

VA Research Newsletter



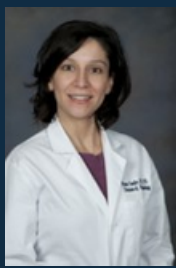
FROM THE CHIEF OF RESEARCH

VA Research Service is proud to support life-changing research to improve the health of Veterans and society. This mission is accomplished through close collaboration with VA clinical services, the North Florida Foundation for Research and Education, the University of Florida, and other partners locally and throughout the nation. For guidance on conducting VA research, please visit our [webpage](#). We look forward to working with you!

- David Clark, Associate Chief of Staff for Research Service



FEATURED INVESTIGATOR



Dr. Muna Canales has been a Staff Physician at the Malcom Randall VAMC since 2007. She is also a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at UF where her duties involve education and research. She is currently funded by the national VA Office of Research and Development (Health Systems Research section) to conduct a collaborative study with the VA GRECC entitled: "PRN Blood Pressure Medication Use in VA Hospitals: A Mixed Methods Approach". This study investigates whether medications used to rapidly lower blood pressure in asymptomatic hospitalized patients may be harmful and costly. It also uses qualitative methods to interview providers, nurses and housestaff to understand motivations for using these medications. With this new information, Dr. Canales and her team hope to develop an intervention to optimize how blood pressure is treated in the hospital setting.



FEATURED RESEARCH STAFF



Christine Conover began working with Research Service in 2002 after graduating from the University of Florida. She began her research career working with Dr. Steve Borst to study interventions for sarcopenia and osteopenia. She later worked as the lab manager and technician for Dr. Joshua Yarrow to study bone and muscle loss in preclinical models of spinal cord injury. Currently she is the lead technician for the Preclinical Musculoskeletal Imaging Core Lab, which provides high resolution imaging of bone microarchitecture, whole body and region-specific body composition (fat mass, fat-free mass, and bone mineral density), soft-tissue (e.g., muscle) cross-sectional area, and vascular morphology on living research animals. These measurements are acquired with state of the art microcomputed tomography (microCT) and dual x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) systems. Christine is very proud of the research work performed at NF/SG and looks forward to continued service to improve Veterans health.



RECENTLY FUNDED STUDIES

- **Dr. Diana Gomez-Manjarres:** The role of social determinants of health and toxic exposures on long COVID health disparities
- **Dr. Salvator Scali:** Long-term outcomes in patients with claudication in Veterans Affairs Hospitals
- **Dr. Peruvemba Sriram:** A randomised, double-blind, parallel group, roll-over study evaluating long-term safety and efficacy of oral doses of BI 1291583 q.d. in patients with bronchiectasis (Clairleaf™)
- **Dr. Peruvemba Sriram:** A Phase 3, 52-Week, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Arm Efficacy and Safety Study with Open-Label Extension of BLU-5937 in Adult Participants with Refractory Chronic Cough, Including Unexplained Chronic Cough (CALM-1)
- **Dr. Amy Vittor:** Characteristics and Determinants of Post-COVID Neurocognitive Dysfunction
- **Dr. Bianka Eperjesiova:** Examining the Impact of robotic-assisted bronchoscopy in the diagnosis of Lung Cancer in Veterans

VA RESEARCH SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

Clinical Studies

109

Human subject and
medical record research



Proportion of Clinical and
Preclinical Research Studies

Preclinical Studies

29

Animal and bench research

Investigators

51

Coordinators and Administrators

44

Research Affiliates

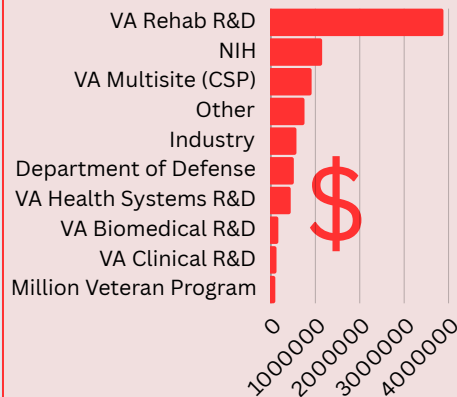
213

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

1,116

Pieces of equipment