



An IDEAS –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

HSR&D AWARD FOR HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACT



Adam Gordon, MD, MPH; Hildi Hagedorn, PhD, LP; and Ruth Klap, PhD are recipients of the 2020 HSR&D Health System Impact Award. This award honors HSR&D- and QUERI-funded research that has had a direct and important impact on clinical practice or clinical policy within the VA health care system – and that has been successfully translated into VA’s policy or operations.

Providing Addiction Treatment for Vulnerable Veterans

As part of HSR&D’s Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center (IDEAS) and co-principal investigator for QUERI’s Consortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment (CONDUIT), Dr. Gordon earned the Impact Award for his overall

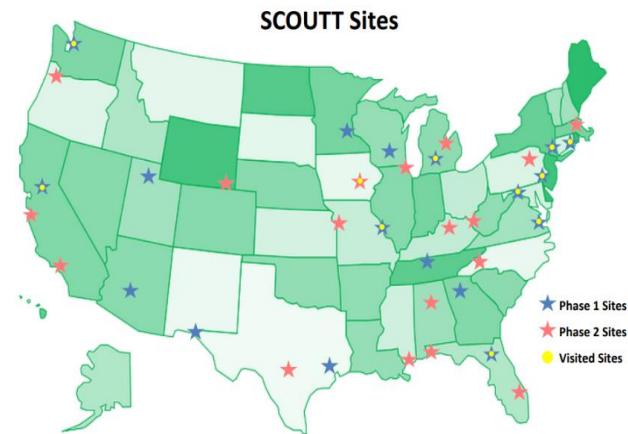
excellence as a clinical investigator, educator, and mentor, and, in particular, his examination of the efficacy, effectiveness, and treatment of persons who have addiction or are vulnerable due to social determinants of health. Substance use disorder (SUD) includes a dependence or addiction to alcohol, illegal and prescription drugs, and/or nicotine. Further, nearly 1 in 10 Veterans has been diagnosed with an SUD (NIDA; Drug Facts). Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Gordon was one of the first board-certified addiction medicine physicians in the country, and one of the first to provide medication treatment for opioid use disorder (MOUD). His work has had a direct impact on the provision of medical care for patients with opioid use disorder – a critical problem VA faces as part of the national opioid crisis. Focusing research on vulnerable populations, including Veterans with alcohol use disorder, OUD, and those who are homeless has allowed VA to broaden access to care for Veterans who might otherwise be unreachable. For example, Dr. Gordon led the Vulnerable Veteran Innovative PACT (Patient-Aligned Care Team) Initiative – a multi-million-dollar project to enhance the provision of services within primary care for vulnerable Veterans within VISN 19. Dr. Gordon also co-leads the QUERI-funded Implementing Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) Initiative, and he founded one of the first Homeless PACTs in the VA healthcare system. In addition to his outstanding research, Dr. Gordon’s influence is felt through his mentoring of young researchers and VA clinicians, his expert input to VA policies, his collaborations with VA operations partners, and his national influence as a thought leader on addiction and healthcare

The VIP team wishes you many years of great achievements! The right ingredients for success are hard work, patience, perseverance and positivity! Congratulations for brilliantly combining them and making it!

SCOUTT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS 36 VA SITES

The SCOUTT Initiative nationally is entering PHASE 2. Having established at least one (and in many cases two or more) Level 1 clinic at each of the original 18 facilities, the teams of the facilities are now charged to expand to another facility to develop a Level 1 clinic (primary care, mental health, pain clinic) to start medication treatment for OUD. PHASE 2 sites have now been determined in nearly all 18 original participating VISNs. As shown on the graphic, SCOUTT sites are spread out all over the United States with even more spread sites likely to occur in the future.

The SCOUTT initiative conducted a national 3-day virtual conference in September of 2020. A second conference took place in September of 2020 and the most recent conference was a Regional SCOUTT Conference held in April 2021 with over 750 participants. Teams from existing facilities of SCOUTT and PHASE 2 within their VISN were brought together in outbreak sessions to discuss what SCOUTT, models of care, and MOUD treatment would look like at their site.



PUBLICATION

Cochran G, Cole ES, Sharbaugh M, Nagy D, Gordon AJ, Gellad WF, Pringle J, Bear T, Warwick J, Drake C, Chang CH, DiDomenico E, Kelley D, Donohue J. Provider and Patient-panel Characteristics Associated With Initial Adoption and Sustained Prescribing of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder. J Addict Med. 2021 May 10. doi: Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33973921.