

# CAREGIVER CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER



## Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for the inaugural issue of the Caregiver Consortium Newsletter.

Our first issue provides brief introductions to each of our consortium sites. In subsequent issues, we will feature research and updates from our vibrant and talented teams.

Use our newsletter to stay connected to the exciting work happening within the Caregiver Consortium!

If you'd like to highlight relevant research involving Veteran caregivers, please email us at [julie.parishjohnson@va.gov](mailto:julie.parishjohnson@va.gov)

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### *In this newsletter:*

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**Welcome**

Page 01

**Background and Purpose**

Page 02

**Consortium Site Introductions**

Page 03

# BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE



The Caregiver Consortium is a collaboration of VA researchers that share a common goal: to improve VA's ability to support Veteran caregivers.



## Caregiver Consortium partners:

- [\*Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran & Caregiver Research\*](#)
- *Site locations: San Antonio, Palo Alto, Miami, & Salt Lake City*
- [\*The VA Caregiver Center\*](#)
- [\*VA Caregiver Support Program Partnered Evaluation Center \(VA CARES\)\*](#)
- [\*National Caregiver Research Interest Group\*](#)



FRIENDSHIP NOW connect smile healing  
kindness • COMPASSION purpose  
caregiver healthcare patience  
long term sense  
support LOVE UNCONDITIONAL nurture  
time activity mobility dignity family THERAPY  
inclusion community



- The **Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran & Caregiver Research** (Dole CoE), led by Dr. Luci Leykum, aims to identify and implement research innovations that give Veterans, especially those at risk for institutionalized care, the choice to stay in the homes and communities with assistance from the caregivers who support them.
  - Responding to the RAND report *Improving Support for America's Hidden Heroes: A Research Blueprint*, the Dole CoE expands the VA's capacity to deliver integrated, Veteran-and caregiver-partnered, data-driven approaches to care.
- **The VA Caregiver Center**, funded by the VA's Caregiver Support Program and located at the Memphis VA Medical Center, is led by Drs. Jennifer Martindale-Adams and Linda Nichols.
  - The Caregiver Center offers programs to caregivers of Veterans across the nation including the REACH VA caregiver intervention, Self-Care and Wellness Courses, and Annie text care protocols for caregivers. The Caregiver Center also trains staff to deliver caregiver interventions. Their third mission is the evaluation of all programs and ongoing research on new interventions to support caregivers.
- The **VA Caregiver Support Program Partnered Evaluation Center** (VA CARES), led by Dr. Courtney Van Houtven, evaluates the value and use of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), and the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS).
  - Results from the evaluation will help inform the VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) about the impact of services provided and will provide information on best practices for improving and targeting its interventions. The results will also contribute to the implementation of evidence- based treatments or programs designed to improve quality of care for Veterans and improve supports for caregivers.
- The **National Caregiver Research Interest Group**, led by Dr. Ranak Trivedi, provides a structure for VA caregiving researchers to share information, stimulate quality research, and develop collaborative projects.
  - The SIG on Caregiving Research is open to new members. Those interested can contact Victoria Ngo, PhD at [Victoria.Ngo@va.gov](mailto:Victoria.Ngo@va.gov) to be added to the group's listserv.