

2018 Young Investigator Contest

Proudly Sponsored by the Veterans Research Foundation of Pittsburgh
in Support and Celebration of National VA Research Week



The Veterans Research Foundation of Pittsburgh's (VRFP) Board of Directors and Dr. Steven H. Graham, Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development, invite the submission of abstracts for poster or oral presentations from junior investigators, clinical research and post-doctoral fellows, medical residents, and graduate students engaged in research at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS).

The goal of this contest is to showcase the efforts of young clinical and basic science researchers through poster and oral presentations as part of VA Pittsburgh's 2018 celebration of National VA Research Week.

TIMELINE

Deadline to submit electronic abstracts	March 30, 2018
Preliminary Review and determination of oral presentations	April 10, 2018
Notification of oral and poster presentation determinations	April 13, 2018
Deadline to submit a PDF file of poster	April 23, 2018
Deadline to submit poster for printing, if utilizing VAPHS Public Affairs Office	April 23, 2018
Deadline for applicant to deliver printed poster to VAPHS Research Office	May 7, 2018
Presentations & Awards	May 14, 2018

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have a current VAPHS appointment (paid employee or WOC), have not received a VA Merit Award, and meet one of the following:

- Any student or graduate student who is currently enrolled at an institution with an academic affiliation with VAPHS, and who is engaged in research at VAPHS.
- Any medical resident or fellow (clinical research, post-doctoral, or VA Advanced fellows) who is engaged in research at VAPHS
- Any Investigator/Researcher who is engaged in research at VAPHS and who has completed a degree granting program, residency or fellowship within the past 3 years.

RESEARCH

- Must focus on/address an issue relevant to Veterans' health, and must either be approved by the VAPHS Research & Development (R&D) Committee or associated with a VAPHS Principal Investigator.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION & CONTEST

- All applicants must use the **Abstract Submission Form** (emailed with this notification) to submit an electronic abstract of their research and a statement of how the research is relevant to Veterans' health via email to VHAPTHResearchOffice@va.gov before **March 30, 2018**.
- Abstracts and posters used for the University Of Pittsburgh Department Of Medicine's Research Day, and/or that have been or will be submitted to a regional or national meeting are **fully eligible**.
- Multiple abstracts from one laboratory/research group are allowed; however, researchers from a single laboratory/group cannot submit identical abstracts. Only one entry per person will be accepted.
- All abstract submissions will be accepted for poster presentation, and at least two abstracts will be selected for oral presentations.
- Oral and poster presentations will be held at VA Pittsburgh's University Drive Campus the morning of Monday, May 14, 2018, before the VAPHS Research Week Kickoff Event.

AWARDS

- The VRFP will award winners with funding which may be used for education, travel, supplies, publications, memberships, etc. in accordance with the VRFP's policies.
 - Up to 2 oral presenters will be awarded with a **\$500** prize
 - Up to 4 poster presents will be awarded with a **\$250** prize
- Awards will be presented in the Learning eXchange at VA Pittsburgh's University Drive Campus on May 14, 2018 immediately following all oral and poster presentations.
- Award categories will be as follows:
 - Young Investigator Oral Presentation Award *in Clinical/Epidemiology/Health Services Research*
 - Young Investigator Oral Presentation Award *in Basic Science/Biomedical Laboratory Research*
 - Young Investigator Poster Presentation Award *in Clinical/Epidemiology/Health Services Research*
 - Young Investigator Poster Presentation Award *in Basic Science/Biomedical Laboratory Research*

REVIEW CRITERIA

- All abstracts and Veterans' health relevance statements will undergo a panel review, and will be discussed during VAPHS Research & Development Committee meeting on **April 10, 2018** to determine oral presentations.
 - Oral presenters will be notified of this determination no later than April 13, 2018.
- Abstracts selected for poster presentations will undergo on-site poster Q&A review based on the poster and on the entrants' ability to communicate the relevance and importance of the scientific findings and the significance to veterans' health to a lay audience.

PRESENTATIONS

- Oral and poster presentations will be held at VA Pittsburgh's University Drive Campus the morning of Monday, May 14, 2018. Poster presentations will take place immediately following oral presentations. Additional details, including specific times and locations for presentations, will be conveyed to all entrants no later than April 13, 2018.
- **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**
 - Poster presentations will include a 3-5 minute verbal presentation followed by questions from the review panel.
 - Applicants must be able to present poster to be eligible for awards.
- **ORAL PRESENTATIONS**
 - Oral presentations will be 10-15 minutes followed by a 10 minute question session.
 - Presenters will have access to a computer, projector and microphone. Presenters may choose bring their personal laptop. If using the VA computer, please note that use of external storage systems (such as USB drives) is prohibited.
 - If your abstract is selected for an oral presentation, you will be contacted by the VAPHS Research Office with additional information no later than April 13, 2018.
 - Abstracts selected for oral presentations will not be required to formally present at the displayed poster, however it is encouraged that oral presenters stand by their posters to be available for any questions.

POSTER GUIDELINES

- A full size printed display. No larger than 36 inches high by 48 inches wide if printing a new poster, or no larger than 36 inches high by 62 inches wide if reusing a pre-printed poster.

- All applicants will be given the option of having their poster printed by the VAPHS Public Affairs Office free of charge, or using an existing poster (such as those used for the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Medicine's Research Day activities).
 - Applicants are encouraged to have their mentor provide a final review of the poster prior to submitting it for printing as no re-prints will be made.
 - If you would like the VAPHS Public Affairs Office to print your poster, you must provide Katherine.Nega@va.gov an electronic copy no later than **April 23, 2018**.
 - **Regardless of the printing method, a PDF file is required for all posters by April 23, 2018.** Poster PDFs should be emailed to Katherine.Nega@va.gov. PDFs of the posters will be made available for the judges prior to the poster viewing sessions.
 - Printed posters must be delivered to the Research Office Building by Monday, May 7, 2018. Posters will be set up and taken down by the Research Office for presentations.
 - Investigators must retrieve their posters from the Research Office by Friday, May 16, 2018.
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Please contact the VAPHS Research Office at VHAPTHResearchOffice@va.gov with any questions!