

CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING

The House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Health, chaired by Connecticut's own Congressman Rob Simmons (R-2nd), hosted a field hearing at the Newington campus on June 7. The purpose of the hearing was to highlight what Congressman Simmons' termed the "Connecticut Model" of VA healthcare delivery.

The hearing consisted of three panels. The first panel included VA New England Healthcare System Director **Jeannette Chirico-Post**, M.D., VA Connecticut Director **Roger Johnson**, VA Connecticut Associate Chief of Staff for Research **Fred Wright**, M.D, VA Regional Office Hartford Director **Ricardo "Rick" Randle**, and AFGE Local 2138 Professional Nurses Union President **Karin T. Thompson**, APRN, BC.

Other panels were made up of personnel from the Department of Defense and veterans service organizations. Congressman Christopher Shays (R-4th) also attended the hearing.

Hearing highlights included the upcoming collocation of the VA Regional Office in Hartford to the Newington campus and the newfound collaboration between VA Connecticut and the Rocky Hill State Veterans Home.



CTN videotaped the entire proceedings. Check your local cable listing to find out when the hearing will air in your area.

Congressman Rob Simmons (R-2nd), chaired the Congressional Field Hearing at the Newington campus on June 7.

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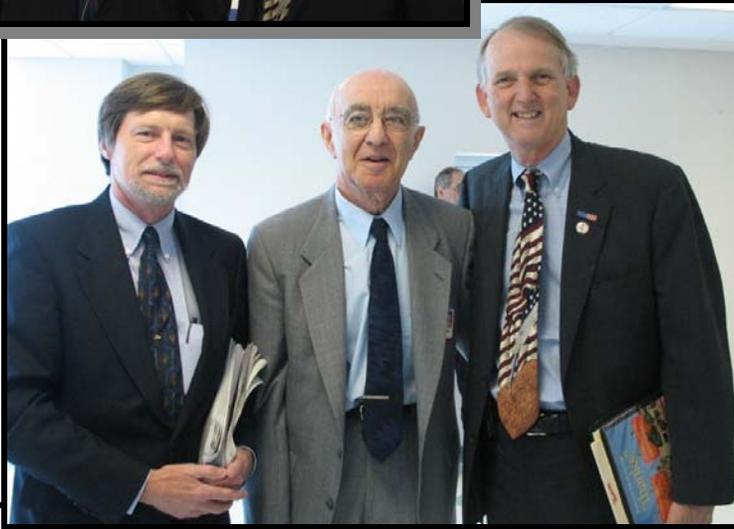
Events

**Korean War Memorial
Dedication
Sunday, June 27
Longwharf**



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

Congressional Field Hearing



VA CONNECTICUT RETIREES

The following VA Connecticut employees recently retired. They will be missed. We wish them well in their “golden years.”



Herman Boykin, A&MMS; David Coleman, Medical Service; Elizabeth Gambardella, Nursing; Eloise Pope, Nursing; Jeffrey Lustman, COS; Elenore Marchand, Nursing; Peter Kukish, Blind Rehab.; Caroline Fong-Cheng, Research; Barbara Turgeon, IRM; Margaret Cinquanta, Psychiatry; Helen Ruddock, Nursing; Sandra Maher, COS; Arthur Egan, Blind Rehab.; Robert Sinicrope, Social Work; Jeana Richo, Med. Technologist; Donald Slavich, Pharmacy; Bessie Smith, Nursing; Charlotte Shea, Nursing; Lillemor Walmark, Research; Diane Hardy, Director's Office; Eula Taylor, Nursing; Gail Longley, Dental; Thomas Ciesielski, Lab; Lorraine Anderson, Nursing; Philip Piskura, Rehab. Med.; Anna Valenti, Business Office; Robert Keogh, Social Work; Natalee McGuire, Radiology; Cecelia Paires, Nursing; Paul Tyler, FMS; Elizabeth Williams, Nursing

To retire June 30 are:

**Kenneth Cohen, Ambulatory Care
Antoinette Spinelli, Lab.
Linda Pacelli, Blind Rehab.**



Attending the Stroke Fair were Mary Dallas, RPT, Larry Brass, M.D., and Chief of Staff Michael Ebert, M.D.

STROKE FAIR

A Stroke Fair was held in the rotunda of the West Haven Campus on May 28. The well attended fair highlighted stroke awareness and risk prevention for patients and was part of the May stroke education campaign. The Stroke Fair included educational handouts and blood pressure screenings.

Stroke team members who coordinated the event included: **Larry Brass, M.D., Dawn Bravata, M.D., Jay Messore**, Patient Education Coordinator, **Debbie Kuhn, RN** and **Mary Dallas, RPT**.

in the **NEWS...**



VA Connecticut and Yale researchers and collaborators have identified molecules that underlie nerve fiber degeneration in patients with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease that cripples nearly 3 million people worldwide. The new findings are the first observations in humans of molecules that contribute to degeneration of nerve fibers. MS is an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system in which myelin, the insulation that surrounds the nerve fibers, is damaged in multiple regions, leaving scars that hinder the relay of nerve signals from the brain to the rest of the body.

Dr. Stephen Waxman, Director of the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Center and Chair of Neurology at the Yale University School of Medicine, was lead investigator for the study. Co-authors included **Drs. Matthew Craner** and **Joel Black**. Researchers from the University College of London were also involved in the study. The VA, National MS Society, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the United Spinal Association supported the project.

By Lakshmi Bangalore (Yale Bulletin and Calendar, June 4, 2004)

Dr. Liana Fraenkel, Rheumatology Section Chief, received the inaugural Yale Department of Medicine Achievement Award in Research. The award is presented to a faculty member in his/her first five to six years of their appointment. Dr. Fraenkel joined the Yale staff in 1999.

Her research interests are in the areas of epidemiology and the provision of health services in rheumatic disease. During her fellowship, she was involved in several projects examining risk factors for osteoarthritis and Raynaud's phenomenon. Her current research interests focus on improving medical decision making for patients facing difficult choices, specifically in understanding the determinants of patients' choices and improving ways of eliciting patient preferences for alternative treatments in clinical practice.

Dr. Fraenkel's long-term goal is to develop innovative approaches to improve decision making to ensure patients are well informed of available alternatives and to help providers effectively communicate complex medical information to their patients in a manageable way.

Master Sergeant Amado Jimenez recently received the Bronze Star Medal while assigned with the 455th Chemical Brigade in Iraq. MSgt. Jimenez (FMS-electrician) recently returned stateside following a year-long call-up with the 455th based at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The award reads as follows "for exceptionally meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the command's mission."

SPIRIT ONLINE

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