

Veterans Health Administration  
**Research & Development**  
Improving Veterans' Lives [www.research.va.gov](http://www.research.va.gov)

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# Technology Transfer at Department of Veterans Affairs

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# VA Health Care System

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- Largest national integrated health care system in the world
- 156 hospitals, 876 outpatient clinics, and 136 NHC units
- As of FY 06 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
  - 7.8 million enrollees
  - 4.9 million patients treated
  - 44 million outpatient visits
  - 423,000 admissions with 3.5 million BDOC
  - 197,000 full-time employees



# VA Research

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- 107 Medical School affiliations
  - Post-World War II effort to enhance patient care
- Affiliated VA hospitals adopted academic medical model in which physicians:
  - Care for patients
  - Teach medical students and residents
  - *Engage in own research*

**VA does Research? Yes!**



# VA Research

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- VA supports studies by more than 3,000 scientists at 115 VA facilities across the country
- Nearly 83% of VA researchers are practicing physicians
- Dual roles allow:
  - Immediate benefit to patients
  - VA to attract top-notch researchers

**VA researchers include 3 Nobel Laureates  
and 6 Lasker Prize Winners**



# VA Research

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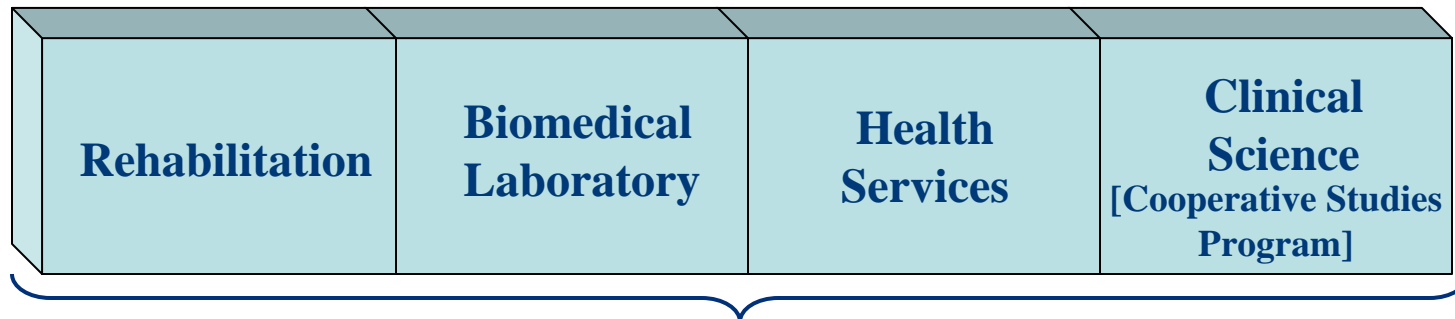
- Some of the technologies that VA aided in developing:
  - Cardiac pacemaker
  - Computerized axial tomography (CAT)
  - Drug treatments for high blood pressure
  - Drug treatments for schizophrenia
  - Kidney dialysis
  - Vaccine for hepatitis
  - Liver transplants



# VA Office of Research & Development

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- **Intramural Research Program**
  - \$446M Congressionally Appropriated
  - \$1.7B other Federal and Non-Federal
- **Four R&D Services:**



**TTP Resides in the Office of Research and  
Development**



# VA Office of Research & Development

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- **Biomedical Laboratory R&D Service**
  - Explores basic biological or physiological principles in humans or animals, but does not involve human beings.
  - Examples include research on animal models and investigations of tissues, blood or other biological specimens from humans.
- **Clinical Science R&D Service**
  - Conducts research focusing on intact human beings as the unit of examination, such as interventional and effectiveness studies, clinical, epidemiological and technological studies.
  - **Cooperative Studies Program** is responsible for planning and conducting large multi-center clinical trials in the VA



# VA Office of Research & Development

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- **Rehabilitation R&D Service**
  - develops and tests rehabilitation strategies for veterans to improve the quality of life for those with amputations, nerve and muscle injuries, loss of sight and/or hearing, or other physical and cognitive impairments.
- **Health Services R&D Service**
  - pursues research at the interface of health care systems, patients and health care outcomes. HSR&D underscores all aspects of VA health care; specifically quality, access, patient outcomes and health care costs.



# Technology Transfer

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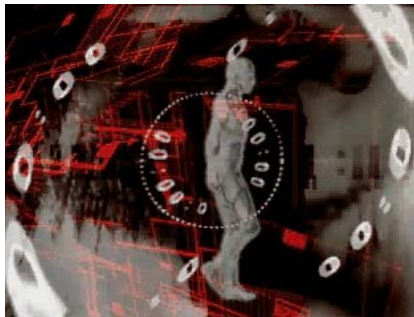
- The mission of the VA Technology Transfer Program (TTP) is to serve the American public by translating the results of worthy discoveries made by employees of VA into practice.
- TTP receives approximately 160 invention disclosures per year,
  - Of which VA asserts an ownership interest in about 100-120 per year
  - Many of these are early stage technologies



# Technology Transfer

## VA RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Material science and microelectronics advances for prosthetics and assistive devices
- Microelectronics for prosthetics
- Brain-computer interfaces
- Tissue engineering
- Magnetic/electrical stimulation
- Robotics
- Transplantation
- Regeneration of organs
- New rehabilitation strategies
- Imaging
- Genomics





# Technology Transfer

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## TTP PRIORITIES

- Complete Master CRADA agreements
- Increase Licensing
- Improve customer service and form closer relationships with researchers
- Mine for undisclosed technology
- Improve information management and compliance capabilities
- Assist smaller University partners with marketing



## More Information

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Questions about Technology Transfer or CRADAs:

TTP Website

[http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech\\_transfer/default.cfm](http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech_transfer/default.cfm)

CRADA Registry

[http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech\\_transfer/crada/registry.cfm](http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tech_transfer/crada/registry.cfm)

VA Technology Transfer Program

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