

VA Western New York Healthcare System

Meeting the 2022 health care challenges of our Veterans

Enroll today at 716-862-8829



Last year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) commemorated the 75th anniversary and establishment of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Starting in 1946 as the Department of Medicine & Surgery to care for Veterans returning from World War II, VHA has evolved to meet the unique challenges and care needs of Veterans from every era and at every stage of their lives. VA Western New York Healthcare System is honored to share in the VHA's great legacy and looks forward to serving Veteran patients far into the future.

As part of General Omar Bradley's historical VA vision, doctors and clinicians receive medical training at major medical university locations within close

proximity to VHA medical centers. Approximately 70% of all doctors in the U.S. will continue to complete residency or other collaborative training rotations through VHA. To the benefit of all citizens, the valuable skills, experiences, and knowledge they will learn from VHA will be implemented in all hospitals and clinics across the country.

Targeted research and advanced technologies will continue to play a major role as VA Western New York Healthcare System delivers quality care to our Veterans. As the largest and first electronically integrated health care system in the world, VHA continues to lead the nation in Telehealth services. Nationally 2,345,326 Veterans used the Telehealth system in 2021, or

38.8% of our enrolled population. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidelines to limit physical contact with patients, usage continues to climb from 2019. VA Western New York Healthcare System (VA WNYHS) went from 4,612 Veterans using Telehealth in 2019 to 12,480 in 2021, and just through the first quarter of 2022, has already seen 5,123 Veterans.

Paul Galantowicz, VA WNYHS Facility Telehealth Coordinator, added that "in 1992, VA WNYHS, in cooperation with the University at Buffalo, established the first Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging center in WNY, providing more research capability into neurology, cardiology and oncology diseases."



VA Western New York Healthcare System has an impressive track record of innovation and clinical research. Drs. Andrew Gage and William Chardack along with local medical device inventors like Mr. Wilson Greatbatch can claim major medical device research and product development credit with the world's first implantable internal heart pacemaker in the late 1950s.

Today, VA Western New York Healthcare System's cardiac teams have deployed the latest technologies in devices and non-invasive testing. Our Catheter Laboratory was the first in Western New York to use the new technology of intravascular coronary lithotripsy called The SHOCKWAVE. This intuitive new system provides safe and positive outcomes for patients with complex calcified coronary procedures.

More recently, Bruce R. Troen,

MD and Kenneth L. Seldeen, PhD have spearheaded a series of investigations from the "benchtop to the bedside" that seek to understand and develop Strategies to help Veterans age successfully. Drs. Troen and Seldeen have been funded by VA to conduct research on the roles that high intensity interval training (HIIT), vitamin D, and a vitamin B component (nicotinamide riboside - NR) play in maintaining and perhaps even enhancing functional capacity in older mice and older Veterans. By investigating pre-clinical animal models, they have

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laid the foundation to study impacts and benefits in humans, in particular older Veterans. These researchers are starting a major 4-year clinical trial this spring to examine the benefits of NR in older Veterans (ClinicalTrials.gov - NC T04691986). They welcome the participation and enrollment of both male and female Veterans aged 65 and older. Enrolled Veterans

interested in participating in these studies can call Ms. Ayesha Rahman at 716-862-8944.

The Buffalo VA Medical Center campus can also proudly claim the formulation, funding, and actual creation of one of the first VA women's clinics in the nation in the early 1990s. Today, over 6500 Western New York women are enrolled in our Women Veterans Program. The program frequently performs outreach and educational programming services specific to the needs of women Veterans. For more information call Amy Malik, RN, Veteran, at 716-862-8891.



Lastly, VA Western New York Health Care System can now boast, as part of our "PACT" or Patient Aligned Care Team, a more

holistic approach to Veteran care and well-being called Whole Health. VA's Whole Health initiative, also known as personalized,

proactive and patient-driven care, is an approach to health care that empowers and equips people to take charge of their health and well-being and to live their life to the fullest. A full range of programs

and services are available to enrolled Veterans. Enrolled Veterans seeking Whole Health programs should call Lesley Pyjas, RN, at 716-862-7885 or email her at Lesley.Pyjas@VA.gov

Whole Health: It Starts With Me



Whole Health is an approach to healthcare that empowers and enables YOU to take charge of your health and well-being and live your life to the fullest. Whole Health starts with YOU. It is fueled by the power of knowing yourself and what really work for you in your life. Only you have these insights. this knowledge.

This information was gathered to help you as you make choices to support your health. AS you learn more, you will have even more power to take care of yourself. Best wishes!

To learn more visit: www.va.gov/wholehealth

