

accommodate full and open communications between organization representatives and the Voluntary Service Office and field staff; to provide educational opportunities geared towards improving volunteer programs with special emphasis on methods to recruit, retain, place, motivate, and recognize volunteers; and to provide Committee recommendations.

The March 4 session will include a National Executive Committee Meeting, Health Fair, and VAVS Representative and Deputy Representative training session.

The March 5 business session will include remarks from local officials, the Voluntary Service Report, Veterans Health Administration Update, and remarks by VA officials on the My HealtheVet initiative, Patient Centered-Care, and Homelessness. The James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship recipient will be honored at the Parke Awards Luncheon (requires prepayment) to be held at 12 noon. Educational workshops will be held in the afternoon and will focus on student volunteers, developing adaptive sports programs at the facility level, My HealtheVet volunteer program, and national cemetery volunteering.

On March 6, the morning business session will include subcommittee reports, presentations on No One Dies Alone program, suicide prevention, and Make the Connection resources. The educational workshops will be repeated in the afternoon. The meeting will conclude with a Closing Awards Dinner (requires prepayment) recognizing the recipients of the American Spirit Awards, VAVS Award for Excellence, and the NAC male and female Volunteer of the Year awards.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, the public may submit written statements for the Committee's review to Ms. Laura Balun, Designated Federal Officer, Voluntary Service Office (10B2A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20420, or email at *Laura.Balun@va.gov*. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or seeking additional information should contact Ms. Balun at (202) 461-7300.

Dated: February 20, 2013.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Vivian Drake,**

*Acting Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2013-04250 Filed 2-22-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation will meet on March 18-19, 2013, in Suite 800 at the United States Access Board, 1331 F Street NW., Washington, DC. The sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. on both days. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities. The Committee is to assemble and review relevant information relating to the nature and character of disabilities arising during service in the Armed Forces, provide an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the rating schedule, and give advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the needs of Veterans relating to disability compensation.

The Committee will receive briefings on issues related to compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and other VA benefits programs. Time will be allocated for receiving public comments in the afternoon. Public comments will be limited to three minutes each. Individuals wishing to make oral statements before the Committee will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals who speak are invited to submit 1-2 page summaries of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record.

The public may submit written statements for the Committee's review to Nancy Copeland, Acting Designated Federal Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Compensation Service, Regulation Staff (211D), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or email at *nancy.copeland@va.gov*. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or seeking additional information should contact Mrs. Copeland at (202) 461-9685.

Dated: February 20, 2013.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Vivian Drake,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee, Notice of Meeting Amendment

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that a meeting of the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee has been rescheduled on April 11-12, 2013, in Room 830 on April 11 and in Room 630 on April 12 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC, and not on April 10-11, 2013, as originally announced in the **Federal Register** on January 30, 2013. On April 11, the session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. On April 12, the session will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 12 noon. This meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology. The Committee assesses the capability of VA health care facilities and programs to meet the medical, psychological, and social needs of older Veterans and evaluates VA programs designated as Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

The meeting will feature presentations and discussions on VA's geriatrics and extended care programs, aging research activities, updates on VA's employee staff working in the area of geriatrics (to include training, recruitment and retention approaches), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) strategic planning activities in geriatrics and extended care, recent VHA efforts regarding dementia and program advances in palliative care, and performance and oversight of VA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Interested parties should provide written comments for review by the Committee to Mrs. Marcia Holt-Delaney, Program Analyst, Geriatrics and Extended Care Services (10P4G), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, or via email at *Marcia.Holt-Delaney@va.gov*. Individuals who wish to attend the meeting should contact Mrs. Holt-Delaney at (202) 461-6769.

Dated: February 20, 2013.

By Direction of the Secretary.

**Vivian Drake,**  
*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2013-04253 Filed 2-22-13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Request for Information: Public-Private Collaborations in Pain Research

**AGENCY:** Office of Research and Development, VA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) publishes this Request for Information (RFI) on public-private collaborations in pain research, seeking to connect the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) with commercial organizations that are conducting, or have an interest in conducting, pain research through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA). The CRADA is to develop public-private collaborations in pain research with the intent of developing novel therapies that will benefit Veterans suffering from chronic pain conditions.

**DATES:** This notice will remain open indefinitely to accept inquiries and responses.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested parties should contact Audrey Kusiak, Ph.D., Scientific Program Manager, at (202) 443-5770 or by email at [vhacoordpain@va.gov](mailto:vhacoordpain@va.gov). Please use the subject line: "VHA CO ORD PAIN PUBLIC PRIVATE COLLABORATIONS." You may also write to Veterans Health Administration, Office of Research and Development (10P9R), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420. When responding, please provide the name of your organization, the main

area of research interest, your name and title, and contact information (including mailing address, email address, and phone number). Do not include proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information in your response.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** VA is seeking to identify commercial organizations that are interested in the development and translation of novel therapies for chronic pain. Collaboration will be made via a CRADA under the authority of the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (FTTA), Public Law 99-502, October 20, 1986, codified at 15 U.S.C. 3710a. Under the FTTA, VA and the private party may exchange personnel, services, facilities, equipment, intellectual property, or other resources. No Federal funds may be provided to the collaborator, but the VA laboratory is authorized to accept Federal funds. VA may grant to the collaborating party a license or an assignment to inventions made under the CRADA. VA will select collaborators based on a mutually beneficial relationship that is fair and equitable, with the goal of alleviating pain in the Veteran population.

Under the CRADA, VA's duties will include connecting industry collaborators with appropriate VA investigators conducting pain research. Further, VA will provide expertise in the development and implementation of pre-clinical testing (e.g., good laboratory practice) of viable therapies to investigational new drugs; design and implementation of clinical trials; and development of a data-sharing plan.

This RFI invites feedback from private entities that are interested in conducting public-private collaborations with VA that is focused on translational research of chronic pain. Area(s) of interest to VA include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Building on the clinical usefulness of animal models and outcome measures;

(b) Capitalizing on the heterogeneity and complexity of the VA pain population;

(c) Developing relevant therapeutic strategies for the treatment of polytrauma associated pain, including phantom limb, neuropathic pain, headaches, complex regional pain syndrome, burns, chronic back pain, arthritic (joint) pain, etc.;

(d) Conditions co-existing with chronic pain such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome, and chronic fatigue syndrome, and how these conditions contribute to pain perception;

(e) Understanding the mechanisms in the development of acute to chronic pain and how to modulate them; and

(f) Safety and the abusive nature of opioid medication.

VA will evaluate submissions, and selected candidates will be requested to enter into a CRADA with VA. Special consideration will be given to small business firms and consortia involving small business firms. Preference will also be given to businesses located in the United States, which agree that those products embodying inventions made under the CRADA will be manufactured substantially in the United States as provided for in 15 U.S.C. 3710a(c)(4).

This RFI does not obligate VA to enter into a CRADA with any respondents. VA reserves the right to establish a CRADA based on scientific analysis and capabilities found by way of this announcement or other searches, if determined to be in the best interest of the government.

Approved: February 14, 2013.

**John R. Gingrich,**

*Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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