



Welcome to the VIP Initiative

October 2019

An IDEAS –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

## NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Amy Mhatre-Owens, MS**  
**PROJECT MANAGER**

### **Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT)**

Amy Mhatre-Owens completed her undergraduate degree in physiology and neurobiology from the University of Maryland, College Park; and completed her master's degree in health administration informatics from the University of Maryland University College. She has vast experience in clinical research including regulatory compliance, clinical monitoring, and human subjects' safety oversight. Amy has worked primarily on projects funded by the National Institutes of Health and has working knowledge of FDA, ICH, OHRP compliance requirements.

Amy was born and raised in Mumbai, India, then spent most of her time in the Washington D.C. metro area. Her personal interests include cooking, playing soccer and spending time with her family.

## QUERI MEGA GRANT

### **Congratulations to VISN 19 (Adam Gordon and Joseph Frank) VISN 1, VISN 7 VISN 20 and VISN 22 on receiving a Mega QUERI Grant.**

#### **The Consortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (CONDUIT)**

The overarching goal of this project – the (CONDUIT) -is to unite five inter-related VISN/QUERI pilot Partnered Implementation Initiative projects in a concerted effort to improve access to MOUD among Veterans with OUD and access to alternative therapies for pain in 57 VHA sites spanning six VISNs. CONDUIT will span four critical care settings in the OUD continuum of care: Primary Care; Specialty Care; Acute Care (inpatient and Emergency Department); and Telehealth. These efforts will be connected by Veteran Engagement, Implementation, and Quantitative/Economic Cores that will help CONDUIT teams harmonize on metrics, processes and outcomes. There will also be a Strategic Advisory Group composed of Operations leaders and Veterans that will help CONDUIT remain maximally aligned with VHA and Veteran priorities. CONDUIT will also offer sites the opportunity to implement new evidence-based practices (i.e. ones that were not part of initial launch) in the latter half of the project period.

The methods deployed by each of the CONDUIT teams will be similar: expert “external facilitation” teams will lead partnered “internal facilitation” teams at local sites in a process called “Implementation Facilitation (IF)” – a multi-component suite of tools aimed to help the sites effectively adopt evidence-based practices. The five projects piloted and systematically modified IF strategies in Phase 1 and now propose to disseminate those sharpened strategies on a national scale over the next three years, including two new VISNs and dozens of additional sites. In terms of evaluation, CONDUIT will use well-established formative evaluation methods to assess the effectiveness of and to drive refinements to the IF strategies. Additionally, CONDUIT will use cutting edge quantitative methods to assess the impact the work on important clinical targets and to assess the value of the work in terms of costs vs. benefits. Throughout the project period, teams will develop and refine products such as patient and provider educational materials, prescribing and communication guides, and clinic operations manuals. These evaluation and product development efforts will prime successful scale-up and dissemination efforts throughout VHA.

## PUBLICATION

### [Opioid Prescribing Safety Measures in Medicaid Enrollees With and Without Cancer.](#)

Moyo P, Gellad WF, Sabik LM, Cochran GT, Cole ES, **Gordon AJ**, Kelley DK, Donohue JM.  
Am J Prev Med. 2019 Oct;57(4):540-544. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2019.05.019. PMID: 31542131

### [Housing Instability Characteristics Among Transgender Veterans Cared for in the Veterans Health Administration, 2013-2016.](#)

Carter SP, Montgomery AE, Henderson ER, Ketterer B, Dichter M, **Gordon AJ**, Shipherd JC, Kauth MR, Blosnich JR. Am J Public Health. 2019 Oct;109(10):1413-1418. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.305219. Epub 2019 Aug 15. PMID: 31415197

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: [www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative](http://www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative)