



FOVA TRIBUTE TO JOEL KUPERSMITH, MD MAY 28, 2013

At the same time that we congratulate Dr. Kupersmith on his eight years of achievement as the Veterans Health Administration Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), we wish to recognize that he will be greatly missed by the Executive Committee and membership of FOVA. As the longest serving CRADO, Dr. Kupersmith took a lead role in research policy projects, including expanding and promoting comparative effectiveness research. During his tenure, advances included the creation of a major genomics program, establishment of a Central Institutional Review Board, improved communications to increase public and stakeholder awareness of VA research, and greater collaboration with veterans groups, service organizations, and other partners. In addition, he introduced administrative changes that cut bureaucratic red tape and led to significant improvements in the operation of the research program and central office processes. One of Dr. Kupersmith's signature research accomplishments—establishment of the Million Veteran Program—is now on its way to becoming the largest national genomic repository.

Under Dr. Kupersmith's leadership, the research budget grew steadily, allowing the VA to develop and test new methods of conducting research and delivering healthcare. Congressional support for the VA research program is strong, and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) is routinely cited by members of Congress as one of the VA's best assets. Dr. Kupersmith also made it a priority to expand ORD's partnerships with many colleagues in the academic, medical, and research community. As a result, today the VA Research program is at new levels of collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and other federal, academic, and industry partners. Despite his hectic schedule and the many demands on his time, he was a frequent presence at FOVA briefings and events, always adding an important perspective to the conversations.

On behalf of FOVA, we wish Dr. Kupersmith all the best in his next professional venture and thank him for eight years of dedicated service to the VA and our nation's veterans. His research expertise, willingness to collaborate, and trusted partnership over the years have strengthened FOVA and will be greatly missed.



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