



Annual Report for FY 2003

Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies

Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center

2002 Holcombe Boulevard (152), Houston, Texas 77030

HSR&D Project # HFP 90-020

Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, Director

2003 Annual Report

Table Of Contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2	INVESTIGATORS.....	9
2.1	ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	16
2.2	INVESTIGATORS (TABLE 1)	17
3	CENTER FUNDING.....	27
3.1	BUDGET INFORMATION (TABLE 2)	28
3.2	FUNDING CHARTS (FIGURES 1-4)	30
4	RESEARCH PROJECTS.....	32
4.1	RESEARCH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS (TABLE 3).....	36
5	RESEARCH PRODUCTS AND DISSEMINATION.....	46
5.1	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	50
6	NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES.....	95
6.1	NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES (TABLE 4).....	97
7	TRAINING ACTIVITIES.....	108
7.1	TRAINEE LISTING	112

1 Executive Summary

**Annual Report for FY2003
(October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2003)
Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies
Houston VA Medical Center
2002 Holcombe Blvd (152)
Houston, Texas 77030
Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, Director**

The Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies continues to meet the challenges posed by our nation's health care system by developing new, insightful research proposals designed to improve health care quality, access, utilization, and costs. FY2003 was a significant year in the evolutionary advancement of this Center because we placed special emphasis on the development of four internal leaders. This change will noticeably enhance the Center's efforts in four key scientific areas. Each area is being championed by one of the Center's four new associate directors. This innovative leadership model focuses on "surging" the Center forward in specific areas of Health Services research that will require the development of a "critical mass" of investigators and projects in visible and high-impact research areas. These four areas are:

1. Health Decision Making
2. Translation/Implementation Research
3. Health Disparities
4. Chronic Care Models/Systems of Care

With this year's advent of the "Four Associate Director" model, our Center's senior leaders have focused rigorous emphasis on researcher productivity, quality, and impact of our science. Each investigator remains charged with the explicit expectation that s/he will pursue a personal research agenda, obtain external funding to support that agenda, publish research results in scientific journals, serve in leader/mentor roles, and progress up the academic ladder at Baylor College of Medicine, our unit's primary academic affiliate. We remain confident that as we advance our four "surge" areas, we facilitate even greater opportunities for our scientists to meet their goals.

This effort, coupled with a capable and directed support infrastructure, will advance the achievement of our goal quality research that impacts our key constituents: patients, practitioners, and policy-makers.

Under the guidance of Carol M. Ashton MD, MPH, the Center of Excellence continues to expand in size and scope. Our research team leader group has matured and diversified. We maintain a keen focus on improving the group's leadership and resource management skills.

The Center maintains its separate residence at 2450 Holcombe (the former Nabisco Building) in the Texas Medical Center, just across the street from the Houston VA Medical Center. The Houston VAMC, and consequently the Center, is a member institute of the Texas Medical Center and is a primary health care provider for more than 70,000 veterans in the Houston metropolitan area and around the country.

During FY03, the Center negotiated the addition of 10,000 new contiguous square feet at its current address to meet our expansion needs. We expect to move into this additional space in November 2003. We remain hopeful that we will acquire even more square footage in the next 2 years, based on our projected growth in personnel and projects.

Center Vision

By 2010, the Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies is an accredited research institution recognized as the leader in producing scientific output and national leaders who directly impact national health care policy and quality of delivery.

Center Mission

The Center impacts health and health care by conducting and translating outstanding research and developing influential leaders in health outcomes, quality, access, utilization and costs.

Overview of FY03

The Center's accomplishments during FY03 include:

- The Center completed its VA-funding renewal review and reverse site visit in FY 2003. To say the least, we are very pleased about the outcome of this review and look forward to five years and more of exceptional growth and superb scientific contribution
- A total of 14 new VA grants and contract awards, continuation of 8 VA Career Development Awards, 1 Cooperative Studies Award, 1 NIH Research Scientist Award, the Office of Academic Affiliations Associated Health Professions Post-doctoral Fellowship Program, 3 federal non-VA projects, and 6 other federal/non-federal/corporate grants and project contracts
- The publication of 101 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, 35 "in press" articles, 1 book, 11 book chapters, 71 conference presentations/abstracts, and 4 technical reports. Additionally, the results of Dr. Nelda Wray's Knee Study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, received over 130 media encounters from throughout the various press/publication venues across the world. In total, the Center and/or its personnel were represented in over 225 dissemination products in FY 2003.
- Three new research team leaders and 6 post-doctoral fellows
- Impact on VA and non-VA health care systems
- Growth of the Measurement Excellence Initiative (MEI), directed by Kimberly O'Malley, PhD, into the METRIC Center. Funded as a separate Center in July 2003, its mission remains to improve overall quality of measurement in the HSR&D community of scientists
- Refinement and direction of the Research Excellence Initiative (REI). The goal of the REI is to produce significant research, to maintain rigorous scientific methods, to deliver meaningful work that impacts the health care system and policy makers, and to train leaders in health services research. This continuous improvement initiative has redefined our approach to developing our scientists and building the capacity of this Center. We have the standards that qualitatively define and measure the outcomes from this Center and serve as the model of excellence to all HSR&D units

Organization and Infrastructure

During FY2003, the Center's infrastructure has matured to meet the diverse and complex needs of the investigators and the institutions we serve. As we've grown, the need to increase and broaden responsibilities to functional area experts within the administration has proven beneficial in gaining productivity, innovation, and operational efficiency. Also driving our infrastructure changes were the unique and inventive operational goals created to expand dissemination, business development, and leadership skill training activities.

Dr. Carol Ashton leads the Center in her role as the HCQCUS Director and in her role as the Chief of the Health Services Research Section in the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Medicine. In January of 2003, the Center developed a four associate director model, mentioned in the first paragraph. We created this model as an innovative way to develop leaders who could serve in succession roles created within the VA research structure and potentially at other academic/research institutions as needs arise. Each of the four associate directors is charged with building and leading a research agenda/direction that supports the broader HCQCUS mission. The director, the associate directors, and the chief operating officer make up our Center's executive team. In addition, the Team Leader Advisory Council (TLAC), as a representative body for team leaders, serves the unit by developing operational paradigms aimed at the advancement of our scientific efforts, directing administrative priorities, and improving grant productivity. In FY03, TLAC placed emphasis on investigator needs assessments and improving the research skills of the team leader group.

The organization's structure enables the research team leaders to direct their teams in the execution of research projects and the management team to lead the support efforts in the areas of administration, finance, strategic planning, and tactical execution. Some of the key accomplishments of our administration team include:

1. Systems and Process Development:

- a. Improvement and unilateral application of our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) database that facilitates effective information flow and supports our financial and HR activities. This internal *Access-based* system is known as "R2D2"
- b. Development of a formal budget and budgeting process that incorporates the financial information from our VA and BCM revenue and expense streams
- c. Development of an internal compliance audit process that enables us to meet sponsor compliance requirements while enhancing the integrity of our projects
- d. Institution of a performance management program that supplements the VA 5-part folder and the BCM Performance Appraisal system while providing formal direct, qualitative input from investigators on the performance of their project team. This program ties into our training & development program as well as the awards and recognition process
- e. Improvement in the way we communicate, share and distribute information by using our own Internet and Intranet web sites
- f. Development of a system to track and measure each PIs scientific progress using Reference Manager software and our internal research performance system to rate/rank research outputs (publications, presentations, etc.)
- g. Application of policies and procedures for dissemination efforts to continually improve the quality, frequency, and breadth of our publication efforts
- h. Rollout and application of our policy and procedure document that serves as the foundation for our operating standards
- i. Completion of functional area "certification" process by the four new associate directors. The functional area leaders worked together to develop a program that provided the ADs with an overview of the operational activities performed in each of our functional areas

2. Culture Shifting:

- j. De-centralizing the ownership and responsibility for support operations is enhancing leadership skills while sustaining synergy among responsible functional area leaders
- k. Cross training and job-sharing build redundancy and support for our functional areas
- l. Consistent and pointed progress review meetings coupled with the performance management systems help to maintain our strategic and tactical focus
- m. Continued use of our internal Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS) enables us to compare progress and shortfalls in specific areas so that we can target our continuous improvement efforts. The results of these surveys have provided increased momentum on our operations objectives and in some cases have stimulated a modification of our operating model based on customer feedback

The Center's operations/administration section remains strong as an effective support body charged with meeting the Center's operational day-to-day needs. This group continues to improve in their innovation, responsiveness, information accuracy, and data management. W. Keith Neeley, MBA continues as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Angelita Vinluan, CPA, as the unit's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As we continue to face the challenge of our Nation's struggling economy, we search for innovative ways to achieve sustainable, interdependent financial growth and capacity expansion within the Center.

The COO provides administrative and strategic oversight of the following internal functional areas led by the management team:

- Alex Chau, BS, Chief Information Officer (CIO)
- Dianna Densmore, MPH, Chief of Project Staff (CPS)
- Theresa Foss, BS, Human Resources and Office Manager (CHR)
- Nancy Petersen, PhD, Chief of Statistical Analysis and Data Processing Staff (CSD)
- Matt Price, MS, Chief Communications Officer (CCO)
- Shannon Underwood, BA, Chief of Business Development (CBD)
- Angelita Vinluan, CPA, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

As the expertise and teamwork of our group increases over the coming years, we remain certain that efficiency and operational innovation will continue. Our potential for growth and capacity is limitless at this point.

Investigators

For FY03, the Center ended the year with 32 research team leaders, 17 from non-clinical disciplines and 15 from clinical disciplines. Center investigators have their primary academic appointments at Baylor College of Medicine, in the Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research. The Center maintains close ties with the University of Texas School of Public Health, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M, and various other affiliated institutions.

The Center is extremely proud of its Career Development Awardees. Among the highlights for FY03 are:

- Drs. Howard Gordon and Rebecca Beyth VA Advanced Career Development Awards
- Drs. Paul Haidet, Hashem El-Serag, Lynn Snow, and Ursula Braun Career Development Awards
- Dr. Anita Deswal's VA Cooperative Studies Clinical Research Career Development Award
- Drs. Michael Johnson and Jessica Davilla MREP Awards

We are proud of our mix of research team leaders in the organization. The breadth of expertise and interest provides an appropriate balance in our efforts to cultivate cutting-edge research areas within the Center. Of particular note in FY03 we acquired a PhD. health economist (Moffett) to further our methodological diversity and to meet a very high Center demand for this discipline.

Computer Information Systems

The Center of Excellence computer system, known as the Health Services Research Computing Center (HSRCC), was previously led by Paul Gregor, PhD, who served as our Center's chief information officer. Late in FY 2003, Dr. Gregor resigned to pursue other interests. Alex Chau, BS, who previously served as the Center's system administrator, was promoted to the CIO position.

The HSRCC provides support for a wide range of information acquisition, analysis, and reporting activities. The HSRCC comprises a network of Unix and Windows servers, office and common-area PCs, and shared printers and other devices.

The Center's Computing Network enables the staff to access all of our servers. Our connection to the HVAMC LAN facilitates our ready access to other VA information systems (such as the Austin Automation Center). From the hardware perspective, one system has 4 CPUs with 2.25 GB of RAM and approximately 700GB of storage space. Another Unix server on the network hosts an *Intranet* web site for distribution of certain types of information among Center staff. The system also includes two Intel-based Windows servers that provide file and print sharing. These servers provide disk storage for sharing documents and administrative information among Center staff. All investigators have desktop PCs and printers to facilitate their individual research efforts. Laptop computers are also available for use while traveling.

HSRCC systems have been configured for high reliability and maintainability and to guard against data loss. Parallel components and processors enable the system to continue operation in the event of major component failures. HSRCC also has a tape library for automated daily backup of the HP system and the NT file servers. In FY03, HSRCC purchased additional capacity infrastructure to accommodate the heavier load created by the increase in research projects, investigators, and support staff. The enlarged infrastructure includes HP Itanium hardware, Dell dual Pentium hardware, super DLT hardware, and SQL software. We anticipate even greater expansion and processing capability over the next two years as we continue to provide optimal IT support of our growing Center.

Research Dissemination

The Center's communications and public relations efforts are lead by Matt D. Price, MS, chief communications officer. In FY03, The Center published, provided, or has in press over 225 dissemination actions in various venues including peer-reviewed journals, academic texts, technical reports, and conference presentations/abstracts. A more detailed discussion of our products, dissemination efforts, and impact is provided at section 5 of this report.

Education and Training

The Center's Education and Training activities are led by A. Lynn Snow, PhD, assistant director for educational programs. The centerpiece of our Center's training activity is its VA-funded post-doctoral fellowship program for non-clinician PhDs. Additionally, the mission of the Section includes: clinical fellows training, pre-doctoral training, emphasis on training of and collaboration with minority students and faculty, and the Center's mentoring program. You can find more detail on our training efforts in Section 7 of this report

Leadership Roles

The investigators at the HCQCUS remain prominent leaders on national research committees, editorial review boards, and within academic associations. Many of the senior investigators are leaders in their respective fields of expertise while providing substantive input to national research organizations. More details regarding these Center's leaders and leadership activities are provided in Section 6 of this report.

Future Plans

As we prepared for our renewal and site visit (mentioned previously) we carefully examined our past to prepare us for a future that will require enhanced competencies in leadership, technology, and research outcomes implementation. Our vision for the Center will require a transition from seeking new knowledge to applying new knowledge in clinical settings. We feel strongly that the five-year strategic plan put forward during 2003 provides the roadmap to reach our future. FY 2004 and beyond will be our time of diligent and rigorous execution of our plans so that we can aid healthcare organizations in meeting the six aims specified in the IOM *Crossing the Quality Chasm* report.

Our charge remains the same: to impact health and health care and to develop great research leaders. Based on our track record of growth and scientific performance, we expect to exceed our mission objectives. In the coming year and beyond, the Center will develop the necessary capabilities in leadership, science, infrastructure, and finances to serve as a model for all Centers of Excellence.

Key to achieving our goals is the thoughtful and deliberate development of four team leaders into administrative and research leaders. In FY03 Drs. Beyth, Ford, Kunik, and Suarez-Almazor were named associate directors to lead the development of four research areas focused on the following themes: (1) translation; (2) health disparities; (3) chronic care model system of care; and (4) health decision making. As the Center has evolved in scientific and leadership maturity, we have recognized the need to decentralize our operational execution, where practical, and give senior scientists the opportunity to capitalize on their successes and pass on their unique skills to our junior and mid-level scientists. Our use of the four associate director model to "surge" scientific progress forward at the Center represents our commitment to innovation and growth in health services research in our four theme areas. Our previous focus on quality and utilizations remain the same as we apply increasing results-focused intensity in two main areas:

1. Development of our team leaders and professional staff
2. Research that impacts policy, practice, and patients

First, developing leaders is a core competency we will sustain in our effort to keep investigators at the leading edge of research. Our leadership development focus will create scientists who strongly influence their fields. We will place particular emphasis on producing scientific findings that lead to results that can be delivered directly to practitioners, patients, or policy makers. We will support this shift in mindset by hiring new team leaders with proven track records of success in funding, publishing, and presentations in

high-impact research areas. Moreover, we will employ a vigorous mentoring process that supports continuous improvement and growth toward independent project funding. With such an ardent emphasis on the development of our scientists, we will create greater leadership depth in our organization and the Research and Development organization at large. We feel a strong obligation to create the leaders of the VA's research future.

Additionally, using the AHRQ scientific publications "Impact Factor" model (Eisenberg 2001: Eisenberg, JM; *Putting Research to Work: Reporting and Enhancing the Impact of Health Services Research*), we will employ a systems approach to achieving our "quality output" mission. Further, we support the VA and HSR&D missions by bringing greater notoriety to our work and improving the quality of care for Veterans and the nation-at-large. We have accomplished much in the past years as we've embraced the challenge of two institutional support systems [VA and Baylor College of Medicine (BCM)] but we must take our work to the next level by conquering the communications and outreach dilemmas associated with "implementation" research.

An associated goal for 2004 is the launching of our effort to "market" the purpose and outcomes of health services research to achieve the following four goals:

1. Reach health care end-users (practitioner and patient)
2. Improve patient care
3. Favorably impact health care policy
4. Expand research-funding opportunities

Achieving these goals requires all the actions mentioned in the paragraphs above *and* requires the judicious use of resources to create and deliver the results with growing efficiency and consistency. We are sufficiently on our way to bringing these goals to a reality. We will seek to accomplish these goals within each area of research led by the four associate directors.

Armed with the FY 2003 External Advisory Committee's review and our 2004-2008 Strategic Plan strategic plan, we look forward to another outstanding year of innovative solutions to meeting the healthcare system challenges we face at the VA and the Nation.

2 Investigators

“The salvation of mankind lies only in making everything the concern of all.” -Alexander Solzhenitsyn

In addition to being a community of scientists, our Center is a community of people who care about each other. We join together in good times and support each other during difficulties. We anticipate the needs of others within our community and we offer each other compassion and encouragement. We are more than an organization. We are a family.

The Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies comprises eight functional teams:

- Executive Team
- Investigator Team (Core)
- Management Team
- Statistician Team
- Data Analyst Team
- Project Staff Team
- Information Technology Team
- Administrative Support Team

In addition to the eight teams, the Center also includes:

- Post-Doctoral Fellow Team (Trainees)
- Affiliate Investigators
- Volunteers
- Summer Students

The executive team comprises Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH, director of the Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies; Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS, associate director for the translational research agenda and director of CHF QUERI Coordinating Center, Marvella E. Ford, PhD, associate director for the health disparities research agenda, Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH, associate director for the chronic care models research agenda, and Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD, associate director for the health decision making research agenda. These five executive team members also maintain dual responsibilities as Center investigators.

W. Keith Neely, MBA, assistant director for finance and administration and chief operating officer, leads the management team and also is a member of the executive team. The management team has responsibility for administrative support, business development, communications and public relations, finance, human resources, recruitment, and information technology, as well as statistical analysis, data analysis, and project staff support.

Our scientific investigators and post-doctoral fellows are the foundation and the acclaim of our Center of Excellence. The sections that follow detail their accomplishments.

The current members of the eight teams and the Center’s other organizational groups, as of September 30, 2003, are listed below. Please refer to the organizational chart that follows.

Executive Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Carol Ashton	MD, MPH	Director, HCQCUS and BCM Section Chief	1990
Rebecca Beyth	MD, MS	Associate Director for the Translational Research Agenda & Director of CHF QUERI Coordinating Center	1999
Marvella Ford	PhD	Associate Director for the Health Disparities Research Agenda	2002
Mark Kunik	MD, MPH	Associate Director for the Chronic Care Models Research Agenda	1999
Maria Suarez-Almazor	MD, PhD	Associate Director for the Health Decision Making Research Agenda	1999
W. Keith Neeley	MBA	Assistant Director, Administration and Finance; Chief Operating Officer	2001

Investigator Team (Core)

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Carol Ashton	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1990
Rebecca Beyth	MD, MS	Senior Scientist	1999
Ursula Braun	MD	Senior Scientist	2001
Ruth Bush	MD	Senior Scientist	2003
Tracie Collins	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Jeff Cully	PhD	Senior Scientist	2003
Jessica Davila	PhD	Senior Scientist	2001
Anita Deswal	MD	Senior Scientist	2000
Hashem El-Serag	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1999
Marvella Ford	PhD	Senior Scientist	2002
Thomas Giordano	MD	Senior Scientist	2002
Laura Goetzl	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	2000
Howard Gordon	MD	Senior Scientist	1996
Paul Haidet	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Michael Johnson	PhD	Senior Scientist	1992
P. Adam Kelly	PhD, MBA	Senior Scientist	2001
Mark Kunik	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1999
Maurice Moffett	PhD	Senior Scientist	2003
Robert Morgan	PhD	Senior Scientist	1999
Kimberly O'Malley	PhD	Senior Scientist	1999
Laura Petersen	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	1998
Nancy Petersen	PhD	Senior Scientist	1990
Ken Pietz	PhD	Senior Scientist	1994
A. Lynn Snow	PhD	Senior Scientist; Assistant Director for Education	2000

Julianne Soucek	PhD	Senior Scientist	1993
Maria Suarez-Almazor	MD, PhD	Senior Scientist	1999
LeChauncy Woodard	MD, MPH	Senior Scientist	2001

Management Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
W. Keith Neeley	MBA	Assistant Director, Administration and Finance; Chief Operating Officer	2001
Dianna Densmore	MS	Chief of Project Staff (and Project Manager)	2002
Theresa Foss	BS	HR/Office Manager	2001
Paul Gregor	PhD	Chief Information Officer	1998
Nancy Petersen	PhD	Chief of Statistical Analysis and Data Processing	1990
Matt Price	MS	Chief Communications Officer	1995
Shannon Underwood	BA	Chief of Business Development	1993
Angelita Vinluan	BA (CPA)	Chief Financial Officer	2000

Statistician Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Michael Johnson	PhD	Statistician	1992
Nancy Petersen	PhD	Statistician	1990
Ken Pietz	PhD	Statistician	1994
Julie Soucek	PhD	Statistician	1993

Data Analyst Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Jennifer Campbell	MS	Data Analyst	2002
Christine Hartman	PhD	Data Analyst	2002
Mark Kuebeler	MS	Data Analyst	1999
Meei Ku-Goto	MS	Data Analyst	1993
Harlan Nelson	MS	Data Analyst	1998
Peter Richardson	PhD	Data Analyst	1999
Raji Sundaravaradan	BS	Data Analyst	2002
Michael Thompson	MS	Data Analyst	1999
Diana Urbauer	MS	Data Analyst	2001
Iris Wei	DrPH	Data Analyst	1991
Hong-Jen Yu	MS	Data Analyst	1992

Project Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Abeer Alsarraj	BS	Project Staff	2001
Amanda Baumle	JD	Project Staff	2003
Matiko Bivins	MA	Project Staff	2003
Angela Blanco		Project Staff	2003
Eduardo Bruera	BA	Project Staff	2003
Loralee Capistrano	MPH	Project Staff	1999
Karen Carl	MA	Project Staff	2002
Junaia Carter	BS	Project Staff	2001
Brandon Collins		Project Staff	2003
Jon Cooper		Project Staff	2003
Shawna Davis	BS	Project Staff	2002
Christina Daw	MPH	Project Staff	2003
Danielle Dixon	BS	Project Staff	2003
Coreen Domingo	MPH	EXCEED Program Coordinator	2002
Barbara Dunstan	AND	Project Staff	2003
Heather Dyson		Project Staff	2002
Sharon Eason	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Eryn Edwards		Project Staff	2003
Lauren Elissa	MPH	Project Staff	2002
Donna Espadas	BA	Project Staff	1998
Sameera Farzand	MPH	Project Staff	2003
Alex Fay	BA	Project Staff	2003
Chris Ferguson		Project Staff	2003
Sunshine Gage	BS	Project Staff	2002
Angela Ishak	BS	Project Staff	2003
Dolly Ann John	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Shawna Johnson	BSN	Project Staff	2003
Leola Jones	BS	Project Staff	2003
Jennifer Khan	BA	Project Staff	2003
Barbara Kimmel	MS	CHF QUERI Center Manager	2002
Alex Kipp		Project Staff	2003
Laura Krishnan	BA	Project Staff	2003
Tony Kroll	MS	Project Staff	2003
Patricia Krueger	MS	Project Staff	2002
Nancy Logan	MA	Project Staff	2001
Carol Looney	MS	Project Staff	2003
Frank Martin	MS	Director, IDEAL Core	1998
J. Elizabeth Martin		Project Staff	1999
Ellen Matthiesen	BA	Project Staff	1999
Chong Pak	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Sonya Patel	MS	Project Staff	2003

Petra Pilgrim	BA	Project Staff	2003
Sherilyn Pillack	BSN	Project Staff	2003
Aimee Pinales		Project Staff	2002
Yvette Pinales		Project Staff	2000
Louise Quijano	MSW	Project Staff	2002
Siddharta Reddy	MPH	Project Staff	2000
Marsha Richardson	MSW	Project Staff	2001
Elizabeth Roberts	BS	Project Staff	2003
Nikita Robinson	BS	Project Staff	2003
Sarah Satrom	BA	Project Staff	2002
Ayanna Sidle	BS	Project Staff	2003
Robert Snow	MS	Project Staff	2003
Supicha Sookanan	MPH	Project Staff	2001
Linda Stelljes	MA	Project Staff	1999
Jasmeet Tagore	BS	Project Staff	2003
Tracy Urech	BA	Project Staff	2001
Connie Veazey	MA	Project Staff	2002
Heather Wellman	BS	Project Staff	2003
Kimberly Wildes	MA	Project Staff	2002
Nancy Wilson	MSW	Project Staff	2002
Darrell Zeno	MS	Project Staff	2001
Yun-Ting Yeh	MBA	Project Staff	2003

Information Technology Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Alex Chau	BS	IT Staff	2003
Chris Williams	BA	IT Staff	1999

Administrative Support Team

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Tracy Barrera		Travel Coordinator and Administrative Assistant	2002
Barbara Chamberlin		Administrative Assistant to Team Leaders	2000
Angela Davis		Team Leader Support	2002
Aida DeLeon	BBA	Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable	2001
Regina Drake	AAS	Administrative Assistant to Team Leaders	2001
Virgie Fowler	BBA	Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable	2002
April Hernandez		Team Leader Support	2001
Tenecia Harrison		Receptionist	2003
Tamara Lavin	BS	Administrative Assistant/Recruiter	2002

Rhonda O'Donovan	Executive Assistant to Chief of Health Services Research	1997
Rose Peralta	Accounting Assistant	2002
Diane Simmons	Executive Assistant to Directors	2002
Carol Swartsfager	Executive Assistant to Associate Directors	2003

Post-Doctoral Fellow Team (Trainees)

Name	Degree	Title	Hire Date
Karen Garibaldi	MD	Post Doc/Fellow	2002
David Graham	MD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Jennifer Kramer	PhD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Kent Roundy	MD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003
Paul J. Rowan	PhD	Post Doc/Fellow	2002
Cayla Teal	PhD	Post Doc/Fellow	2003

Affiliate Investigators

Name	Degree	Title
Margaret Byrne	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Baruch Brody	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Karon Cook	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Susan Garber	MA	Affiliate Investigator
Laurence McCullough	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Jolyn Mikow	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Nora Osemene	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Debora Paterniti	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Yasser Shaib	MD	Affiliate Investigator
Barbara Sharf	PhD	Affiliate Investigator
Richard Street	PhD	Affiliate Investigator

Volunteers

Name	Title	Hire Date
Mark Diaz	Volunteer	2003
Yavonne Evans	Volunteer	2003

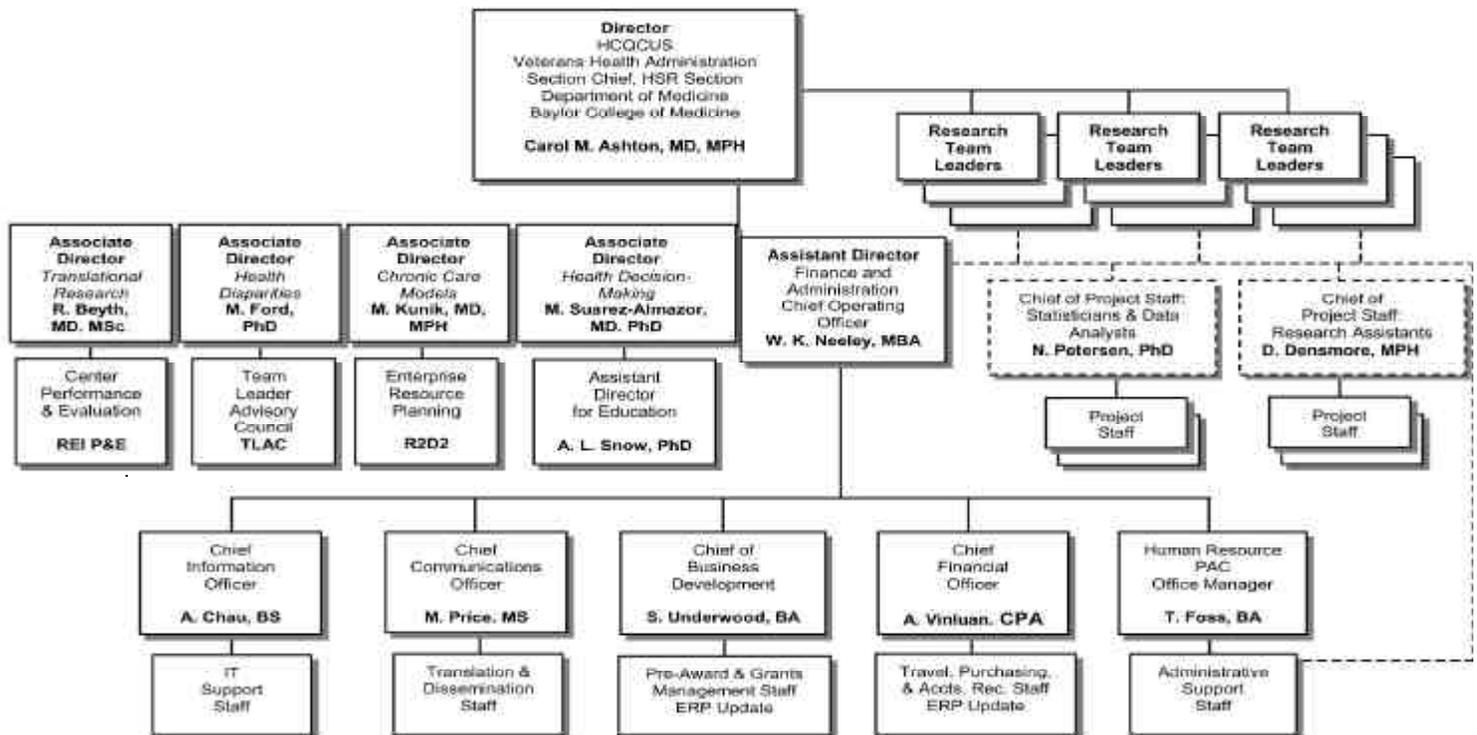
Summer Students

The Center's summer student program was established to offer young relatives and friends of Center staff an opportunity to improve future employment prospects while encouraging higher education, particularly in health-related fields of study. The 2003 summer student program, lead by Dianna Densmore, chief of project staff, was very successful. Sixteen high school and undergraduate students were employed over the course of the summer and performed a wide variety of tasks, from organizational tasks to data entry to extensive literature searches and reviews. The Center leadership has always been an advocate of fostering an environment where young students can become involved in our successful health services

research organization. It is our hope that the small role we play in their development will have an impact on their future career choices.

2.1 Organizational Chart

Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies Effective Date: 10-1-03



2.2 Investigators (Table 1)

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Core Investigator(s)						
Carol M. Ashton	MD, MPH	Director (COE)	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section, Houston VA Medical Center Deputy Associate Chief of Staff, for Research and Development, Houston VAMC Chief, General Medicine Section, Houston VA Medical Center	Professor, Department of Medicine and Medical Ethics, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor, The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston	1990	0.9
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Databases; Disparities in Treatments Received; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Care Policy; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Needs and Demands; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care				
Rebecca J. Beyth	MD, MS	Affiliate Investigator - Part-time Associate Director (COE) Physician Investigator	Staff Physician - Part-time	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Prevention; Quality of Care				
Ursula K. Braun	MD, MPH	Physician-Health Services	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Treatment				
Ruth L. Bush	MD, BA	Staff Physician			2003	0.25
		INTERESTS: Academic Research; Surgery				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Tracie C. Collins	MD, MPH	Physician-Health Services Researcher	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1998	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Etiology; Quality of Care INTERESTS: Cardiovascular Diseases; Cerebrovascular Disorders; Chronic Disease; Clinical Decision-Making; Health Services Research; Lower Extremity Amputation; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Acceptance of Health Care				
Jessica Davila	PhD, MS, BS	Health Services Researcher	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor	2001	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Prevention; Epidemiology INTERESTS: Cancer; Cancer Prevention and Control; Treatment Outcome				
Anita Deswal	MD	Physician-Health Services Researcher	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Etiology; Pathophysiology; Quality of Care; Treatment INTERESTS: Cardiology; Clinical Trials; Outcomes Measurement; Racial Differences in Care				
Nancy Jo Dunn	PhD, MS, BA	Research Investigator	Clinical Psychologist, Houston VAMC	Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Adjunct Faculty, Department of Psychology, University of Houston	1997	1
		** Left Center In 2003 DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Mental Illness; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Treatment INTERESTS: Comorbidity; Depression; Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic; Treatment Outcome				
Hashem B. El-Serag	MD, MPH	Health Services Researcher	Staff Physician, Medical Service, Gastroenterology	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Etiology; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment INTERESTS: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases; Evidence-Based Medicine; Hepatitis C; Neoplasms; Outcome Assessment (Health Care)				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Marvella E. Ford	PhD, MS, MSW	Associate Director (COE) Health Services Researcher		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2002	0.9
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		INTERESTS: Access to Primary Care and Preventive Services; Aging; Cancer Prevention and Control; Cultural Diversity; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Related Quality of Life; Mammography; Minority Health; Psychometrics				
Susan Garber	MA	Investigator			2003	0.25
		INTERESTS: Surgery				
Thomas P. Giordano	MD, BS	Physician -Health Services	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2002	1
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Disparities in Treatments Received; Health Outcomes; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Research; HIV/AIDS; Impacts of New Drug/Technology on AIDS; Infectious Disease; Minority Health; Racial Differences in Care				
Laura Goetzi	MD, MPH	Physician - Health Services	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics&Gynecology, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	0.1
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Pathophysiology; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Women's Health; Women's Health Services				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Howard S. Gordon	MD, SB	Research Associate (Clinician Scientist - Level I)	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Baylor Department of Medicine	1996	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Behavior; Benchmarking; Cardiovascular Diseases; Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Databases; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Research; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Low Back Pain; Lower Extremity Amputation; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Acceptance of Health Care; Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Risk Adjustment; United States Department of Veteran Affairs				
Paul Haidet	MD, MPH	Clinical Researcher Medical Educator	Staff Physician	Assistant Professor, Baylor Department of Medicine	1998	1
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Prevention; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Ambulatory Care; Behavior; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Behavior; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Medical Education; Medical Ethics; Patient Education; Patient Satisfaction; Physician-Patient Relations; Professional-Patient Relations; Teaching				
Michael L. Johnson	PhD	Health Science Researcher Research Health Science Specialist		Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research	1992	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Biostatistics; Chronic Disease; Databases; Health Services Research; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Practice Patterns; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Research Design; Risk Adjustment				
P. Adam Kelly	PhD, MBA, BS	Research Career Scientist (Non-Clinician Phd)	Research Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor	2002	0.5
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Technology Development and Assessment				
		INTERESTS: Assessment; Education; Health Care Evaluation and Measurement; Health Services Research; Human Subjects Protection; Patient-Centered Care; Physician-Patient Relations; Program Evaluation; Psychometrics; Statistics				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Mark E. Kunik	MD, MPH	Associate Director (COE)	Staff Physician	Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences	1999	1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Mental Illness DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Treatment INTERESTS: Alzheimer's Disease; Behavioral Symptoms; Chronic Disease; Dementia; Depression; Health Services Research; Treatment Outcome				
Terri J. Menke	PhD	Research Investigator	Research Health Science Specialist	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1991	0.2
		** Left Center In 2003				
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Resource Use and Cost INTERESTS: Cost-Benefit Analysis; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Care Policy; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Research; HIV/AIDS; Managed Care Programs; United States Department of Veteran Affairs; Utilization and Cost of Health Care				
Maurice Leon Moffett	PhD, MA, BBA	Research Economist			2003	1
Robert O. Morgan	PhD	Health Services Researcher	Statistician	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine, Dartmouth Medical School	1999	0.9
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost INTERESTS: Accidental Falls; Advance Directives; Ambulatory Care; Behavior; Behavior and Behavioral Mechanisms; Best Practices; Chronic Disease; Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Cost-Effectiveness of Primary Care; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Cultural Diversity; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Dementia; Depression; Diffusion of Innovation; Effects of Exercise on Functional Status and Injury Risk; Emergency Medical Services; Evidence-Based Medicine; Fall-Related Injuries in the Elderly; Frail Elderly; Health Behavior; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Care Evaluation Mechanisms; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Needs and Demands; Health Services Research; Managed Care Programs; Medical Education; Organizational Policy; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Physician-Patient Relations; Population Characteristics; Public Policy; Research Design; Risk Adjustment; Risk Factors; Sample Size; Telemedicine; Treatment Outcome; Utilization and Cost of Health Care				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Kimberly J. O'Malley	PhD, MS, BS	Research Health Science Specialist	Psychometrician	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	0.2
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Epidemiology; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Behavior; Best Practices; Clinical Decision-Making; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Behavior; Health Services Needs and Demands; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Multicenter Study; Pain; Patient Satisfaction; Physician Practice Patterns; Quality of Life; Sample Size; Teaching; Treatment Outcome; United States Department of Veteran Affairs				
Laura A. Petersen	MD, MPH	Research Associate (Clinician Scientist - Level II)	Staff Physician	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1998	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost; Treatment				
		INTERESTS: Benchmarking; Best Practices; Cardiovascular Diseases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Services Accessibility; Health Services Needs and Demands; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Physician Practice Patterns; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Quality of Care				
Nancy J. Petersen	PhD	Assistant Director for Statistical Analysis and Data Processing Biostatistician, HCQCUS		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1990	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Assessment; Biostatistics; Chronic Heart Failure; Comorbidity; Controlled Clinical Trial; Databases; Patient Outcomes; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Risk Adjustment; Utilization and Cost of Health Care				
Kenneth C. Pietz	PhD, MS, BA	Biostatistician	Statistician - Medicine	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1994	1
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Resource Use and Cost				
		INTERESTS: Biostatistics; Clinical Trials; Cost and Utilization; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Economics; Hierarchical Statistical Models; Statistical Methodology; Statistical Models; Statistical Theory and Methodology; Statistics				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
A. Lynn Snow	PhD	Assistant Director for Education Research Health Science Specialist	Research Health Science Specialist	Instructor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine	2000	0.9
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems; Mental Illness DRE(s): Diagnosis and Prognosis; Quality of Care; Treatment INTERESTS: Assessment; Dementia; Long-Term Care; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Pain; Psychometrics; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Research Design				
Julianne Soucek	PhD	Biostatistician	Statistician - Medicine	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1993	1
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost INTERESTS: Health Care Evaluation Mechanisms; Health Services Research; Meta-Analysis; Randomized Controlled Trial; Research Design; Risk Factors; Sample Size; Statistical Methodology; Utilization and Cost of Health Care				
Maria E. Suarez-Almazor	MD, PhD	Associate Director (COE) Research Physician		Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1999	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Quality of Care				
LeChauncy D. Woodard	MD, MPH	Investigator	Staff Physician	Instructor, Family and Community Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	1
		DRA(s): Chronic Diseases DRE(s): Quality of Care; Prevention INTERESTS: Chronic Disease; Disparities in Treatments Received				

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year	
					Joined	FTE*
Nelda P. Wray	MD, MPH	Physician-Health Services Researcher QUERI Research Coordinator	Chief, General Medicine Section, Medical Service, VAMC Houston	Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine Chief, Section of Health Services Research, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine Professor of Medical Ethics, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor (Health Services), the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston	1990	1

**** Left Center In 2003**

DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems

DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost

INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Behavior; Behavior and Behavioral Mechanisms; Benchmarking; Chronic Disease; Clinical Competence; Controlled Clinical Trial; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Databases; Delivery of Health Care, Integrated; Health Behavior; Health Care Costs and Cost Analysis; Health Care Policy; Health Services Needs and Demands; Health Services Research; Medical Ethics; Multicenter Study; Neoplasms; Organization and Management; Outcome Assessment (Health Care); Patient Satisfaction; Procedure Use and Outcomes in Cardiology; Product Line Management; Quality Assurance, Health Care - Quality of Health Care; Quality of Life; Randomized Controlled Trial; Research Design; Risk Adjustment; Risk Factors

Mary J. York	PhD, MA, BS	Senior Research Career Scientist (Non-Clinician Phd)	Health Science Specialist	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	1
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**** Left Center In 2003**

DRA(s): Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems

DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care; Resource Use and Cost

INTERESTS: Chronic Heart Failure; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Services Research; Hierarchical Statistical Models; Organizational Innovation; Outcomes Measurement; Patient Compliance; Patient Quality of Life Outcome Measures; Quality of Care; Statistical Models

* FTEE refers to percentage of time devoted to HSR&D that is paid by the VA

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Affiliate Investigator(s)						
Baruch A. Brody	PhD, MA, BA	Affiliate Investigator		Leon Jaworski Professor of Biomedical Ethics, Baylor College of Medicine Director, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine Profesor, Philosophy, Rice University	2003	0
		DRA(s):	Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems			
		DRE(s):	Communication and Decision Making			
		INTERESTS:	Health Services Research; Medical Ethics			
Joseph D. Hamilton	MD	Physician	Mental Health Care Line Executive	Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Baylor College of Medicine		0.05
		INTERESTS:	Mental Illness			
Laurence McCullough	PhD	Affiliate Investigator - Without Compensation (WOC)	Staff Associate for Long-Term Care Research, Houston VAMC	Professor of Medicine, and Medical Ethics, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Faculty Associate, Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College of Medicine Adjunct Professor of Ethics in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cornell University Medical College, New York	1997	0
		DRA(s):	Aging and Age-Related Changes; Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations			
		DRE(s):	Communication and Decision Making			
		INTERESTS:	Frail Elderly; Medical Ethics; Physician-Patient Relations			
Nora Inyang Osemene	PharmD	Research Scientist		Assistant Professor	2001	0.3
		DRA(s):	Health Services and Systems			

Houston Center of Excellence Investigators (Core and Affiliate), FY 2003

	Degree(s)	Field Program Title(s)	Other VA Title(s)	University Title(s)	Year Joined FP	FTE*
Herminia Palacio	MD, MPH	Physician, Department of Medicine		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	2001	1
** Left Center In 2003						
		DRA(s): Health Services and Systems; Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations				
		DRE(s): Epidemiology; Resource Use and Cost				
Debora A. Paterniti	PhD	Affiliate Investigator		Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine	1997	0.1
		DRA(s): Aging and Age-Related Changes; Chronic Diseases; Health Services and Systems				
		DRE(s): Communication and Decision Making; Quality of Care				
		INTERESTS: Advance Directives; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Cultural Diversity; Health Behavior; Health Care Policy; Health Care Seeking Behavior; Health Services Research; Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice; Long-Term Care; Medical Education; Medical Ethics; Medical Sociology; Patient Acceptance of Health Care; Patient Compliance; Patient Education; Patient Satisfaction; Physician-Patient Relations; Professional-Patient Relations; Quality of Life; Research Design; Women's Health				
Lynn P. Rehm	PhD	Co-Investigator			1997	0.2
Yasser Shaib	MD	Staff Physician			2003	0.4
Barbara Sharf	PhD	Co-Investigator			2000	0.3
** Left Center In 2003						
Pamela Willson	PhD, MSN, BSN	Research Nurse		Clinical Instructor	2003	0.4
		DRA(s): Special (Underserved, High Risk) Populations; Aging and Age-Related Changes				
		DRE(s): Prevention				
		INTERESTS: Women's Health				

* FTEE refers to percentage of time devoted to HSR&D that is paid by the VA

3 Center Funding

During FY03, the Center has continued its success in obtaining funding from various funding streams outside the annual core allocation from the VA HSR&D Service and contributions from the Houston VA Medical Center – namely, VA research grants; research grants from other federal agencies; eight career development grants and VISN contract agreements. We attribute this success to an outstanding cadre of investigators on staff who are dedicated to supporting the missions of VHA Headquarters, the various VISN programs, VISN 16, and the Houston VA Medical Center. The Houston Center now has eight funding streams: 1) annual core allocation from the VA HSR&D Service in VA Headquarters; 2) VA research grants; 3) research grants from other federal agencies; 4) research grants from philanthropic foundations and drug study companies; 5) VA and non-VA training grants and career development grants; 6) project contracts with VA entities; 7) contributions from the Houston VA Medical Center; and 8) university contributions from Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research.

The total budget for the Houston Center of Excellence for FY03 was \$10,135,736. This includes \$7,678,158 in project-generated funds, an approximate ratio of 10:8 of leveraged project funding to HSR&D Core funding. The FY03 budget reflects a 9.37% increase from FY02. The largest growth is in HSR&D funding, which increased from \$2,596,833 in FY02 to \$3,157,822 in FY03, primarily due to increase in core funding and two new MREP, followed by an increase in IIR.

Funding from contractual projects with other VISN programs decreased from \$574,645 in FY02 to \$293,453 in FY03. There is no dramatic increase or decrease in SDR funding from the previous year, while IIR funding continued to increase, to \$1,056,511, up from \$482,542 five years ago.

At the end of the fiscal year, the Center had a total of over \$10 million dollars under review in grant applications. Breakdown for total direct costs were \$6,827,471 and total indirect costs were \$3,321,663. The Center estimates that it should always have approximately 2 to 3 times its current operating budget represented in grants under review, assuming approval rates on grant submissions of 25% to 33%.

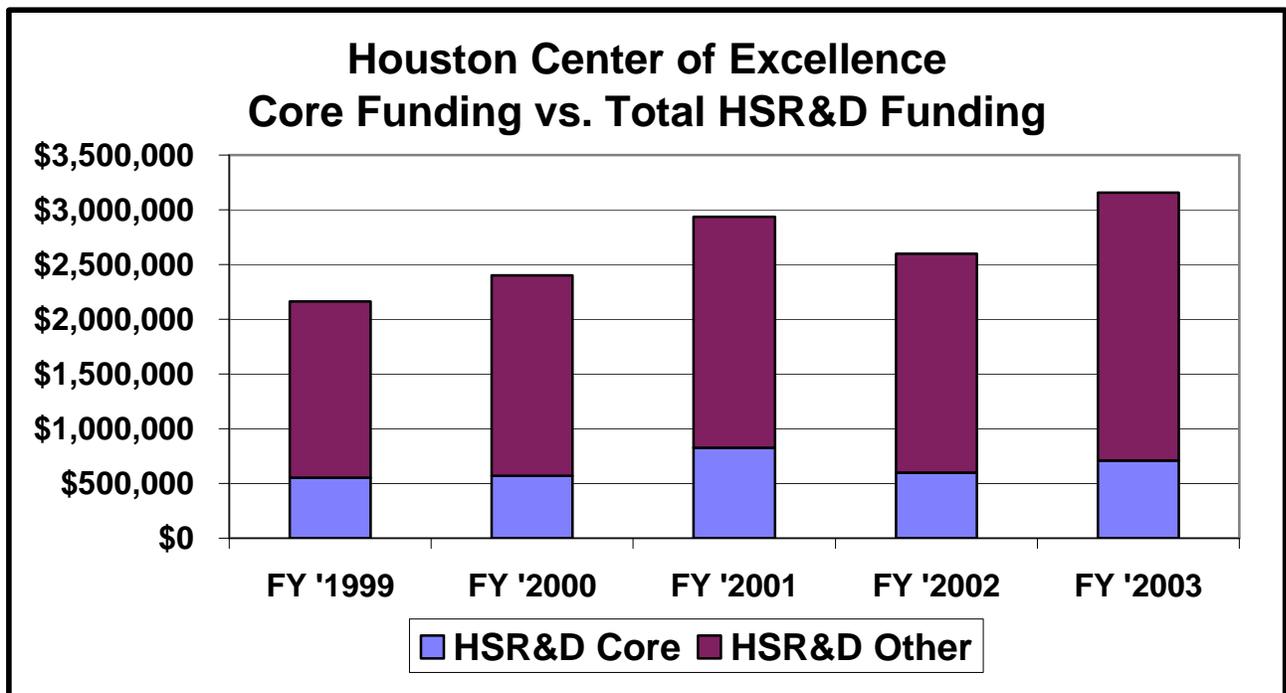
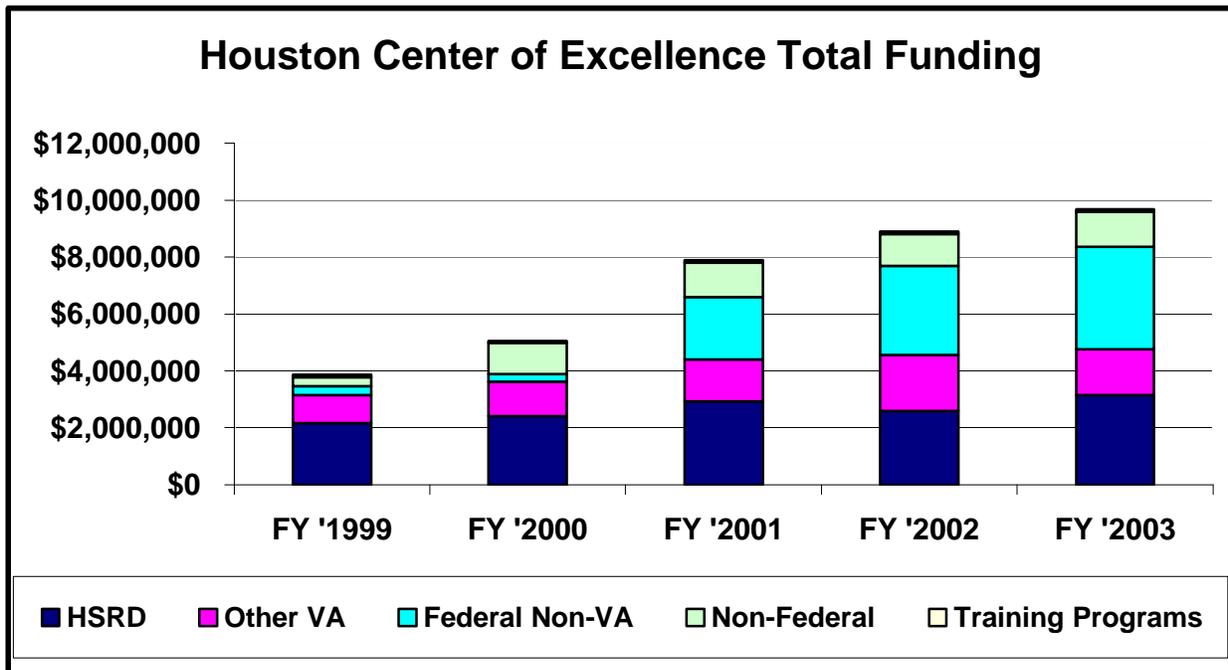
3.1 Budget Information (Table 2)

Houston Center of Excellence Budget Information

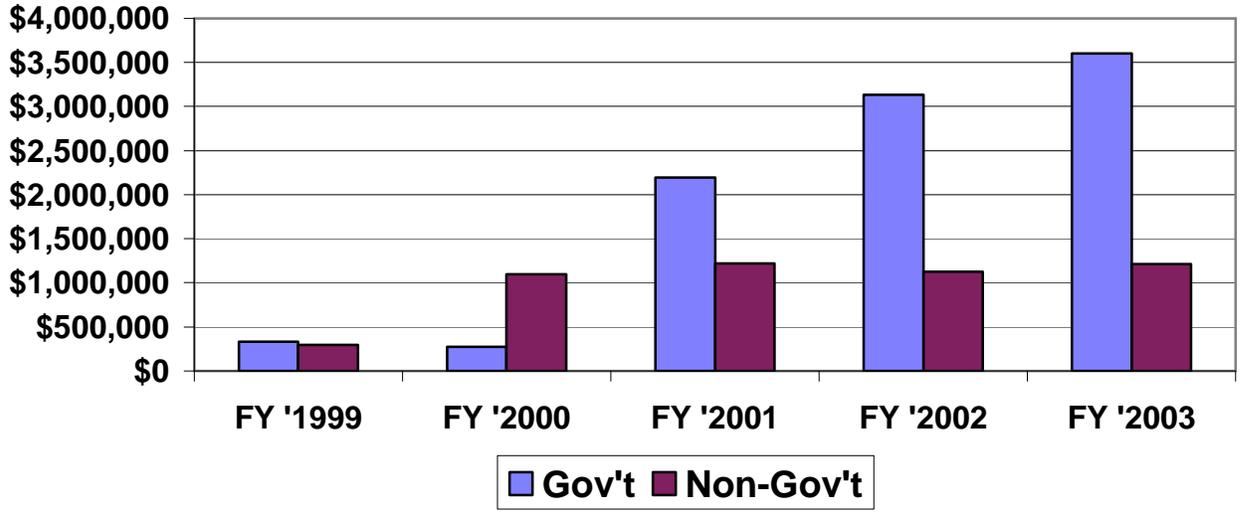
	Fiscal Year Funding					Number Of Projects				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Funding Source(s)										
HSR&D										
Core	\$550,000	\$571,551	\$825,000	\$600,000	\$708,000	1	1	1	1	1
Supplemental Funds	\$76,518	\$313,437	\$188,500	\$70,000	\$60,000	1	2	1	1	1
IIR	\$482,542	\$659,167	\$777,881	\$692,274	\$1,056,511	8	7	5	9	11
SDR	\$330,326	\$170,067	\$69,525	\$246,975	\$225,842	3	3	1	1	2
MDRC	\$72,353	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	0	0	0	0
MRC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,547	0	0	0	0	1
Career Development	\$573,907	\$641,125	\$862,827	\$770,184	\$728,172	5	4	6	6	6
Career Scientist	\$0	\$0	\$53,542	\$0	\$0	0	0	1	0	0
AIA	\$0	\$13,774	\$55,096	\$49,000	\$0	0	1	1	1	0
NRI	\$38,439	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	1	0	0	0	0
LIP - HSR&D	\$0	\$0	\$19,100	\$85,000	\$50,000	0	1	1	3	2
Special Projects	\$40,075	\$0	\$34,600	\$33,400	\$0	1	0	2	2	0
MRP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$103,048	0	0	0	0	2
Other Center	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	1	0	0	0
USA	\$0	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	0	1	1	1	1
HBU	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,450	0	0	0	0	1
Admin & Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$132,252	0	0	0	0	1
Sub Total	\$2,164,160	\$2,404,121	\$2,936,071	\$2,596,833	\$3,157,822	21	21	20	25	29
Other VA										
CSP	\$0	\$0	\$140,990	\$154,558	\$190,842	0	0	1	1	1
MDRC	\$0	\$34,293	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	\$99,800	\$93,307	\$79,843	\$55,561	\$256,573	1	2	2	3	7
Core - Facility Contributions	\$581,631	\$480,634	\$712,756	\$860,930	\$871,806	1	1	1	1	1
VISN	\$300,805	\$593,850	\$525,154	\$574,645	\$293,453	3	7	6	9	5
Other Center	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,104	\$0	0	0	0	1	0
QUERI Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$299,541	\$0	0	0	0	1	0
Sub Total	\$982,236	\$1,202,084	\$1,458,743	\$1,956,339	\$1,612,674	5	11	10	16	14

Federal Non-VA											
NIH		\$280,489	\$93,483	\$646,719	\$915,369	\$1,849,726	3	3	7	13	17
AHRQ		\$0	\$1,667	\$1,267,278	\$1,990,142	\$1,558,915	0	1	3	2	2
Other		\$47,968	\$174,497	\$279,778	\$225,584	\$191,952	1	4	4	5	4
	Sub Total	\$328,457	\$269,647	\$2,193,775	\$3,131,095	\$3,600,593	4	8	14	20	23
Non-Federal											
Foundations		\$203,693	\$176,573	\$252,264	\$164,288	\$144,100	6	9	9	6	3
Commercial		\$90,453	\$46,512	\$230,033	\$338,254	\$227,772	4	6	7	10	7
Other		\$0	\$26,667	\$108,883	\$90,735	\$104,327	0	2	6	6	7
Core - University Contributions		\$0	\$846,547	\$624,374	\$528,302	\$731,835	0	1	2	4	3
	Sub Total	\$294,146	\$1,096,299	\$1,215,554	\$1,121,579	\$1,208,034	10	18	24	26	20
Training Programs											
OAA		\$93,218	\$77,508	\$93,661	\$95,862	\$89,600	1	1	1	1	1
	Sub Total	\$93,218	\$77,508	\$93,661	\$95,862	\$89,600	1	1	1	1	1
Medical Care											
QUERI Center Core		\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	0	0	1	1	1
QUERI Projects		\$53,400	\$179,000	\$447,300	\$65,100	\$136,350	1	1	2	1	1
Supplemental Funds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	0	0	0	0	1
Admin & Travel		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,663	0	0	0	0	1
	Sub Total	\$53,400	\$179,000	\$797,300	\$365,100	\$467,013	1	1	3	2	4
Totals		\$3,915,617	\$5,228,659	\$8,695,104	\$9,266,808	\$10,135,736	42	60	72	90	91

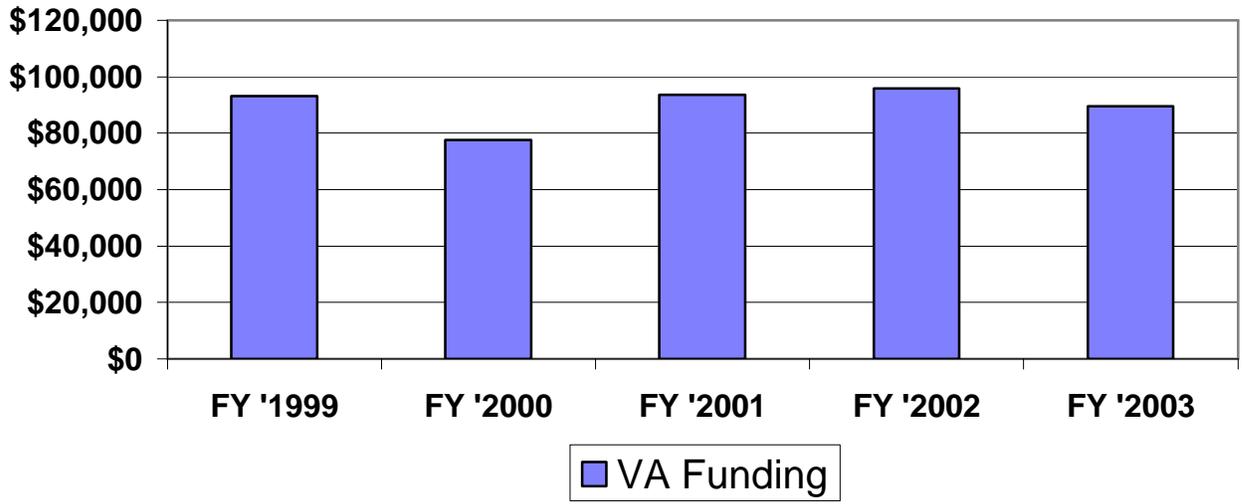
3.2 Funding Charts (Figures 1-4)



Houston Center of Excellence External (Non-VA) Funding



Houston Center of Excellence Training Support History



4 Research Projects

Fiscal year 2003 has served to solidify and reinforce the communication department's foundation that was initiated a year ago, under the leadership of Chief Communications Officer, Matt D. Price, MS. Mentored by Chief Operating Officer, W. Keith Neeley, MBA, Mr. Price has begun the process of redirecting the department's vision toward translation and dissemination efforts and the necessary business development opportunities to fund and nurture these efforts. Furthermore, translation and dissemination of the Center's research findings, and the impact achieved because of these findings, are essential components of the Center's strategic plan and the communication department's mission:

"The department is responsible for creating timely and accurate communications among our internal customers and communities and for communicating our outstanding research and scientific excellence to our external customers and communities."

Translation and Dissemination

The communications department has begun to develop a framework for the research knowledge transfer process. There are five questions (described by John N. Lavis, et. al., in their article, "How Can Research Organizations More Effectively Transfer Research Knowledge to Decision Makers?" published in *The Milbank Quarterly*, Vol. 81, No. 2, 2003) that we must ask as we begin to develop this framework, or strategy, in order to be successful in our efforts to assist the investigators to communicate their research results. They are:

1. What should be transferred to decision makers (message)?
2. To whom should research knowledge be transferred (target **audience**)?
3. By whom should research knowledge be transferred (messenger)?
4. How should research knowledge be transferred (knowledge-transfer **processes and supporting communications infrastructure**)?
5. "With what effect" should research knowledge be transferred (evaluation)?

Our four target audiences are:

- general public/service recipients (e.g., citizens, patients and clients)
- service providers (e.g., clinicians)
- managerial decision makers (e.g., managers in hospitals, community organizations, and private businesses)
- policy decision makers at the federal, state and local levels

An integral part of translation and dissemination is the evaluation phase that addresses the effect or impact of the research knowledge transfer process. The Center's strategic plan highlights the importance of measuring impact. Therefore, we are creating a system designed to measure "impact factors." Impact factors can be defined in two ways: *journal impact* and *article impact* as noted by impact factor expert, Eugene Garfield, PhD. First, we will begin to measure the impact factor for the journals in which our articles are published. Simply stated, a journal's impact factor is a measure of how often articles, in general, from that journal in that particular year are cited. Second, the precise impact of the article itself can be derived from the citation rate and by this, we are really focusing on article impact. We will collect the number of citations of a particular article and this will permit us to see how the article has done over the length of its career.

This combination of measuring both journal and author impact factors will not only allow evaluators to see the direction of the researcher's career, research output, and impact indicators, but it will assist the communications department in reporting the progress and touting the achievements of its investigators and the Center.

External Communications

Communicating science news is important because almost all VA research and staff support is publicly funded. Research conducted at the Center is disseminated in top medical and research journals, and at national and international conferences. For fiscal year 2003, the Center staff produced 101 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 35 "in press" articles, 1 book, 11 book chapters, and 4 technical reports. Publications include research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* [(31.736 *Impact Factor for 2002*); the journal with the highest impact factor in internal medicine], *Annals of Internal Medicine* (11.414 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *Archives of Internal Medicine* (6.749 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (2.752 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *American Journal of Gastroenterology* (3.953 *Impact Factor for 2002*), and *Medical Care* [(3.228 *Impact Factor for 2002*); journal with the highest impact factor in health services research].

Our Center investigators are recognized for their insightful and challenging talks at regional, national, and international conferences. In fiscal year 2003, there were 71 presentations given by Center investigators. Eight Center investigators made presentations at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) in Vancouver, British Columbia. SGIM is one of the world's preeminent organizations devoted to research, education, and practice in general internal medicine. Competition for presentations at the national SGIM meeting is typically intense, reflecting the high levels of scholarship achieved by presenters. Center investigators made presentations in multiple venues, including oral research abstracts, research posters, pre-course and workshop presentations, interest groups, clinical vignettes, and innovations in medical education exhibits. Center investigators presented in more than 19 venues, reaching a level of achievement that is unparalleled among health services research sections.

International presentations included: Dr. Rebecca Beyth's and Barbara Kimmel's, "Practical Challenges in Translational Research: Veterans Affairs (VA) Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI)" presented at the 3rd Joint Meeting of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and the Society for Clinical Trials, London, UK; Dr. Mark Kunik's and Dr. A. Lynn Snow's, "Experiencing Dementia: The Patient's Perspective" presented at the 4th Annual Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada; and Dr. Snow's, "Nursing Assistant-administered Instrument to Assess Pain in Demented Individuals" presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

In May 2003, Dr. Laura A. Petersen's article, "Regionalization and the Underuse of Angiography in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System as Compared with a Fee-for-Service System" was featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The article showed that there is underuse of needed angiography after heart attacks in both the VA and Medicare systems, but the rate of underuse is significantly higher in the VA. The researchers say these differences appear to be associated with limited on-site availability of cardiac procedures in the regionalized VA health care system. "The fact that underuse exists only reinforces the opportunity to improve the efficiency of the referral and transfer process for patients and improve health care within both the VA and Medicare," said Laura Petersen. Dr. Petersen was interviewed by several news media, including *National Public Radio*, for this and another article that she published in the February issue of *Health Services Research*, "Disparities in Health Care for Patients with Mental Illness."

The Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center co-sponsors and edits the publication, *VA Pride*. This publication serves as an information guide for veterans in southeast Texas and also makes the leap from research to practice and specifically focuses on patients and the public. In fiscal year 2003, articles focused on: (1) the accomplishments of the Center's CHF QUERI Program (the program is working with the Houston VAMC to translate evidence-based research findings into better care of CHF patients); (2) the recent advances in health care from VA research by former Center Director, Nelda Wray; (3) Dr. Laura Petersen's study that shows VA does a good job providing equal care for heart attack patients with mental illness or substance abuse; and (4) a cover story that features Ruth Bush and colleagues who have collectively performed more than 70 carotid stenting procedures to prevent strokes in VA patients.

In fiscal year 2002, nearly 125 media outlets featured articles or stories on the Center's groundbreaking research, "A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Arthroscopic Surgery for Osteoarthritis of the Knee"

featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The brainchild of lead investigator Dr. Nelda Wray, this pivotal research study garnered national and international attention. The impact of this publication was monumental in fiscal year 2003. As a result of the work of Dr. Wray and her colleagues, the Department of Veterans Affairs has discontinued the practice of arthroscopic surgery to relieve pain of osteoarthritis of the knee, and Medicare has announced recently that it will no longer pay for this procedure. These results clearly demonstrate how research is translated into practice and the role that Center investigators played in this important study.

The Center's web site, <http://www.hsr.d.houston.med.va.gov>, continues to communicate the Center's mission to our external customers and communities and to highlight the Center's history and past accomplishments, current achievements and future goals. This year, the *Research Monitor*, the Center's biannual newsletter featured a significant article, "HCQCUS Bridges Quality Chasm with New Leadership" by Center Director, Carol Ashton, MD, MPH, that outlined her vision and execution of the Center's new leadership model. This leadership model includes four new associate directors, each responsible for promoting specific research agendas in addition to their other leadership responsibilities.

The communications department also functions as the liaison for media-related activities that include initiating press releases, coordinating interviews with the news media and joining forces with both VA (Houston and national) and Baylor departments of public affairs.

Internal Communications

An exciting project that was implemented in fiscal year 2003 was the Center's first Intranet web site, ePRIDE. The letters that form "PRIDE" are derived from select Center core values: (P) Partnership; (R) Respect; (I) Innovation; (D) Development of our people and the Center; and (E) Excellence. This site, unlike the Internet web site, focuses on internal information dissemination and features: a home page that spotlights significant news and announcements as well as a calendar of events; general department information; policies and procedures; forms and documents; seminars and training; and a special section with staff photos and bio-sketches. The Intranet web site, which is accessible only by Center staff, has served as an excellent source of information for current staff and as a wonderful orientation tool for new staff. Feedback from Center staff regarding the new site has been overwhelmingly positive.

Other important internal communications accomplishments include the development of our second annual Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS). The survey was administered electronically this year via our Center's intranet web site, and the response rate was about 95 percent. The overall results from the ESS were shared with the entire staff. Specific results and anonymous comments from the survey are shared with the Center's executive team and management staff so that corrective action could be taken and opportunities for improvement could be realized. Further, feedback from the survey is used as a part of the ongoing performance development process for all management staff. It is important that we link these opportunities for improvement with actual performance changes. In addition to the ESS, the Center has also developed and is in the process of launching a new employee orientation program in which members of the executive and management teams will introduce new employees to the Center via a formal, systematic presentation. Further, we have created a New Employee Handbook to augment the orientation process.

All-staff meetings, held every six weeks, were initiated in fiscal year 2002, but refined in fiscal year 2003. These meetings are an opportunity for the entire Center staff to gather, share news and important announcements, and be recognized for accomplishments and achievements that took place during the previous six-week period. Twice a year, we have all-staff celebrations that are strictly for bringing everyone together to share in the camaraderie and at one of these celebrations, we present employee awards to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment to our organization.

A critical responsibility of the communications department is to "facilitate the communication between the executive team and the staff." An anecdote describes an example of this two-way communication at its very best. At one of our celebrations this year, Center Director, Dr. Carol Ashton, arrived at the Center at 6 o'clock in the morning, assisted by the chief of communications, to make pancakes from scratch for the entire Center staff. It was no surprise then, that about a month later on a summer morning this past year,

Dr. Ashton was presented with nearly 100 thank you cards expressing the staff's deep appreciation for her leadership and commitment to each and every one of us.

At the heart of the communications department is the desire to create communications that accurately and eloquently tell our story, and as such, the chief communications officer holds fast to his personal mission to be "responsible for anticipating the communications needs of our internal and external customers and communities and for ensuring that all communications needs are met and exceeded."

4.1 Research Projects and Programs (Table 3)

Funded Research Projects and Programs Houston Center of Excellence

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
ECI 20-016	Cost and Effectiveness of End Stage Renal Disease Care	G. M. Dolson MD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$7,456	\$0	1/2001	9/2003	Data Collection
HBU 01-113	Medicare HMO Enrollment and VA Use by Minority and Low Income Veterans	N. I. Osemene PharmD - Awardee R. O. Morgan PhD - PI	HSR&D	\$16,450	\$68,000	4/2001	3/2003	Career Award
HFP 02-186	Changes in Mortality, Utilization and Quality of Care	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - PI	HSR&D	\$0	\$5,147	6/2002	5/2003	Analysis
HFP 98-001	HSR&D Center for Chronic Diseases Outcomes Research	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Director	HSR&D	\$0	\$1,182	4/1998	5/2003	Start Up Activities
IIR 00-097	A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Depression and Anxiety in COPD	M. E. Kunik MD MPH - PI J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV A. Snow PhD – Consultant	HSR&D	\$230,852	\$896,900	1/2002	12/2005	Data Collection
IIR 01-151	Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)	S. Garber MA - PI	HSR&D	\$120,663	\$1,974,900	7/2003	6/2007	Start Up Activities
IIR 01-159	Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients	M. E. Kunik MD MPH - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV M. L. Moffett PhD MA BBA - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV A. Snow PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$84,600	\$1,109,500	7/2003	6/2007	Start Up Activities
IIR 01-180	Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease	T. C. Collins MD MPH - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Co-INV M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$247,690	\$444,690	10/2002	9/2005	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
IIR 02-081	Use of VA Pharmacy by Medicare Enrolled Veterans	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV M. L. Johnson PhD - Co-INV L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV I. I. Wei DrPH MS BA - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$71,350	\$871,900	7/2003	6/2006	Start Up Activities
IIR 02-082	Impact of Diastolic Heart Failure on Health Care Utilization and Outcomes	A. Deswal MD - PI R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$40,225	\$319,100	7/2003	6/2005	Start Up Activities
IIR 02-293	Outcomes of Veterans with Dual HCV-HIV Infection	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI T. P. Giordano MD BS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$26,575	\$211,400	7/2003	6/2005	Start Up Activities
IIR 20-052	Medicare HMO Enrollment and VA Use by Minority and Low Income Veterans	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI M. M. Byrne PhD - Co-INV L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$227,100	\$705,100	10/2000	3/2004	Analysis
MRP 02-083	MREP	M. L. Johnson PhD - Awardee	HSR&D	\$80,073	\$320,316	1/2003	12/2005	Merit Review Awardee
MRP 03-134	MREP	J. Davila PhD MS BS - Awardee	HSR&D	\$22,975	\$316,638	7/2003	6/2006	Merit Review Awardee
MRR 02-114	Pilot Just-In-Time IRB Review Evaluation	P. A. Kelly PhD MBA BS - Co-INV M. L. Johnson PhD - Biostatistician	HSR&D	\$52,547	\$91,192	4/2002	3/2003	Completed
RCD 00-013	Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$196,382	\$562,016	1/2001	12/2003	Career Award
RCD 00-030	Understanding Ethnic Variations in Physician-Patient Communication	P. Haidet MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$166,547	\$442,552	7/2001	7/2004	Career Award
RCD 01-008	Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches	A. Snow PhD - Awardee	HSR&D	\$102,891	\$264,174	7/2002	6/2005	Career Award

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
HSR&D								
RCD 02-029	Career Development Awardee	U. K. Braun MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$45,234	\$572,811	7/2003	6/2006	Career Award
RCD 02-184	Career Development Awardee	R. J. Beyth MD MS - Awardee	HSR&D	\$52,099	\$625,188	7/2003	6/2006	Career Award
RCD 97-319	Understanding and Eliminating Racial/Ethnic Variations in Health Care-Advanced Career Development Award	H. S. Gordon MD SB - Awardee	HSR&D	\$165,019	\$477,064	7/2001	6/2004	Career Award
SDR 01-044	The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team (EXPERT)	K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - PI N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV K. F. Cook PhD MA - Co-INV M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV A. Snow PhD - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$217,298	\$536,042	7/2001	6/2003	Final Report Preparation
SDR 01-175	Creating A VA Health Care Atlas	M. K. Kuebler MS BS - Co-INV	HSR&D	\$8,544	\$16,189	9/2001	2/2003	Analysis
USA 20-001	Undersecretary's Award - Nelda Wray, Award Period	N. P. Wray MD MPH - Awardee	HSR&D	\$25,000	\$150,000	4/2000	3/2003	Career Award
Other VA								
99-000	Healthcare Utilization and Mortality in Parkinson's Disease Patients	N. J. Petersen PhD - PI	PADDREC	\$25,803	\$51,079	4/2002	3/2003	Analysis
CRCD 712B	Understanding Racial Variations in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure	A. Deswal MD - Awardee	VA Cooperative Studies Program	\$190,842	\$549,037	1/2001	12/2003	Career Award
XNV 33-044	Using DCG's to Profile and Forecast Facility Budgets in VISN 20	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI	VISN 20	\$17,580	\$34,733	6/2002	1/2003	Completed

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Other VA								
XVA 33-025	Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast Facility Budgets in VISNs 5, 6,12	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI M. M. Byrne PhD - Co-INV K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Co-Inv	VISN 5,6,12	\$61,101	\$162,750	2/2002	1/2003	Completed
XVA 33-028	Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast Facility Budgets in VISN 22	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI	VISN 22	\$16,795	\$32,413	6/2002	3/2003	Completed
XVA 33-029	Patient Classification Work Group: Assessing the impact of using DCG's for budget allocation in VHA-Phase V	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	VA Headquarters	\$216,995	\$216,995	10/2002	9/2003	Analysis
XVA 33-043	Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast Facility Budgets in VISN 9	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI	VISN 9	\$23,857	\$38,202	6/2002	1/2003	Completed
XVA 33-045	Supplement for NIH R03 study, "Severely Demented Individuals: Assessing Their Pain	A. Snow PhD - PI	MIRREC	\$7,714	\$9,000	9/2002	11/2002	Analysis
XVA 33-048	Applying DCG's to facility level budgets in VISNs 5,6,9,12 and 22	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	VISN	\$174,120	\$263,205	2/2003	1/2004	Analysis
XVA 33-053	VA Medicare Data Merge Initiative	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI	VIReC	\$2,500	\$7,500	10/2002	9/2005	Analysis
XVA 33-055	Factors Leading to Improved Interrater Reliability: Nursing Home Pain Assessment as a Case Study	A. Snow PhD - PI		\$1,735	\$10,000	9/2003	2/2004	Data Collection
XVA 33-056	A Method for Assessing Patient Literacy and Print Material Readability in Veterans Healthcare	P. A. Kelly PhD MBA BS - PI		\$133	\$10,000	9/2003	2/2004	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Other VA								
XVA 33-057	A Computer Adaptive Test (C.A.T.) of Shoulder Functioning: Let the C.A.T. Out of the Bag	K. F. Cook PhD MA - PI		\$1,693	\$10,000	9/2003	2/2004	Data Collection
Federal Non-VA								
15-535	Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV	National Cancer Institute	\$26,040	\$26,040	10/2002	9/2003	Analysis
1-9005	Understanding Factors Related to Prostate, Lung, and Colorectal Cancer Screening among African American Men	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	Department of Defense	\$92,314	\$168,005	2/2002	12/2003	Analysis
25-512-1	The AAMEN Project II: Retaining African American Men in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	NIH	\$42,824	\$66,977	2/2002	9/2003	Analysis
25-512-2	Examining the Effects of a False Positive Result on Subsequent Cancer Screening Behavior	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	NIH	\$0	\$7,849	2/2002	7/2003	Analysis
58-862	Global Gene Expression in Barrett's Esophagus	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	NIH	\$5,239	\$15,717	6/2003	5/2004	Data Collection
CDC 01-013	Stress Self-Management for Women with Disabilities	N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$7,621	\$13,880	9/2001	9/2003	Final Report Preparation
DOE 00-884	Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)	P. A. Kelly PhD MBA BS - Co-PI R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-PI P. Haidet MD MPH - Co-INV	Department of Education	\$19,513	\$78,431	10/2000	9/2003	Data Collection
DOE 00-884	Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)	P. Haidet MD MPH - Co-INV	Department of Education	\$5,724	\$62,953	10/2000	9/2003	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
P01 HS10876-01	Racial & Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - PI T. C. Collins MD MPH - Co-INV H. S. Gordon MD SB - Co-INV P. Haidet MD MPH - Co-INV F. Martin MS BA - Co-INV K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV D. A. Paterniti PhD - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - Co-INV N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV	AHRQ	\$1,353,454	\$5,281,166	9/2000	8/2005	Data Collection
P01 HS10876-02 S1	Variation in Office-Based Treatment of Opiate Abuse - Supplement to Race Grant	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - PI L. D. Woodard MD MPH - Co-PI P. Haidet MD MPH - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV	AHRQ	\$205,461	\$884,045	9/2001	8/2005	Data Collection
R01 01-441	Impact of Patient-Provider Interaction on the Response to	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Biostatistician	NIH	\$477,516	\$1,978,890	9/2002	8/2006	Data Collection
R01 07-744	Culture Bias in Testing Expressive Ability in Dementia	R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV	NIH	\$14,602	\$41,788	6/2001	5/2004	Data Collection
R01 19-284	Medicare + Choice and Minority Elderly	R. O. Morgan PhD - PI J. Davila PhD MS BS - Co-INV L. A. Petersen MD MPH - Co-INV	NIA	\$336,561	\$995,418	9/2002	8/2005	Data Collection
R01 47-858	Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Disease	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Co-INV	NIH	\$261,606	\$1,543,771	4/2002	3/2007	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
R01 48-662	Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI M. L. Moffett PhD MA BBA - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	NIAMS	\$74,687	\$1,226,337	6/2003	5/2008	Data Collection
R01 63-229	Genetic Basis of Platelet Hyperfunction (Bray)	J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$12,738	\$63,371	8/2000	7/2005	Data Collection
R01 70-794	Improving Anti-Thrombotic Use in Stroke Prevention	R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV A. Deswal MD - Co-INV J. Soucek PhD - Biostatistician	NHLBI	\$374,208	\$1,785,490	9/2002	8/2007	Data Collection
R01 79689	Increasing Effectiveness of Cancer Control Interventions-Survey Methods Expert Team	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI	NIH	\$1,732	\$6,245	2/2002	12/2002	Completed
R01 88-069	Improving Informed Consent in Diverse Populations	M. E. Ford PhD MS MSW - PI N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$188,243	\$500,000	4/2001	3/2004	Data Collection
R01 DMID-02	Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU-Keitel-Part A)	N. J. Petersen PhD - Co-INV	NIH	\$18,877	\$100,153	6/2002	5/2007	Analysis
R03 MH64033	Severely Demented Individuals: Assessing Their Pain	A. Snow PhD - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV M. E. Kunik MD MPH - Co-INV K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV	National Institute of Mental Health	\$0	\$50,000	9/2001	8/2003	Analysis
R04 CDC 61880	Cost Analysis of Secondary Conditions in Disabled Women	M. M. Byrne PhD - Co-INV R. O. Morgan PhD - Co-INV M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - Co-INV N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	Center for Disease Control	\$74,401	\$747,538	9/2000	9/2004	Data Collection

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Federal Non-VA								
R21 HD 40-980	Depression Self-Management for Women with Disabilities	N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	NIH	\$7,232	\$21,108	9/2001	8/2004	Data Collection
Non-Federal								
006-03	Outcome Assessment in Scleroderma	M. E. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD - PI K. J. O'Malley PhD MS BS - Co-INV	Scleroderma Foundation	\$54,246	\$138,629	1/2003	12/2004	Data Collection
D16-HP-0003 6	Clinicians Perceptions of the Dimensions of Patients' Problems	H. S. Gordon MD SB - Consultant	HRSA	\$3,000	\$9,000	11/2000	10/2003	Supplemental Funding
RWJ 45-444	Structuring Payment Systems to Promote Healthcare Quality	L. A. Petersen MD MPH - PI N. P. Wray MD MPH - Co-INV	Robert Wood Johnson	\$73,401	\$300,000	7/2002	6/2006	Career Award
XNV 33-024	Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease	T. C. Collins MD MPH - PI	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	\$84,830	\$335,860	1/2000	12/2003	Training Program
XNV 33-028	The Prevalence and Determinants of GERD: A Population-Based Endoscopic Study	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	ASGE	\$5,024	\$50,000	1/2001	6/2003	Completed
XNV 33-033	Childhood GERD as a Risk Factor for GERD in Adults	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Astrazeneca	\$20,383	\$64,000	5/2001	4/2003	Completed
XNV 33-035	Astra Zeneca Educational Funds	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Astra Zeneca	\$4,856	\$8,000	7/2000	6/2003	Supplemental Funding
XNV 33-037	Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA	M. L. Johnson PhD - PI R. J. Beyth MD MS - Co-INV K. C. Pietz PhD MS BA - Co-INV	Pfizer	\$126,805	\$217,721	6/2002	11/2003	Analysis
XNV 33-038	The Effect of HCV Co-Infection on the Clinical Course of HIV-Infected Patients	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Schering	\$39,721	\$55,190	8/2002	5/2003	Completed

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Non-Federal								
XNV 33-039	Contract with Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Anticoagulation Thromboembolism Research Consortium (ATRC)	M. D. Price MS BS - Awardee	SGIM	\$2,727	\$8,000	2/2002	1/2003	Completed
XNV 33-041	Research and Educational Activities Related to GI Reflux Disease Program	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Janssen Pharmaceuticals	\$0	\$20,000	1/2002	12/2002	Completed
XNV 33-042	Investigating Childhood GERD as a Risk Factor for Complicated GERD in Adults	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	American College of Gastroenterology	\$3,717	\$25,000	7/2001	6/2003	Analysis
XNV 33-043	Outcomes of Surgical Fundplication in Children with GERD	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	Janssen Pharmaceuticals	\$14,239	\$22,647	4/2002	4/2003	Completed
XNV 33-047	Cohort Study	N. J. Petersen PhD - PI	Pfizer	\$30,944	\$61,875	5/2003	6/2004	Analysis
XNV 33-049	The Prevalence of Erosive Esophagitis and Suspected Barrett's Esophagus in Children	H. B. El-Serag MD MPH - PI	ASGE	\$11,207	\$15,000	1/2003	12/2003	Data Collection
XNV 33-051	Teaching Humanism at the Bedside: Observations of Expert Teachers	P. Haidet MD MPH - Consultant	Schwartz Center	\$494	\$3,000	8/2003	7/2004	Supplemental Funding
XNV 33-052	Relationship-Centered Care Initiative	P. Haidet MD MPH - Consultant	Regenstreif Institute	\$605	\$36,000	9/2003	8/2008	Supplemental Funding
Training Programs								
OAA 97-004	Training Program for Fellows (post Ph.D.) at Center of Excellence - Houston	C. M. Ashton MD MPH - PI J. R. Kramer PhD MPH BA - INV C. Teal PhD MA BA - INV	OAA	\$89,600	\$1,038,563	10/1993	9/2007	Training Program

**Funded Research Projects and Programs
Houston Center of Excellence**

Agency ID	Project Title	VA Investigator - Role	Type / Source	Current FY Amount	Total Amount	Start Date	End Date	Status
Medical Care								
CHF 98-001	QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure	R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI C. M. Ashton MD MPH - Co-INV A. Deswal MD - Co-INV M. L. Johnson PhD - Co-INV M. J. York PhD MA BS - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	Medical Care	\$300,000	\$1,366,078	6/1998	9/2004	QUERI Center
CHT 01-036	Reducing Readmission Rates in Patients with CHF	R. J. Beyth MD MS - PI M. M. Byrne PhD - Co-INV A. Deswal MD - Co-INV N. J. Petersen PhD - Biostatistician	Medical Care	\$136,350	\$551,700	4/2001	9/2003	Completed

5 Research Products and Dissemination

Fiscal year 2003 has served to solidify and reinforce the communication department's foundation that was initiated a year ago, under the leadership of Chief Communications Officer, Matt D. Price, MS. Mentored by Chief Operating Officer, W. Keith Neeley, MBA, Mr. Price has begun the process of redirecting the department's vision toward translation and dissemination efforts and the necessary business development opportunities to fund and nurture these efforts. Furthermore, translation and dissemination of the Center's research findings, and the impact achieved because of these findings, are essential components of the Center's strategic plan and the communication department's mission:

"The department is responsible for creating timely and accurate communications among our internal customers and communities and for communicating our outstanding research and scientific excellence to our external customers and communities."

Translation and Dissemination

The communications department has begun to develop a framework for the research knowledge transfer process. There are five questions (described by John N. Lavis, et. al., in their article, "How Can Research Organizations More Effectively Transfer Research Knowledge to Decision Makers?" published in *The Milbank Quarterly*, Vol. 81, No. 2, 2003) that we must ask as we begin to develop this framework, or strategy, in order to be successful in our efforts to assist the investigators to communicate their research results. They are:

6. What should be transferred to decision makers (message)?
7. To whom should research knowledge be transferred (target **audience**)?
8. By whom should research knowledge be transferred (messenger)?
9. How should research knowledge be transferred (knowledge-transfer **processes and supporting communications infrastructure**)?
10. "With what effect" should research knowledge be transferred (evaluation)?

Our four target audiences are:

- general public/service recipients (e.g., citizens, patients and clients)
- service providers (e.g., clinicians)
- managerial decision makers (e.g., managers in hospitals, community organizations, and private businesses)
- policy decision makers at the federal, state and local levels

An integral part of translation and dissemination is the evaluation phase that addresses the effect or impact of the research knowledge transfer process. The Center's strategic plan highlights the importance of measuring impact. Therefore, we are creating a system designed to measure "impact factors." Impact factors can be defined in two ways: *journal impact* and *article impact* as noted by impact factor expert, Eugene Garfield, PhD. First, we will begin to measure the impact factor for the journals in which our articles are published. Simply stated, a journal's impact factor is a measure of how often articles, in general, from that journal in that particular year are cited. Second, the precise impact of the article itself can be derived from the citation rate and by this, we are really focusing on article impact. We will collect the number of citations of a particular article and this will permit us to see how the article has done over the length of its career.

This combination of measuring both journal and author impact factors will not only allow evaluators to see the direction of the researcher's career, research output, and impact indicators, but it will assist the communications department in reporting the progress and touting the achievements of its investigators and the Center.

External Communications

Communicating science news is important because almost all VA research and staff support is publicly funded. Research conducted at the Center is disseminated in top medical and research journals, and at national and international conferences. For fiscal year 2003, the Center staff produced 101 publications in peer-reviewed journals, 35 "in press" articles, 1 book, 11 book chapters, and 4 technical reports. Publications include research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* [(31.736 *Impact Factor for 2002*); the journal with the highest impact factor in internal medicine], *Annals of Internal Medicine* (11.414 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *Archives of Internal Medicine* (6.749 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *Journal of General Internal Medicine* (2.752 *Impact Factor for 2002*), *American Journal of Gastroenterology* (3.953 *Impact Factor for 2002*), and *Medical Care* [(3.228 *Impact Factor for 2002*); journal with the highest impact factor in health services research].

Our Center investigators are recognized for their insightful and challenging talks at regional, national, and international conferences. In fiscal year 2003, there were 71 presentations given by Center investigators. Eight Center investigators made presentations at the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) in Vancouver, British Columbia. SGIM is one of the world's preeminent organizations devoted to research, education, and practice in general internal medicine. Competition for presentations at the national SGIM meeting is typically intense, reflecting the high levels of scholarship achieved by presenters. Center investigators made presentations in multiple venues, including oral research abstracts, research posters, pre-course and workshop presentations, interest groups, clinical vignettes, and innovations in medical education exhibits. Center investigators presented in more than 19 venues, reaching a level of achievement that is unparalleled among health services research sections.

International presentations included: Dr. Rebecca Beyth's and Barbara Kimmel's, "Practical Challenges in Translational Research: Veterans Affairs (VA) Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI)" presented at the 3rd Joint Meeting of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and the Society for Clinical Trials, London, UK; Dr. Mark Kunik's and Dr. A. Lynn Snow's, "Experiencing Dementia: The Patient's Perspective" presented at the 4th Annual Advances in Qualitative Methods Conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada; and Dr. Snow's, "Nursing Assistant-administered Instrument to Assess Pain in Demented Individuals" presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

In May 2003, Dr. Laura A. Petersen's article, "Regionalization and the Underuse of Angiography in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System as Compared with a Fee-for-Service System" was featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The article showed that there is underuse of needed angiography after heart attacks in both the VA and Medicare systems, but the rate of underuse is significantly higher in the VA. The researchers say these differences appear to be associated with limited on-site availability of cardiac procedures in the regionalized VA health care system. "The fact that underuse exists only reinforces the opportunity to improve the efficiency of the referral and transfer process for patients and improve health care within both the VA and Medicare," said Laura Petersen. Dr. Petersen was interviewed by several news media, including *National Public Radio*, for this and another article that she published in the February issue of *Health Services Research*, "Disparities in Health Care for Patients with Mental Illness."

The Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center co-sponsors and edits the publication, *VA Pride*. This publication serves as an information guide for veterans in southeast Texas and also makes the leap from research to practice and specifically focuses on patients and the public. In fiscal year 2003, articles focused on: (1) the accomplishments of the Center's CHF QUERI Program (the program is working with the Houston VAMC to translate evidence-based research findings into better care of CHF patients); (2) the recent advances in health care from VA research by former Center Director, Nelda Wray; (3) Dr. Laura Petersen's study that shows VA does a good job providing equal care for heart attack patients with mental illness or substance abuse; and (4) a cover story that features Ruth Bush and colleagues who have collectively performed more than 70 carotid stenting procedures to prevent strokes in VA patients.

In fiscal year 2002, nearly 125 media outlets featured articles or stories on the Center's groundbreaking research, "A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Arthroscopic Surgery for Osteoarthritis of the Knee"

featured in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The brainchild of lead investigator Dr. Nelda Wray, this pivotal research study garnered national and international attention. The impact of this publication was monumental in fiscal year 2003. As a result of the work of Dr. Wray and her colleagues, the Department of Veterans Affairs has discontinued the practice of arthroscopic surgery to relieve pain of osteoarthritis of the knee, and Medicare has announced recently that it will no longer pay for this procedure. These results clearly demonstrate how research is translated into practice and the role that Center investigators played in this important study.

The Center's web site, <http://www.hsr.d.houston.med.va.gov>, continues to communicate the Center's mission to our external customers and communities and to highlight the Center's history and past accomplishments, current achievements and future goals. This year, the *Research Monitor*, the Center's biannual newsletter featured a significant article, "HCQCUS Bridges Quality Chasm with New Leadership" by Center Director, Carol Ashton, MD, MPH, that outlined her vision and execution of the Center's new leadership model. This leadership model includes four new associate directors, each responsible for promoting specific research agendas in addition to their other leadership responsibilities.

The communications department also functions as the liaison for media-related activities that include initiating press releases, coordinating interviews with the news media and joining forces with both VA (Houston and national) and Baylor departments of public affairs.

Internal Communications

An exciting project that was implemented in fiscal year 2003 was the Center's first Intranet web site, ePRIDE. The letters that form "PRIDE" are derived from select Center core values: (P) Partnership; (R) Respect; (I) Innovation; (D) Development of our people and the Center; and (E) Excellence. This site, unlike the Internet web site, focuses on internal information dissemination and features: a home page that spotlights significant news and announcements as well as a calendar of events; general department information; policies and procedures; forms and documents; seminars and training; and a special section with staff photos and bio-sketches. The Intranet web site, which is accessible only by Center staff, has served as an excellent source of information for current staff and as a wonderful orientation tool for new staff. Feedback from Center staff regarding the new site has been overwhelmingly positive.

Other important internal communications accomplishments include the development of our second annual Employee Satisfaction Survey (ESS). The survey was administered electronically this year via our Center's intranet web site, and the response rate was about 95 percent. The overall results from the ESS were shared with the entire staff. Specific results and anonymous comments from the survey are shared with the Center's executive team and management staff so that corrective action could be taken and opportunities for improvement could be realized. Further, feedback from the survey is used as a part of the ongoing performance development process for all management staff. It is important that we link these opportunities for improvement with actual performance changes. In addition to the ESS, the Center has also developed and is in the process of launching a new employee orientation program in which members of the executive and management teams will introduce new employees to the Center via a formal, systematic presentation. Further, we have created a New Employee Handbook to augment the orientation process.

All-staff meetings, held every six weeks, were initiated in fiscal year 2002, but refined in fiscal year 2003. These meetings are an opportunity for the entire Center staff to gather, share news and important announcements, and be recognized for accomplishments and achievements that took place during the previous six-week period. Twice a year, we have all-staff celebrations that are strictly for bringing everyone together to share in the camaraderie and at one of these celebrations, we present employee awards to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment to our organization.

A critical responsibility of the communications department is to "facilitate the communication between the executive team and the staff." An anecdote describes an example of this two-way communication at its very best. At one of our celebrations this year, Center Director, Dr. Carol Ashton, arrived at the Center at 6 o'clock in the morning, assisted by the chief of communications, to make pancakes from scratch for the entire Center staff. It was no surprise then, that about a month later on a summer morning this past year,

Dr. Ashton was presented with nearly 100 thank you cards expressing the staff's deep appreciation for her leadership and commitment to each and every one of us.

At the heart of the communications department is the desire to create communications that accurately and eloquently tell our story, and as such, the chief communications officer holds fast to his personal mission to be "responsible for anticipating the communications needs of our internal and external customers and communities and for ensuring that all communications needs are met and exceeded."

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COE: Houston
Awardee:
41. Goetzl L, Evans T, Rivers J, Suresh MS, Lieberman E. Elevated maternal and fetal serum interleukin-6 levels are associated with epidural fever. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2002; 187: 834-838.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Women's Health
PI: Laura Goetzl, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
42. Graham DY, Hammoud F, El Zimaity HM, Kim JG, Osato MS, El Serag HB. Meta-analysis: proton pump inhibitor or H2-receptor antagonist for *Helicobacter pylori* eradication. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2003; 17: 1229-1236.
- Project Number:** RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
43. Haidet P, Hunt D, Coverdale J. Learning by doing: teaching critical appraisal of randomized trials by performing an in-class randomized trial. *Acad Med* 2002; 77: 1161.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-051
Project Title: Teaching Humanism at the Bedside: Observations of Expert Teachers
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
44. Haidet P, Paterniti DA. 'Building' a history rather than 'taking' one: a perspective on information sharing during the medical interview. *Arch Intern Med* 2003; 163: 1134-1140.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-052
Project Title: Relationship-Centered Care Initiative
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
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- Project Number:** XNV 33-052
Project Title: Relationship-Centered Care Initiative
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030

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- Project Number:** XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia and Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
47. Jones CA, Boaklander DC, Suarez-Almazor ME. Determinants of function after total knee arthroplasty. *Physical Therapy* 2003; 83: 696-706.
- Project Number:** R01 48-662
Project Title: Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
48. Jones JW, McCullough LB, Richman BW. The ethics of sham surgery in research. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 37: 482-483.
- Project Number:** 0001
Project Title: Arthroscopic Treatment of Osteoarthritis of the Knee
PI: Nelda P. Wray, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
49. Kirwan J, Heiberg T, Hewlett S, Hughes R, Kvien T, Ahlmen M, Boers M, Minnock P, Saag K, Shea B, Suarez AM, Taal E. Outcomes from the Patient Perspective Workshop at OMERACT 6. *J Rheumatol* 2003; 30: 868-872.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Chronic Disease; Disparities in Treatments Recieved
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
50. Kunik ME, Lees E, Snow AL, Cody M, Rapp CG, Molinari VA, Beck CK. Disruptive behavior in dementia: a qualitative study to promote understanding and improve treatment. *Alzheimer's Care Quarterly* 2003; 4: 125-136.
- Project Number:** IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Conswquences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
51. Kunik ME, Martinez M, Snow AL, et al. Determinants of behavioral symptoms in dementia patients. *Clin Gerontol* 2003; 26: 83-90.
- Project Number:** IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark. E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008

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Project Number: IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
53. Lam R, Lin PH, Alankar S, Yao Q, Bush RL, Chen C, Lumsden AB. Acute limb ischemia secondary to myositis-induced compartment syndrome in a patient with human immunodeficiency virus infection. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 37: 1103-1105.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Health Care - Quality of Care
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
54. Lin PH, Barr V, Bush RL, Velez DA, Lumsden AB, Ricketts J. Isolated abdominal aortic rupture in a child due to all-terrain vehicle accident--a case report. *Vasc Endovascular Surg* 2003; 37: 289-292.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
55. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Proximal aortic stent-graft displacement with type I endoleak due to Heimlich maneuver. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 38: 380-382.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
56. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Successful stent-graft exclusion of a bovine patch-related carotid artery pseudoaneurysm. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 38: 396.
Project Number: HFP 90-202
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
57. Lin PH, Bush RL, Milas M, Terramani TT, Dodson TF, Chen C, Chaikof EL, Lumsden AB. Impact of an endovascular program on the operative experience of abdominal aortic aneurysm in vascular fellowship and general surgery residency. *Am J Surg* 2003; 186: 189-193.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

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- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
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- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
60. Lin PH, Johnson CK, Pullium JK, Koffron AJ, Conklin B, Terramani TT, Bush R, Chen C, Lumsden AB. Transluminal stent graft repair with Wallgraft endoprosthesis in a porcine arteriovenous graft pseudoaneurysm model. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 37: 175-181.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
61. Lin PH, Kulbaski MJ, Terramani TT, Bush RL, Brinkman WT, Chen C, Conklin B, Lumsden AB. The regained referral ground and clinical practice of vena cava filter placement in vascular surgery. *Am Surg* 2002; 68: 865-870.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-202
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
62. Lin PH, Madsen K, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Iliorenal artery bypass grafting to facilitate endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 38: 183-185.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

63. Lin PH, Martin L, Matsuura JH, Wellons E, Bush RL, Terramani TT, Chen C, Lumsden AB. Intraaortic stabilization of the AneuRx stent-graft system: a useful adjunct to minimize device migration. *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2003; 26: 73-75.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
64. Lin PH, Terramani TT, Bush RL, Keane TE, Moore RG, Lumsden AB. Concomitant intraoperative renal artery embolization and resection of complex renal carcinoma. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 38: 446-450.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
65. Maksymowych WP, Suarez-Almazor ME, Buenviaje H, Cooper BL, DeGeus C, Thompson M, Russell AS. HLA and cytokine gene polymorphisms in relation to occurrence of palindromic rheumatism and its progression to rheumatoid arthritis. *J Rheumatol* 2002; 29: 2319-2326.
Project Number: R01 47-858
Project Title: Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Disease
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
66. Malave HA, Taylor AA, Nattama J, Deswal A, Mann DL. Circulating levels of tumor necrosis factor correlate with indexes of depressed heart rate variability: a study in patients with mild-to-moderate heart failure. *Chest* 2003; 123: 716-724.
Project Number: CRCD 712B
Project Title: Understanding Racial Variations in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCD 712B
67. Mallat DB, El Serag HB. Interferon for postresection recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 3200-3202.
Project Number: 15-353
Project Title: Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

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Project Number: 15-535
Project Title: Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
69. Mann DL, Deswal A, Bozkurt B, Torre-Amione G. New therapeutics for chronic heart failure. *Annu Rev Med* 2002; 53: 59-74.
Project Number: CRCDC 712B
Project Title: Understanding Racial Variations in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
70. McCullough LB, Richman BW, Jones JW. Nonmonetary conflicts of interest. *J Vasc Surg* 2002; 36: 1309-1310.
Project Number: SES 9973600
Project Title: Financial Incentives in Health: Understanding the Ethical Implications
PI: Margaret M. Byrne, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
71. Merkel PA, Clements PJ, Reveille JD, Suarez-Almazor ME, Valentini G, Furst DE. Current status of outcome measure development for clinical trials in systemic sclerosis. Report from OMERACT 6. *J Rheumatol* 2003; 30: 1630-1647.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
72. Milas M, Bush RL, Lin P, Brown K, Mackay G, Lumsden A, Weber C, Dodson TF. Calciphylaxis and non-healing wounds: the role of the vascular surgeon in a multidisciplinary treatment. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 37: 501-507.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

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Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
74. Moyer LA, Deswal A. Perils of the random experiment. *Am J Ther* 2003; 10: 112-121.
Project Number: CRCDC 712B
Project Title: Understanding Racial Variations in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
75. Nanavati SA, El Serag HB. Step-down management of gastroesophageal reflux disease. *Evidence-based Gastroenterology* 2003; 4: 2-3.
Project Number: XNV 33-041
Project Title: Research and Educational Activities Related to GI Reflux Disease Program
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
76. O'Malley KJ, Moran BJ, Haidet P, Seidel CL, Schneider V, Morgan RO, Kelly PA, Richards B. Validation of an observation instrument for measuring student engagement in health professions settings. *Eval Health Prof* 2003; 26: 86-103.
Project Number: SDR 01-044
Project Title: The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team
PI: Kimberly J. O'Malley, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
77. O'Malley KJ, Suarez-Almazor M, Aniol J, Richardson P, Kuykendall DH, Moseley JB, Wray NP. Joint-specific multidimensional assessment of pain (J-MAP): factor structure, reliability, validity, and responsiveness in patients with knee osteoarthritis. *J Rheumatol* 2003; 30: 534-543.
Project Number: 0001
Project Title: Arthroscopic Treatment of Osteoarthritis of the Knee
PI: Nelda P. Wray, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

78. Osiri M, Shea B, Robinson V, Suarez-Almazor M, Strand V, Tugwell P, Wells G. Leflunomide for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Rheumatol* 2003; 30: 1182-1190.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Treatment
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
79. Osiri M, Shea B, Robinson V, Suarez-Almazor M, Strand V, Tugwell P, Wells G. Leflunomide for treating rheumatoid arthritis. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2003; .
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
80. Osiri M, Suarez-Almazor ME, Wells GA, Robinson V, Tugwell P. Number needed to treat (NNT): implication in rheumatology clinical practice. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2003; 62: 316-321.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
81. Petersen LA, Normand SL, Druss BG, Rosenheck RA. Process of care and outcome after acute myocardial infarction for patients with mental illness in the VA health care system: are there disparities?. *Health Serv Res* 2003; 38: 41-63.
- Project Number:** 9970113N
Project Title: Racial Differences in Health-Related Quality of Life Among Potential Candidates for Revascularization
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
82. Petersen LA, Normand SL, Leape LL, McNeil BJ. Regionalization and the underuse of angiography in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System as compared with a fee-for-service system. *N Engl J Med* 2003; 348: 2209-2217.
- Project Number:** RWJ 45-4444
Project Title: Structuring Payment Systems to Promote Healthcare Quality
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444

83. Petersen NJ, Mogensen KB, Kutter JP. Performance of an in-plane detection cell with integrated waveguides for UV/Vis absorbance measurements on microfluidic separation devices. *Electrophoresis* 2002; 23: 3528-3536.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-047
Project Title: Cohort Study
PI: Nancy J. Petersen, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
84. Rabeneck L, Davila JA, El Serag HB. Is there a true 'shift' to the right colon in the incidence of colorectal cancer. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003; 98: 1400-1409.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases; Evidence-Based Medicine
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
85. Rabeneck L, El Serag HB, Davila JA, Sandler RS. Outcomes of colorectal cancer in the United States: no change in survival (1986-1997). *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003; 98: 471-477.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases; Evidence-Based Medicine
PI: Hashem El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
86. Rabeneck L, Soucek J, El Serag HB. Survival of colorectal cancer patients hospitalized in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2003; 98: 1186-1192.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Clinical Decision-Making; Comorbidity; Cost-Benefit Analysis; Databases; Evidence-Based Medicine
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
87. Rabeneck L, Soucek J, Wristers K, Menke T, Ambriz E, Huang I, Wray N. A double blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of proton pump inhibitor therapy in patients with uninvestigated dyspepsia. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2002; 97: 3045-3051.
- Project Number:** K24 DK59318
Project Title: Measurement and Therapy of Uninvestigated Dyspepsia
PI: Linda Rabeneck, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

88. Rabeneck L, Wristers K, Soucek J, Ambriz E. Impact of upper endoscopy on satisfaction in patients with previously uninvestigated dyspepsia. *Gastrointest Endosc* 2003; 57: 295-299.
Project Number: K24 DK59318
Project Title: Measurement and Therapy of Uninvestigated Dyspepsia
PI: Linda Rabeneck, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
89. Roddey TS, Olson SL, Gartsman GM, Hanten WP, Cook KF. A randomized controlled trial comparing 2 instructional approaches to home exercise instruction following arthroscopic full-thickness rotator cuff repair surgery. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther* 2002; 32: 548-559.
Project Number: XVA 330-57
Project Title: A Computer Adaptive Test (C.A.T.) of Shoulder Functioning: Let the C.A.T Out of the Bag
PI: Karon F. Cook, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
90. Rowan PJ, El Serag HB. Psychiatric comorbidity in veterans referred for hepatitis C treatment. *Evidence-based Gastroenterology* 2003; 4: 59-60.
Project Number: XNV 33-021
Project Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among U.S. Veterans: Clinical and Economic Impact
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
91. Signorile JF, Carmel MP, Czaja SJ, Asfour SS, Morgan RO, Khalil TM, Ma F, Roos BA. Differential increases in average isokinetic power by specific muscle groups of older women due to variations in training and testing. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci* 2002; 57: M683-M690.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Accidental Falls; Advance Directives; Ambulatory Care; Behavior
PI: Robert O. Morgan, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
92. Street RL. Gender differences in health care provider-patient communication: are they due to style, stereotypes, or accommodation. *Patient Educ Couns* 2002; 48: 201-206.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

93. Street RL, Krupat E, Bell RA, Kravitz RL, Haidet P. Beliefs about control in the physician-patient relationship: effect on communication in medical encounters. *J Gen Intern Med* 2003; 18: 609-616.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
94. Terramani TT, Chaikof EL, Rayan SS, Lin PH, Najibi S, Bush RL, Lumsden AB, Salam A, Smith RB, Dodson TF. Secondary conversion due to failed endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. *J Vasc Surg* 2003; 38: 473-477.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
95. Terramani TT, Workman MJ, Loberman Z, Dawson DL, Bush RL, Lumsden AB, Lin PH. Adjunctive endovascular techniques in the management of postoperative carotid artery pseudoaneurysms--useful armamentarium for vascular surgeons--three case reports. *Vasc Endovascular Surg* 2003; 37: 207-212.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
96. Thomas EJ, Petersen LA. Measuring errors and adverse events in health care. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 61-67.
Project Number: XVA 33-020
Project Title: Risk-Adjusted National VERA DBAF Phase III
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
97. Tierney WM, Weinberger M, Ashton CM, McHorney CA. A remarkable legacy of science: review of AHRQ-funded articles published in *Medical Care* during John Eisenberg's Directorship of AHRQ. *Agency for Health care Research and Quality. Med Care* 2002; 40: 1003-1011.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Databases; Disparities in Treatments Received; Evidence-Based Medicine; Health Care Policy
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

98. Weisman MH, Gano AD, Gabriel SE, Hochberg MC, Kavanaugh A, Ofman JJ, Prashker M, Suarez-Almazor ME, Yelin E, Nakelsky SD, Croft JD. Reading and interpreting economic evaluations in rheumatoid arthritis: an assessment of selected instruments for critical appraisal. *J Rheumatol* 2003; 30: 1739-1747.
- Project Number:** R01 47-858
Project Title: Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Diseases
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
99. Weiss JM, Noble PC, Conditt MA, Kohl HW, Roberts S, Cook KF, Gordon MJ, Mathis KB. What functional activities are important to patients with knee replacements?. *Clin Orthop* 2002; 172-188.
- Project Number:** R01 48-662
Project Title: Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement
PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
- 100 Wilson EM, Gunasinghe HR, Coker ML, Sprunger P, Lee-Jackson D, Bozkurt B, Deswal A, Mann DL, Spinale FG. Plasma matrix metalloproteinase and inhibitor profiles in patients with heart failure. *J Card Fail* 2002; 8: 390-398.
- Project Number:** CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
- 101 Wray NP, Moseley JB, O'Malley K. Arthroscopic treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee. *J Bone Joint Surg Am* 2003; 85-A: 381.
- Project Number:** 0001
Project Title: Arthroscopic Treatment of Osteoarthritis of the Knee
PI: Nelda P. Wray, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

In Press

1. Ashton CM, Soucek J, Petersen NJ, Menke TJ, Collins TC, Kizer KW, Wright SM, Wray NP. Hospital use and survival in veterans affairs beneficiaries. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2003; In press.
Project Number: SDR 98-001
Project Title: Changes in Mortality, Utilization and Quality of Care FY95-FY99
PI: Carol M Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: XNV 33-024
2. Bush RL, Bianco CC, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Endovascular treatment of an 'endoleak' causing rupture of a previously bypassed popliteal aneurysm. *Vascular Endovascular Surgery*. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
3. Bush RL, Lin PH, Bianco CC, Lawhorn TI, Hurt JE, Lumsden AB. Carotid artery stenting in a community setting: experience outside of a clinical trial. *Annals of Vascular Surgery*. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
4. Bush RL, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Management of thrombosed dialysis access: thrombectomy versus lysis. *Seminars in vascular surgery*. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
5. Byrne M, O'Malley K, Suarez-Almazor M. Ethnic differences in health preferences: Analysis using willingness-to-pay. *Medical Care*. 2003; In press.
Project Number: R01 47-858
Project Title: Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Disease
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

6. Davis SD, Ford ME. A conceptual model of barriers to mental health services among African Americans. African American Research Perspectives. 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** R01 88-069
 - Project Title:** Improving Informed Consent in Diverse Populations
 - PI:** Marvella E. Ford, PhD, MS, MSW
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
7. Dunn NJ, Yanasak E, Schillaci J, Simotas S, Rehm LP, Soucek J, Menke T, Ashton CM, Hamilton JD. Personality disorders in veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder and depression. J Traumatic Stress. 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** IIR 95-074
 - Project Title:** Treatment of Depression in Patients with PTSD
 - PI:** Nancy J. Dunn, PhD
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
8. El Serag HB, Davila JA, Petersen NJ, McGlynn K. The continuing rise in hepatocellular carcinoma in the United States: An update. Annals of Internal Medicine. 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** 15-535
 - Project Title:** Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
 - PI:** Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** RCD 00-013
9. El Serag HB, Garewel H, Kuebler M, Sampliner RE. Secular changes in the length of newly diagnosed Barrett's esophagus. Clinical Gastro Hepatology. 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** 58-862
 - Project Title:** Global Gene Expression in Barrett's Esophagus
 - PI:** Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** RCD 00-013
10. Ford ME, Randolph V, Hopkins-Johnson L, et al.. Design of a case management approach to enhancing cancer screening trial adherence among older African American men. Journal of Aging and Health. 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** 1-9005
 - Project Title:** Understanding Factors Related to Prostate, Lung, and Colorectal Cancer Screening among African American Men
 - PI:** Marvella E. Ford, PhD, MS, MSW
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None

11. Giordano TP, Soini H, Teeter LD, Adams GJ, Musser JM, Graviss EA. Relating the size of molecularly-defined clusters of tuberculosis to the duration of symptoms. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** HFP 90-020
 - Project Title:** Tuberculosis/Symptoms
 - PI:** Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
12. Goetzl L, Evans T, Rivers J, Lieberman E. Epidural-related fever and maternal serum interleukin-6 levels. *Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** HFP 90-020
 - Project Title:** Women's Health
 - PI:** Laura Goetzl, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
13. Goodgame B, Shaheen NJ, Galanco J, El Serag HB. A systematic review of the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in hepatitis C: A publication bias. *Am J Gastroenterol.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** HFP 90-020
 - Project Title:** Hepatitis C
 - PI:** Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** RCD 00-013
14. Haidet P, Morgan RO, O'Malley K, Moran BJ, Richards B. A controlled trial of active learning versus didactic lecturing in medical education. *Advances in Health Sciences Education.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** XNV 33-051
 - Project Title:** Teaching Humanism at the Bedside: Observations of Expert Teachers
 - PI:** Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** RCD 00-030
15. Howard JJ, Soucek J, Collins TC. Ischemic outcomes assessment survey for patients with peripheral arterial disease: A pilot study. *British Journal of Diabetes and Vascular Disease.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** IIR 01-180
 - Project Title:** Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** XNV 33-024
16. Levine MN, Raskob G, Beyth RJ, Kearon C, Shulman S. Hemorrhagic complications of anticoagulant therapy. *Chest.* 2003; In press.
 - Project Number:** K08 AG00712
 - Project Title:** Improving the Use of Anticoagulant Therapy in Older Patients
 - PI:** Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** ARCD 01-181

17. Lin PH, Bush RL, Katzman JD, Zemel G, Puente OA, Katzen BT, Lumsden AB. Delayed aortic aneurysm enlargement due to endotension following endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. J Vasc Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
18. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Carotid artery stenting - Current status and future directions. Vasc Endovascular Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
19. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. Endovascular rescue of a maldeployed aortic stent-graft causing renal artery occlusion-technical considerations. Vasc Endovascular Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
20. Lin PH, Bush RL, Lumsden AB. What's new in the preoperative evaluation of AV access operation. Sem Vasc Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
21. Lin PH, Johnson CK, Pullium JK, Terramani TT, Bush RL, Conklin B, Chen C, Lumsden AB. L-arginine improves endothelial vasoreactivity and reduces thrombogenicity following thrombolysis in experimental deep venous thrombosis. J Vasc Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
22. Lin PH, Nelson JC, Bush RL, Chen C, Lumsden AB. Does anastamotic engineering improve patency of arteriovenous grafts. Cardiovasc Surg. 2003; In press.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

23. Menke TJ, Giordano TP, Rabeneck L. The utilization of health care resources by HIV-infected white, African American, and Hispanic men in the era before highly active antiretroviral therapy. *J Natl Med Assoc.* 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-038
Project Title: The Effect of HCV Co-Infection on the Clinical Course of HIV-Infected Patients
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
24. Morgan RO, Virnig BA, Duque M, Moty EA, DeVito CA. Low intensity exercise and falls risk among a clinically defined sample of at-risk elders. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci.* 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** IIR 94-003
Project Title: SAFE-GRIP Fall/Injuries Interventions; A Randomized Trial
PI: Robert O. Morgan, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
25. O'Malley K, Orenge C, Kunik M, Snow A, Molinari V. Measuring aggression in older adults: latent variable modeling approach. *Journal of Aging and Mental Health Psychiatry and Aging Research.* 2002; In press.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Measurement of Aggression
PI: Kimberly O'Malley, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
26. Pietz K, O'Malley KJ, Byrne MD, Soucek J, Petersen NJ, Ashton CM. Physician-level variation in practice patterns in the VA healthcare system. *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology.* 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-026
Project Title: VISN 20 Northwest Network Provider profiling Project
PI: Kenneth C. Pietz, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
27. Rowan PJ, Tabasi S, Latif A, Kunik ME, El Serag HB. Psychosocial factors are the most common contraindications for antiviral therapy at initial evaluation in veterans with chronic hepatitis C. *J Clin Gastroenterol.* 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-021
Project Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus Among U.S. Veterans: Clinical and Economic Impact
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

28. Searle NS, Haidet P, Kelly PA, Schneider V, Seidel CL, Richards B. Team learning in medical education: Initial experiences at 10 institutions. *Acad Med.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: XNV 33-022
Project Title: Students' Perceptions of Medical School Support for Patient-Centered Care
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
29. Shahar K, Snow AL, Soucek J, Ashton CM, Kunik ME. Cut point definition of agitation. *Clin Gerontol.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
30. Shaib YH, Davila JA, McGlynn K, El Serag HB. Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma in the United States: A true increase or increased detection?. *J Hepatol.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
31. Snow AL, Weber JB, O'Malley KJ, Cody M, Beck C, Bruera E, Ashton CM, Kunik ME. NOPPAIN: A Nursing Assistant-Administered Pain Assessment Instrument for use in dementia. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: RCD 01-008
Project Title: Improvement in Quality of Care for Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
32. Stanley MA, Diefenbach GJ, Hopko DR, Novy D, Kunik ME, Wilson N, Wagener P. The nature of generalized anxiety in older primary care patients: Preliminary findings. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: IIR 00-097
Project Title: A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Depression and Anxiety in COPD
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
33. Tran A, Haidet P, Street RL, O'Malley KJ, Martin F, Ashton CM. Empowering communication: a community-based intervention for patients. *Patient Educ Couns.* 2003; In press.
Project Number: P01 HS 10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030

34. Weber JB, Arlinghaus KA, Kunik ME. Selective serotonin uptake inhibitors in depressed patients after acute myocardial infarction. Resid Staff Physician. 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Alzheimer's Disease; Behavioral Symptoms; Chronic Diseases
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
35. Weber JB, Coverdale JH, Kunik ME. Delirium: current trends in prevention and treatment. A systematic review. Intern Med J. 2003; In press.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Alzheimer's Disease; Behavioral Symptoms; Chronic Disease
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

Books

1. El-Serag HB. Contemporary Diagnosis and Management of Upper GI Disorders, In Press ed, 2003.

Project Number: RCD 00-013

Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease

PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH

COE: Houston

Awardee: RCD 00-013

Book Chapters

1. Beyth RJ. Assessing Risk Factors for Bleeding. In: Ansell JE, Oertel LB, Wittkowsky AK, editor. *Managing Oral Anticoagulation Therapy: Clinical and Operational Guidelines*, Second ed. New York, NY: Aspen Publishers, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 09-020
Project Title: Quality of Care
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
2. Bush RL, Lin PH, Lumsden AB. Nonatherosclerotic Vascular Disease. *Schwartz 7th edition, Seventh, In Press ed.*, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
3. Deswal A, Bozkurt B, Mann DL. The Clinical Experience with Anti-Cytokine Therapy in Heart Failure. In: Feuerstein GZ, Libby P, Mann DL, editor. *Inflammation and Cardiac Diseases (Progress in Inflammation Research)*, In Press ed. Boston, MA: Birkhauser, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Cardiology
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
4. Deswal A, Maclellan R, Mann DL. Emerging Strategies in the Treatment of Heart Failure. In: Mann DL, editor. *Heart Failure: A Companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease*, First ed. Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Cardiology
PI: Anita Deswal, MD
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
5. Ford ME, Hill D, Butler A, Havstad S. Applying Health Locus of Control and John Henryism Active Coping Theories to Older African American Adults. In: Skinner JH, Teresi JA, Holmes D, Stahl SM, Stewart AL, editor. *Multicultural Measurement in Older Populations*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 2002.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Access to Primary Care and Preventive Services, Aging
PI: Marvella Ford, PhD, MS, MSW
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

6. Giordano TP, Grimes RM. Management of the HIV-Infected Patient. In: Rakel RE, Bope ET, editor. Conn's Current Therapy 2004, 56th, In Press ed. Philadelphia, PA: WB Saunders Company, 2003.
Project Number: IIR 02-293
Project Title: Outcomes of Veterans with Dual HCV-HIV Infection
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
7. Giordano TP, Spindel SJ, Harris RL. Bacterial Meningitis. In: Samuels M, Feske S, editor. Office Practice of Neurology, Second ed. Philadelphia, PA: Harcourt Health Sciences, 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Bacterial Meningitis
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
8. Klimas NG, Morgan R, Salvato F, van Riel F, Millon C, Fletcher MA. Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Psychoneuroimmunology. In: Schniederma N, McCabe P, Baum A, editor. Stress and Disease Processes: Perspectives in Behavioral Medicine, In Press ed. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc., 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Treatment Outcome
PI: Robert O. Morgan, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
9. Mason A, El-Serag HB. Epidemiology of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. In: Gentilini P, editor. Update in Hepatology. , 2002.
Project Number: 15-353
Project Title: Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
10. Sharf BF, Haidet P, Kroll T. 'I want you to put me in the grave with all my limbs': The Meaning of Active Health Participation. In: Ray EB, editor. Case Studies in Health Communication, In Press ed. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum, 2003.
Project Number: P01 HS10879-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030

11. Suarez-Almazor ME, Osiri M, Emery P, Ottawa Methods Group. Rheumatoid arthritis. Evidence-based Rheumatology, In Press ed., 2003.

Project Number: HFP 90-020

Project Title: Communication and Decision Making; Diagnosis and Prognosis; Quality of Care

PI: Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD

COE: Houston

Awardee: None

Conference Presentations / Abstracts

1. Ambriz E, Kressin NR, Woodard LD, Petersen LA. Racial differences in the secondary prevention of coronary artery disease. American Heart Association 4th Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke 2002.
Project Number: RWJ 45-444
Project Title: Does the VA Health Care System Attenuate Racial Disparities in Quality of Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction?
PI: Laura Petersen, MD MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
2. Braun U, Beyth RJ. Racial disparities in tube feeding practices for patients with dementia. Gerontologist 2002; 42 Special Issue I: 300-300.
Project Number: XNV 33-046
Project Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Gastrostomy Tube Placement in Dementia Patients
PI: Ursula Braun, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
3. Braun U, Urbauer D, Beyth RJ. Times change: Tube feeding demented patients. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 191-191.
Project Number: XNV 33-046
Project Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Gastrostomy Tube Placement in Demented
PI: Ursula Braun, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
4. Braun U, Urbauer D, Beyth RJ. Times change: Tube feeding demented patients. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 191-191.
Project Number: XNV 33-046
Project Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Gastrostomy Tube Placement in Demented Patients
PI: Ursula Braun, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 02-029
5. Bush RL. Carotid angioplasty and stenting in a community setting. Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society, SnowMass, CO 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Academic Research
PI: Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

6. Bush RL. Repair of anastomotic abdominal pseudoaneurysms utilizing sequential AneuRx aortic cuffs in a 'stacked' configuration. International Laparoscopic and Endovascular Congress, Quebec City, Canada 2003.
 - Project Number:** HFP 90-020
 - Project Title:** Academic Research
 - PI:** Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
7. Bush RL. Subintimal angioplasty for the treatment of isolated femoropopliteal occlusions. International Laparoscopic and Endovascular Congress, Quebec City, Canada 2003.
 - Project Number:** HFP 90-020
 - Project Title:** Academic Research
 - PI:** Ruth L. Bush, MD, BA
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
8. Byrne M, O'Malley K, Suarez-Almazor M. Ethnic differences in arthritis health preferences analysis using willingness-to-pay. American College of Rheumatology Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA 2002.
 - Project Number:** R01 47-858
 - Project Title:** Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Disease
 - PI:** Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** None
9. Cameron CS, Yao DZ, De la Rosa AJ, Mann DL, Petersen NJ, Agoston I, Deswal A. Identifying patients with heart failure at high risk for readmission. Department of Medicine Research Symposium, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX 2003.
 - Project Number:** CRCD 712B
 - Project Title:** Understanding Racial Variation in Response to Drug Therapy for Heart Failure
 - PI:** Anita Deswal, MD
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** CRCD 712B
10. Collins TC. Peripheral arterial disease symptom subtype and walking impairment.. Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2003.
 - Project Number:** IIR 01-180
 - Project Title:** Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** XNV 33-024

11. Collins TC, Beyth RJ. Meta-analysis of the benefits of antiplatelet therapy for systemic and limb outcomes in peripheral arterial disease. Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2003.
 - Project Number:** IIR 01-180
 - Project Title:** Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** ARCD 01-181
12. Collins TC, Beyth RJ. Meta-analysis of the benefits of antiplatelet therapy for systemic and limb outcomes in peripheral arterial disease²¹⁶. Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2003.
 - Project Number:** IIR 01-180
 - Project Title:** Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** XNV 33-024
13. Collins TC, Petersen NJ, Suarez-Almazor ME. Pulse palpation is not a sensitive screening tool for peripheral arterial disease. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 192-192.
 - Project Number:** IIR 01-180
 - Project Title:** Process of Care in Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** XNV33-024
14. Collins TC, Petersen NJ, Suarez-Almazor ME, O'Malley K. Validation of the walking impairment questionnaire in an ethnically diverse patient population. Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2003.
 - Project Number:** XNV 33-024
 - Project Title:** Racial Variation in the Epidemiology and Outcomes of Peripheral Arterial Disease
 - PI:** Tracie C. Collins, MD, MPH
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** XNV 33-024
15. Dani R, Snow AL, Soucek J, Sullivan G, Ashton CM, Kunik ME. The effect of mutable behavioral determinants on quality of life in Alzheimer's disease patients. The American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Baltimore, MD 2003.
 - Project Number:** RCD 01-008
 - Project Title:** Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Patients: pain Management Approaches
 - PI:** A. Lynn Snow, PhD
 - COE:** Houston
 - Awardee:** RCD 01-008

16. Davila JA, El Serag HB, Rabeneck L. Post operative 30-day mortality following surgical resection of colorectal cancer in veterans: temporal changes in the right direction. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A818-A818.
- Project Number:** RCD 01-0013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-0013
17. Davila JA, Shaib YH, El Serag HB. Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma in the United States: a true increase or increased detection?. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A749-A750.
- Project Number:** RCD 01-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-013
18. El Serag HB, A vaid A, Genta R. Are historical ailments of the gastric cardia markers of reflux symptoms, *H. pylori*, or neither?. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A416-A416.
- Project Number:** RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
19. El Serag HB, Davila JA, Petersen NJ. The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma in the United States: Is it still rising?. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A690-A690.
- Project Number:** 15-535
Project Title: Analysis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
20. El Serag HB, Gilger M, Carter J, Rabeneck L. The clinical course of GERD from childhood to adulthood. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A166-A166.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-033
Project Title: Childhood GERD as a Risk Factor for GERD Adults
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
21. El Serag HB, Rabeneck L, Genta RM, Petersen NJ, Graham DY. Ethnic variations in the prevalence of esophageal endoscopic findings: A population-based study. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A18-A18.
- Project Number:** RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

22. El Serag HB, Rabeneck L, Genta RM, Petersen NJ, Graham DY. Is the prevalence of GERD symptoms lower in blacks? A population-based study. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A81-A81.
Project Number: RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
23. Fancher T, Price M, Haidet P, Paterniti DA. Prolonged suffering or failure of conservative therapy? Considering patients' perspectives on elective total knee replacement. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 273-273.
Project Number: XNV 33-015
Project Title: Understanding Subjective Patient Quality of Life
PI: Debora A. Paterniti, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
24. Ford ME, Havstad SL, Flickinger L, Demers R, Johnson CC. The effects of false positive prostate cancer screening results on subsequent prostate cancer screening adherence. *Gerontologist* 2002; 42:
Project Number: 25-512-2
Project Title: Examining the Effects of a False Positive Result on Subsequent Cancer Screening Behavior
PI: Marvella E. Ford, PhD, MS, MSW
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
25. Giordano TP, Kramer JR, Soucek J, Richardson P, El Serag HB. Does HCV co-infection increase the incidence of non-alcoholic cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma? A cohort study of HIV-infected US veterans, 1992-2001. The 2nd Annual IAS Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment, Paris, France 2003.
Project Number: 15-535
Project Title: Analisis of SEER-Medicare Data on Hepatocellular Carcinoma
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
26. Giordano TP, White AC, Visnegarwala F, Troisi CL, Frankowski RF, Grimes RM. Establishing care in an urban HIV clinic: Success rate and factors predicting failure. The 2nd Annual IAS Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment, Paris, France 2003.
Project Number: IIR 02-0293
Project Title: Outcomes of Veterans with Dual HCV-HIV Infection
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

27. Gordon HS, Sharf BF, Stelljes L. A little bitty spot and I'm a big man: Patients' refusals of doctors' recommendations. American Academy on Physician and Patient Research and Teaching Forum 2003.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
28. Hafkin J, Haidet P. An unexpected cause of paralysis. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 56-56.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Ambulatory Care
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
29. Hafkin J, Haidet P. Summer headache. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 56-56.
Project Number: XNV 33-052
Project Title: Relationship-Centered Care Initiative
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
30. Haidet P, Kelly PA, Kuebelier M, Richards B, Helmer D, Paterniti DA, Snow AL, Fortin A, Wagner D, Bentley S, Hatem D, Gracey C, Harrell H, Babu V, Wray N, Inui T. Measuring the hidden curricula of medical schools. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 243-243.
Project Number: XNV 33-022
Project Title: Students' Perceptions of Medical School Support for Patient Centered Care
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
31. Heidenreich P, Deswal A, Wray N. Predictors of quality of VA heart failure care. AHA Outcomes Conference 2002.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCD 712B
32. Heidenreich P, Deswal A, Wray N. Regional variation in cardiac care is similar for the VA and Medicare. AHA Outcomes Conference 2002.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Rebecca Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCD 712B

33. Heidenreich P, Deswal A, Wray N. Regional variation in the quality of heart failure care in VA vs. Medicare. J Am Coll Cardiol 2003.
Project Number: CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: CRCDC 712B
34. John D, Wei II, Morgan RO. Perceptions of VA care: How do elderly female veterans who use the VA view VA healthcare. VA HSR&D Annual Meeting, Washington, DC 2003.
Project Number: IIR 20-052
Project Title: Medicare HMO Enrollment and VA Use by Minority and Low Income Veterans
PI: Robert O. Morgan, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
35. Johnson ML, Beyth RJ, Pietz K, Pettitt D. Prevalence of hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes among patients in the Veterans Affairs.. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 149-149.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia and Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
36. Johnson ML, Beyth RJ, Pietz K, Pettitt D. Treatment patterns and goal attainment in patients with hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 149-149.
Project Number: XNV 33-037
Project Title: Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia and Diabetes Treatment and Outcomes: A Study of Patients in the VA
PI: Michael L. Johnson, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
37. Kato K, O'Malley KJ. Patient Perceptions of eligibility and trust in the Houston Veterans Affairs Medica Center. 3rd Annual Houston Area Health Services & Outcomes Research Conference, Houston, TX 2002.
Project Number: P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

38. Kelly PA, Haidet P, Gordon HS. A method for on-the-fly coding of doctor-patient verbal data. American Academy on Physician and Patient Research and Teaching Forum 2003.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-056
Project Title: A Method for Assessing Patient Literacy and Print Material Readability in Veterans Healthcare
PI: P. Adam Kelly, PhD, MBA, BS
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
39. Kelly PA, Haidet P, Gordon HS. A method for on-the-fly coding of doctor-patient verbal data. American Academy on Physician and Patient Research and Teaching Forum 2003.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-056
Project Title: A Method for Assessing Patient Literacy and Print Material Readability in Veterans Healthcare
PI: P. Adam Kelly, PhD, MBA, BS
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00303
40. Kimmel B, York M, Deswal A, Beyth RJ, Petersen NJ, Johnson ML, Espadas D, Wray NP. Practical challenges in translational research: Veterans Affairs (VA) chronic heart failure (CHF) quality enhancement research initiative (QUERI). Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials, London, UK 2003.
- Project Number:** CHF 98-001
Project Title: QUERI on Chronic Heart Failure
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
41. Krejci-Manwaring, Braun U. The use of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes in patients with endstage dementia: A survey of medical students attitudes and opinions. Gerontologist 2002; 42: 270-270.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-046
Project Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Gastrostomy Tube Placement in Demented
PI: Ursula K. Braun, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
42. Lees E, Kunik ME, Snow AL, Cody M, Rapp CG, Molinari VA, Beck C. Phenomenology of Alzheimer's disease. 4th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference: Advanced in Qualitative Methods, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, Banff, Alberta, Canada 2003.
- Project Number:** RCD 01-008
Project Title: Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management
PI: A Lynn Snow, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008

43. Levine R, Beasley B, Bensinger L, Brady D, Gress T, Haidet P, Hughes J, Marwaha A, Nelson J, Kern D, Wright S. Looking for evidence of personal growth during internship. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 275-275.
- Project Number:** DOE 00-884
Project Title: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)
PI: Paul Haidet, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030
44. Mason AC, El Serag HB. Gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST) in the US: 1975-1999; the gist of it. *Gastroenterology* 2003; 124: A243-A243.
- Project Number:** RCD 00-013
Project Title: Clinical Outcomes and Resource Utilization in Gastrointestinal Disease
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013
45. Milligan P, Gage BF, Beyth RJ. Pharmacists working in an anticoagulation clinic need to screen referred patients for risk factors for bleeding. *American Society of Health System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia* 2002.
- Project Number:** R01 70-794
Project Title: Improving Anti-Thrombotic Use in Stroke Prevention
PI: Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: ARCD 02-181
46. Morgan RO, Duque M, DeVito CA. Using the SF-36 physical function subscale to screen for falls-risk in a clinically defined sample of at-risk elders. *The Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA* 2002.
- Project Number:** SDR 01-044
Project Title: The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team (EXPERT)
PI: Kimberly J. O'Malley, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
47. O'Malley K, Haidet P, Sharf BF, Collins TC, Tran AN, Wray NP. Trust in physician, facility, and system: Qualitative differences between ethnic groups. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 184-184.
- Project Number:** P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-030

48. O'Malley K, Haidet P, Sharf BF, Collins TC, Tran AN, Wray NP. Trust in physician, facility, and system: Qualitative differences between ethnic groups. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 184-184.
- Project Number:** P01 HS10876-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: XNV 33-024
49. O'Malley K, Snow AL, Ford ME. Integrating a conceptual model throughout your grant proposal: From hypotheses to impact statements. VA HSR&D Annual Meeting, Washington, DC 2003.
- Project Number:** SDR 01-044
Project Title: The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team
PI: Kimberly J. O'Malley, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
50. Petersen LA, McNeil BJ, Normand S. Effect of adjustment for center in multi-center comparisons of AMI quality of care. American Heart Association 4th Scientific Forum on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke 2002.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-029
Project Title: Patient Classification Work Group: Assessing the impact of using DCG's for budget allocation in VAH-Phase V
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
51. Petersen LA, Normand S. Access to coronary angiography in the regionalized VA health care delivery system. VA HSR&D Annual Meeting, Washington, DC 2003.
- Project Number:** 9970113N
Project Title: Racial Differences in Health-Related Quality of Life Among Potential Candidates for Revascularization
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
52. Petersen LA, Normand S. Access to coronary angiography in the regionalized VA health care delivery system. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 213-213.
- Project Number:** 9970113N
Project Title: Racial Differences in Health-Related Quality of Life Among Potential Candidates for Revascularization
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444

53. Petersen LA, Normand S, Druss BG, Rosenheck RA. Process of care and outcome after acute myocardial infarction for patients with mental illness: Are there disparities. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2003; 18: 185-185.
- Project Number:** 9970113N
Project Title: Racial Differences in Health-Related Quality of Life Among Potential Candidates for Revascularization
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWF 45-444
54. Petersen NJ. Factors associated with walking impairment in older patients. *The Society of General Internal Medicine 26th Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada* 2003.
- Project Number:** 99-000
Project Title: Healthcare Utilization and Mortality in Parkinson's Disease Patients
PI: Nancy J. Petersen, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
55. Pietz K. Cluster analysis: A tool for visualizing multiple outcomes in provider profiling. *Joint Statistical Meeting, San Francisco, CA* 2003.
- Project Number:** XVA 33-026
Project Title: VISN 20 Northwest Network Provider Profiling Project
PI: Kenneth C. Pietz, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
56. Reddy SG, Morgan RO, Kelly PA, Martin JE, O'Malley KJ. Achieving maximum effectiveness in determining health services researchers' areas of measurement. *3rd Annual Houston Area Health Services & Outcomes Research Conference, Houston, TX* 2002.
- Project Number:** SDR 01-044
Project Title: The Expedient Psychometric Education Research Team (EXPERT)
PI: Kimberly J. O'Malley, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
57. Rowan PJ, Tabasi S, Kunik ME, El Serag HB. Hepatitis C: Psychosocial contraindications for treatment. *Department of Veterans Affairs National MIRECC Conference, Portland, OR* 2003.
- Project Number:** XNV 33-021
Project Title: Epidemiology of Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among U.S. Veterans: Clinical and Economic Impact
PI: Hashem B. El-Serag, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 00-013

58. Schneider V, Kelly PA, Richards B. Team learning physician assistant education. The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, New Orleans, LA 2003.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title: Assessment; Education; Health Care Evaluation and Measurement
PI: P. Adam Kelly, PhD, MBA, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
59. Shahar K, Snow AL, Soucek J, Sullivan G, Ashton CM, Kunik ME. Cutpoint definition of agitation. The American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Baltimore, MD 2003.
Project Number: IIR 01-159
Project Title: Causes and Consequences of Aggressive Behavior in Demented Patients
PI: Mark E. Kunik, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
60. Singh H, Gordon HS, Deswal A. Variation by race in factors contributing to heart failure hospitalizations. J Card Fail 2003; 9: S90-S90.
Project Number: P01 HS 10879-01
Project Title: Racial and Ethnic Variation in Medical Interactions (EXCEED)
PI: Carol M. Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 97-319
61. Snow AL, Kunik ME, O'Malley K, Cody M, Ashton CM, Strasser F, Bruera E, Beck C. The NOPPAIN: A behavioral observational nursing assistant-administered instrument to assess pain in individuals with dementia. Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA 2002.
Project Number: XVA 33-055
Project Title: Factors Leading to Improved Interrater Reliability; Nursing Home Pain Assessment as a Case Study
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008
62. Snow AL, O'Malley K, Kunik ME, Cody M, Beck C, Bruera E, Ashton CM. Nursing assistant-administered instrument to assess pain in demented individuals. The American Psychological Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada 2003.
Project Number: RCD 01-008
Project Title: Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008

63. Suarez-Almazor M, Byrne M, Soucek J, O'Malley K, Richardson M. Valuation of arthritis health states across ethnic groups. *Arthritis Rheum* 2002; 46: S74-S74.
- Project Number:** R01 47-858
Project Title: Treatment Adherence in Minorities with Rheumatic Disease
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
64. Suarez-Almazor ME, Kelly PA, Byrne M, Richardson M, Soucek J. Test-retest reliability of preferences for total knee replacement using conjoint pairs. The Annual Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology, Orlando, FL 2003.
- Project Number:** R01 48-662
Project Title: Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
65. Suarez-Almazor ME, Kelly PA, Byrne M, Richardson M, Soucek J. Test-retest reliability of surgical preferences using conjoint pairs. The Annual Meeting of the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care, Canmore, Canada 2003.
- Project Number:** R01 48-662
Project Title: Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
66. Suarez-Almazor ME, Soucek J, Kelly PA, Byrne M, Richardson M, Pak C. Ethnic variations in preferences for total knee replacement in patients with osteoarthritis. The Annual Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology, Orlando, FL 2003.
- Project Number:** R01 48-662
Project Title: Cognitive Behavioral Determinants for Knee Replacement
PI: Maria E. Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
67. Teasdale TA, Snow AL. Building coping skills in dementia caregivers. University of Texas Health Science Center Advances in Teaching & Learning Regional Conference, Houston, TX 2003.
- Project Number:** RCD 01-008
Project Title: Improvement in Quality of Care of Demented Nursing Home Residents: Pain Management Approaches
PI: A. Lynn Snow, PhD
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 01-008

68. Visnegarwala F, Hasan MQ, Giordano TP, Grimes RM, Zerai T, Arduino RC, White AC. What does it cost to achieve an undetectable viral load at one year among ARV naive patients initiating different HAART regimens?. The 2nd Annual IAS Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment, Paris, France 2003.
- Project Number:** HFP 90-020
Project Title: Access to Primary Care and Preventive Services
PI: Thomas P. Giordano, MD, BS
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
69. Woodard L, Kressin N, Petersen L. Perceived difficulty with medication use among patients with ischemic heart disease. Houston Health Services and Outcomes Research Conference. Houston, TX 2002.
- Project Number:** RCD 95-306
Project Title: Advanced Career Development Award
PI: Laura Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RCD 95-306
70. Woodard LD, Kressin NR, Petersen LA. Comparison of medication use in coronary heart disease patients with and without diabetes. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2003; 18: 299-299.
- Project Number:** MRC 02-213
Project Title: Does the VA Health Care System Attenuate Racial Disparities in Quality of Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
71. Woodard LD, Kressin NR, Petersen LA. Examining disparities in cholesterol monitoring and treatment among veterans with coronary heart disease. Kelsey Research Foundation Health Services and Outcomes Research Conference 2002.
- Project Number:** MRC 02-213
Project Title: Does the VA Health Care System Attenuate Racial Disparities in Quality of Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None

Reports

1. Ashton CM, Blow F, Hynes D, Jencks S, McGlynn EA, Rosenthal GE, Peabody J, Scanlon J. Report to the VA Office of Research and Development from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Quality Measurement Using Electronic Databases. 2003 Aug.
Project Number: HFP 90-020
Project Title:
PI: Carol M Ashton, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
2. Kelly PA, Johnson MJ, Alsarraj AA. Pilot Just-In-Time IRB Review Evaluation. 2003 Jul 1.
Project Number: MRR 02-114
Project Title: Pilot Just-In-Time IRB Review Evaluation
PI: P. Adam Kelly, PhD, MBA, MS
COE: Houston
Awardee: None
3. Petersen LA, Byrne M, Pietz K, Kuebeler M, Thompson M, Nelson H, Sookanan S, Urech T. Patient Classification Work Group: Risk Adjusted VERA Project (Evaluation of Use of Disease Burden Adjustment Factors for Network Capitation Payments in VHA) Phase IV. 2002 Oct 10. Report Number: XVA 33-025.
Project Number: XNA 33-027
Project Title: Natioanl VERA DBAF Phase IV
PI: Laura A. Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444
4. Petersen LA, Byrne M, Pietz K, Kuebeler M, Thompson M, Nelson H, Sookanan S, Urech T. Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast VA Facility Budgets in Networks 5, 6, 9, 12, 20, and 22 (Phase IV). 2003 Mar 5. Report Number: XVA 33-023, XVA 33-028, XVA 33-043, and XVA 33-044.
Project Number: XVA 33-025
Project Title: Using DCGs to Profile and Forecast Facility Budgets in VISNs
PI: Laura Petersen, MD, MPH
COE: Houston
Awardee: RWJ 45-444

6 National and Regional Leadership Roles

The investigators at the Houston Center of Excellence are prominent leaders on national research committees, editorial review boards, in academic associations & institutions. Our investigators make a substantive contribution to advance science and promote VA HSR&D. The matrix below provides greater detail on the organizations and institutions that enjoy the expertise and leadership of our Center's investigators.

Scientist	Key Leadership Activities
Carol Ashton, MD, MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director and Senior Mentor, Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies (HCQCUS)• Chief, Section of Health Services Research at Baylor College of Medicine• Co-Editor-in-Chief, <i>Medical Care</i>, the official journal of the Medical Care section of the American Public Health Association• Member, VA HSR&D Scientific Review and Evaluation Board• VA Co-Chair, Blue Ribbon Panel on Measuring Quality Using Electronic Databases• Chief, General Medicine Section at the Houston VAMC• Member, Finance Committee – VHA National Leadership Board• Houston VAMC Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for R & D
Mark Kunik, MD, MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Director, HCQCUS• Chairman, HVAMC Research & Development Committee• Core Leader, Mental Illness Research Education & Clinical Center (MIRECC)• Co-Director, MIRECC Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology
Rebecca Beyth, MD, MS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Director, HCQCUS• Chief Operations Officer, Steering Committee, Anticoagulation-Thromboembolism Research Consortium, Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)• Director, CHF QUERI & Coordinating Center
Maria Suarez-Almazor, MD, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Director, HCQCUS• Editor, Rheumatoid Arthritis Subgroup, Cochrane Collaboration
Marvella Ford, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate Director, HCQCUS• Member, National Institutes of Health Risk, Prevention & Health Behavior IRG – Study Section 3• Member, VA ORD Blue Ribbon National Advisory Committee for Partnering with Minority-Serving Institutions to Increase the Scientific Career Paths for Underrepresented Minorities

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Laura Petersen, MD, MPH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Abstract Review & Eisenberg Award Selection Committees – Society of General Internal Medicine |
| P. Adam Kelly, PhD, MBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Director, Measurement Excellence Training & Resource Information Center (METRIC) |
| Tracie Collins, MD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, General Medicine Consult Service, Houston VAMC |
| Lynn Snow, PhD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Chair for Psychologists in Long-term Care • Elected Convener, Mental Health and Aging Interest group, Gerontological Society of America |

This list represents only some of the major LEADERSHIP efforts on the part of scientists in our organization. Membership on and participation in many other organizations is detailed in the provided table.

“Development” is one of our Center’s key strategic goals. Therefore, we view the involvement of Center scientists in local and national leadership roles as critical to the continuous improvement of our management and networking skills. Our scientists continuously seek opportunities for leadership. The leadership development of Center scientists has beneficial impact to this Center, the national health care community, and the professional acumen of each investigator.

By the end of fiscal year 2004, it is our goal that each Center scientist and senior leader will be enrolled as a member of his or her respective discipline’s nationally recognized group, society, or organization. It is through thoughtful leadership in such organizations that we will impact our industry and expand the reputation of health services research as a necessary element for constructive change in healthcare policy and practice.

6.1 National and Regional Leadership Roles (Table 4)

Houston Center of Excellence National and Regional Leadership Roles, FY 2003

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
C. Ashton MD MPH	Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy	AS	Member	No	4,5
	American Public Health Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	Annals of Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Circulation	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Health Services Research	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Member, Editorial Board	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Co-Editor-in-Chief	No	3,5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Tenured Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics	No	4,5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies	EC	Director	Yes	1,2,4,5
	Houston VA Medical Center	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section	Yes	4
	Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center	EC	Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development	Yes	1,2,3,4
	The University of Texas School of Public Health	EC	Adjunct Associate Professor, Health Services Organizations	No	4,5
	Veterans Health Administration, National Leadership Board, Finance Committee	NB	Subcommittee Chair	Yes	3,5
	Houston VAMC	RG	Chief, General Medicine Section	Yes	2,4,5
	National Advisory Group on Veterans Health Administration Physician Productivity and Staffing	VAN	Member	Yes	2
	VA HSR&D Service	VAN	Member, Liaison Committee, VA HSR&D and VISNs	Yes	1,2,5
	VA Research and Development Service	VAN	Ad Hoc grant proposal reviewer	Yes	2
	Veterans Health Administration	VAN	Member, National Practice Advisory Board	Yes	2

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
R. Beyth MD MS	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatrics Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	The Steering Committee for the Anticoagulation - Thromboembolism Research Consortium (AT-RC), The Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Chief Operations Officer	No	3
	American College of Chest Physicians	CL	Member, Anti-thrombotic Guidelines Committee	No	3,5
	American Journal of Cardiology	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	American Journal of Managed Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	American Journal of Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Annals of Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Drugs and Aging	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	4,5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	1,2,3,4,5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Service	Yes	2
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Consultation Service	Yes	4
	VA HSR&D Service	EC	Research Coordinator, CHF-QUERI	Yes	2,3,5
	American Board of Internal Medicine and American Board of Family Medicine	NB	Author and Reviewer for National Geriatric Medicine Examinations	No	6
	AHCPR-Small Grants Program	RG	Ad Hoc Grant Proposal Reviewer	No	3
	VA HSR&D Service	RG	Member, Subcommittee HSR&D Grant Review Committee	Yes	3,5
U. Braun MD MPH	American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	American Geriatric Society	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	The Gerontological Society of America	AS	Member	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Geriatrics	No	5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, Extended Care Line	Yes	2,4
B. Brody PhD MA BA	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	NASA	NB	Chair, NASA Bioethics Policy Task Force	No	2
	NIH	NB	Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Boards	No	3

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
S. Chu PhD MA BA	Asian American Psychological Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Instructor	No	4
	Behavior Therapy	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of the National Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	5
T. Collins MD MPH	The American Journal of Psychiatry	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Medical Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Annals of Internal Medicine	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Vascular Surgery	AS	Reviewer	No	3
	Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology	AS	Fellow	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	4,5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Director, General Medicine Consult Service	Yes	4
Houston VAMC	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Service	Yes	2
	Cardiovascular Center of Excellence	VAN	Outcomes Conference Coordinator	Yes	1
	Veterans Health Administration - Blue Ribbon National Committee	VAN	Member	Yes	1,2
	Women Veterans Health Committee	VAN	Member	No	5
J. Davila PhD MS BS	American Public Health Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5
	Society for Epidemiologic Research	AS	Member	No	5
	The American Journal of Psychiatry	EB	Reviewer	No	5
A. Deswal MD	American Heart Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	4,5
	Heart Failure Society of America	AS	Member	No	5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Member, Cardiovascular Health Fair Committee	Yes	3
	VA CHF QUERI	EC	Member , Core Director for New Research, Coordinating Center for the VA Chronic Heart Failure Quality Enhancement Research Initiative	Yes	2,5
	American Journal of Managed Care	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	American Journal of Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Circulation	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of the American College of Cardiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
VA Prosthetic Clinical Management (PCM)	VAN	Member, National Workgroup on Left Ventricular Assist Devices	Yes	1,2,3	
VA Research Executive Committee	VAN	Member, VISN 16	Yes	1,2	
Houston VAMC	VAR	Staff Physician, Department of Medicine, Section of Cardiology	Yes	4,5	

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
H. El-Serag MD MPH	American Association for Study of Liver Disease	AS	Member	No	6
	American College of Gastroenterology	AS	Member	No	3
	American College of Gastroenterology	AS	Member	No	6
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	6
	American Gastroenterology Association	AS	Member	No	6
	Epidemiology & Disease Control-2 Study Section NIH	AS	Member	No	5
	Gastroenterology Research Group	AS	Member	No	3
	American Journal of Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Research Committee	EB	Reviewer	No	6
	Annals of Epidemiology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Digestive and Liver Disease	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Digestive Diseases and Sciences	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Evidence Based Gastroenterology	EB	Reviewer	No	3
	Helicobacter	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Hepatology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of Hepatology	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Lancet	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	Pharmacoeconomics	EB	Reviewer	No	5
	American Journal of Gastroenterology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
M. Ford PhD MS MSW	Annals of Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Clinical Gastroenterology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Gastroenterology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research	No	5
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	1,2,3,4,5
	National Institutes of Health Risk, Prevention & Health Behavior IRG	EC	Member of Study Section 3	No	3,5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of the National Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Medical Care	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	3,5
	Nicotine and Tobacco Research	RG	Ad Hoc Reviewer	No	5
K. Garibaldi MD BA	VA Blue Ribbon Committee	VAN	Member	Yes	4
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Instructor, Department of Family and Community Medicine	No	4

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
T. Giordano MD BS	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5
	HIV Medicine Association	AS	Member	No	3
	Infectious Disease Society of America	AS	Member	No	3
	International AIDS Society	AS	Member	No	3
	Journal of American Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	QUERI-HIV - Adherence and Self Management Study Group	VAN	Member	Yes	3
L. Goetzl MD MPH	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology	No	5
H. Gordon MD SB	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	Association for Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	CHF QUERI Executive Committee	EC	Member	Yes	5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Section	Yes	2
	AHCPR	RG	Reviewer, Small Grants Section	No	3,5
	American Journal of Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Health Services Research Subcommittee, Houston VAMC	RG	Reviewer	Yes	3
	Houston VA Medical Center	RG	Medicine Subcommittee, Research and Development Committee	Yes	3,4
	International Journal for quality in Health Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of Clinical Epidemiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3
	The Journal of Rural Health	RG	Reviewer	No	3
VA	VAN	Member, VA Nursing Expert Panel	Yes	2	
VISN 16	VAR	Member, Provider Profiling Task Force	Yes	2,3	

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**	
P. Haidet MD MPH	Alpha Omega Alpha	AS	Member	No	5	
	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5	
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No	5	
	Emory School of Medicine	AS	Member: The Ad Hoc Group on Teaching Humanism at the Bedside, American Academy on Physician and Patient, William T. Branch, Carter Smith Sr. Professor of Medicine	No	2	
	American Academy on Physician and Patient	EB	Journal Watch Editor, Medical Encounter	No	5	
	Journal of General Internal Medicine - Special Education Issue	EB	Associate Editor	No	5	
	The Fetzer Institute - The Relationship-Centered Care Research Initiative	EC	Member	No	5	
	Society of General Internal Medicine	RG	National Meeting Medical Education Workshop Selection Committee	No	5	
	M. Johnson PhD	Academy of Health Services Research and Health Policy	AS	Member	No	5
		Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research		AS	Member	No	5	
Society of General Internal Medicine		AS	Member	No	5	
Houston VA Medical Center		EC	Member, R&D Review Committee	Yes	3,5	
Health Services Research		RG	Reviewer	No	3,5	
Medical Care		RG	Reviewer	No	3,5	
CHF QUERI Executive Committee		VAN	Member	Yes	2,3,5	
Houston VAMC	VAR	Member, Pharmacy and Therapeutics sub-committee for Costs	Yes	2		
P. Kelly PhD MBA BS	American Academy on Physician and Patient	AS	Member	No	5	
	American Education Research Association	AS	Member	No	6	
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5	
	National Council on Measurement in Education	AS	Member	No	5	
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	EB	Reviewer	No	5	
	Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology	EB	Reviewer	No	5	
	US Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)	NB	Grant Application Reviewer	No	3,6	
J. Kramer PhD MPH BA	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Instructor, Department of Medicine	No	5	

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
M. Kunik MD MPH	American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology	AS	Member, Committee for Re-certification in Geriatric Psychiatry	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Department of Psychiatry, Resident Recruitment Subcommittee	No	4
	Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of Research - HSR&D	CL	State of the Art Conference on Long Term Care Participant	Yes	1,4
	Houston Center for Quality of Care & Utilization Studies	EC	Associate Director	Yes	3,4,5
	Houston VAMC - Cooperative Studies Program 546	EC	Planning Committee	Yes	3
	Veterans Affairs Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare	EC	Dementia Registry Taskforce	Yes	5
	Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of Research - HSR&D	RG	Veterans Health Services Research and Development Center for Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) Study Section	Yes	4,5,6
	Study Section VA HSR&D	RG	Reviewer	Yes	4,5,6
	Study Section VA HSR&D Nurse Research Initiative	RG	Reviewer	Yes	4,5,6
	Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center	VAR	Co-Director, MIRECC Fellowship in Advanced Psychiatry and Psychology	Yes	4,5
Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC)	VAR	Clinical Geropsychiatry Research Core Leader	Yes	1,2,3,4,5	
M. Moffett PhD MA BBA	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**	
R. Morgan PhD	Academy of Health Services Research	AS	Member	No	5	
	American Public Health Association	AS	Member	No	5	
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5	
	University of Miami	AS	Member, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami School of Medical Research Liaison Committee	AS	Member	No	5	
	University of Miami School of Medicine, Undergraduate Medical Curriculum Committee	AS	Member	No	5	
	University of Miami-Committee for Beth Jenkins	AS	Co-Chair, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami-Committee for Claudia Woodward	AS	Co-Chair, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami-Committee for Daniel Feaster	AS	Member, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami-Committee for Didrik Hoag	AS	Member, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami-Committee for Michelle Carmel	AS	Member, PhD	No	4	
	University of Miami-Committee for Sharon West	AS	Member, PhD	No	4	
	National Technical Advisory Board for VA/Medicare Data Project	EC		Yes	2,3	
	American Journal of Managed Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	Journal of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	Journal of Traumatic Stress	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	Miami VA Human Subjects Review Sub-Committee	VAR	Member	Yes	2,3,5	
	Miami VA Research Advisory Committee	VAR	Member	Yes	2,3,5	
	K. O'Malley PhD MS BS	American Psychological Association	AS	Member	No	5
		American Psychological Association Division 38 Health Psychology Special Interest Group	AS	Member	No	5
Baylor College of Medicine		AS	Assistant Professor of Medicine	No		
Society of Clinical Trials		AS	Member	No	5	
Medical Care		EB	Reviewer	No	4,5	
Psychological Methods		EB	Reviewer	No	4,5	
Arthritis and Rheumatism		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
Psychiatric Services		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
Psychiatric Services		RG	Special Psychometric Reviewer	No	5	
Research on Aging		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
Structural Equation Modeling		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
University of Houston Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects		RG	Reviewer	No	3	
Department of Veterans Affairs		VAR	Research Health Science Specialist	Yes	2,3,4,5	
Houston Center for Quality Control of Care and Utilization Studies		VAR	Research Health Science Specialist	Yes	2,3,4,5	
H. Palacio MD MPH		Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Assistant Professor	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
L. Petersen MD MPH	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Chair, Abstract Review Committee, Annual Scientific Meeting	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Chair, Eisenberg Award Selection Committee	No	5
	Circulation	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	Medical Care	RG	Reviewer	No	3,5
	PriceWaterHouse Coopers Report on Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction in VHA	RG	Member of Scientific Review Panel	No	3,5
	Sandra A. Daugherty Foundation	RG	Member of Grant Review Panel	No	3,5
	VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative	VAN	Executive Committee on Ischemic Heart Disease	Yes	1,2,5
	N. Petersen PhD	Congestive Heart Failure Quality Enhancement Research Initiative Executive Committee	EC	Member	Yes
American Heart Association		RG	Member, Peer Review Group	No	3,5
American Heart Association		RG	Member, Abstract Selection Committee	No	3,5
Baylor College of Medicine		RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
Journal of General Internal Medicine		RG	Reviewer	No	3
Journal of General Internal Medicine		RG	Reviewer	No	3
Medical Care		RG	Reviewer	No	3
The American Journal of Medicine		RG	Reviewer	No	3,4,5
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative Data Issues Workgroup		VAN	Member	Yes	5
K. Pietz PhD MS BA		Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No
A. Snow PhD	Psychologists in Long Term Care	AS	Research Chair	No	6
	Journal of Gerontology	EB	Ad-hoc Reviewer	No	3
	Medical Care	EB	Reviewer	No	3,5
	Mental Health and Aging Informal Interest Group, Gerontological Society of America	NB	Convener	No	3,5
	Alzheimer's Association Small Grant Application	RG	Ad-hoc reviewer, Small Grant Application	No	6
	Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
	Health Services Resource Association (HRSA)	RG	Invited Reviewer for Graduate Geropsychology Grant Review	No	3,5
	Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neurology	RG	Ad-hoc reviewer	No	6
	Health Science Research and Development	VAN	Abstract reviewer, 19th Annual Meeting	Yes	5
	VA VISN 16 Mental Illness, Research, Education and Clinical Center Pilot Program	VAR	Reviewer	Yes	2,5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**	
J. Soucek PhD	American Statistical Association	AS	Member	No	5	
	International Biometrics Society (ENAR)	AS	Member	No	5	
	International Conference for Health Policy Research sponsored by the American Statistical Association	AS	Member of the Planning Committee for the Health Policy Statistics Section	No	5	
	Society for Clinical Trials	AS	Member	No	5	
	Baylor College of Medicine	EC	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine	No	4	
	Annals of Epidemiology	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	Journal of the American Medical Association	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Data and Safety Monitoring Board	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	The American Statistician	RG	Reviewer	No	3	
	VA HSR&D	VAR	Statistical mentor for post-doctoral fellows and BCM faculty	Yes	4,5	
	M. Suarez-Almazor MD PhD	American College of Rheumatology	AS	Member	No	6
		Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine	No	5
Canadian Rheumatology Association		AS	Member	No	6	
International Society for Health Technology Assessment		AS	Member	No	6	
Society for Medical Decision Making		AS	Member	No	5,6	
International League against Rheumatism Pediatric Task Force		CL	Member	No	5	
OMERACT Health Economics Task Force		CL	Member	No	5	
Arthritis and Rheumatism		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Arthritis Care and Research		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Cochrane Collaboration		EB	Editor	No	3,6	
Journal of Rheumatology		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Medical Care		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Michael Smith Foundation (Canada)		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Revista Mexicana de Reumatologia		EB	Editorial Committee	No	5	
Rheumatology		EB	Reviewer	No	5	
Canadian Institute for Health Research		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
Medical Research Council (Canada)		RG	Reviewer	No	5	
NIH-NIA Study Section		RG	Member	No	5	
C. Teal PhD MA BA		Baylor College of Medicine	RG	Instructor, Department of Medicine	No	5

Name	Organization	Org Type*	Role	VA Sponsored	VA Contribution**
L. Woodard MD MPH	American College of Physicians	AS	Member	No	5
	American Medical Association	AS	Member	No	5
	Baylor College of Medicine	AS	Instructor-Department of Internal Medicine and Division of Health Services Research	No	5
	Society of General Internal Medicine	AS	Member	No	5
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Service	Yes	2
	Houston VAMC	EC	Staff Physician, General Medicine Consultation Service	Yes	4
	Ethnicity and Disease	RG	Reviewer	No	5
	Journal of General Internal Medicine	RG	Reviewer	No	3

* VHA National Committee (VAN), VA Regional/Network Committee (VAR), Academic Society (AS), Consensus Conference or Clinical Guidelines Development Committee (CL), Study Section or other Research Review Group (RG), Editorial Board (EB), Executive or Advisory Committee for a Research Program or National Study (EC), National Policy Board (NB)

** (1) Setting a VA research agenda, (2) oversight of a VA research product, national policy related to patient care, (3) oversight of a research product with national importance, (4) input to training of VA staff or potential researchers, (5) input to the general area of health services research, (6) national leadership of a clinical and/or academic program.

7 Training Activities

The scope of the Houston Center's training activity has increased significantly over the last years. In addition to the post-doctoral fellowship program, the training mission of the Section includes: MIRECC fellows training, clinical fellows training, pre-doctoral research internships, emphasis on training of and collaboration with minority students and faculty, increased VA and non-VA career development awards and fellowships, and institutional training grants, and continued development and implementation of the Houston Center's formal Mentoring Policy, developed in 2002. These efforts are described below. The VA HSR&D post-doctoral program design is the blueprint for many of the other programs, and so will be described at greater length.

OAA-funded Post-doctoral Program

The Center's VA HSR&D post-doctoral training program is designed to create an environment in which post-doctoral fellows can mature into independent health services researchers capable of and interested in pursuing research that will contribute to the ability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fulfill its health care mission. At the Center, trainees work closely with a mentoring team. This team includes: a primary mentor (an established researcher with common research interests); the education director (to monitor the quality of the mentoring relationships and to serve as a liaison for any mentoring team difficulties); one or two other researchers with methodological or content area expertise important for the trainees' progress; and (if the primary mentor is a junior faculty member) a senior mentor is included to "mentor the mentor" and guide the team regarding big-picture career issues. Post-doctoral fellows are included in all activities of the Center's investigators, in accordance with the fellowship's purpose of producing independent health services researchers. In addition, a bi-weekly Foundations in Health Services Research seminar series provides introductory information on the Center's procedures, the U.S. and VA health care systems, academic medicine and career advancement guidelines, and topics in health services research.

Since 1994, 11 trainees have entered the fellowship program, 8 of which completed at least one year of fellowship training and 2 of which have recently started their first year of fellowship training. Many have had research that was completed during the fellowship period published in refereed journals. Dr. Brian Geisler, who completed his second post-doctoral year in 1995, is currently an assistant research scientist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in the School of Medicine. Dr. Jan Mary Hale Risser, who completed a post-doctoral year in 1996, is currently an assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Karon Cook, who finished a post-doctoral year in 1997, is currently associate director for research, Houston VA Parkinsons Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Center, and an active collaborator with the Houston Center. Dr. Makoto Hanita, who finished his second post-doctoral year in 1998, is a research associate at the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Dr. Rose Colon, who finished her second post-doctoral year in 1999, is an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Michigan State University. Dr. James Stacks, who completed a year of post-doctoral fellowship in 1999, joined the Center as a research team leader, but had to withdraw soon after due to serious illness. Dr. Julie Aniol, who successfully completed her two-year fellowship in July 2002, attained employment as a workplace consultant, which is consistent with her interests in mental health in the workplace. In sum, three of the above fellows were subsequently recruited as Center research team leaders when their fellowships were completed, due to their outstanding performance and the need for the expertise at the Center (Brian Giesler Ph.D., Karon Cook PhD, James Stacks PhD, Jessica Davila PhD, and LeChauncy Woodard MD, MPH).

In July 2001, Jessica Davila PhD began her appointment as an OAA funded fellow. Dr. Davila is an epidemiologist who is interested in outcomes of screening and treatment for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. Her secondary interests include utilization of treatment for patients with colorectal cancer, as well as Medicare-VA co-utilization among patients with cancer. Dr. Davila successfully completed her fellowship in November 2002 and joined the faculty at the Center. In the past year, she has presented four abstracts at national conferences, one of which received an award for Best Overall Poster at the 2002 American College of Epidemiology Meeting. Dr. Davila has also submitted two first author manuscripts, and is a co-author on three other manuscripts under review. She is also a co-author on a manuscript recently accepted for publication in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. During her fellowship, she began preparing an application for a VA Merit Review Entry Program (MREP) Career Development Award, which she was

awarded in July 2003. Dr. Davila also submitted and received VA HSR&D Pilot Funding (LIP) for her project, "Utilization of Screening for Hepatocellular Carcinoma Among Veterans."

Jennifer Kramer, PhD, MPH began the HSR&D fellowship in June 2003. She is an epidemiologist with an interest in blood borne infectious diseases, specifically hepatitis C and HIV. Dr. Kramer has submitted 3 manuscripts for publication (one as first author) and will present her research in October at a national conference. She has two manuscripts in progress (one as first author). Her fellowship plans include: understanding the principles of a well-written grant by participating in the grant-writing process of one of her mentor's projects; submit a minimum of 4 articles during fellowship and improve manuscript development skills; develop an understanding of the consultant role by providing methodological expertise in epidemiology to other investigators; submit 3 abstracts to national meetings and present at several meetings; understand funding issues such as applying for career awards and project funding as well as working with funding agencies; and better understand how to network nationally and begin to develop relationships with colleagues around the nation.

In mid-July 2003, Cayla R. Teal, PhD began her appointment as an HSR&D funded fellow. Dr. Teal is a community psychologist with research interests in measurement and design issues related to population-based culture influences on instrument development used in the assessment and management of chronic illnesses. Her fellowship plans include directed readings to advance her psychometric skills and understanding of cultural influences on measurement, development of and participation in related research projects, and the achievement of goals for manuscript submission, project presentation, and funding acquisition. In the two months since beginning her fellowship, Dr. Teal has begun co-investigator work on three projects: a national survey regarding Medicare benefits; the development of an instrument to measure symptom burden in a multi-ethnic cohort of patients with scleroderma; and a contract with NCI to evaluate five health-related quality of life measures through classic and modern psychometric methods. She has served as a co-investigator for an NIH R21 application to evaluate the psychometric properties, within racial subgroups, of an instrument designed to assess barriers to follow-up of prostate cancer screening. She has four manuscripts in preparation as first author, and a fifth that she is co-authoring regarding Veterans as a Special Population for an upcoming AJPH supplement.

Other Postdoctoral Training Programs

MIRECC Fellowship

In FY03, the South Central Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) was awarded a Special Mental Illness Research Fellowship Program in Advanced Psychology/Psychiatry. This program includes two slots per year (one for a psychologist and one for a psychiatrist) and has a health services research track and a neuroscience track. The Houston Center is proud to support the health services research track by housing those fellows in the Center, providing infrastructure support, and most importantly, providing mentoring support.

Dr. Serena Chu joined the Center in FY02 as the first psychology MIRECC fellow in the health services track. Upon completion of her fellowship in September 2003, Dr. Chu accepted a position as a program officer in the VA Office of Research & Development in Washington, DC.

In August 2002, Dr. Paul Rowan began the MIRECC Special Fellowship in Psychiatry and Psychology. He has just have entered his second year of this fellowship, and will complete the fellowship in August 2003. His interest is in the influence of psychiatric comorbidities upon treatment of chronic illness, especially through the collaborative care model. Dr. Rowan has formed a research team investigating the issue of psychiatric contraindications for interferon treatment in veterans with hepatitis C. Dr. Rowan has published one review paper (first author) and one original research study. He has in progress a qualitative study examining the views of patients and providers regarding the HCV treatment disposition process (Primary Investigator). He is also a co-investigator on a patient self-management study providing a psychoeducational intervention for patients with HCV who are undergoing interferon treatment. Dr. Rowan has two manuscripts in progress (first author). He is a co-investigator on a grant proposal examining factors associated with submitted by Marvella Ford, PhD, concerning prostate screening behavior compliance. He presented a poster at the annual MIRECC research conference, and recently submitted another abstract for review for the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) annual research conference. Dr. Rowan will also review submitted 109 abstracts for the March 2003 SBM research conference. While maintaining these research efforts, he also maintains efforts in clinical training.

David P. Graham, MD, MS started his post-doctoral fellowship in the South Central MIRECC program on 7/28/2003. His research interests include application/validity of dementia measurement scales in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), factor analysis of contributors to aggression and agitation in TBI, adverse behavioral outcomes in TBI with persistent cognitive disabilities, and resource discrepancies between need and availability in TBI. He expects a starting place for these projects to be in a TBI population located in Nursing Homes. Dr. Graham has one manuscript in preparation and another three planned for FY 03. His fellowship goals include submitting four manuscripts each year; identifying, developing, and completing a small project in TBI as a primary investigator, and developing a Career Development Award application to submit near the end of the fellowship.

Clinical Fellows

In FY03, the Houston Center participated in the training of two clinical fellows: Dr. LeChauncy Woodward and Dr. Karen Garibaldi. Both were funded through a HRSA training grant held by Dr. David Hyman at Baylor College of Medicine. Both fellows are committed to careers as health services researchers. These fellows are participating in all aspects of our post-doctoral training program and are being mentored by Center faculty.

Upon completion of her third year of fellowship being mentored at the Center, Dr. Woodard joined the Center as a team leader in April 2003. Her research interests are in quality of care, chronic disease prevention and treatment, and racial disparities in health outcomes. Dr. Woodard is principal investigator on an AHRQ-funded project grant minority supplement grant. She is also funded by a VA HSR&D Associate Investigator award. Dr. Woodard recently completed a Locally Initiated Project, "Prevalence and Costs of Chronic Conditions in the Veterans." In the past year she has submitted three manuscripts, two as first author. She has had three abstracts accepted and has presented at a national conference.

Dr Garibaldi is entering her third year of fellowship. She will complete her fellowship in June 2004. Her research interests are in the transition of children with chronic conditions from their pediatric to adult health care providers. Dr. Garibaldi completed the practicum requirement this year at the University of Texas School of Public Health. She has also completed classes in Epidemiology, Social and Cultural Aspects of Health, and Survey Methods in Epidemiology. She has two manuscripts in progress, both as first author. She has had two abstracts accepted this year and has presented her research at one conference. She is currently working on completing the thesis requirement for the MPH degree.

Other Training Programs

In FY02, as in the previous year, Houston Center received several applications and queries concerning pre-doctoral training positions. Because we do not have a funded position for pre-doctoral students, we generally cannot provide monetary support for these students unless they are eligible for minority or other supplemental funding. However, this year we have begun a new program in which we have committed small funds to initiate relationships with particularly promising students, with the understanding that Center investigators mentoring these students would obtain other sources of funding for them as soon as possible. Louise Quijano, a social worker in a behavioral science doctoral program, and Pay-Shin Lin, a public health doctoral student, has joined the Center under this initiative as formal pre-doctoral interns.

Plans to Expand Center Training Activities

Because training is an important priority, the Center plans to continue to submit grant applications to expand its training activities. To this end, the Houston Center has approved an investment in providing Dr. Snow, the education director, with a half-time assistant to aid in researching and writing training grant applications during FY 04 and FY 05. It is expected this short-term investment will lead to sustained growth for the training program.

Significant Impacts of Training Programs

The Center's OAA-funded and other training programs most significant impact is in training highly skilled independent health services researchers. This research informs both the VA system as a whole and individual health care providers in how health care in the VA can be the best in the country and efficiently provided. The Center's programs are designed to train new investigators whose research will advance knowledge and practice in the determinants of health services use, quality assessment, outcome measures of quality and effectiveness, and patient-centered care. A distinguishing feature of the

Center's research is the focus not just upon quality or utilization alone, but upon the relation between quality of care and utilization of health services. Instilling commitment to research that is not only high quality, but also can be used to improve health care for veterans and all people, is a primary objective of the Center's training programs.

Enhancement of Training Programs

Dr. Snow initiated a meeting of Directors of OAA-funded programs in Health Services Research at the 2003 VA HSR&D National Meeting. The gathering was a success both in terms of attendance and sharing of information. Directors agreed they would continue to meet annually at the national meeting. Dr. Linda Johnson, OAA director of postdoctoral programs, was also present and supportive of continuing the gathering.

7.1 Trainee Listing

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Chu, Serena PhD MA BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **9/2001** Training End Date: **9/2003**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date:
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: Hospital Name:
Current Employer Name and Location:
Current Employment Position Title:

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Garibaldi, Karen MD BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA MD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **4/2002** Training End Date:
Terminal Degree: **MD** Terminal Degree Date:
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and Location: **VA Medical Center, Houston, TX**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Graham, David MD MS BS - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA MD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **1/2003** Training End Date:
Terminal Degree: **MD** Terminal Degree Date: **5/1999**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and Location: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Kramer, Jennifer PhD MPH BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program:
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **6/2003** Training End Date: **6/2005**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date: **5/2003**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and Location: **Health Services Research & Development**
Current Employment Position Title: **Trainee**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Rowan, Paul PhD MPH M Ed - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program: **OAA PhD Postdoctoral Training Program in Health Services Research**
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **8/2002** Training End Date:
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date:
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **1**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and Location: **VA Medical Center, Houston, TX**
Current Employment Position Title: **MIRECC Special Fellowship in Psychiatry and Psychology**

Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee(s) - Houston Center of Excellence

Teal, Cayla PhD MA BA - Houston, TX

Fellow Type (original) : **HSR&D**
Project Agency ID(s) Assigned:
Title Of Original Training Program:
Title Of Dissertation:
Training Start Date: **7/2003** Training End Date: **7/2005**
Terminal Degree: **PhD** Terminal Degree Date: **3/2003**
Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of "Other" Publications (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Number of Funded Research Projects as PI or Co-Inv (since initiation of the traineeship): **0**
Post Graduation VA Employment Facility/Site ID: **580** Hospital Name: **Houston VA Medical Center**
Current Employer Name and Location: **Health Services Research & Development**
Current Employment Position Title: **Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee**