

## Profound Progress, 1940s to 2000s

*Over the decades, VA researchers have been on the leading edge of numerous momentous health advances.*

### 2000s

- Showed the effectiveness of a new vaccine for shingles, a painful skin and nerve infection that affects older adults.
- Identified a protein derivative that disrupts memory in an animal model of Alzheimer's disease and offers promise for developing early-detection tests or new drugs.
- Announced major funding initiatives for research on neurotrauma, chronic pain, and other health problems prevalent in combat-wounded Veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Launched a multisite trial to test robotic therapy for stroke rehabilitation.
- Demonstrated that a behavioral therapy called prolonged exposure is effective for treatment of PTSD.
- Developed high-performance prosthetic devices, such as a bionic ankle that helps propel users forward.
- Showed that implantable cardiac defibrillators decrease the risk of death in those with advanced chronic heart failure.

### 1990s

- Found that the insulin pump is more effective than multiple daily injections for patients with diabetes.
- Identified genes for schizophrenia, dementia, laryngeal cancer, Werner's syndrome, and Alzheimer's disease.
- Developed an electrical stimulation system that helps patients move paralyzed limbs.
- Nobel Prize in Medicine awarded to former VA researcher Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D.

### 1980s

- Developed the nicotine patch and other therapies to support smoking cessation.
- Developed a computer-controlled ventilator system that improved patient outcomes.
- Developed the Seattle Foot, a prosthesis that allows amputees to run and jump.



VA has supported the development of a powered ankle-foot prosthesis that will help patients walk faster with fewer balance problems, and a neurally controlled arm and hand prosthesis that will perform, look, and feel like a natural limb, making handling objects much easier.

### 1970s

- Identified best treatments for colon cancer, stable angina, high blood pressure, and other conditions.
- Nobel Prizes in Medicine awarded to VA researchers Andrew Schally, Ph.D., and Rosalyn Yalow, Ph.D.

### 1960s

- Performed the first successful liver transplant and developed anti-rejection techniques.
- Pioneered concepts leading to the development of the CAT (CT) scan.

### 1950s

- Contributed to the development and early use of the implantable cardiac pacemaker.
- Linked smoking with cancer of the respiratory tract and lung.

### 1940s

- Developed and tested effective therapies for tuberculosis.
- Developed the first rehabilitation program for blind persons and standards for better-fitting, lighter artificial limbs.

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