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News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA to Highlight Medical Advancements in Research

*Two members of Congress to address Veterans, staff and volunteers
on 'Research Day', Friday, May 22, 2015*

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is celebrating 90 years of research excellence during National VA Research Week, May 18-22, 2015.

As part of the nationwide observance, the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit will hold a Research Day event on Friday, May 22, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – Noon in the medical center multi-purpose room, B1290.

Both Congressman John Conyers (MI 13th District) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI 12th District) will speak on the importance of VA research and how it impacts Veterans each day.

"VA research is a national asset that benefits our patients and the entire nation by moving medical science forward," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Detroit VA Medical Center Director.

"VA investigators have played key roles in developing devices and techniques that revolutionized health care – including the cardiac pacemaker, the CAT scan, Shingles vaccine, liver and kidney transplants, and much more. Today, VA is a leader in many areas of research, such as AIDS, mental health, genomics, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases, and spinal cord injury."

VA conducts biomedical, rehabilitation, clinical, and health services research – as well as large, multi-center clinical trials – at more than 100 VA medical centers across the country.

"Many people, particularly the tens of thousands of Veterans we serve in this area, don't know this, but we currently have 32 clinical and 25 laboratory-based research projects

going on at this medical center,” said Dr. Glenn Kaatz, Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the Detroit VA. “Right now, our projects include the study of colon cancer and diabetes, conditions that are quite prevalent in the Veteran population. These studies are designed to better understand these diseases, with the hope of not only improved treatment options but also improvements in prevention.”

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location on John R. in Detroit. One of the newer VA facilities in the country, we consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.

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