

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
7400 Merton Minter Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas 78229-4404

RESEARCH SERVICE
MEMORANDUM 07-38

June 18, 2007

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY
ASSURANCE FOR RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. PURPOSE: To outline the policy and procedures for the analysis of research productivity and quality assurance for research publications.

2. POLICY: Productive research, both basic and clinical, is critical to the mission of the STVHCS. Periodic formal analysis of the productivity of the STVHCS research program as a whole, and of individual research investigators, is necessary for the continued building and maintenance of a productive research program, and for strategic planning purposes. Furthermore, it is important that the productivity of STVHCS Research Program be evident at the national level. As such, acknowledgement of Department of Veterans Affairs research support and employment should be provided in the publications of VA researchers as per VHA Handbook 1200.19: Presentation of Research Results. The Research and Development (R&D) Committee, per VHA Handbook 1200.1, provides quality assurance related to research publications.

3. ACTION:
 - a. The STVHCS research investigator is responsible to maintain a productive research program, including the procurement of funding for research activities, and the publication of results related to the research. The investigator is responsible to provide appropriate credit to VHA in all research publications.
 - b. The ACOS for R&D and the STVHCS Research Office are responsible for performing the annual assessment of research productivity and quality assurance evaluation related to research publications.
 - (1) Annually, the Research office will solicit information from each VA research investigator related to research activities, including current and past funding and publications.
 - (2) The ACOS for R&D, or his designee, will perform the research productivity analysis based on research funding, research publications and their impact, collaborations, and mentorship. For investigators who have assigned research space at the STVHCS, these data will be collected as part of the Research Space Utilization analysis, the results of which are evaluated by the Research Space Utilization Subcommittee (see Research Service Memorandum 05-28), and reported to the R&D Committee. For investigators who do not have research space assigned at the STVHCS, the results of the analysis will be reported directly to the R&D Committee.

(3) The ACOS for R&D, or his designee, will evaluate each research publication to assess the acknowledgement of VA support and affiliation in the publication. The results of the quality assurance evaluation, including any identified non-compliance with VHA Handbook 1200.19, will be communicated to the R&D Committee.

c. The R&D Committee is responsible to review the annual research productivity analysis and the quality assurance evaluation related to research publications, and to make recommendations for appropriate action.

(1) The R&D Committee will communicate the results of the quality assurance evaluation to the investigator and insure compliance with policy. The R&D Committee will consider termination of research activities and suspension of funding if there is evidence of serious or ongoing non-compliance with the policy.

4. REFERENCES: VHA handbook 1200.19: Presentation of Research Results
VHA handbook 1200.1: The Research and Development (R&D) Committee Handbook
Research Service Memorandum 05-28: Research Space Utilization

5. RESPONSIBILITY: Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (151)

6. RECISSION: None.

7. RECERTIFICATION: June 2010



PETER MELBY, M.D.
ACOS for Research and Development