Dr. Mary Cloud Ammons recently was awarded an R03 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. This two-year award will fund her research project titled “Understanding and Integrating the Metabolome, Microbiome, and Innate Immunity in Diabetic Wounds”

About the Project

In the United States, we are experiencing an epidemic of diabetes. By 2050, the American Diabetes Foundation predicts that one in three adults in the United States will have diabetes, correlating to a significant immunocompromised population. Treatment of diabetic associated chronic wounds is a major socioeconomic burden, with an estimated $58 billion in medical costs associated with treatment. With nearly 25% of diabetic patients subject to limb amputation resulting from chronic wounds, there is a need for better understanding of wound healing in diabetics and development of novel, evidence-based treatment protocols.

This research project will use a Complex Systems Biology approach to characterize the global microbiome and metabolome of various wounds over a longitudinal time period. In addition, these global profiles will be integrated with an analysis of innate immune potential for activation. This research has the potential to uncover how the microbiome and innate immune responses influence the wound metabolic landscape and to generate insights into novel, low-cost therapeutic interventions that exploit microbial metabolic pathways or host cell metabolic immunomodulation changes. The larger goal is to develop evidence-based, medical countermeasure protocols that could be initiated in the clinic and followed by an outpatient population. Through this research, Dr. Ammons hopes to not only gain significant insight in to the basic biology of host-pathogen interactions within the chronic wound environment in diabetics, but also lay a foundation for novel medical interventions predictive of wound healing.
The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our new employees who came aboard:

Brett Pixton, Surgery
Anthony Gulbis, ITOS
Linda Truxal, Nursing
Austin Loree, Nursing
Tamara Brandenburg, Nursing Service
Kristopher Champie, Nursing Service
Thomas Jakush, Nursing Service
Todd Burkey, FMS
Rhenda Evans, HAS

Vicki Lewis, HAS
Johnathon Miles, Logistics
Warren MacKey, Nursing Service
Jared Cannon, Nursing Service
Shane Vitagliano, Nursing Service
Laura White, Nursing Service
Jennifer Jones, Nursing Service
James Hecht, Nursing Service
The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to the employees who left us:

James Sehorn, Telehealth
Billie Von Engeln, Dental
Shannon Van Zante, Nursing
    Gary Greer, EMS
    Michael Sanchez, EMS
    James Collet, COS
    Joshua Kocher, EMS
Stephanie Tanner, HRMS
    Jennifer Marker, HAS
    Tracy Rhodes, MSO
    Gerald Newell, EMS
Kristina Welborn, Nursing
Larry Buttel
Behavioral Health
‘Employee of the Month’
April - 2018

Larry has been an incredible asset to the Peer Support program at Boise BH and he regularly engages in exemplary work every week but recently he has further exceeded expectations with several recent projects. Larry has been very involved with providing WRAP programming to veterans for years and has recently, along with his colleagues, become an additional resource to the VISN. In February he and Steve Walker provided a WRAP Facilitator training to 16 PSS from the Roseburg and White City VAs. The training was such a success that I received feedback from one of the staff at Roseburg complementing Larry and Steve and just this last week the Hawaii VA is reaching out to attempt to set up for both of them to come and train the Hawaii VA peers as they heard what an excellent training it was!!

Larry has also been very involved in providing national trainings and webinars for the Peer Support program across the VA and was asked recently by the Copeland Center to assist in updating the WRAP facilitator manuals specific to Veterans. He worked with the national program lead to update this information and continues to work with his colleagues in Boise to be a resource nationally to move Peer Support programming forward. He has taken on additional responsibilities to assist in rolling out the Whole Health program at the Boise VA and despite the extra workload does so with a positive attitude.

Larry is invaluable to our BHIP teams and this week alone has stepped up to provide coverage for 3 groups while his colleagues have been out sick. His advocacy, care and respect for Veterans is outstanding and for all of these reasons I hope that Larry is awarded the well-deserved recognition of BH employee of the month.
SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES

Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.

If you receive a suspicious letter or package:

- Stop. Don’t handle.
- Isolate it immediately.
- Don’t open, smell, or taste.
- Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.


Misspelled words. Badly typed or written. Unknown powder or suspicious substance. Excessive postage.

No return address. Oily stains, discolorations, crystallization on wrapper. Strange odor.

Sealed with tape. Excessive tape. Rigid or bulky. Lopsided or uneven.

Incorrect title or addressed to title only. Protruding wires.

If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:

- Isolate area immediately  •  Call 911  •  Wash your hands with soap and water
SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE
7 Tips to Protect Your Privacy

5) Use Strong Passwords or a Pass Phrase
Do not use your VA username or password to set up login information for a VA social media account. Create passwords that cannot be easily guessed. If the account’s password is compromised, someone else may be able to hack in, access the account, and pretend to be a representative of your office. If you believe your password has been compromised or your account has been hacked, contact your Information Security Officer (ISO) for assistance.

6) Never download or share files, videos, or images to a VA computer through social networking sites. Even if the information seems to be from a trusted contact, it could be carrying malware or viruses in the coding. Malware or malicious software can spread quickly on a social network site, infecting your computer and spreading to your contacts.

7) Talk to your PO and ISO.
Your Privacy Officer and or your Information Security Officer can guide you on VA policies, as well as federal privacy and information security laws, for using social media. Include them in the process of establishing and maintaining your office’s social media account(s).

Share With Care:
Participating in VA Social Media
VA currently uses five social media platforms externally:

Blog – VAntage Point
www.blogs.va.gov
Facebook
www.facebook.com/
VeteransAffairs
Twitter
www.twitter.com/
DeptVetAffairs
YouTube
www.youtube.com/user/
DeptVetAffairs
Flickr
www.flickr.com/photos/
VeteransAffairs

CONNECT WITH US
Visit www.privacy.va.gov to learn more about privacy and find a PO at a facility near you.
ARE YOU SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE?
7 Tips to Protect Your Social Media Privacy

Social media pages sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) enable interaction among Veterans, VA employees, and the public regarding VA programs, services, and benefits. Before joining this virtual dialogue, it is important to know how to safely navigate these spaces and avoid many of the common security and privacy pitfalls that come with communicating online.

1) Adhere to VA Regulations. VA encourages you to use social media and participate in direct, open interactions with the public. But, you must comply with VA Directive 6515, Use of Web-Based Collaboration Technologies.

2) Be factual and avoid personal views. When you use a VA social media account, you represent the Department and are personally accountable for the content you post. If you are officially authorized to speak on behalf of the VA, you will use the VA social media account to share posts that represent VA’s official position. However, if you want to post personal views on a social media site, you must do so using your personal social media account as a private individual.

3) Social media sites are NOT secure. Never post any personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI) on social media sites. These are public websites, and you may only post information that is otherwise releasable to the public. Remember that VA will not provide official determinations or adjudications via social media sites. Notify your Privacy Officer (PO) immediately if there is a suspected breach of PII or PHI on a VA social media site.

4) Be careful what you post. Once you post information online, you can’t retract it. Even if you remove the information from a site, there may be saved or cached versions on other people's machines. Contact your PO or supervisor for guidance.

YOUR PRIORITY: Protect Veterans and VA While Communicating Online
PI Day
Health Administration Services

2018
SAVE THE DATE RESEARCH DAY
15 MAY 2018
FROM 12P - 5P

~~~Attention to those who currently participate in research, or would like to learn about getting started in research~~~

The VA supports research in the following four areas:
• Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development
• Clinical Science Research and Development
• Rehabilitation Research and Development
• Health Services Research and Development

BVAMC Research Service and Idaho Veterans Research and Education Foundation (IVREF) will host an afternoon of informative workshops and panel discussions on research topics of interest. Sessions in planning include framing a research question and hypothesis, completing IRB documents, statistical analysis for research, participating in clinical trials, dealing with high-volume research data, and identifying grant opportunities. Participants will be invited to attend a keynote presentation with lunch, followed by the sessions of their choosing. Further information will be forthcoming!
Laboratory Professionals
Providing Answers. Guiding Cures.
National Medical Laboratory Professional Week, April 23-27 2018