



Million Veteran Program reaches key milestone

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs' Million Veteran Program (MVP) reached an important milestone when an Army Veteran from Montgomery, Alabama, became the 500,000th to voluntarily enroll in the research database program - making MVP the largest genomic database in the world.

Launched in 2011, and part of the White House Precision Medicine Initiative, participants donate blood from which DNA is extracted. A baseline and period follow-up surveys track Veterans' military experiences, health and lifestyles. Researchers believe the information contained in the database could hold the key to preventing and treating diseases.

As part of the program, participating Veterans grant researchers secure access to their electronic health records and agree to be contacted about participating in future research. Samples and data used are coded to protect participants'

identification and privacy. Research using MVP data is already underway, studying a range of medical issues like mental illness and heart and kidney diseases. The program also has rich data on various health conditions that are common in Veterans.

Approximately 62 percent of MVP enrollees report a current or past diagnosis of high blood pressure and about a third report tinnitus. Also, nearly a third or 32 percent of Veterans present with a history or current diagnosis of cancer.

For more information about MVP, including how to participate, visit www.research.va.gov/MVP/. For information about the 52 VA sites currently enrolled in the program, visit www.research.va.gov/MVP/all-clinics.cfm.

Photo from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) national convention in early August taken just before **President Barak Obama's** remarks (left-to-right: **Jennifer Lee**, VA Deputy Secretary of Health & Human Resources; **Sumitra Muralidhar**, MVP Program Director; **Robert A. McDonald**, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; **Michael Gaziano**, MVP Principal Investigator; **John Concato**, MVP Principal Investigator, based at the West Haven campus).