

SPIRIT ONLINE

Volume 1, Issue 20

VA Connecticut Healthcare System

October 22, 2003

EMPLOYEE FLU FAIR

A long line formed outside the Staff Dining Room at the West Haven campus on Oct 22 as employees waited to take advantage of free flu shots offered at the Flu Fair.

When the doors opened they were greeted by ICKY, an oversized but friendly flu bug. In addition to getting the flu shot, employees viewed poster exhibits and received educational hand outs. Refreshments were also served adding to the festive atmosphere. More than 500 employees received a flu shot at the fair.



ICKy was the official greeter at the Flu Fair where more than 500 employees received the flu shot.

A thank you goes to all the infection control nurses and all who assisted for making the flu campaign kick-off a success.

Flu shots will also be given in Employee Health (see page two for dates and times).

- Door Prize Winners -

Christine Naungayan, Mary Sobczal, Donna Vogel, Chris Bradford, Jeff Hamilton, Julie Paquette, Ellen Kaliner, Eileen Moran, Jack Laarus, Dib-Hajj Suayman, B. Abbott, Vera Williams, Carol Broshjeit, Tom Goldbard, Martha Dillon, Karin Marino, Heather Whelahan.

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Events:



Breast Health Fair
Oct. 28

Veterans Day
Ceremony
Nov. 7

FEHB Open Season
Health Fair
Nov. 10

For detail on these
and other
events please see
Good Morning VA
Connecticut.



Flu shots for employees will be given at the West Haven campus in Employee Health (Building 2, 2nd floor) on the following dates:

October 29
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

November 5
8 a.m. to noon

November 12
1 to 5 p.m.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



Joseph Petrini, Blind Rehab. Service (photo left), attended the Disability Awareness Booth in the rotunda at the West Haven campus on October 22.

Posters, videos and educational materials were available as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month to educate the public about the needs of people with disabilities and the ways people with disabilities are viewed and treated.

More than 3,442 VA employees have disabilities, many of them veterans. They're an essential part of our workforce with demonstrated excellence in executive, administrative, managerial and technical fields among others. This year's theme is "America Works Best When All Americans Work."

SERVICE PINS AWARDED

Congratulations to the following employees for their years of service. They were recently recognized at a ceremony in the Staff Dining Room by VA Connecticut director, Roger Johnson.

25 Years

George Cross, Jeffrey Kocsis, M.D., Marc Kogan, Katherine Loehr, Joan Lugovich, Sandra Maher, Albina Martin, Katherine Newvine, Cecilia Paires, Mary Smith, Stanley Wardsworth, Stephen Waxman, M.D.

30 Years

Karen Boulet, Edward Bowerman, James Deschenes, Anne Douglas, Robert Fraulo, Roberto Groszman, M.D., Janet Hite, Eleanor Marchand, Judith O'Brien, Nancy Pilarski, Lynda Rubano, Delchi Serfilipp, Ann Staudt, Margaret Veazey, Elizabeth White

35 Years

Larry Gaupp, Ph.D.

in the
NEWS



Michael Ebert, MD, Chief of Staff, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health on Oct. 21 regarding legislative proposals to enhance VA's ability to recruit and retain physicians and dentists.

A study reported in the Oct. 23 *New England Journal of Medicine* found that survival rates among chronically ill veterans remained constant in the mid-1990s despite sharp reduction in hospital-based care provided by VA. The study is the largest assessment to date of the impact on veterans of VA's shift nearly a decade ago from a hospital-based system to one focused on primary and outpatient care. The study generated articles in the Oct. 23 *New York Times* and *USA Today*.

Connecticut Army National Guard personnel returning from combat theaters are provided demobilization briefs upon return that includes information on VA healthcare benefits. **Michelle Will**, Business Office Enrollment Coordinator, has provided information on services available at VA Connecticut to more than 600 returning service members.

All employees are encouraged to participate in the "Veterans on the MOVE! – Making America Stronger" one-mile walk on **Monday, Nov. 10**. The MOVE (Managing Overweight/Obesity in Veterans Everywhere) campaign, sponsored by the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention aims to encourage veterans and staff to fight obesity by getting more active. Employees are urged to lead by example and participate in MOVE activities. The West Haven walk begins at noon. Walk-day registration is 11 a.m. to noon in the staff dining room. In case of rain, an indoor course will be available. All participants should meet in the staff dining room at noon to kick-off the walk. Pre-registration forms will be available in primary care and the Patient Education Learning Center. Participants will receive a certificate of completion. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

Hajime Tokuno, MD, Neurology, received the James J. Peters Memorial Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Scholar Award. The award, sponsored by VA and the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, will support Tokuno's investigation of the recovery of spinal cord axons in rats following injury related demyelination.

SPIRIT ONLINE

Is published bi-monthly by the VA Connecticut Healthcare System Public Affairs Office. Please submit comments and ideas to Pamela Redmond or Richard Thompson, Public Affairs, 00/PR.

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