Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: NOV 15 2000

From: Chief Research and Development Officer

Subj: VHA Directive 2000-0043 entitled "Banking of Human Research Subjects' Specimens"

To: Associate Chief of Staff for Research

1. Attached you will find a copy of the new VHA Directive 2000-043 entitled "Banking of Human Research Subjects' Specimens". This directive addresses the storage of all biological specimens collected in VA approved research studies regardless of the funding source (VA, NIH, drug company or other non-VA source).

2. This policy has been developed to ensure that all research in veterans, including genetic research, is conducted in accordance with the highest ethical standards. It has also been developed so that human biological specimens as well as the linked clinical data collected as part of research projects conducted by VA investigators in VA facilities or approved off-site locations, are maintained at VA sponsored tissue banks and remain under the control of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3. A VHA handbook that will provide guidance on issues related to this directive is being drafted. This handbook is designed to address issues related to the definition of a VA sponsored tissue bank, use and reuse of specimens and the linked clinical data, as well as related ethical issues.

4. Questions concerning this directive should be addressed to Brenda A. Cuccherini, Ph.D. at (202) 408-3614.

John R. Feussner, M.D.

Attachment

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