



Dear ACT for Veterans Stakeholders:

Happy New Year! We hope that all of you enjoyed a little rest and relaxation over the holiday season and are looking forward to a productive 2019. There have been a few key developments related to the initiative that we'd like to share:

1. The Workgroups have been reconvening with an eye toward coming together for the Workgroup Summit focused on the identified priorities for ACT for Veterans. A lot of hard work is being put into developing models, templates and other tools to help facilitate high quality multi-site industry trials within VA.
2. The focus of Workgroup 5 has been expanded to explore various central/single IRB models (including commercial IRBs, VA Central IRB, and other institutional IRBs). This effort will be aligned with VA's overall efforts with meeting the single IRB requirement for NIH studies. As mentioned in last month's update, Dr. Molly Klote recently joined VA's Office of Research and Development as the Director of the Office of Research Protections, Policy and Education. As part of her responsibilities she will be helping VA transition into compliance with single IRB policies. Molly has been asked to take the lead for Workgroup 5 to ensure activities are coordinated with other relevant efforts. Steve Bartlett and Fred Hendler, (co-chairs of the VA Central IRB) will continue to work on the group and help by providing their expertise and insights.
3. The Workgroup Summit is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in Washington DC and will bring workgroup members together, allowing them to present their respective products and providing opportunities for feedback and additional revision of those products. We anticipate that a summary of the Summit deliverables will be provided in the March update.
4. February also marks the end of Year 1 of the ACT for Veterans initiative. As we move into Year 2, NAVREF is actively seeking partners/sponsors to help support the financial needs of the initiative. Individuals or organizations should contact Rick for more details at [rstarrs@navref.org](mailto:rstarrs@navref.org).
5. We encourage stakeholders to visit the resources page on the ACT for Veterans website (<http://www.actforveterans.org/resources.html>) to view our 2018 Progress Report, the ACT for Veterans Year 2 Objectives and Milestones, and the initiative timeline.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support. Please contact Krissa Caroff, ACT for Veterans Program Coordinator, by email at [clinicaltrials@navref.org](mailto:clinicaltrials@navref.org) should you have any questions.

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# ACT FOR VETERANS – 2019 MILESTONES

## ENABLING ACCESS TO CLINICAL TRIALS FOR VETERANS

