

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the

information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Application for Annual Clothing Allowance, VA Form 21-8678.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0198.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-8678 is used by veterans to apply for clothing allowance. Without this information, VA would be unable to determine eligibility for this benefit.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,120 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,720.

Dated: February 16, 2000.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 00-5827 Filed 3-9-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., of the following meetings to be held from 8 am to 5 pm as indicated below:

Subcommittee for	Date	Location
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics	March 20, 2000	Washington Plaza
Surgery	March 20, 2000	The Double Tree
Nephrology	March 22, 2000	Washington Plaza
Neurobiology-C	March 23, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Respiration	March 27, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Oncology	March 27-28, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Cardiovascular Studies	March 31, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Immunology	April 3-4, 2000	The Double Tree
Hematology	April 6, 2000	Holiday Inn Downtown
Neurobiology-D	April 6-7, 2000	Radisson Barcelo
Epidemiology	April 10, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Gastroenterology	April 10-11, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
General Medical Science	April 13-14, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Mental Hlth & Behavioral Sciences	April 13-14, 2000	Holiday Inn Central
Endocrinology	April 17-18, 2000	Washington Plaza
Infectious Diseases	April 17-18, 2000	Washington Plaza
Alcohol and Drug Dependence	April 18, 2000	Washington Plaza
Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee	June 1, 2000	Holiday Inn Central

The addresses of the hotels are:
 The Double Tree, 1515 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 Holiday Inn Central, 1501 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 Holiday Inn Downtown, 1155 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
 Washington Plaza, 10 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005

These subcommittee meetings will be for the purpose of evaluating the scientific merit of research conducted in each specialty by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators working in VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

The subcommittee meetings will be open to the public for approximately one hour at the start of each meeting to discuss the general status of the program. The remaining portion of each subcommittee meeting will be closed to

the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal projects.

The closed portion of the meetings involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of site visits, staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the subcommittee meetings, discussion and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as research information, the premature disclosure of which could significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects.

As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these subcommittee meetings is in

accordance with 5 U.S.C., 552b(c) (6) and (9)(B). Those who plan to attend or would like to obtain a copy of minutes of the subcommittee meetings and rosters of the members of the subcommittees should contact Dr. LeRoy Frey, Chief, Program Review Division, Medical Research Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC (202) 408-3630.

Dated: March 2, 2000.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-5717 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

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