

Detroit Excellence

A Monthly Newsletter for Employees, Volunteers and Patients of the Detroit VA Medical Center



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

May 2011

2011 All Employee Survey...Make Sure your Voice is Heard!

It's that time of year...each spring, the VA asks its employees to take an anonymous survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect information on employee perceptions of the work place and their overall satisfaction at work.

This year, the survey will run April 25—May 16. All of our employees are encouraged to take the survey. Results will be summarized and reported

so that no identifiable, individual responses are reported or revealed.

"The VA All Employee Survey is a crucial tool that helps us identify and drive our efforts to develop and enhance the Detroit VAMC work

environment," said Pamela Reeves, MD, Director of the Detroit VAMC. "Results of the survey not only help our employees, but also make this medical center a better place for our Veteran patients and our volunteers."

For more information, employees should check with their supervisors.

Alysse Mengason, Public Affairs Officer



Awards and Accolades Around the Medical Center

**The Federal Executive Board's Diversity Council is pleased to name the EEO Advisory Group of the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, winner of the 7th annual "Distinguished Federal Service Diversity Team Award.

**Our congratulations to Dr. Abdulghani Sankri-Tarbichi, a physician in Pulmonary/Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, who has been accepted into

the Columbia Summer Research Institute, July 5—August 9.

**Congratulations to Dr. Adhip Majumdar who has been selected as a recipient of a Charles Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, a Wayne State University program. Dr. Majumdar is part of the 25th group of fellows in this program. The awards ceremony was held on April 28th.

PACT...Learn More!

What is PACT? A Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) is each Veteran working together with health care professionals to plan for whole-person care and life-long health and wellness.

The focus:

- **Partnerships** with Veterans
- **Access to Care** using diverse methods
- **Coordinated Care** among team members
- **Team-based Care** with Veterans as the center of their PACT

A PACT is a partnership between the patient and his or her health care team to make sure the patient receive whole-person care.

This is our PACT with you...to deliver excellence in every aspect of patient care.

www.va.gov/primarycare/pact

Now is the Time to Try My HealthVet

What's new on My HealthVet? VA patients can now see their VA Appointments on My HealthVet. If you are a Veteran enrolled at a VA health care facility, are registered on My HealthVet and have an upgraded account, you have the option to see your VA Appointments. It's quick, easy and it's free!

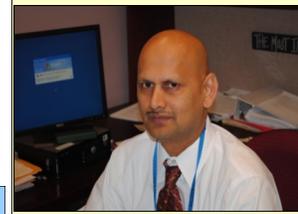


Meet the Detroit VAMC's New Deputy Chief of Staff

Raghu Matta, MD has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff of the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center. Dr. Matta joined the Detroit VA Medical Center in July 1996, as a staff physician and since August 2008 has been working as Assistant Chief of Primary Care.

He is also the VISN 11 Lead Primary Care physician and VISN 11 representative on the National Field Advisory Council. He will lead the Credentialing & Privileging department, and will be working with Utilization Management, the Patient Aligned Care Team implementation, Facility Access Teams and ECF/EPRP Performance Measure Improvement.

Congratulations, Dr. Matta!



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VA to Launch Training for Users on New Talent Management System (TMS)

Learning is becoming easier for everyone at VA.

In May 2011, VA's Learning Management System (LMS) will become the new **Talent Management System (TMS)**. With a new, easy-to-use interface and enhancements to functionality, the new system streamlines the process of accessing and completing training.

According to Dr. Reginald Vance, Director of Learning Infrastructure for VA Learning University (VALU), the new TMS is the result of a department-wide effort to expand VA's support of employees' training and development needs. "The new system simplifies LMS tasks by reorganizing the user interface in a more intuitive format that is easy to navigate," said Dr. Vance.

The improved overall user experience includes:

- *A new, easy-to-use interface with a contemporary look and feel.
- *Easier navigation to common tasks.
- *Dashboards for at-a-glance views of activity, and much more.

Training available for VA employees

VA Learning University will make training available to general users, supervisors and administrators who are not familiar with the system. Local Learning Leaders will be conducting information sessions, and instructor-led training will be provided for new administrators in 11 cities across the U.S. Videos, quick reference guides, tip sheets and other Web-based support tools will be easily accessible for all users at <http://www.INSIDELMS.va.gov>.

Participating in training will give users additional insight into the TMS and teach them how they can use it to quickly and easily accomplish learning-related tasks and activities. The training will bring users up to speed, enabling them to maneuver efficiently through the interface and take advantage of the valuable array of enhanced features.

For more information about training for the new TMS, please contact your local Learning Leader, visit <http://www.INSIDELMS.va.gov> or contact the National Training Manager, Clarence Bashshar, at clarence.bashshar@va.gov or 202-618-5527.



VA TMS. Learn. Manage. Perform.

Give the Gift of Life!

Blood Drive
Thursday, May 12, 2011,
8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Friday, May 13, 2011,
7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Recreation Room, B1290

*"...The need is constant,
 the gratification is in-
 stant."*



What is National Hospital Week?

The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about the so-called 'shrouded' institutions of the day.

Today, National Hospital Week, the nation's largest health care event, is a celebration of the history, technology and dedicated professionals that make our facilities beacons of the confidence and care.

The annual event provides advantages throughout the year including staff retention, improved recruitment, better departmental interaction, a more satisfied workplace and increased awareness throughout the community.

Lisa Olney, Public Affairs Officer

What's Happening in May?

May 2—8: Public Service Recognition Week

May 2—6: VA Research Week

May 6—12: National Nurses Week

May 8—14: National Nursing Home Week

May 8—14: National Women's Health Week

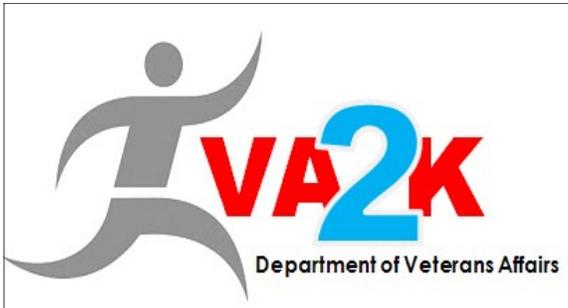
May 8—14: National Hospital Week

May 15—21: National Police Week

May 15—21: National Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Week

Get Ready to VA2K!

The VA Plans a 2K Walk on June 2nd to Support Employee Wellness



The Detroit VA Medical Center is one of the 140 VA sites around the country that will host a 2K walk and roll event on June 2, 2011, in support of employee wellness month.

“Worksite wellness activities enhance employee engagement and contribute to a more productive and healthy workforce,” said Pamela

Reeves, MD, Director, Detroit VA Medical Center. “In Detroit, we are proud to conduct this VA2K event and are committed to ensuring we have a happy and healthy workforce here to serve our Veteran community.”

The Detroit VAMC event is just one of many

2Ks taking place that day at other VA facilities across the country. Although there is no registration fee, employees and volunteers participating in the event are asked to donate an item for a homeless Veteran.

The Detroit VAMC 2K will be held at the medical center, with the walk course circling the facility. The times are 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. In the

event of inclement weather, the 2K will be held inside the facility or postponed. Pre-registration is not required.

VA’s employee wellness program is known as WIN (Wellness is Now). WIN empowers employees with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to create a culture of health and wellness. The group encourages employees to use their appreciation of wellness to inspire Veterans to live healthier lifestyles.

Suggested Donation Items for the VA2K

Gift cards/ Bus tickets/ Phone cards
New Clothing (Coats, Underwear, Socks,
Jogging suits, winter hats)
VA Canteen Books/ Toiletry items/ New
Boots/shoes

Lab Staff Holds Mascot Contest

The week of April 24 – 30, 2011 was marked all over the country as “National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week”.

In celebration of this week, the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service Safety Committee held a “Build-A-Lab-Mascot” contest on Tuesday, April 26. Teams were charged with building or creating a lab mascot using disposable items in the laboratory. The contest was designed to promote friendly competition and camaraderie amongst the various departments. Five entries were submitted, and according to lab staff, each entry was amazing! The creative juices were flowing in the lab!

The winners:

- 1st place: “Scopy the Microscope”, with team members Lena Anaia, Yamini Patel, Jeff McKinney and Maria Bonot

- 2nd place: “Debbie Didit”, with team members Audrey Kocsis, Patricia Byrnes, Cathy Hadjini-cola, and Denise Rohde
- 3rd Place: “Palms Healing Train”, with team members Sandra Falk, Vicky Massey-Merritt and Brenda Nance
- Honorable Mentions: “Label Lion”, with team member Patricia Ells-berry and “Autopsy Safety Assistant, Mr. Gross”, with team members Althea Hence, Raymond Ross, Larry Flowers and David Davis.

A great time was had by all and PALMS is planning for a bigger and better competition next year!

Teri Caine, Medical Technologist



“...According to the lab staff, each entry was amazing!”

Teri Caine, Medical Technologist, Detroit VA Medical Center

Detroit VAMC Employee of the Month, May 2011



Sandra Cox and her team, along with the Director and Associate Director

The April 2011 Employee of the Month is Sandra Cox.

Sandra was nominated and selected for her exceptional dedication and the numerous occasions she has gone beyond the call of duty.

Sandra joined the Detroit VAMC team in June 2001, and her current role is supply technician in the Facilities Group. According to an employee at the facility, “Sandra goes above and beyond her job every day. She has a positive outlook on everything she does and all of the employees that

interact with her know that their request will be done timely and correctly. Sandra is always looking for ways to help her fellow employees, she will work side by side with anyone to make sure that their needs are filled. Sandra is a total asset not only to Facilities but to the entire medical center.”

The Detroit VAMC is fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed employee!

More information on how to nominate an Employee of the Month can be found in policy 001HR-18.

Healthy Living Corner



The Healthy Living Message for May: Be Physically Active!

People of all ages benefit from physical activity. Your activity doesn't have to be strenuous for you to benefit. Some physical activity is better than none, and adults who participate in any amount of physical activity gain some health benefits. All adults should avoid inactivity.

Walking is a good form of exercise. Remember to start slowly. Talk with your primary care provider before you start any new physical activity.

Being active can help in the following ways:

- Control weight
- Keep your heart strong
- Improve your blood pressure
- Decrease your risk of stroke
- Keep your bones, muscles and joints healthy
- Relieve anxiety and depression

The bottom line – Physical activity can help you feel better and enjoy life more!

*Belinda Brown-Tezera, FNP, MSN, MBA
Acting Health Promotion Disease Prevention
Program Manager*

Be a Detroit Excellence Contributor!

Detroit Excellence wants to feature the news YOU want to read! If you have a story to contribute, please email:
alysse.mengason@va.gov
 or lisa.olney@va.gov

Follow the Detroit VA Medical Center on Facebook and Twitter!

We are reaching out to our Veterans, their families, our volunteers and our staff, providing them with good information on programs and services.

Have you visited our pages? Make sure you tell friends and family!

