**VA Clinical Research Alliance**

Aligning researchers with current VA processes in order to run quality research at the Portland VA

Purpose:
To provide education for clinical researchers from disparate backgrounds on campus about how to work within the Portland VA system efficiently, effectively and accurately.

Meetings:
2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of every three months (quarterly) from noon to 1pm in Bldg 101, Room 433. Meetings are open to clinical researchers on both sides of the bridge; Research Coordinators, Principal Investigators, IRB staff, etc.

Collective Goals/ Scope of Work:
To improve our expertise in the conduct of VA clinical research; keeping up with the scope of work involved in clinical research as it creeps outward because of ever-changing rules and expanded responsibilities.

To effect positive change in the culture of clinical research at the Portland VA; committed to ‘raising the bar’ for clinical research in the level of presentations we host and the information we disseminate. Our hope is that shared knowledge finds practical application in the internal workings of clinical research teams conducting research at the VA.

To remain focused as an education group; keeping this narrow focus will help us remain a successful and useful resource for Portland VA clinical researchers.

To become a self-sustaining system of clinical researchers; encouraging active involvement from members.

Our group can:
1. Provide support to clinical researchers in the form of our regular meetings.
2. Invite and accept input and topic requests.
3. Educate, raise awareness and facilitate the sharing of information.
4. Make VA research information accessible and understandable for clinical researchers.

Presentation topics have included and are not limited to:
* Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
* disseminating research office changes and updates
* study set-up
* tracking vs. data collection
* utilizing VA CSP SMART tools (shared, modifiable source and regulatory documents)