antonio	Tennessee Valley
Timely Negotiated VISN/GRECC MOU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total # of aging-related research projects by research investigators	10+	21	26	15	35	34	25	56	20	45	13
Average # of aging related publications by GRECC Professional Core Staff	3+	30.1	3.9	4.2	20	7.7	9.3	4.1	7.1	6.3	12.3
Total # papers and other publications by all Core Staff	21+	166	43	27	263	66	137	72	84	51	172
Percentage of publications listing VA affiliation	95%+	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	88%	94%	89%	96%	10%0
Total number of post-graduate mentees, mentored by GRECC staff	5+	6	8	11	44	11	19	25	15	9	50
Total education and training person-hours	1,500+	2,158	2,600	4,015	10,033	9,394	2,483	3,081	6,421	6,456	24,325
Number of OAA-supported associated health disciplines	3+	3	4	4	7	5	6	3	6	6	7
Average # of educational presentations-core staff	4+	19	5.2	7.4	7	7	5.6	5.8	5.5	15.5	18.5
Number of clinical innovations	2+	5	8	4	13	4	4	4	4	9	15
Number of clinical innovations disseminated	1+	3	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	4
Percentage of time devoted to research	45%+	39%	51%	46%	48%	41%	59%	51%	50%	54%	60%
Percentage of time devoted to education and training	10%+	12%	14%	12%	11%	11%	15%	8%	13%	15%	18%
Percentage of time devoted to non-GRECC clinical activities	<20%	0%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	5%

FUTURE OF THE GRECCS

As evidenced by their legacy, ongoing accomplishments, current resources, and institutional support, GRECCs are well poised to continue their success as VA's geriatric "engines of innovation." The GGAC remains committed to and involved in the GRECC program and will offer valuable guidance during site visits and biannual meetings.

To address pressing issues for health care in VA and more broadly in the United States, GEC will ask that GRECCs apply their attention and expertise to several issues. First, GRECCs have been and continue to be innovators in assisting VHA to expand telehealth options for care to older Veterans. GRECCs introduced VIRTUAL Geriatrics, which expanded the reach of geriatric care providers to VA rural sites and led in rolling out telehealth management of the complex care needs of older Veterans. The GRECC program is committed to the expansion of virtual geriatric care. Second, GRECCs are key to ensuring that VHA's Whole Health transformation engages older adults, primarily through the implementation of Age-Friendly principles of care. Third, GRECCs can further develop the next generation of the geriatric workforce, by providing training sites and helping recent graduates to find geriatric-specialty jobs in VA. In addition, GRECC sites can learn from each other's successes and use the GRECC network to ensure that effective clinical interventions to improve care for older Veterans are disseminated.

SEARCHABLE DATABASE (for VA computer users)

The attached Access application includes all the GRECC staff interests, research studies, clinical demonstration projects, education initiatives, and contributions. It can be searched by keyword, staff, or GRECC site. To access: [SEARCH A GRECC](#).

GRECC SITES, LEADERSHIP STAFF AND FOCUS AREAS

Ann Arbor, VISN 10

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Michigan

Nursing Academic Affiliate: University of Michigan

Director: Neil Alexander, M.D. (since 10/3/2005)

Associate Director for Research: Roger Albin, M.D. (since 9/1/2017)

Associate Director for Clinical: Christine Cigolle, M.D. (since 8/10/2015)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Caroline Vitale, M.D. (since 7/7/2019)

Administrative Officer: Ashley Guastella, B.A. (since 11/1/2019)

Areas of Research Focus

- Mobility and Physical Activity Assessment and Enhancement
- Infection Control in Long-term Care
- Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders

Baltimore, VISN 5

Geriatric Affiliates: University of Maryland School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliates: University of Maryland School of Nursing and George Washington University School of Nursing

Director: Leslie Katzel, M.D./Ph.D. (since 5/23/2016)

Associate Director for Research: (Acting) George Uhl, M.D./Ph.D. (since 2/2/2022)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Beth Hogans, M.D./Ph.D. (since 4/19/2019)

Associate Director for Clinical: Jacob Blumenthal, M.D. (since 7/9/2018)

Associate Director: John Sorokin, M.D./Ph.D. (date?)

Administrative Officer: Tim Foley (since 12/30/2013)

Areas of Research Focus

- Exercise and nutrition interventions for functional performance: body composition and cardiovascular health in multimorbidity and aging
- Aging Brain and nervous system: Dementia; movement and balance; sensory, cognitive, and motor integration
- Pain and whole health: patient-reported and functional outcomes in aging and chronic illness

Birmingham/Atlanta, VISN 7

Geriatric Academic Affiliates: University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and Emory University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliates: University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing/School of Health Professions and Emory University School of Nursing

Director: Alayne Markland, D.O. (since 11/24/2019)

Associate Director for Research: Lisa Zubkoff, Ph.D., (since 1/31/2021)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Katharina Echt, Ph.D. (since 6/26/2016)

Associate Director for Clinical: Anna Mirk, M.D. (since 11/9/2020)

Administrative Officer: Latricia Williams (since 10/28/2007)

Administrative Officer: Quiana Heard, MA/M (since 5/8/2022)

Atlanta Site Director: Elizabeth Vaughan, M.D. (since 4/15/2018)

Associate Director: Molly Perkins, Ph.D. (since 5/20/2012)

Areas of Research Focus

- Incontinence and related disorders
- Mobility
- Palliative care

Bronx/New York Harbor, VISN 2

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Yale University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliates: New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing; Columbia University School of Nursing

Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service; Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College; City University of New York - Lehman College; New York University Silver School of Social Work; James J Peters VAMC PGY-2 Geriatrics Pharmacy Residency Program

Director (Acting): Kenneth Boockvar, M.D. (since 7/1/2021)

Associate Director for Research: Kenneth Boockvar, M.D. (since 10/1/2007)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Judith Howe, Ph.D. (since 4/1/2001)

Associate Director for Clinical (Acting): William Hung, M.D. (since 1/2/2014)

Administrative Officer: Valerie Menocal (since 12/12/2016)

Areas of Research Focus

- Improving palliative care
- Recognition, prevention, and treatment of cognitive and physical functional disability
- Improving processes and outcomes between sites of care including VA/non-VA, rural/non-rural, home/medical center, emergency departments

Cleveland, VISN 10

Geriatric Academic Affiliates: Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing and Northeast Ohio Medical University Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

Director: Robert Bonomo, M.D. (since 10/1/2008)

Associate Director for Research: David Canaday, M.D. (since 9/1/2010)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Denise Kresevic, Ph.D. (since 10/1/2010)

Associate Director for Clinical: Muralidhar Pallaki, M.D. (since 6/19/2020)

Associate Director: Robin Jump, M.D./Ph.D. (since 6/1/2018)

Administrative Officer: (Acting) Jessica Redel (since 9/20/2021)

Associate Director: Anna May, M.D. (since 3/1/2022)

Areas of Research Focus

- Infections in the Older Adults (HIV/HCV, SARS-CoV-2, Zoster, C. difficile, Resistant Gram-negatives, Bacterial pneumonia, development of experimental therapeutics to treat drug resistant in the elderly)
- Antibiotic Stewardship, Infection Prevention and Control in Long Term Care
- Neurodegeneration

Durham, VISN 6

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: Duke University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Duke University School of Nursing

Director: Kenneth Schmader, M.D. (since 3/1/2007)

Associate Director for Research: Miriam Morey, Ph.D. (since 10/1/2006)

Associate Director for Research: Katherine Hall, PhD (since 8/15/2022)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Connie Bales, Ph.D. (since 7/7/1996)

Associate Director for Clinical: Christopher Bowling, M.D. (since 3/5/2019)

Administrative Officer: Harry Babwah, M.A. (since 10/5/2015)

Areas of Research Focus

- Infection, immune function, vaccines; polypharmacy, medication management; osteoporosis, falls and fracture management
- Innovative models of care delivery, transitions, and caregiving
- Optimizing fitness, mobility and nutrition, strategies for health promotion

Eastern Colorado, VISN 19

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Colorado School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliate: N/A

Anschutz School of Pharmacy and University of Colorado School of Social Work

Director: (Acting) Wendy Kohrt, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Research: Wendy Kohrt, Ph.D. (since 10/1/2014)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Kathryn Nearing, Ph.D. (since 8/19/2018)

Administrative Officer: Alfred "Eric" Qualls (since 9/27/2021)

Associate Director: Lauren Abbate, M.D. (since 7/1/2019)

Areas of Research Focus

- Treatment and consequences of obesity in older Veterans (primary)
- Gender differences in the health of Veterans (primary)
- Intensive approaches to rehabilitation to improve function in older Veterans

Gainesville, VISN 8

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Florida

Nursing Academic Affiliate: University of Florida

Director: Ronald Shorr, M.D. (since 1/7/2007)

Associate Director for Research (Acting): Constance Uphold, Ph.D. (since 1/1/2017)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Carmen Fernandez, Ph.D. (since 6/18/2012)

Associate Director for Clinical: Laurence Solberg (since 7/1/2022)

Administrative Officer: Corey Fields (since 7/6/2021)

Areas of Research Focus

- Patient safety and healthcare quality
- Caregiver support services

Greater Los Angeles, VISN 22

Geriatric Academic Affiliates: David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California at Los Angeles and University of Southern California

Nursing Academic Affiliates: University of California at Los Angeles, California State University (CSU) Long Beach, CSU Northridge, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Dominguez Hills, University of Southern California, and Drew University

Director: Cathy Alessi, M.D. (since 7/18/2011)

Associate Director for Research: Jennifer Martin, Ph.D. (since 6/1/2017)

Associate Director for Research: Gregory Cole, Ph.D. (since 1/1/1994)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Josea Kramer, Ph.D. (since 1/1/1993)

Associate Director for Clinical: Steven Castle, M.D. (since 1/1/1995)

Administrative Officer: Eliot Mitchell (since 9/6/2014)

Areas of Research Focus

- Cognitive disorders
- Sleep
- Vulnerable elders

Little Rock, VISN 17

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Nursing Academic Affiliates: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and Harding University

Director: Dennis Sullivan, M.D. (since 8/5/1998)

Associate Director for Research: Kalpana Padala, M.D. (since 11/22/2019)

Associate Director for Health Science Research: Ramona Rhodes, M.D. (since 5/10/2020)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Lana Brown, Ph.D. (since 2/27/2020)

Associate Director for Clinical: Prasad Padala, M.D. (since 9/16/2011)

Associate Director: Lana Brown, Ph.D. (since 8/7/2017)

Administrative Officer: Julie Smith (since 3/10/2013)

Areas of Research Focus

- Basic and translational research in Alzheimer's dementia
- Advance care planning and palliative care
- Neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia

Madison, VISN 12

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Medicine and Public Health

Nursing Affiliates: UW School of Nursing

UW School of Social Work and UW School of Pharmacy

Director: (Acting) Steven Barczi, M.D. (since 9/1/2022)

Director: Sanjay Ashtana, M.D. (since 7/29/2001)

Associate Director for Research: Rozalyn Anderson, Ph.D. (since 4/1/2019)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Elizabeth Chapman, M.D. (since 4/1/2019)

Associate Director for Clinical: Steven Barczi, M.D. (since 4/1/2018)

Administrative Officer: Charity Frey (since 4/30/2017)

Administrative Officer: Ruth Roller (since 2/20/2022)

Areas of Research Focus

- Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Clinical and Rehabilitation Research including Care Transitions and Dysphagia
- Biology of Aging

Miami, VISN 8

Geriatric Academic Affiliates: University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, and Florida International University

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Florida International University (RN and PT)

Florida International University, Stempel College of Public Health Science

Director (Acting): Robert Jackson, M.D. (since 1/3/2022)

Associate Director for Research (Acting): Stuti Dang, M.D. (since 10/1/2018)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Iriana Hammel, M.D. (since 9/27/2020)

Associate Director for Clinical: Jorge Ruiz, M.D. (since 10/1/2014)

Administrative Officer: (Acting) Mitscher Gajardo (since 6/24/2019)

Areas of Research Focus

- Frailty and reparative/regenerative therapies such as stem cells
- High Need/High Risk Veterans and their caregivers

Minneapolis, VISN 23

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Minnesota

Nursing Academic Affiliate: University of Minnesota

Director: Howard Fink, M.D. (since 8/18/2019)

Associate Director for Research: Catherine Kotz, Ph.D. (since 11/15/2015)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: (Acting) Edward Ratner, M.D. (since 9/1/2021)

Associate Director for Clinical: Vacant

Administrative Officer: Ann Bolan, M.A. (since 3/8/2013)

Areas of Research Focus

- Dementia evaluation and management, including remote sensing for early signs of cognitive impairment and neuromodulation for treatment of cognitive symptoms
- Animal models investigating mechanisms of and therapies for neurodegeneration and metabolic aging
- Systematic literature reviews on the efficacy and safety of interventions for chronic geriatric conditions

New England, VISN 1

Geriatric Academic Affiliates: Harvard Medical School, Boston University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Boston College, Connell School of Nursing
Tufts University, Department of Occupational Therapy

Director: Jonathan Bean, M.D. (since 4/19/2015)

Associate Director for Research: William Milberg, Ph.D. (since 1/4/2009)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Jennifer Moye, Ph.D. (8/1/2016)

Associate Director for Clinical: Jane Driver, M.D. (since 6/12/2016)

Administrative Officer: Vacant

Administrative Officer: Thomas Luciano, B.S. (since 12/22/2011)

Bedford Site Director: Lauren Moo, M.D. (since 10/3/2010)

Associate Director: Regina McGlinchey, Ph.D. (since 12/1/2008)

Associate Director: Ariela Orkaby, M.D. (since 10/1/2018)

Areas of Research Focus

- Innovative support and care coordination for aging Veterans
- Risk Identification across the lifespan
- Novel treatments to optimize wellbeing and independence

Palo Alto, VISN 21

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: Stanford University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliates: Marshall B. Ketchum University of Southern California
College of Optometry, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, University of California
Berkeley School of Optometry, University of Houston, Western University of Health
Sciences College of Optometry, Arcadia University, A T Still University, Boston
University, Chapman University, and Duke University

Director: Manjula Tamura, M.D. (since 9/3/2017)

Associate Director for Research: Salman Azhar, Ph.D. (since 8/1/2000)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Christine Gould, Ph.D. (since 3/19/2018)

Associate Director for Clinical: Sowmya Iyer, M.D. (since 1/6/2020)

Administrative Officer: Mary Westerman, MBA-HCM (since 2/3/2020)

Areas of Research Focus

- Metabolic Aging

- Immune Aging
- Chronic Kidney Disease

Pittsburgh, VISN 4

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Pittsburgh

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Southern New Hampshire University, Wilkes University, American Sentinel College of Nursing & Health Science, Blue Field University, Carlow University, Chamberlain University, Waynesburg University, Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions, Ohio State University College of Nursing, Robert Morris University, Wheeling University, Clarion University, and Purdue University

Director: Steven Graham, M.D./Ph.D. (since 5/28/04)

Director: Steven Handler, M.D./Ph.D. (since 2/14/2022)

Associate Director for Research: Debra Weiner, M.D. (since 3/3/2021)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Jennifer Pruskowski, PharmD (since 5/1/2020)

Associate Director for Clinical: Michelle Rossi, M.D. (since 10/25/2006)

Associate Director: Robin Jump, M.D./Ph.D. (since 2/17/2022)

Administrative Officer: Dawn Fuhrer, B.A. (since 10/28/07)

Areas of Research Focus

- Mechanisms of recovery and novel treatments/rehabilitation strategies for neurodegenerative disease, stroke and TBI
- Pharmacoepidemiology, drug safety, clinical and translational informatics to improve medication and patient safety in the long-term care setting
- Developing novel clinical care systems for chronic pain, frailty, dementia, and long-term care

Puget Sound, VISN 20

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Washington School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliate: University of Washington School of Nursing and School of Social Work

Director: Debby Tsuang, M.D. (since 9/25/2011)

Associate Director for Research: Brian Kraemer, Ph.D. (since 9/2/2018)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Emily Trittschuh, Ph.D. (since 9/12/2021)

Associate Director for Clinical: Katherine Richey, D.O. (since 8/30/2020)

Associate Director: Jose Garcia, M.D./Ph.D. (since 11/4/2020)

Administrative Officer: Elizabeth Aigbe, M.S. (since 2/1/2009)

Areas of Research Focus

- Aging, genetics, and environmental factors in neurodegeneration and dementia
- Brain pharmacodynamics and drug transport in normative aging, injury, and

dementia

- The endocrinology relating aging, body composition, and cancer

Salt Lake City, VISN 19

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Utah

Nursing Academic Affiliate: University of Utah

Director: Randall Rupper, M.D. (since 8/22/2022)

Associate Director for Research: (Acting) Walter Wray (since 10/13/2021)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Jorie Butler, Ph.D. (10/14/2013)

Associate Director for Clinical: Paul Eleazer, M.D. (since 10/1/2020)

Administrative Officer: Natalie Miya (since 12/22/2019)

Areas of Research Focus

- Basic Biomedical: Investigations of the fundamental changes during aging that lead to a decline in brain function especially in the context of impaired immunity and inflammation
- Applied Clinical: The integrated assessment of vascular function, blood flow, and metabolic regulation in both aging and diseased skeletal muscle and how this impacts function both at rest and in response to physical challenges
- Health Services: Studies that test interventions to improve outcomes, mainly focusing on medical informatics and computerized clinical systems with respect to decision support tools and collection of data for surveillance, analysis, and program evaluation

San Antonio, VISN 18

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Nursing Academic Affiliates: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

– School of Nursing and San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium

Director: Sara Espinoza, M.D. (since 8/11/2020)

Associate Director for Research: Nicolas Musi, M.D. (since 3/29/2020)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Brande Harris, D.O. (since 3/13/2022)

Associate Director for Clinical: Vacant

Administrative Officer: Sheva Allen (since 6/7/2020)

Administrative Officer: Julie Shotwell (since 3/13/2022)

Areas of Research Focus

- Geroscience Approach to Accelerate New Findings in Basic Aging Biology from the Bench to the Patient's Bedside
- Lifestyle Interventions, Including Exercise, to Improve Physical and Metabolic Health in Older Adults
- Trials of Age-Modulating Agents in Older Adults to Improve Physical Function, Frailty, Biologic Resilience, Sarcopenic Obesity, Immune Function, Cardiovascular Health, and Cognition

Tennessee Valley, VISN 9

Geriatric Academic Affiliate: Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Nursing Academic Affiliate: Vanderbilt University School of Nursing

Director: Robert Dittus, M.D. (since 11/1/1999)

Associate Director for Research: Wes Ely, M.D. (since 7/16/2000)

Associate Director for Education and Evaluation: Sumathi Misra, M.D. (since 9/22/2013)

Associate Director for Clinical: James Powers, M.D. (since 11/1/1999)

Associate Director: Sandra Simmons, Ph.D. (since 5/1/2007)

Administrative Officer: Vacant

Areas of Research Focus

- Cognitive Impairment
- Quality and Safety of Care
- Chronic Disease Prevention and Management