



## CHERP Veterans Community Advisory (VCAB)

The Philadelphia CHERP VCAB was formed in May 2017 to promote Veteran engagement and incorporate Veteran perspectives in research at VA. The VCAB seeks to improve the design of patient-relevant research, increase uptake of research into practice, build Veteran support for research, and restore trust in VA.

### Some of the things the VCAB does:

- Offer Veteran viewpoints about care experiences, preferences and priorities
- Strategize for Veteran-centered research, particularly health equity research
- Write letters of support for Veteran-focused projects
- Provide insight for recruitment and study info materials, and identify research partners
- Assist with Veteran engagement and education

The VCAB is designed to represent the vulnerable communities central to CHERP's health equity research mission (e.g. Veterans from ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ Veterans, women Veterans, homeless Veterans, Veterans with stigmatizing social, mental and physical conditions, etc.).

### How do I get involved?

[www.cherp.research.va.gov](http://www.cherp.research.va.gov)

[www.prefresearch.org](http://www.prefresearch.org)

# CHERP

VETERANS COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY BOARD



Philadelphia Research and  
Education Foundation

# VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center

3900 Woodland Avenue,  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

(800) 949-1001

<https://www.va.gov/philadelphia-health-care/>

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

# Participating In Research Is Important

*Center For Health Equity Research  
and Promotion (CHERP)*

*Veterans Community Advisory  
Board (VCAB)*





## Why It Matters

VA Research is unique because it focuses on health issues affecting Veterans. The Veterans Health Administration is the nation's largest health care system and VA Research is viewed by many experts as a model for rigorous, impactful research. VA researchers address a wide range of issues that affect the lives of Veterans and their families.

- New prescription drugs
- Prosthetic devices
- Equitable health care

The achievements of VA researchers, most of whom also provide patient care to Veterans, have resulted in three Nobel Prizes, seven Lasker Awards, and many other distinctions in the medical and scientific communities.



## Is Participating In Research For You?

Veterans who participate in VA research are able to:

- Give back to their Veteran community
- Support valued VA services
- Share their important stories to improve access to care

*"It was a great relief to share some of those things. I thought it would be hard, but, no, it has actually been a relief. I think it was helpful. And it makes me think about seeking more help"*

*– Research Participant*

**VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) has four research and development divisions:**

### **Biomedical Laboratory R&D**

This division performs preclinical research for diseases affecting Veterans. Preclinical research is a first level phase to gather information and form theories for treatment.

### **Clinical Science R&D**

This division focuses on clinical trials and other research involving human volunteers to study new treatments, compare existing therapies, and improve clinical practice and care.

### **Health Services R&D**

This division focuses on the delivery of new research products to Veterans in a health care setting.

### **Rehabilitation R&D**

This division is dedicated to rehabilitation. They work with disabled Veterans to restore movement and independence.

## VA Needs You

VA researchers study the full spectrum of health issues impacting our nation's Veterans. Below are examples of high priority topics.

### **Chronic Diseases**

Chronic disease management is important for Veteran Health. Researchers are focusing on cardiovascular, diabetic, and arthritic care strategies, to name a few.

### **Prosthetics and Amputation Care**

VA researchers are designing and testing prosthetic devices that are lighter, more natural, and more functional than existing models.

### **Veteran Homelessness**

Stable Housing is a pillar in determining good health. VA has included housing research in its strategic plan.

### **Mental Health**

Access to mental health services is a very important to VA. Education surrounding substance abuse, PTSD, anxiety and depression are available for Veterans.

### **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans**

Because prevention services are more effective than reaction, VA researchers are working to reduce psychological and physical pain for Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the most recent conflict in US history.

### **Health for Women Veterans**

The number of women Veterans using VA resources is growing. Therefore VA is dedicating more resources to accommodate the needs of women Veterans seeking services through VA, like fertility and infertility care.

### **LGBTQ+**

VA is committed to providing comprehensive health care to the LGBTQ+ Veterans by investing time and resources into research for this underserved community.