VHA SLC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Offers Veterans a brighter tomorrow
Serves as a model of research excellence
Attracts exceptional investigators
Fosters dynamic collaborations.

VHA SLC Research and Development: History

- **1946** – Emphasized affiliations with Medical Schools including U of U SOM
- **1955** – Congress appropriated an explicit VA research budget-separate line item
- **1956** – First Career Development Awards through the Clinical Investigator Program
- **1970s** – System evolved as we know it with Merit Review Boards.
### VHA Research and Development: Accomplishments

- **1947** Developed and tested effective therapies for **tuberculosis**. Multi center trials let to the development of the CSP
- **1956** Work with radioisotopes led to the development of modern radioimmunoassay diagnostic techniques
- **1960** Invented the first clinically successful implantable **cardiac pacemaker**.
- **1961** Pioneered the concepts that let to the development of the CAT scan
- **1963** Lasker Award to Dr. Michael DeBakey for originating new techniques in cardiovascular surgery
- **1967** performed the first successful **liver transplants**.
- **1971** Lasker Award to Dr. Edward Freis for developing drug therapy for moderate **hypertension**
- **1973** Lasker Award to Dr. Ludwig Gross for discovering leukemia and cancer causing viruses
- **1975** Lasker Award to Dr. William Oldendorf for pioneering computerized tomography
- **1976** Lasker Award to Dr. Rosalyn Yalow for developing radioimmunoassay

### VHA Research and Development: Accomplishments

- **1977** Nobel Prize to Dr. Andrew Schally (peptide hormone production in the brain) and Dr. Rosalyn Yalow
- **1984** Developed the **nicotine patch**
- **1990** discovered a peptide in the venom of the Gila Monster that would become the basis of the **diabetic medication** Byetta
- **1991** established the Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation Center
- **1994** Discovered that one aspirin a day reduced by half the rate of death and non fatal heart attacks in patients with unstable angina
- **1998** Nobel Prize awarded to Dr. Ferid Murad for discoveries related to nitric oxide
- **2000** showed that colonoscopy is superior to sigmoidoscopy for screening for **colon cancer**
- **2004** showed that lutein could prevent and reverse symptoms of **macular degeneration**
- **2012** Lasker-DeBakey Award to Dr. Tomas Starzl for work on liver transplantation
VHA Research and Development Scope: Annual Budget

- $727mm in direct appropriations requested for FY 2019
- $570mm from other government agencies (NIH, DoD, CDC, etc)
- $600mm from other including Medical Care Research Support

- Total: $1.9 billion

VHA SLC Research and Development: Size of the Enterprise

- 123 Funded VA Programs
- 392 Total Projects (up from 367 in 2016)
- Over 300 Clinical studies
- Approximately 40 Animal Studies
- 25 studies with INDs
- 154 Active Investigators
VHA SLC Research and Development: VA Funded Projects-Trajectory

Number of VA funded Projects

VHA SLC Research and Development: Funding FY17

- $22.5mm in total research funding
  - $11mm in VA funded research
  - $11.5mm from other funding sources
- $11mm in VERA (indirects)
- $10mm in research contracts/operations
VHA SLC Research and Development:
Western Institute of Biomedical Research (WIBR)

- A nonprofit corporation established to promote research and related educational activities at the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, by providing a flexible funding mechanism for private and public grants to support VA approved research projects.
- FY 2017 funding $4.786mm
  - DoD
  - Industry
  - SWOG
  - CDC
  - Private donors

VHA Research and Development:
VA Research Programs

Office of Research and Development (ORD)
consists of four research services

- Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development Service (BLRD)
- Clinical Science Research and Development (CSRD)
- Health Services Research and Development (HSRD)
- Rehabilitation Research and Development (RRD)
VHA Research and Development: Categories of Research Awards

- Merit Review
- Career Development Awards
- Career Scientist Awards
- Special Programs
- Infrastructure Support
  - Proposals
  - Veterans Equitable Research Allocation (VERA)

VHA SLC Research and Development: Merit Review

- An intramural funding mechanism to support investigator-initiated research.
- Typically funds $150k/year for four years
- Available in all four services
- For PhD investigators need an approved LOI
- **Currently excellent funding level**
VHA SLC Research and Development: Career Development Program

- Awards are provided in all areas of VA's research enterprise
- **CDA-1**: Entry level career development program is open to clinicians and non-clinicians. Only RRD is currently offering this award.
- **CDA-2**: Mid-level program open to clinicians and non-clinicians who must specify their career development plans and research project over 3-5 year duration. This is supported by all four services (*currently excellent funding level*)
- **CDEA**: Career development Enhancement Award for senior VA scientists open to clinicians and non clinicians (i.e. sabbatical).
- **Research Career Scientist** – Non-clinician scientists who have made extraordinary contributions beyond their individual research programs.
- **Senior Research Career Scientist** – Non-clinician scientists who are international leaders in their research area.

VHA SLC Research and Development: Research Investigator Support

- Research time in 8ths. **For clinicians is mapped to community standard.**
  - 3/8 for Merit award
  - 6/8 for CDA
  - 8/8 for Research Career Scientist
  - 1/8 for committee assignments
- VA Awards are Intramural
  - **Clinicians are paid through their service**
  - Non-clinicians are paid from their grants
VHA SLC Research and Development:
Special Programs at SLC

- COIN – Center of Innovation (Matt Samore)
- CTSP – Centralized Transcription Services Program (Susan Zickmund)
- NODES – Network of Dedicated Enrollment Sites (Dan Clegg)
- MVP – Million Veterans Program (Larry Meyer)
- VINCI – VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (Nebeker/DuVall)
- GRECC – Geriatric Research, Education, & Clinical Center (Mark Supiano)
- MIRECC – Mental Illness Research Education, and Clinical Centers (Todd/Renshaw)
- Rural Health (Rand Rupper)

VHA SLC Research and Development:
Challenges

- Space constraints: currently 69K sq ft
- Agility within the VA System
- Recruitment and retention of highly skilled staff
- Policy Compliance
- Reactionary
VHA SLC Research and Development:
Resources

Space

Genomics
(MVP DNA storage)
Break ground in 2017!

Currently just under 69K sq ft

VHA SLC Research and Development:
What Lies Ahead?

• Improve the health of veterans through ground breaking research across the spectrum
• Grow Merit Reviews
• Develop committed young investigators
• Provide research opportunities for excellent established investigators
• Create greater synergy with clinical activities
• Further integrate with the University of Utah
  Specific programs (NAVIGATE, CCTS)
• Succession planning