

FAQ's on VA Research Website:

Q/ What should I do if I get invited to give an interview?

A/ Health care and medical research are some of the most widely covered topics reported by local and national media. Media interviews enable our clinicians and investigators to promote and share VA success stories with potentially thousands of readers and viewers. This has tremendous benefits for the VA and its employees. However, before conducting interviews, please refer all media queries to the Atlanta VAMC Public Affairs Office, 404-417-5385/ gregory.kendall@va.gov. Mr. Kendall will work with you to expedite your request and to ensure that the topic of the interview does not require guidance from the office of the VA Secretary (enabling all VAMCs to speak with one voice). In most cases, local media requests are approved at the medical center level, however national and international media requests must be cleared by VACO and can take a couple of days before final approval.

Q/ How do I appropriately cite the VA in my publications?

A/ The complete policy statement on "Presentation of Research Results" can be found in Handbook 1200.19 (http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1766). While the investigator is encouraged to review this handbook in its entirety, segments from the handbook that are frequently referenced are abstracted below.

1. PROCEDURES FOR ACKNOWLEDGING VA RESEARCH SUPPORT AND VA EMPLOYMENT

a. **Acknowledgement of VA Research Support.** All publications and presentations of VA research results must contain the following (or equivalent) acknowledgement:

(1) "This material is based upon work supported (or supported in part) by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Research and Development" (add as applicable Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development, Clinical Sciences Research and Development including the Cooperative Studies Program, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, and Health Services Research and Development).

(2) If VA provided no direct research funding, but the research involved the use of other VA resources (e.g., facilities or patients), the publications, or presentations must contain a similar acknowledgement. For example, "This material is the result of work supported with resources and the use of facilities at the (name and location of VA medical center)."

b. **Acknowledgement of VA Employment.** Authors of clinical and research manuscripts, abstracts, books, book chapters, and presentations must acknowledge their employment using the following format: "VA Title, VA Service, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, City, and State."

(1) When the author also holds a faculty appointment, the academic title and school also may be acknowledged.

(2) When the Principal Investigator (PI) has a 5/8ths or more VA appointment, VA must be named first, regardless whether VA is the primary source of funding or where the funds are administered.

(3) Authors or presenters of research results are required to list VA employment first if any of the following conditions apply:

- (a) Work was funded primarily from VA resources (50 percent or more), either directly or indirectly;
- (b) The research was conducted primarily in VA facilities; or
- (c) The first author was a junior scientist (e.g., resident, fellow trainee) whose salary may not have been provided by VA, but who primarily used VA funding or facilities, or whose mentor or supervisor was primarily employed or funded by VA.

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e. **Disclaimer Requirement.** Publications or presentations must include a disclaimer stating that the contents do not represent the views of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government.

Q/ Do I need to notify the VA about my publications?

A/ Yes. As of Oct. 1, 2011, all VA investigators are required to upload notifications about upcoming publications, presentations, media interviews, and other professional activities to PubTracker. This system replaces the email-notification system that had been in use. The link can only be accessed via the VA intranet: <https://vaww.ord.portal.va.gov/sites/comm/PubTracker/Pages/default.aspx>