VA’s Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) leverages innovative scientific methods—paired with a deep understanding of Veterans’ preferences and needs—to accelerate evidence into practice and improve the quality and safety of care delivered to Veterans.

QUERI’s strategic methodology for knowledge translation is three-fold:

- Implement and sustain effective practices across various health settings, especially in sites with demonstrated gaps in quality or outcomes.
- Conduct rigorous evaluations in partnership with national and regional health system leaders to optimize programs and policies affecting Veterans.
- Promote the application of implementation and quality improvement science to real-world practice across the translation spectrum.

One of QUERI’s unique roles in the VA is the establishment, deployment, and evaluation of implementation or quality improvement strategies, which are highly-specified, theory-based methods designed to promote the uptake of effective practices among existing frontline providers. Since 1998, QUERI has led a national network of centers devoted to identifying effective practices, implementing them in routine care settings, and rigorously evaluating the results of these efforts to inform VA policy and practice. QUERI’s 200+ experts in health services research implement and evaluate effective practices that address cross-cutting key strategic areas in healthcare, including: population health, care coordination, safety and quality, virtual care, personalized care, behavioral health, access, and health equity.
These 14 academically-affiliated, interdisciplinary centers scale-up and spread effective practices across VA.

### Behavioral Health QUERI: Advancing 21st Century Mental Health Care for Veterans
*Principal Investigators:* Sara Landes, PhD; Christopher Miller, PhD

### Bridging the Care Continuum for Vulnerable Veterans across VA and Community Care
*Principal Investigators:* Keith McNees, ScD; Amanda Midboe, PhD; Rani Elwy, PhD; David Smelson, PsyD

### Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through Rapid Implementation of Available Guidelines and Evidence (CARRIAGE)
*Principal Investigators:* Michael Rubin, MD; Charlesnka Evans, PhD; Makoto Jones, MD; Eli Perencevich, MD

### Dynamic Diffusion Network
*Principal Investigators:* George Jackson, PhD; Matthew Crowley, MD; Sarah Cutrona, MD; Jason Nieuwsma, PhD

### Enhancing Mental and Physical Health of Women through Engagement and Retention (EMPOWER)
*Principal Investigators:* Alison Hamilton, PhD; Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD; Melissa Farmer, PhD; Tannaz Moin, MD

### EXpanding expertise Through E-health Network Development (EXTEND)
*Principal Investigators:* Teresa Damush, PhD; Dawn Bravata, MD; Alan McGuire, PhD; Linda Williams, MD

### Improving Care for Complex, High-Risk Patients in Primary Care (RIVET)
*Principal Investigators:* Evelyn Chang, MD; Ashok Reddy, MD; Ann-Marie Rosland, MD; Susan Stockdale, PhD

### Implementation Facilitation
*Principal Investigator:* JoAnn Kirchner, MD

### Designing for Dissemination and Implementation
*Principal Investigator:* Catherine Battaglia, PhD

### Leadership Training for Applying Improvement Strategies
*Principal Investigator:* Kyler Godwin, PhD

### Implementing the Age-Friendly Health System in VHA: Using Evidence-based Practice to Improve Outcomes in Older Adults
*Principal Investigators:* Robert Burke, MD; Judith Long, MD; Rachel M. Werner, MD; Daniel Hall, MD

### Maintaining Implementation through Dynamic Adaptations (MIDAS)
*Principal Investigators:* Laura Damschroder, MS, MPH; Jacob Kurlander, MD; Jeremy Sussman, MD; Paul Pfeiffer, MD

### Measurement Science
*Principal Investigators:* Mary Whooley, MD; Tonya Kaltenbach, MD; Gabriela Schmajuk, MD; Beth Cohen, MD

### Optimizing Function and Independence
*Principal Investigators:* S. Nicole Hastings, MD; Courtney Van Houtven, PhD; Kelli Allen, PhD

### Preferences Elicited and Respected for Seriously-Ill Veterans through Enhanced Decision-Making (PERSIVED)
*Principal Investigators:* Cari Levy, MD; Mary Ersek, PhD, RN

### Value-Based Care to Improve the Quadruple Aim for Veterans and Stakeholders
*Principal Investigators:* Catherine Battaglia, PhD; Michael Ho, MD; Joseph Frank, MD

### Virtual Care QUERI Program: Implementation of Technology Facilitated Evidence Based Practices to Improve Access to High Quality Care for Rural Veterans
*Principal Investigators:* John Fortney, PhD; Heather Reisinger, PhD; Carolyn Turvey, PhD

### Consortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (CONDUIT)
*Principal Investigators:* William Becker, MD; Evelyn Chang, MD; Joseph Frank, MD; Adam Gordon, MD; Amanda Midboe, PhD; David Moore, MD, PhD; Hilary Mosher, MD; Marc Rosen, MD; Steve Zeliadt, PhD
*VISN Partners:* 1, 7, 19, 20, 22, 23

### Implementing Caring Contacts for Suicide Prevention in Non-Mental Health Settings
*Principal Investigator:* Sara Landes, PhD
*VISN Partners:* 5, 6, 12, 16, 17, 19, 22, 23

### Implementing Critical Time Intervention to Enhance Care Coordination for Homeless-Experienced Veterans
*Principal Investigator:* Sonya Gabrielian, MD
*VISN Partner:* 22

### QUERI-VISN Partnered Implementation Initiatives
Focused on regional scale up and spread of effective practices, these partnered initiatives are addressing healthcare priorities selected by Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) regional leadership.

### Implementation Strategy Learning Hubs
Learning Hubs give researchers, providers and other frontline staff, and clinical operations leaders the opportunity to learn how to deploy effective practices using implementation and quality improvement science methods.

### Adaptation
*Principal Investigator:* Mary Whooley, MD

### Evidence-Based Quality Improvement
*Principal Investigator:* Alison Hamilton, PhD

### Frontline Huddling for Quality Improvement
*Principal Investigator:* Christine Hartmann, PhD

### Consortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (CONDUIT)
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*VISN Partner:* 22

### Leadership Training for Applying Improvement Strategies
*Principal Investigator:* Kyler Godwin, PhD

*Principal Investigator:* Laura Damschroder, MS, MPH
QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiatives work with clinical operations leaders to conduct time-sensitive national and regional evaluations, and optimize programs and policies that affect Veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Principal Investigator(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Center for the Evaluation of Enterprise-Wide Initiatives</td>
<td>Heather Reisinger, PhD</td>
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<td>Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center</td>
<td>Stephanie Taylor, PhD</td>
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<td>Dual Use of Medications (DUAL)</td>
<td>Walid Gellad, MD</td>
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<td>eHealth Partnered Evaluation Initiative</td>
<td>Timothy Hogan, PhD</td>
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<td>Enhancing Veterans' Access to Care through Video Telehealth Tablets</td>
<td>Donna Zulman, MD</td>
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<td>Evaluating the Implementation of Patient Safety Practices to Ensure Timely, High-Quality Community Care for Veterans</td>
<td>Amy Rosen, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluating the Implementation of the VA Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train-the-Trainer (SCOUTT) Program</td>
<td>Eric Hawkins, PhD</td>
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<td>Improving Implementation of Pharmacogenetic Testing in the VA Healthcare System</td>
<td>Corrine Voils, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluating VA Patient-Centered Care</td>
<td>Barbara Bokhour, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluating Implementation of a National Point-of-Care Ultrasound Training Program</td>
<td>Nilam Soni, MD</td>
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<td>Evaluation of Implementing FLOW in VISN 19: Transitioning Stabilized Mental Health Patients to Management in Primary Care</td>
<td>Natalie Hundt, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluation of a National VA Organizational Structure Redesign</td>
<td>Justin Benzer, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the National Implementation of the VA Diffusion of Excellence Initiative on Advanced Care Planning with Group Visits</td>
<td>Monica Matthieu, PhD</td>
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<td>Examining the Effectiveness of an Adaptive Implementation Intervention to Improve Uptake of the VA Suicide Risk Identification Strategy</td>
<td>Nazanin Bahraini, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitation of the Stepped Care Model and Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder</td>
<td>Adam Gordon, MD</td>
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<td>FLOW3: DOE Gold Status Practice–Enterprise Wide Diffusion</td>
<td>Michael Ho, MD; Chelsea Leonard, PhD</td>
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<td>Evaluating the National Implementation of Virtual Interdisciplinary Pain Care Teams—TelePain</td>
<td>Jessica Chen, PhD</td>
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<td>Integrating Rapid Cycle Evaluation to Improve Cerner Implementation</td>
<td>Seppo Rinne, MD; George Sayre, PsyD</td>
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<td>Office of Health Equity-QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center</td>
<td>Donna Washington, MD</td>
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<td>Partnered Implementation Evaluation of a National Sponsorship Program for Transitioning Service Members</td>
<td>Joseph Geraci, PhD</td>
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<td>Shannon Munro, PhD</td>
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<td>Randomized Evaluation of a Caring Letters Suicide Prevention Campaign</td>
<td>Mark Reger, PhD</td>
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<td>Reducing VA Healthcare-Associated Infections through Antibiotic Stewardship (RAISE)</td>
<td>Nasia Safdar, MD</td>
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<td>Social Work Effectiveness for Rural Veterans Evaluation (SERVE)</td>
<td>Portia Cornell, PhD</td>
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<td>Spreading Healthcare Access, Activities, Research and Knowledge (SHAARK)</td>
<td>George L. Jackson, PhD; Laura Damschroder, MS, MPH; Sarah Cutrona, MD</td>
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<td>TeleWound Practice Partnered Evaluation Initiative</td>
<td>Frances Weaver, PhD; Bella Etingen, PhD</td>
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<td>Using Data-Driven Implementation Strategies to Improve the Quality of Cirrhosis Care</td>
<td>Shari Rogal, MD</td>
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<td>VA Caregiver Support Evaluation Center</td>
<td>Courtney Van Houtven, PhD</td>
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QUERI Resource Centers

Center for Evaluation and Implementation Resources (CEIR)  
CEIR provides rapid consultation and support to VA operational leaders to enable scale up and spread of evidence-based policies and clinical practices.  
Director: Nicholas Bowersox, PhD, ABP

Partnered Evidence-based Policy Resource Center (PEPReC)  
PEPReC provides rigorous data analysis to support the development and sustainability of policy, planning, and management initiatives.  
Director: Austin Frakt, PhD
Supporting VA’s Transformation to a Learning Health System

Implementation strategies are crucial for supporting VA’s efforts to achieve and sustain core features common to Learning Health Systems and High-Reliability Organizations. By promoting state-of-the-art methods that align organizational priorities with frontline provider engagement, QUERI drives adoption of effective practices that achieve the best possible outcomes within a sustainable cost.

- **Rapid peer-review process to ensure methodologic rigor.** QUERI centers undergo a rigorous scientific review process and are nationally recognized as peer-reviewed scholarship through NIH Reporter.
- **Investigator expertise in VHA data systems.** QUERI analysts have operational access to VA’s Corporate Data Warehouse, All Employee Survey data, and other VA data sources.
- **Tools and trained staff to support primary data collection on patient care and organizational readiness.** QUERI investigators work with operations partners to build data collection at the beginning of program implementation in order to assess the program impact on care experience, access, coordination, and employee engagement.
- **Methods expertise.** QUERI centers assess the effectiveness of a program or policy using rigorous and practical study designs (e.g., cluster-randomized, stepped-wedge).

QUERI Implementation Roadmap

Grounded in the Learning Health System framework, the QUERI Implementation Roadmap drives the adoption of high value research innovations by empowering frontline providers, researchers, administrators, health system leaders, and Veterans and their families to come together and identify, deploy, and sustain data-driven solutions that advance Veteran care and ultimately improve Veteran health and quality of life.

QUERI funding opportunities are available for VA-affiliated investigators and clinicians. QUERI also offers implementation and knowledge translation support and learning opportunities to practitioners and researchers. To learn more, contact:

Melissa Braganza, MPH
QUERI Program Manager
VA Health Services Research & Development
Email: vacoqueri@va.gov

www.queri.research.va.gov