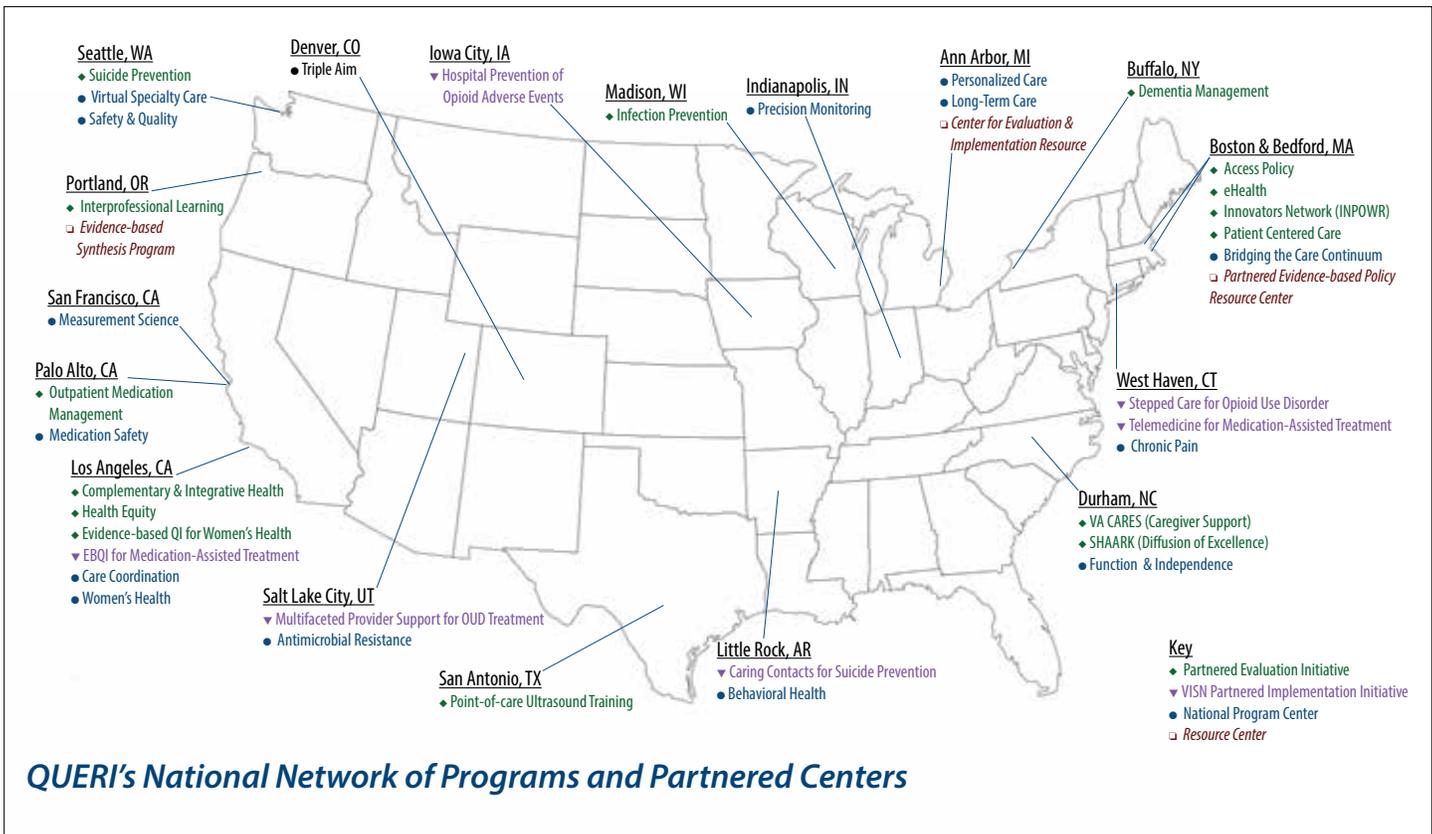


VA HSR&D Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI)

Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH, *Director*

VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) leverages innovative scientifically-supported quality improvement (QI) methods—paired with a deep understanding of Veterans' preferences and needs—to implement research findings rapidly into practice and improve the quality and safety of care delivered to Veterans. By linking nationally-recognized researchers embedded in the healthcare system with VA clinical and operations partners, QUERI optimizes the implementation of best practices across a variety of healthcare settings.



QUERI's mission is three-fold:

- Implement evidence-based practices (EBPs) rapidly into routine care;
- Increase the impact of research findings through bi-directional partnerships and rigorous evaluations; and
- Promote implementation science and support VA's transformation to a Learning Healthcare System.

Since 1998, QUERI has funded over 360 independently-reviewed, scientific studies that have informed national implementation of major clinical initiatives in VA. QUERI's national network of 200+ experts in health services research implement quality improvement (QI) initiatives 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.

How does QUERI support implementation of best practices?

QUERI supports more than 40 VA National Program, Partnered Evaluation, Implementation Strategy Training Network Hub, and QUERI-VISN Partnered Implementation Initiative centers across the U.S. that focus on enhancing the uptake of effective practices. In addition, QUERI includes:

- **Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP).** ESP centers identify best practices for implementation through timely, targeted evidence syntheses.
- **Center for Evaluation and Implementation Resources (CEIR).** CEIR provides rapid consultation and support to VA operational leaders to enable scale up and spread of effective policies and clinical practices.
- **Partnered Evidence-based Policy Resource Center (PEPReC).** PEPReC provides rigorous data analysis to support the development and sustainability of high-priority policy, planning, and management initiatives.

National Program Network

QUERI's national network of 15 academically-affiliated, interdisciplinary programs develops the best methods to scale up and spread evidence-based practices across VA.

Bridging the Care Continuum for Vulnerable Populations

Principal Investigators: Allen Gifford, MD; Keith McInnes, ScD, MPH; Amanda Midboe, PhD; and David Smelson, PsyD

Operational Partners: VA's Clinical Public Health Group; VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans; Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Program; and the Office of Health Equity.

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through Rapid Implementation of Available Guidelines and Evidence

Principal Investigators: Michael Rubin, MD, PhD; Charlesnika Evans, MPH, PhD; and Eli Perencevich, MD, MS

Operational Partners: National Infectious Diseases Service; Multi-Drug Resistant Organism Program Office; National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS); and the VA Antimicrobial Stewardship Task Force.

Enhancing Mental and Physical Health of Women through Engagement and Retention

Principal Investigators: Alison Hamilton, PhD; Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD and Tannaz Moin, MD

Operational Partners: Women's Health Services; Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Mental Health Services; Primary Care-Mental Health Integration; and Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation.

Implementing Goals of Care Conversations with Veterans in VA Long-Term Care Settings

Principal Investigators: Anne Sales, PhD, RN; Mary Ersek, PhD; and Orna Intrator, PhD

Principal Operational Partners: VA Geriatrics and Extended Care; VACO GEC Operations; National Center for Ethics in Health Care; and the Office of Nursing Services.

Improving Pain-Related Outcomes for Veterans

Principal Investigators: William Becker, MD; Alicia Heapy, PhD; and Amanda Midboe, PhD

Operational Partners: VHA Pain Management; Primary Care Services; and Pharmacy Benefits Management.

Improving Patient-Centered Care Coordination for High-Risk Veterans in PACT

Principal Investigators: David Ganz, MD, PhD; Kristina Cordasco, MD, MPH, MSHS; and Michael Ong, MD, PhD

Operational Partners: Primary Care Services; Office of Quality, Safety and Value; Geriatrics and Extended Care; Access and Clinic Administration Program; and the Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations.

Improving Safety and Quality through Evidence-Based De-Implementation of Ineffective Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Principal Investigators: David Au, MD; Christian Helfrich, PhD; and Christine W. Hartmann, PhD

Operational Partners: Pharmacy Benefits Management Services and Specialty Care.

Measurement Science

Principal Investigators: Mary Whooley, MD; Rebecca Brown, MD, MPH; Tonya Kaltenbach, MD, MAS; and Karen Seal, MD, MPH

Operational Partners: Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence, Primary Care Services; Patient Care Services; VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI); Specialty Care/Gastroenterology; Cardiology; Mental Health; Integrated Healthcare; and Geriatrics and Extended Care.

Optimizing Appropriate Use of Medications for Veterans

Principal Investigators: Paul Heidenreich, MD, MS and Mary Goldstein, MD

Operational Partners: VA Office of Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM); VISN 21 Pharmacy Benefits Management (VISN 21 PBM); VA Office of Primary Care Services (PCS); and the VA Office of Specialty Care Services (SCS).

Optimizing Function and Independence

Investigators: Nicole Hastings, MD; Courtney Van Houtven, PhD; Kelli Allen, PhD; and Virginia Wang, PhD

Principal Operational Partners: VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC); VA Caregiver Support Program; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services; Office of VA Voluntary Services; and the VA Mid-Atlantic Healthcare Network.

Personalizing Options through Veteran Engagement

Principal Investigators: Julie Lowery, PhD; Angela Fagerlin, PhD; and Ann-Marie Rosland, MD, MS

Operational Partners: National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Primary Care Services; and the Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence.

Precision Monitoring to Transform Care

Principal Investigators: Teresa Damush, PhD; Dawn Bravata, MD; Salomeh Keyhani, MD; and Linda Williams, MD

Operational Partners: Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence; Inpatient Evaluation Center; Office of Specialty Care Services; National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; VA Telehealth Services; and Veterans Engineering Resource Center.

Team-Based Behavioral Health

Principal Investigators: JoAnn Kirchner, MD and Mark Bauer, MD

Operational Partners: VA Patient Care Services—Mental Health, Mental Health Operations, and Public Health; and the Office of Health Equity.

Triple Aim

Principal Investigators: Catherine Battaglia, PhD; Michael Ho, MD; Paul Hess, MD; and Joseph Frank, MD

Operational Partners: Office of Specialty Care Services; VHA Pain Management; National Cardiology Program and CART; Office of Analytics and Business Intelligence; Quality, Safety and Value; Office of Rural Health; Pharmacy Benefits Management Services.

Virtual Specialty Care: Improving Access to High-Quality Specialty Care for Rural Veterans

Principal Investigators: John Fortney, PhD and Carolyn Turvey, PhD

Operational Partners: Office of Rural Health; VA Telehealth Services; and Connected Health.

Partnered Evaluation Initiatives

QUERI Partnered Evaluations work closely with 20+ VA operations leaders to provide clinical-level expertise and conduct time-sensitive national evaluations of policies & programs, enhancing program design and rollout for continuous innovation and improvement.

Action-Oriented Evaluation of Inter-Professional Learning Efforts in the CoEPCE and IAPACT Environments

Principal Investigator: Anais Tuepker, PhD, MPH

Building Implementation Science for VA Healthcare-Associated Infection Prevention

Principal Investigator: Nasia Safdar, MD, PhD

Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center

Principal Investigators: Stephanie L. Taylor, PhD and A. Rani Elwy, PhD

eHealth Partnered Evaluation Initiative

Principal Investigator: Timothy Hogan, PhD

Effects of Intensive Outpatient Management Programs on Medication-Related Outcomes for High-Risk Patients

Principal Investigator: Jean Yoon, PhD

Evaluating Evidence-Based Quality Improvement of Comprehensive Women's Health Care in Low-Performing VA Facilities

Principal Investigators: Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH and Alison Hamilton, PhD, MPH

Evaluating VA Patient-Centered Care

Principal Investigator: Barbara Bokhour, PhD

Innovators Network-Population factors, Organizational capacity, Workflow and Resources

Principal Investigator: Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH; Anais Tuepker, PhD, MPH; George Jackson, PhD, MHA; and Anita Vashi, MD, MPH, MHS

National Point-of-Care Ultrasound Training Program

Principal Investigator: Nilam J. Soni, MD, MS

Office of Health Equity-QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center

Principal Investigator: Donna Washington, MD, MPH

Partnered Evaluation of the Clinic Management Training Program/Center for Access Policy Evaluation and Research

Principal Investigator: Allen Gifford, MD

Randomized Evaluation of a Caring Letters Suicide Prevention Campaign for Service Members Transitioning to Civilian Life

Principal Investigator: Mark Reger, PhD

Spreading Healthcare Access, Activities, Research and Knowledge

Principal Investigator: George L. Jackson, PhD; Laura Damschroder, MS, MPH; and Sarah Cutrona, MD, MPH

Sustaining STAR-VA: Partnered Evaluation of Veteran, Implementation and Facility Factors Contributing to Positive Sustained Outcomes to Inform Ongoing Program Implementation

Principal Investigator: Kim Curyto, PhD

VA Caregiver Support Evaluation Center

Principal Investigator: Courtney Van Houtven, PhD

QUERI Resource Centers

Center for Evaluation and Implementation Resources

Director: Nicholas Bowersox, PhD, ABPP

Evidence-based Synthesis Program

Director: Mark Helfand, MD, MPH, MS

Partnered Evidence-Based Policy Resource Center

Principal Investigator: Austin Frakt, PhD

QUERI Opportunities

QUERI funding opportunities are available for VA-affiliated investigators, and clinicians through the VA Office of Research and Development.

How does QUERI support VA's transformation to a learning healthcare system?

Implementation strategies are crucial for supporting VA's efforts to achieve core features common to Learning Health Care Systems and High-Reliability Health Care 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 are subject to 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 Partnered Evaluations assess the efficacy of a program using rigorous and practical study designs (e.g., cluster-randomized, stepped-wedge).

The QUERI Process

QUERI utilizes a six-step process to diagnose gaps in quality/system performance and to identify and implement interventions to address them.

1. Identify priority conditions and opportunities for improving the health of Veterans.
2. Identify effective practices for improving outcomes for priority conditions.
3. Examine variations in existing practices, the sources of variation, and their relation to health outcomes.
4. Identify and test interventions to improve the delivery of best practices.
5. Evaluate the feasibility, adoption, and impact of coordinated improvement programs to spread best practices.
6. Evaluate the effects of improvement programs on Veterans' health outcomes, including quality of life.

How Do I Learn More?

For more information, contact:

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

www.queri.research.va.gov