**COIN COVID Work Highlights**

**Helping use data to improve VA’s planning**

* Dr. Makoto Jones (Salt Lake City) and colleagues developed and deployed a natural language processing system for identifying positive COVID-19 cases from text notes to accelerate chart review in a national surveillance system.
* Dr. Kristina Cordasco (West LA) led her COIN’s Evaluation & Decision Support unit to develop rapid data visualization tools to support GLA leaders ability to proactively prepare for the COVID surge.
* Modelers at Ann Arbor and Salt Lake City have been working with their facilities to try to predict hospital demand based on community spread.

**Developing clinical responses at facility**

* Dr. Steven Simon and Dr. Matthew Goetz (West LA) were instrumental in developing a COVID Recovery Unit (one of the first in the VA) to house patients who no longer met criteria to remain in the acute care hospital.
* Investigator Dr. Erin Krebs (Minneapolis) has led rapid implementation of face-to-face and virtual Acute Respiratory Clinic (ARC) and a drive-up COVID testing unit.
* Dr. Michihiko Goto and Dr. Eli Perencevich (Iowa City) reported no cases of COVID-19 among residents in CLCs over the first 6 months of pandemic after implementing multimodal measures without routine universal testing.

**Conducting research that has led to specific changes in policy**

* Dr. Jim Rudolph’s (Providence) research in VA CLCs has led to a definition change at CDC regarding temperature screening for COVID in older veterans.
* Dr. Theodore Iwashyna (Ann Arbor) documented systematic error in pulse oxygen measurements in black patients, leading to a Senatorial request to FDA to investigate how these devices are approved.
* Dr. David Dosa (Providence) and colleagues wrote a highly cited paper for the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association that cited guidelines/suggestions for nursing homes during the early stages of the pandemic.

**Conducting research that has helped inform understanding of pandemic in Veterans**

* Ann Arbor investigators documented post-discharge complications of COVID including risk of rehospitalization and death
* Dr. Amy Justice (West Haven) has investigated and published racial differences in COVID testing/mortality and developed risk models for COVID using national VA data.
* Dr. Donna Washington’s framework for rapid access, analysis and knowledge production on racial-ethnic disparities in COVID screening and outcomes in partnership with the Office of Health Equity was shared with VA’s Congressional Liaison for briefing to Congress
* Teams led in West Haven, Iowa City and Seattle are examining real world effectiveness of anti-coagulants, remdesivir and steroids in collaboration with FDA Evidence Accelerator.

**Working directly with program partners on a particular problem**

* Over 20 investigators initiated rapid response proposals looking at issues such as impact of pandemic on patients with MH conditions, effects on nursing staff, and cardiovascular care.
* Investigators at Hines VAMC, working in collaboration with QUERI RRTs from Durham and Boston/Bedford, are participating in a QUERI Rapid Response Team working with NCP to assess Veterans’ attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 vaccines.