

## NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY WEEK

The week of April 18-24 is National Medical Laboratory Week. This year's theme is "Laboratory Professionals: Working with You for Better Health." This week is set aside to honor the medical laboratory professionals who work behind the scenes to provide quality laboratory testing.

The Pathology and Laboratory Services staff at the Newington campus hosted a special display in the main lobby on April 20 that offered patients an opportunity to ask questions about the various methods and types of tests performed in the lab.

VA Connecticut recognizes and thanks the Pathology and Laboratory Services staff as they celebrate their special week.



*Joe Naclerio, medical technologist, works in the blood bank at the West Haven campus.*

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### Events

**"East Meets West"**  
Education Program for  
Professional Nurses  
West Haven - Donaldson  
April 30  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

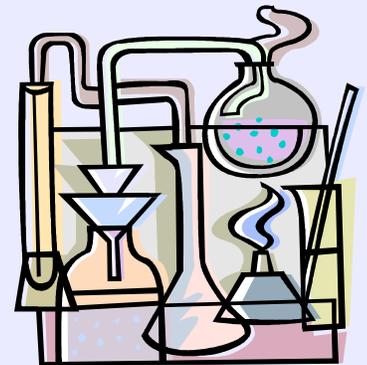
**Training**  
"Prevention & Management of  
Disruptive Behavior"  
&  
"Personal Safety Skills"  
April 30 - May 12  
June 9 - July 14  
West Haven  
Hospital Education Conf. Room

**Schizophrenia Support  
Network Sessions**  
May 11

For more information on these and other events please see *Good Morning VA Connecticut*.

## VA Connecticut's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service

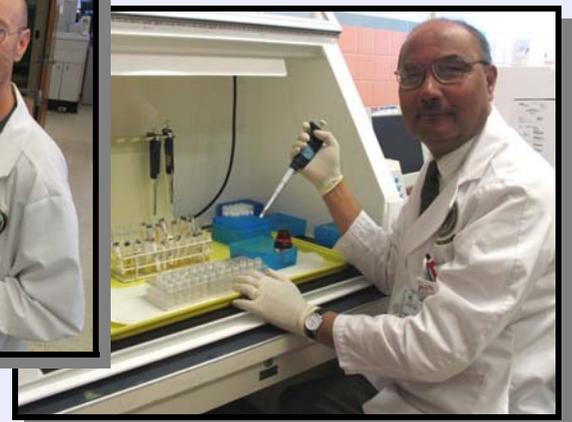
*Ramona Anderson, Mark August, Pankaj Barua, Ph.D., Pembe Blakaj, Donald Bonato, Kimberlyn Boulware, Loretta Braziel, Carol Broshjeit, Irene Brown, Linda Brown, Suzana Burchsted, Sheldon Campbell, M.D., Edward Carey, Martha Carey, Janice Carlow, Sharale Carmichael, Maria Cavaiuolo, Meghan Condon, Louis Coppola, Raymond Daniels, Christopher Davis, Susan Devoe, Maria Digennaro, Wenifer Diggs, Ellen Dinan, Robert Drayton, Joanne Falcone, Linda Farina, Guy Francis Feeney, Thomas Fitzgerald, Kathleen Francis, Maria Galanakis, Trudy Gamble, Mary Jane Greissle, Brigitte Griffith, Wendy Gross, Jennifer Hixon, Robert Homer, M.D., Jacqueline Johnson, Twan Jones, John Kamorowski, Mallika Kantayya, Charles Kaufmann, Leo Kelly, Helen Kern, Benjamin Kolek, Joyce Kupfer, Michael Kupson, Lynn Ladutko, William MacConnie, Angela Manalang, Renata Maglietti, Eduardo Marchi-Rivera, Nancy Marcho, Doris Marina, Carleta Maurice, Donald Mayo, Dona-Lee Mazur, Kim McGowan, Paul McNamara, Rajni Mehta, Denise Miko, Phyllis Moore, Joseph Naclerio, Lorna Orengo, Shane Aldridge, Doreen Pierson, Pasquale Piscitelli, William Potts, Tammie Pucci, Cynthia Ryan, Kathleen Schuster, Joanne Sconziano, Luz Segui, Nelorar Shafi, M.D., Pragna Shah, Diane Simses, Antoinette Spinelli, Gary Stack, M.D., Ph.D., Heidi Staneslow, Monica Stevens, Deborah Taylor, Elcy Thankachan, Josephine Tuttle, Oris Urriola, Insuk Yi, Jennifer Zablan*



**Heidi Staneslow**  
Microbiology



**Mark August**  
Hematology Lab



**Pankaj Barua, Ph.D.**  
Molecular Diagnostics





*Bob Janicki, center, receives a certificate of appreciation from Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield and former Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Roswell.*

## **VOLUNTEER AWARENESS VIDEO**

SBC East Senior Project Manager **Bob Janicki**, was one of five veterans selected by the Department of Veterans Affairs to take part in the department's new national volunteer awareness video, *A Million Reasons to Volunteer*, which received national and international acclaim for its content.

Bob is active with the SBC Pioneers, a volunteer group of SBC employees who are also veterans. The Pioneers, community partners with the Errera Community Care Center, support activities such as the computer lab, patient recognition events and sponsoring drives to collect health and comfort items for homeless veterans. Bob was recently invited to Washington, D.C., to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

## **NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY**

National Youth Service Day, celebrated April 16, is the largest service event in the world, mobilizing youth as leaders to identify and address the needs of their communities through service and service learning. National Youth Service Day also supports youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, the media and policy makers about the year round contributions of young people and community leaders. Students at Hamden Middle School were recognized for their volunteer efforts at a special ceremony on April 16. Guest speaker was **Ray Fowler**, a decorated Vietnam veteran, businessman and himself a longtime volunteer in several organizations to include VA Connecticut. Ray volunteers at the Errera Community Care Center's "Homes for the Brave" in Bridgeport. Also attending the ceremony were veterans from the Errera Community Care Center who meet weekly to discuss their military experiences with students as part the student civics course.



*Ray Fowler, a Vietnam veteran, businessman and volunteer addresses students at Hamden Middle School.*

## HELPING COMBAT VETERANS

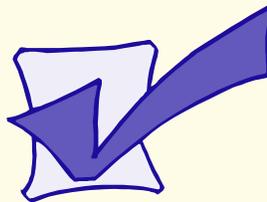


*VA Connecticut director Roger Johnson presents a Special Recognition Award to **Michelle Will** at the director's staff meeting on April 19 in the Donaldson Education Center. Michelle was recognized for her work with combat veterans.*

**Michelle Will**, the VA Connecticut Healthcare System Combat Veteran Coordinator, attends each military demobilization briefing across the state of Connecticut to present returning military service members with information about the VA health care system and how to obtain VA healthcare benefits. Michelle was recognized for her commitment and dedication to our combat veterans. Since May 2003, she has reached out to more than 721 veterans in Connecticut. To date, VA Connecticut has more than 150 combat veterans utilizing the healthcare system. Michelle's knowledge, compassion, and dedication have assured a smooth transition for returning service members seeking VA healthcare access. Her commitment to the mission of the VA, and particularly to the special group of returning Gulf War veterans is exemplified by her willingness to represent VA Connecticut at the demobilization briefings and assist returning combat veterans however possible.



***Your Opinion Counts!***



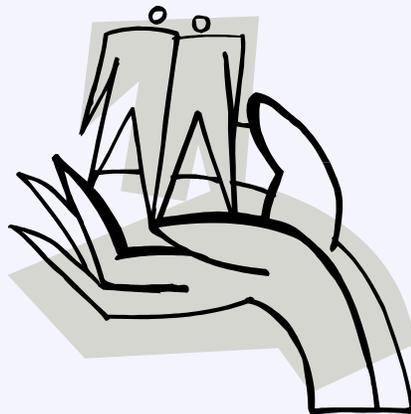
**Take the  
VHA All Employee Survey  
April 26 - May 14**



*VA Connecticut Director Roger Johnson presents Sharon Barrett, patients accounts manager, with the NFL football in recognition of MCCF's March collections of more than \$2 million in third party billing, the best month ever for MCCF collections. The football is "passed" each month to a service recognized for their efforts in helping the VA Connecticut team fulfill its mission. The presentation took place at the April 19 director's staff meeting in the Donaldson Education Center.*

**This week is...  
National Volunteer Week**

*Thank you  
Volunteers  
for all you do!*



**SPIRIT ONLINE**

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