



Dear ACT for Veterans Stakeholders:

Happy New Year!

Nearly two years ago, we held our first Steering Committee meeting to launch what became the ACT for Veterans initiative. During that first meeting, plans resulted in what would eventually become the “Clinical Trials Summit” held on April 12, 2018. It was at that Summit that stakeholders representing various groups began frank and informative discussions about how best to bring more clinical trials to veterans. Since that time, we built upon those conversations- turning ideas into proposals and thoughts into actions. Now, as we embark upon this new year, we are excited to share that we are moving closer to seeing tangible results from our collective efforts.

Recently, we finalized our proposal for the “Partnered Studies Program Office”- including identifying personnel needs and methods for financial support. Those deserving particular recognition for their help are listed on the ACT for Veterans website at www.actforveterans.org. We are now actively exploring paths to make key hiring actions and are working toward a goal of having the office at Initial Operating Capability on April 1st. The Partnered Studies Program Office will not only serve as the initial point of contact for potential industry partners but will facilitate processes and communication for starting up the high-quality trials identified to be a good fit for VA and our Veterans. Long term, this group will also work on continual improvement of processes for what is expected to be a established capacity for VA.

As a further indication of the VA Office of Research and Development’s commitment, Grant was recently detailed by Dr. Ramoni, VA Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), into a new role, Deputy CRADO – Enterprise Optimization. This position is intended to focus on the coordinating capabilities across the VA research enterprise and help with multi-site research partnerships that help bring greatest benefit to Veterans in the VA healthcare system.

We are very excited about these latest developments and once again express our gratitude to all of you who helped get us to this point. Please feel free to contact Krissa Caroff, ACT for Veterans Program Coordinator, by email at clinicaltrials@navref.org should you have any questions.

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