

# MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR



In addition to continuing as a top facility in quality and efficiency, the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center continues to be the only 5- star medical facility in South Carolina for patient satisfaction. Our VA goes beyond health care in so many ways to make sure the whole Veteran is taken care of by an incredibly devoted team. Our staff coordinates with other agencies to meet non-medical needs, such as providing transportation for those who need assistance getting to appointments; lodging; food; mental health services, and fun activities-- all while finding ways to honor our Veterans and being a good community partner. You, our patients deserve nothing less.

Healthcare innovation can drive economic growth by improving efficiency and increasing productivity, as well as optimizing patient outcomes. There are so many amazing things going on here in our Health Care System and I want to highlight three initiatives aimed at improving care for our Veterans.

The Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System, one of a select number of high-performance VAs in the country was approved in February to start a **Kidney Transplantation Program**. We are proud to offer this to our Veterans. This will enable us to provide care for Veterans who currently must go outside our VA for this service. We have an anticipated start date for the program of January 2023.

Another major win for RHJ is the addition of **Robotic- Assisted Surgery**. We are proud to now offer robotic-assisted surgery to many of our Veterans. This allows surgeons to perform more complex minimally invasive surgical procedures with increased precision. Robotic surgery offers benefits to patients such as shorter hospitalization stays and smaller incisions, resulting in a reduced risk of infection. We currently have four robots and have completed 209 surgeries to date.

Did you know that RHJ has a **3D Innovation Center** that was instrumental in the fight

against COVID-19 for many of our Veterans and continues to improve the lives of many every day? The center was established and selected to be one of three National 3D Printing Hubs for VHA to provide patient-specific health care solutions using Advanced Manufacturing. During 2020 and now, the center's focus is on providing PPE to protect staff and patients from the COVID-19 virus. The center continues to expand its services, now providing digital dental solutions that include night guards, custom trays, and soon dentures. This is a win for our Veterans because it poses a more accurate device at a faster turnaround time than traditional methods. The center also provides custom devices for patient-specific needs such as wheelchair attachment pieces including trays, baskets, and cup holders. The center's latest development is producing anatomical models based on CT or MRI imaging that provides surgeons the capability to plan out surgical procedures in advance as well as provide patients a more enhanced educational explanation for their clinical situation.

I am so happy to share our innovation updates with you and I want to extend my sincere appreciation for everyone's support and dedication to our Veterans and their families. We couldn't do what we do without you. Our VA is proud to be a part of this community and we are grateful to be able to work with our partners to care for our Veterans.

Lastly, I think it is essential to stay in contact with all our Veterans and share news, relevant stories, and events. We do all of this on social media and encourage all of you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Respectfully,

Scott R. Isaacks, FACHE  
Director/ CEO



Scott R. Isaacks, FACHE, MBA  
Medical Center Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Tasty Truck Thursday

July 21

## SUICIDE PREVENTION TAKES EVERYONE!

*#BeThere*

### Veterans Crisis Line:

1-800-273-8255 and Press 1

### Online chat at:

[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

Text: 838255



3,425  
Families Served



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System