

Dynamic Infrastructure

There is power in bringing great minds and resources together. To this end, CSP supports an expansive enterprise that includes:

- Data and statistical coordinating centers.
- Epidemiological research centers.
- A pharmacy coordinating center.
- DNA bank, biorepository, and pharmacogenomics analysis laboratory.
- A Network of Dedicated Enrollment Sites (NODES).

NODES

NODES is a consortium of VA medical centers created specifically to enhance the overall performance, compliance, and management of CSP multisite research studies, as well as to cultivate strong local communities dedicated to promoting the role of clinical research in improving the care of Veterans. NODES also develops and shares best practices and insights on study design, management, and conduct with research colleagues locally and nationally.

Breakthroughs of the Future

At CSP, we know that how and what we do today affects the breakthroughs of tomorrow. This is why we are building on current science and technologies, developing new research methods, expanding our informatics capabilities, and looking for even better ways to engage patients and the health care professionals who treat them. Through these and other significant research initiatives with an eye toward the future, CSP continues to help shape clinical decision-making and improve the health and lives of Veterans and all Americans.

Learn More

You can learn more about CSP and its research initiatives and other activities at vacsp.research.va.gov or by emailing csp@va.gov.

Cooperative Studies Program
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Advancing Health Care
through Multisite
Collaborative
Research Projects

COOPERATIVE STUDIES PROGRAM

The Cooperative Studies Program, a division of VA's Office of Research and Development, conducts multisite clinical trials and epidemiologic research on key health conditions impacting our nation's Veterans. Through its collaborative studies, CSP aims to advance Veterans' health, while also providing definitive solutions to national health care problems.



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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Research & Development

DISCOVERY INNOVATION ADVANCEMENT



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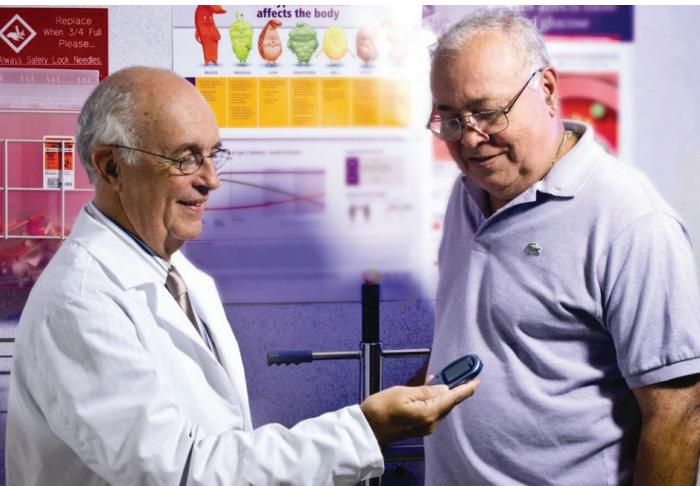


Cooperative Studies Program

Overview

The Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)—supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)—is an award-winning and internationally recognized research program that is dedicated to improving health care for Veterans and the nation by providing definitive evidence for treating, diagnosing, and preventing disease and other health conditions.

Over the past seven decades, we've performed more than 200 studies that have improved the lives of Veterans and have influenced how physicians treat patients in almost every major disease or health condition. Today, in more than 80 VA medical centers across the country, our investigators—among the best scientists and clinicians in the country—continue to pursue the safest and most effective ways to help patients live better lives.



High-Impact Clinical Trials

The impact of our work has been powerful for patients. We've run the VA's flagship clinical trials enterprise, led transformational clinical trials for Veteran health issues, and conducted many studies that benefit the nation as a whole. The many areas we've touched and continue to affect through important clinical research include:

- Showing that aspirin reduces heart attacks and deaths in patients with unstable chest pain.
- Demonstrating the effectiveness of a vaccine for preventing shingles, a painful condition associated with the chicken pox virus.
- Establishing the effectiveness of deep brain stimulation for patients with Parkinson's disease.
- Demonstrating that observation results in similar long-term survival with fewer harms than surgery in men with localized prostate cancer.
- Finding that a psychotherapy technique known as prolonged exposure therapy is beneficial for women Veterans with PTSD.

Groundbreaking Observational Research

Observational research is crucial for understanding treatment effects and factors that are related to health outcomes. CSP has been a leader in this area, providing important information about risks associated with key medical, behavioral, and other factors related to diseases, such as in the VA Million Veteran Program—the largest VA genetic research effort.

In addition, we have a network of CSP Epidemiology Centers—or CSPECs—across the United States. Among their contributions, the CSPECs design and conduct large-scale observational epidemiologic studies—or studies that determine how often diseases occur in different groups of people and why. CSPECs also create and maintain data resources that support research nationwide, including the [Integrated Veteran Epidemiologic Study Data Resource \(INVESTD-R\)](#) and [CSP Epidemiology Analytics Resource \(CSPEAR\)](#) programs.

