

2020 FedHealthIT 100 Awards

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Winner Bios

FedHealthIT Hall of Fame Inductees

Alan Constantian, Ph.D., senior advisor, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

As the former deputy chief information officer (DCIO) for the Office of Information and Technology's (OIT) Account Management Office (AMO), Alan Constantian spearheaded the creation and management of AMO. In his current role as a senior advisor, Constantian continues to provide real-time, strategic leadership to the IT team, the three VA administrations and all VA staff offices regarding innovative technological tools that best support VA's mission to the nation's Veterans. Prior to his appointment as DCIO for AMO, Constantian served as a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) account manager. He also served in OIT from January 2012 to August 2014 as senior adviser to the VA CIO with Customer Advocate for Health, where among other things, he was the executive sponsor for the successful VA implementation of the Affordable Care Act (phase 1).

Neil Evans, M.D., chief officer, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Dr. Neil Evans pairs his 18 years of clinical experience and his passion for technology to bolster health IT solutions that help Veterans live better, healthier lives. Under Evans' leadership, the Office of Connected Care is dedicated to improving services for Veterans, their families and caregivers by increasing access, fostering continuity of care and promoting patient empowerment through digital health technologies.

Kevin Galpin, M.D., executive director, Telehealth Services, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Dr. Kevin Galpin implements VA's telehealth technologies for Veterans, caregivers and clinicians. Under his leadership as executive director of Telehealth Services, VA's rapidly expanding telehealth options are better serving rural and at-risk populations. Telehealth in both the home and the clinic are providing new opportunities for Veterans to see VA providers across the country from the location of their choice. Since March 2020, the use of telehealth services, such as VA Video Connect have grown over 1,000% and has allowed more than 1.1 million Veterans to connect with their care team while maintaining physical distancing during the pandemic.

Theresa Hancock, director, My HealtheVet, Office of Connected Care, VHA

Theresa Hancock leads a team of clinicians, developers and communicators to connect Veterans to My HealtheVet, VA's health portal. Veterans can access personal health records, refill prescriptions, contact their care teams with Secure Messaging, schedule appointments and more. Under Hancock's leadership, the My HealtheVet community has grown to over 5 million users and the service processes almost half a million prescription refill requests and more than 275,000 secure messages on a weekly basis.

Joseph Ronzio, DHSc, CPHIMS, FHIMS, deputy chief health technology officer, VHA
Dr. Joseph Ronzio serves as the deputy chief health technology officer at VHA, managing complex, professional, technical and administrative projects. He is a U.S. Air Force Veteran who served as a commissioned officer within the Medical Services Corps and still serves in a Reserve capacity within the Joint Enablement Capabilities Command.

John Short, chief technology and integration officer, OEHRM

John Short, a U.S. Army Veteran, successfully led the migration of more than 105 billion VistA health records of 23.7 million Veterans to VA's new Electronic Health Record (EHR) solution as of November 2020. This migration of information enables advanced data analytics that will drive stronger connections between Veterans' military service and their health outcomes. Short previously led the VA's legacy health record system, known as the VistA Evolution program, as well as efforts in cybersecurity, architecture, electronic health record interoperability and joint Department of Defense (DOD)/VA management and implementation.

Todd Simpson, deputy assistant secretary, OIT

Todd Simpson was appointed deputy assistant secretary for Development Security Operations (DevSecOps) in May 2020 after nearly three decades in the federal government in strategic planning, organizational development and operational efficiency. He served as the first chief product officer at the Department of Health and Human Services and as the chief information officer at the Food and Drug Administration where he focused on cloud migration, agile methodologies and mobile technology. At VA, he is leading interoperability initiatives for VA's electronic health record and guiding OIT's transition to product line management and other DevSecOps principles and practices.

Paul Tibbits, M.D., executive director, Office of Technical Integration, OIT

Dr. Paul Tibbits has 18 years of experience leading change management, process re-engineering and IT initiatives that support federal health care programs. He developed and implemented two worldwide medical record systems, restructured IT management and regularly represented IT projects to senior executives and Congress. In December 2006, Tibbits began his career with VA, where he served as deputy chief information officer (DCIO) for Enterprise Development, DCIO for Architecture, Strategy and Design and program executive officer for the Financial Management Business Transformation Program.

John H. Windom, executive director, OEHRM

John H. Windom leads VA's effort to improve the delivery of Veteran health care by creating an interoperable EHR solution across VA and DOD. This new EHR solution facilitates the secure transfer of active-duty service members' health records as they transition to Veteran status, improving data analysis capabilities and leading to better health outcomes. Prior to his work for VA, Windom was a program manager for the Navy's Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Transformation. He developed and implemented an acquisition strategy to transform the Navy's 55 legacy human

resource (HR) management systems to a state-of-the-market commercial HR solution/product.

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Gil Alterovitz, Ph.D., FACMI, FAMIA, director, National Artificial Intelligence Institute, VHA

Gil Alterovitz is working to build Artificial Intelligence Research & Development capacity to help Veterans. He has led national and international collaborative initiatives for developing novel informatics methods and approaches for integrating clinical, pharmaceutical and genomic information, from research to point-of-care. He has produced over 50 peer-reviewed publications and three books in the field.

Kenneth Blount, Technology Information Officer test and joint release manager, OEHRM

As a testing manager for OHERM, Kenneth Blount was recognized for his work in data interoperability, security and analytics in support of VA's mission to modernize and integrate VA's electronic health record system with DOD, the U.S. Coast Guard and community care providers.

Dominic Cussatt, principal deputy assistant secretary, principal deputy chief information officer, OIT

Dominic Cussatt oversees the planning and operations of VA's \$4 billion, 8,000 employee OIT department. He previously served as OIT's chief information security officer, where he provided strategic leadership to a team of cybersecurity specialists leading various cybersecurity programs and risk management activities to ensure secure and reliable operation of VA information systems.

Jack Galvin, associate deputy assistant secretary, IT Operations and Service, OIT

Jack Galvin directs the operations of information systems, technology and telecommunications at all VA facilities, including VHA Medical Centers, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Regional Offices and VA field-based program offices. He is responsible for IT operations and services encompassing all levels and on-site customer-service support to over 140 VA Medical Centers, over 1200 VA community points of Veteran care and services and 56 regional offices. He also leads a team of nearly 7,000 staff located throughout the nation.

James P. Gfrerer, assistant secretary for Information and Technology and chief information officer, OIT

James P. Gfrerer leads a team of more than 8,000 employees and 8,000 contractors in OIT to deliver technologies and services that improve the Veteran experience. OIT manages an IT budget of \$4.2 billion in support of VHA, VBA and National Cemetery Administration and the entire \$200 billion VA System. In this largest centralized IT program in the federal space, OIT executes the enterprise IT strategy, transforms the business, operates the network infrastructure and secures all applications and systems.

Jeffrey London, executive director, Loan Guaranty Service, VBA

Jeffrey London is the director of the Loan Guaranty Service at VA. He directs the national loan program responsible for helping Veterans obtain mortgages to purchase homes, adapt homes to accommodate certain service-connected disabilities, retain their homes if they experience financial difficulties, as well as the program that sells real estate owned properties acquired through this process. Before being appointed as director, London served as the deputy director for Loan Guaranty Service, where he was responsible for the formulation, initiation and execution of strategies, standards, policies, regulations and procedures for the program.

David “Drew” Myklegard, executive director, Demand Management, OIT

David “Drew” Myklegard provides a consolidated set of enterprise-wide services that enables VA to capture business needs, architect, engineer, monitor performance, ensure program alignment and provide cloud solutions in support of VA IT modernization. Under Myklegard’s leadership, Demand Management Dashboard (DMD) is the “gateway” for IT initiatives throughout the VA IT enterprise, helping VA improve solution delivery and provide better outcomes for Veterans. His work also empowers developers to build mobile and web apps using standards-based software development kits and application programming interfaces designed to serve Veterans.

Susan Perez, executive director, IT Program Integration, chief of staff, OIT

Susan Perez is chief of staff and executive director of IT integration at OIT. Through her leadership and role as a change agent in the department, she has ensured that multiple transformative initiatives have flourished, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Electronic Health Record Modernization and OIT’s cybersecurity strategy.

Augie Turano, Ph.D., acting director, Data Migration and Data Syndication, OEHRM

Augie Turano is the acting director of Data Migration/Syndication for VA’s \$16 billion transition of VA legacy VistA EHR system to the commercial EHR solution. Under Turano’s direction, the Data Migration and Data Syndication Management team has migrated more than 1 billion VistA health records of 23.7 million Veterans to VA’s new EHR solution, as of September 2020. This migration of information enables advanced data analytics that will drive stronger connections between Veterans’ military service and their health outcomes.

Charles Worthington, chief technology officer, OIT

Charles Worthington is a software developer and product designer, helping the government adopt modern, digital-service delivery best practices since 2013. Worthington leads efforts to improve Veterans’ experiences when interacting with VA online, to streamline benefits processing, to increase health data interoperability and to help OIT adopt modern DevSecOps best practices.

Kaeli Yuen, Ph.D., presidential innovation fellow, OIT

Kaeli Yuen is a clinical informaticist experienced in research, product management and health information technologies. Her drive to make an impact in this area was sparked

by early career experiences at VA Palo Alto developing clinical decision support applications for VA's electronic health record. She enjoys building products, processes and teams from the ground up and has recently done so at The Human Diagnosis Project, Akido Labs and the D-Health Lab at the University of Southern California. Originally from Los Angeles, Yuen received a doctorate degree in medicine from the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and a bachelor's in biology from Stanford University.

FedHealthIT Vision Award Winners (Team)

This team of technologists, judges and other experts provided a nimble response during COVID-19, developing and deploying virtual hearings to help Veterans attend their appeal hearings on internet-linked devices from the safety of their own homes. COVID-19 and physical distancing guidance created demand for more robust tools and services to assist Veterans with navigating and accessing services. The nationwide launch of virtual hearing technology allows Veterans to connect with the board via their mobile phone or laptop when using the VA Video Connect app — the videoconferencing system that Veterans also use for telehealth appointments. Using this new technology, Veterans have greater access to board hearings and more choice and control in their appeals process. Additionally, the functionality keeps appeals on track, reducing the backlog of appeals and allowing Veterans to have their hearings.

FedHealthIT Communicators of the Year

Nicole Gilbride, strategic and operational communications, outreach coordination, and stakeholder engagement, DevSecOps

Nicole Gilbride specializes in business operations, stakeholder engagement and strategic communications, leveraging stakeholder input and collaborating with industry partners to drive continuous improvement at VA. She excels at building and strengthening key relationships with business partners and peers across the department and played an instrumental role in OIT's delivery of critical requirements for Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act.

Alan Greilsamer, director, media relations, VHA

Alan Greilsamer is a results-oriented and highly motivated executive leader with a proven track record of developing and executing branding; communications, marketing and public relations campaigns; and creating and introducing new products and services at VA. Greilsamer's public affairs and grassroots acumen, in addition to program development and execution, organizational management, brand creation and implementation—is driving a measurable impact on department objectives and raising the bar for federal communication professionals.

Reginald Humphries, director, IT Strategic Communication, OIT

As a strategic communications expert, Humphries is the driving force behind OIT's communication strategy, creating a new paradigm of government communication to achieve VA's goals. His unique blend of communication acumen, management expertise and talent for relationship-building are instrumental in uniting distinct stakeholders; including an OIT workforce of 16,000, VA business partners who deliver benefits and services to Veterans, more than 390,000 VA employees and industry partners and taxpayers. Humphries' visionary leadership inspires his team of communication professionals to drive engagement with OIT's digital transformation.