

OCTOBER
2024

NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA VETERANS HEALTH SYSTEM

VA Research Newsletter

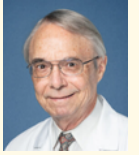


FROM THE CHIEF OF RESEARCH



Summer has ended and a new federal fiscal year has begun, but research discoveries continue throughout the changing seasons. Join us on November 1st for VA Research Day to hear about the latest discoveries! In this month's newsletter we are honored to recognize the VA retirement of Dr. Stephen Nadeau, a cornerstone of the local research community for decades. We also highlight research contributions to plastic surgery care and support of clinical research by the VA Human Research Protection Program. For guidance on conducting VA research, please visit our [webpage](#). -David Clark, Associate Chief of Staff for Research Service

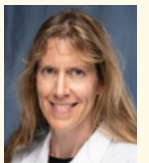
CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. NADEAU



A Message From Dr. Stephen Nadeau: I am retiring from the VA on September 30 after 42 years. I will keep my hand in at UF Health/Shands and continue research. The VA has given me the opportunity to provide world class clinical care for veterans and expanded opportunities for teaching. It has given me the opportunity to pursue my research interests in cognitive and computational neuroscience and neurorehabilitation. Of course, working with Ken Heilman since 1978 was a nonpareil privilege. The VA has given me an opportunity to be on the leadership teams of the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center (BRRC) and the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC). My

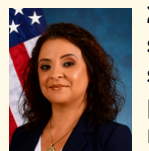
years as ACOS/R gave me many additional sources of enormous gratification, including molding Research Service to serve investigators and facilitate their research visions, emphasizing mentorship, and to build synergies with UF. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Research Office stalwarts like Michael Merritt and Helen Vallaincourt, and to promote the success of animal, preclinical, and translational research with the incredible help of Prodip Bose and Kamal Mohammed. I was proud to contribute to collaborations with Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital in Jacksonville, particularly the Locomotor Experience Post-Stroke (LEAPS) phase III (PI Pamela Duncan); the trial was NIH-funded but it grew out of the VA Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center. I was also proud to support the growth of the North Florida Foundation for Research and Education to the thriving organization it is today under Angie Smith's extraordinary leadership. I also had the opportunity, with innumerable VA collaborators, to commence construction of a state of the art preclinical and clinical science laboratory (still in progress). I am thankful for the opportunity to have made an enormous number of great friendships on both sides of the street.

FEATURED INVESTIGATOR



Dr. Loretta Coady-Fariborzian, MD, is Section Chief of Plastic Surgery at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center since finishing plastic surgery training at the University of Florida in 2007. She finished general surgery residency and a hand surgery fellowship in New York before arriving in Florida. She is a Clinical Associate Professor at University of Florida and is involved in the education of integrated and independent plastic surgery residents. She collaborates with the Certified Hand Therapists at the VA to coordinate patient care and educate occupational therapy students. She began working with the Research Service 10 years ago to solve clinical questions on the plastic surgery service. Her studies have changed and improved hand patient flow through the ER and the OR, lowered the local complication rate of breast reductions and elective hand surgery, and improved the informed consent process for skin cancers and elective hand surgery with new protocols and initiatives. She is a regular presenter at the VA Surgeons Annual Meeting.

FEATURED RESEARCH STAFF



Sofia Ortiz is the Coordinator of the VA Human Research Protection Program. She has been with NF/SGVHS since 2017. She is always ready to provide the latest info on processes and procedures for getting your clinical research study approved quickly and smoothly. Need help navigating IRBNet? She always provides assistance with a friendly smile and a joke. She takes the time to set up a Teams meeting with customers to walk them through the submission process. She was previously employed with the Florida Department of Corrections, and knows how to motivate researchers to stay on track. But she is always there to lend a hand or make you smile with her sense of humor. Please feel free to contact Sofia when you need help with your research study submissions!

VA RESEARCH DAY: NOVEMBER 1ST

We are proud to announce that VA Research Day will be held on Friday, November 1, 2024 from 9am – 1pm. Please save the date! The location is the auditorium of the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center (ground floor, near the cafeteria). There will be short “lightning talk” presentations from many of our investigators, followed by a poster session. Research Day is an annual celebration that aligns with the Office of Research and Development's 2024 national theme, “Building Community Through Research.” The event will showcase local VA research discoveries, including research efforts that impact the treatment and prevention of disease and disability. The event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend!

VA RESEARCH SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

Clinical Studies

103

Human subject and
medical record research



Proportion of Clinical and
Preclinical Research Studies

Preclinical Studies

22

Animal and bench research

Principal Investigators

49

With active projects

Research Staff and Administrative Staff

47

Research Affiliates

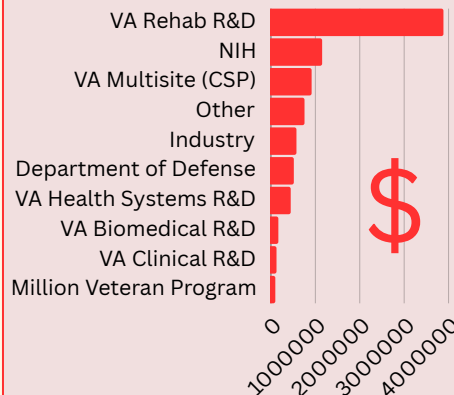
214

Interagency agreements or
non-compensated employees
(UF and NFFRE personnel)

Annual Research Expenditures

**\$9.7
million**

Fiscal Year 2023



Projects funded by US Department of Veterans Affairs

40

Active during Fiscal Year 2024

Research Space: Square Feet

30,287

Research Space: # Rooms

160

Research Equipment

1,351

Pieces of equipment