



Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital

Truman VA BULLETIN

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Associate Director for Patient Services Named

Congratulations to **Mary Wideman, RN, MSN**, for her selection as Associate Director for Patient Services/ Nurse Executive at Truman VA! Mary began her VA career at Truman VA in July 1976. Since that time, she has held positions as staff nurse in the medical intensive care unit, nursing educator and Associate Chief Nurse. Mary coordinated the implementation of the Bar Code Medication Administration package, which was the topic of a publication she co-authored for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in 2005. She is a member of Sigma Theta

Tau, the international honor society for nursing, and the American Nursing Informatics Association. Mary received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Marycrest College, Davenport, Iowa, in 1976 and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Missouri's Sinclair School of Nursing in 1983. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the VA Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing.



New Employees:



Michelle Blackwell,
Student Nurse Technician (PS)

Deana Blair, LPN (PS)

Minh-Tri Dang, MD,
Radiologist (CS)

Julie Edwards, RN (PS)

Angela Erdel, RPh,
Pharmacist (Pharmacy)

Natalie Ferguson,
Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)

Pamela Gulley, PhD,
Psychologist (BH)

Teresa Haney,
Assistant Financial Officer
(FIN)

Alinda Holmes, LPN (PS)

Marta Lemmon, MD,
Radiologist (CS)

Chunhan Ma, RPh,
Pharmacist (Pharmacy)

Daniel Marth,
Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)

Stacy Renfrow,
Student Nurse Technician (PS)

Randal Rogers, PhD,
Psychologist (BH)



Standardized ID Badge Process

Recent legislation signed by President Bush directs the implementation of a new standardized identification badge process that is designed to enhance security, reduce identity fraud and protect the personal privacy of those issued government identification. Employees at Truman VA will continue to wear their current ID badges. However, the following requirements are now in place:

- The Personal Identification Verification (PIV) System requires VA Form 0711 should be initiated by the employee's supervisor prior to issuance of a new or replacement ID badge.
- All supervisors must be designated as a PIV Card Employee Sponsor through Human Resources (HR).
- Employees must bring the completed VA Form 0711 along with two acceptable forms of identification to HR when requesting a badge. A driver's license and

social security card will meet this requirement.

For information about other acceptable forms of identification or these requirements, contact **Kris Gaddy** (HR) at extension 56400 or **Jeff Kimbro** (HR) at extension 56402.

“Best Practices in Consumer Empowerment and Protection in the category of Patient/Consumer Safety”

My Health-E-Vet Receives Two Information Technology Awards

My HealthE Vet, the Web-based portal that enables veterans to create and maintain a personal health record, has received two major awards from organizations that focus on effective use of Internet technology. VHA's Office of Information has been selected to receive one of the prestigious 2008 "CIO 100 Awards" in recognition of its innovative use of information technology at its *My HealthE Vet* Web site, www.myhealth.va.gov.

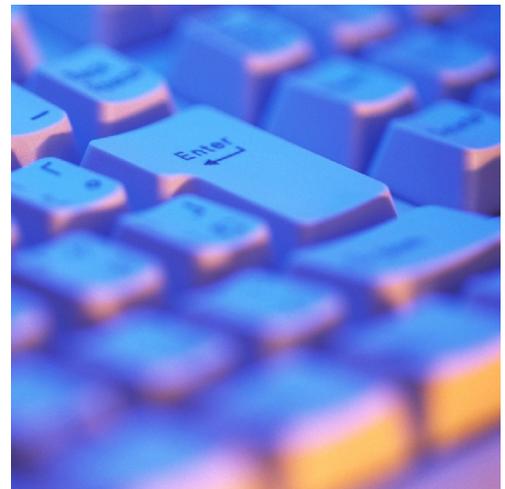
The CIO 100 award program recognizes organizations around the world that exemplify the highest level of operational and strategic excellence in information technology.

Earlier this year, *My HealthE Vet* was selected as the Gold Award winner for Best Practices in Consumer

Empowerment and Protection in the category of Patient/Consumer Safety by the Utilization Review Accreditation Committee (URAC). URAC is an independent nonprofit group known as a leader in promoting health care quality through its accreditation and education programs.

VA developed *My HealthE Vet* to be a one-stop location for veterans of all eras to receive critical medical and benefits information and to provide ways for veterans to input and view some of their own medical records online.

Recent upgrades to the Web-based portal include an Active Duty Center for newly discharged veterans, a new calendar option and Military Health System (MHS) learning modules that feature three online courses developed in concert with the Department of Defense. Another upgrade will be added soon enabling veterans to view their lab results for certain tests and to view their appointments.



4-H Clowning For Smiles!

Following the old adage that laughter is the best medicine, University of Missouri Extension 4-H members don makeup and wigs to bring some laughter to people in hospitals and nursing homes. Each year, more than 100 Missouri 4-H members learn the art of clowning and perform skits in a variety of venues. Recently, they performed for veterans in the Community Living Center at Truman VA. A veteran's wife said the show gave her husband and other veterans a time to laugh and to take a

break from health concerns and the predictability of their daily schedules. Clowning is not only for those being entertained. This activity allows 4-H members an opportunity to build communication abilities, develop performing arts skills, build new relationships with others and strengthen self-confidence. For more information, visit the following Web site: www.4h.missouri.edu.



Health Literacy Video Available on Content Distribution Network

"Health Literacy is the ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions and follow instructions for treatment. A recent government study finds that 89 million American Adults have limited health literacy skills."

The VISN 15 Diversity in Healthcare Task Force is promoting a new video entitled "Health Literacy and Patient Safety: Help Patients Understand."

The video is available for viewing by all employees on the VA Content Distribution Network (CDN). Employees are encouraged to take the time to view this 23-minute

video. While it is primarily targeted to clinicians, the video is applicable to all VA employees. Instructions for viewing the video from your PC and accessing the CDN are available on the hospital's home page.



"Compounding the problem is that most patients hide their confusion from their doctors because they are too ashamed and intimidated to ask for help."

VISN 15 Receives "Most Wired" Award... Again!

For the third year in a row, the VA Heartland Network (VISN 15) has received the "Most Wired" award, which is based on responses to a national survey. The annual Most Wired Survey and Benchmarking Study, highlighting technically savvy hospitals and health care systems, is made possible through a partnership

among *H&HN* magazine, the American Hospital Association, Accenture, McKesson and the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives.



**VISN 15
"Most Wired"**

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital

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Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000



VISN Director Named To New Position

Peter Almenoff, MD, FCCP, Director of the VA Heartland Network (VISN 15), has been appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality and Safety for the VA health care system. His new appointment is effective Aug. 4. Dr. Almenoff has expressed his appreciation to all VA employees within VISN 15 for their ongoing commitment to the provision of excellent care and service. He has served as our Network Director for the past six years. The Acting Network Director will be announced in the near future.

Farewell

- Jo Ann Cook**, Accounts Receivable Technician (FIN)
- Tammy Farrell, RN (PS)**
- Dermond Henry**, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
- Amy Houck**, Medical Laboratory Aid (CS)
- April Koonse, LPN (PS)**
- Charles Neville**, Information Technology Specialist (OI&T)
- Denise Pfeil**, Claims Assistant (FIN)

OI&T "Computer Corner"

Use *CALL ID* to see the last 20 calls made and the last 20 calls received:



- ◆ Press *CALL ID* button.
- ◆ Enter your 5-digit extension and #.
- ◆ If display shows a number and users, press # (or skip this step).
- ◆ Password protect your *CALL ID* function by entering a 4-digit number and # (or press # to skip password protection).
- ◆ If you press # to skip, you see: *Skip PW? Y-1 N-2*.
- ◆ View inbound calls by

- pressing 1.
 - ◆ View outbound calls by pressing 2.
- Scroll through the calls with the most recent displayed first by pressing:
- ◆ Scroll up to more recent call.
 - ◆ Scroll left.
 - ◆ Scroll right to see caller extension if internal, time called, etc.
 - ◆ Scroll down to next most recent call.

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!