



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

# VA & Academic Medicine: Partnering for Veterans' Health

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Learn

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Lead

**Congressional Academic Medicine  
Caucus Briefing – HVAC 215**

**June 20, 2017**

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AAMC Chief Academic Affairs Officer**

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Deputy Chief Academic Affiliations  
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Association of  
American Medical Colleges

# Welcome

- **Topic: The Value to Veterans of the VA – Academic Medicine Partnership**
- **Sponsor: The Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus (CAMC)**

# What Is the CAMC?

**The Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus (CAMC) is an informal, bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening our nation's reputation as having the world's most advanced medical care.**

**Co-Chairs:   The Hon. Phil Roe, MD (TN)  
                  The Hon. Kathy Castor (FL)**

# What Is the AAMC? Not-for-Profit Assn.

Medical Schools, Hospitals, Physicians Working Together:

## Medical Schools



147

LCME-  
accredited  
U.S. medical  
schools

17

LCME-accredited  
Canadian  
medical schools

## Teaching Hospitals



Nearly

400

major teaching  
hospitals and  
health systems,  
including

51

Veterans  
Affairs  
medical  
centers

## Academic and Professional Societies



More than

80

academic and professional  
societies

# Academic Medicine: Mission Driven, Mission Responsible

- **Driven** by Intertwined Missions of Patient Care, Research, and Education
- **Responsible** to Society for Fulfilling these Missions to Advance Health Care for All

## Patient Care



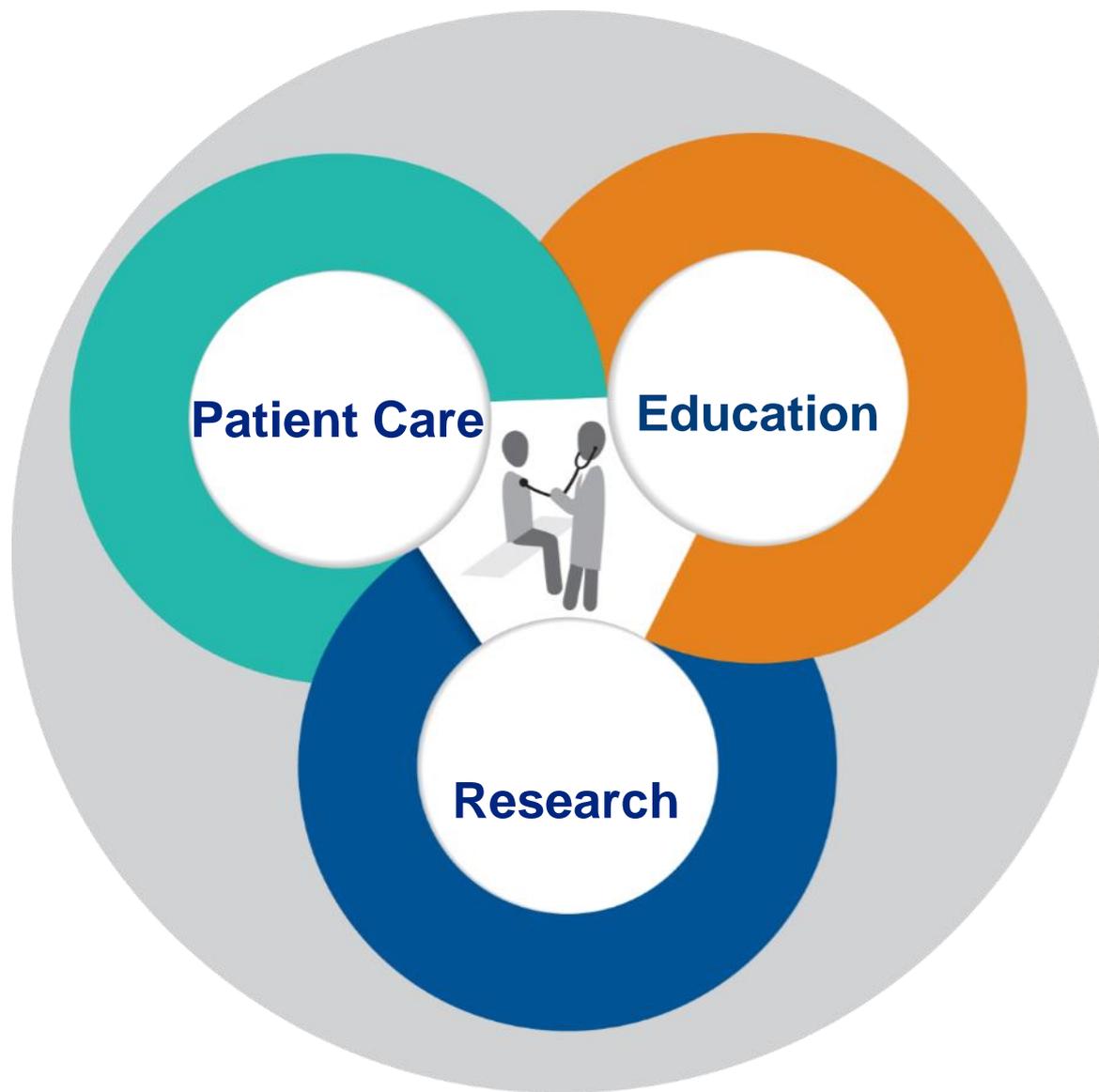
## Research



## Education



# Academic Medical Centers and VA: Three Shared Missions



# Today's Speakers and Program

## Speakers

**Karen M. Sanders, MD, Deputy Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, Veterans Health Administration**

**John E. Prescott, MD, AAMC Chief Academic Affairs Officer**

## Program

- **Review 70-year History of Partnership**
- **Highlight Value of Partnership to Education, Research, and Patient Care to Veterans**

# Three Take-Away Points

At the end of the briefing, we hope you will take with you three key points:

**#1**

**Academic affiliates (teaching hospitals and medical schools) are integral to the VA and Veterans**

**#2**

**VA-academic affiliate partnerships for education, research, and patient care are essential to the VA and Veterans**

**#3**

**To improve Veterans' health care, we must sustain and strengthen VA-academic affiliate partnerships**

# Our History Together: Mutually Beneficial Partnerships Borne Out of Crises

## Post WWII:

- 16 million returning veterans needed care
- VA needed to train, hire additional physicians rapidly

## VA Policy Memorandum #2 - January 1, 1946

**The Purpose of Affiliations:** “affording the veteran a much higher standard of medical care than could be given him with a wholly full-time medical service.”

<http://www.va.gov/oaa/Archive/PolicyMemo2.pdf>

# The VA – Academic Medicine Partnership Today: More than 70 Years Strong



## US Schools of Medicine

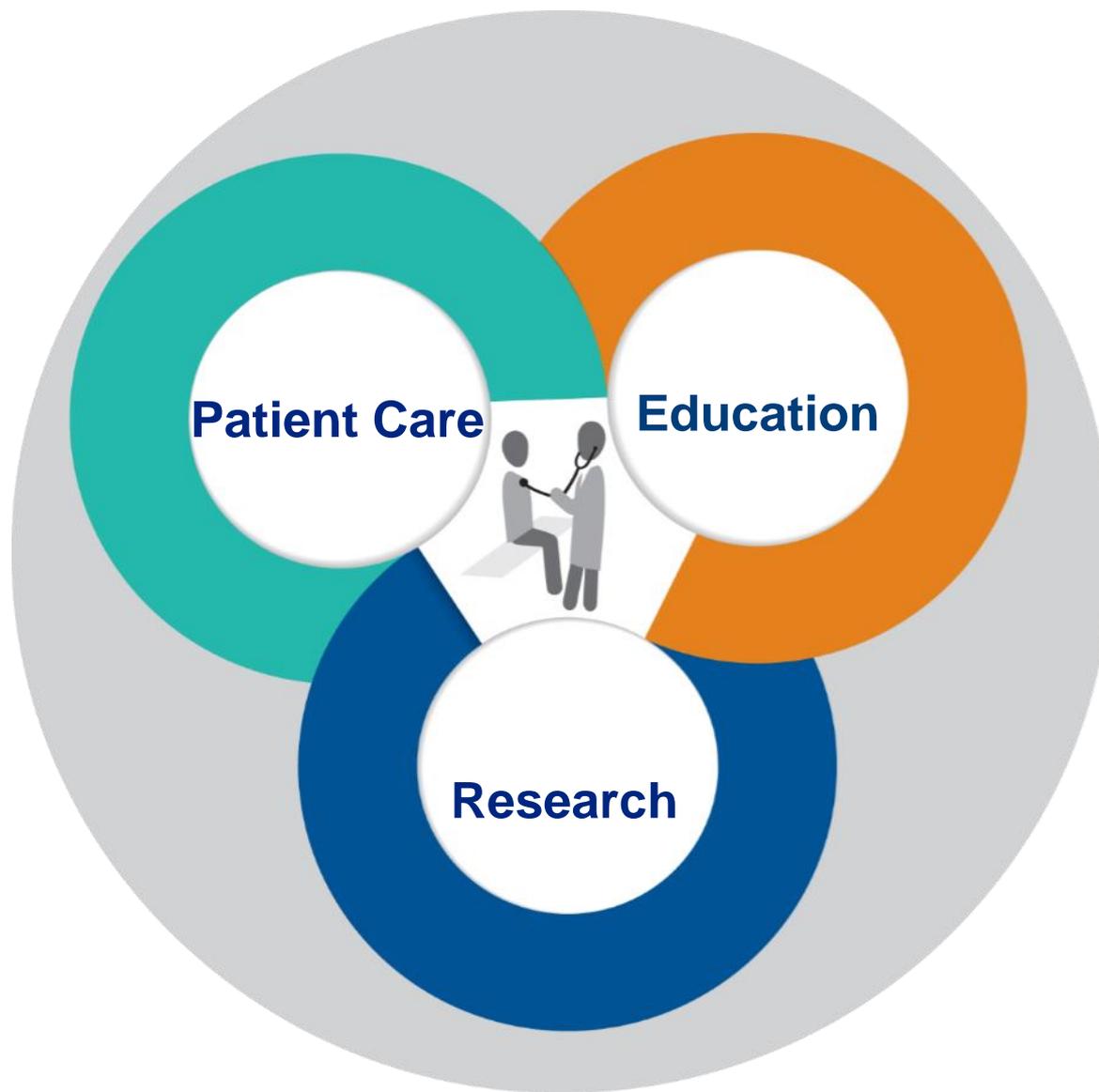
**Over 90% of schools = VA partners**  
**25,707 students in 2016**



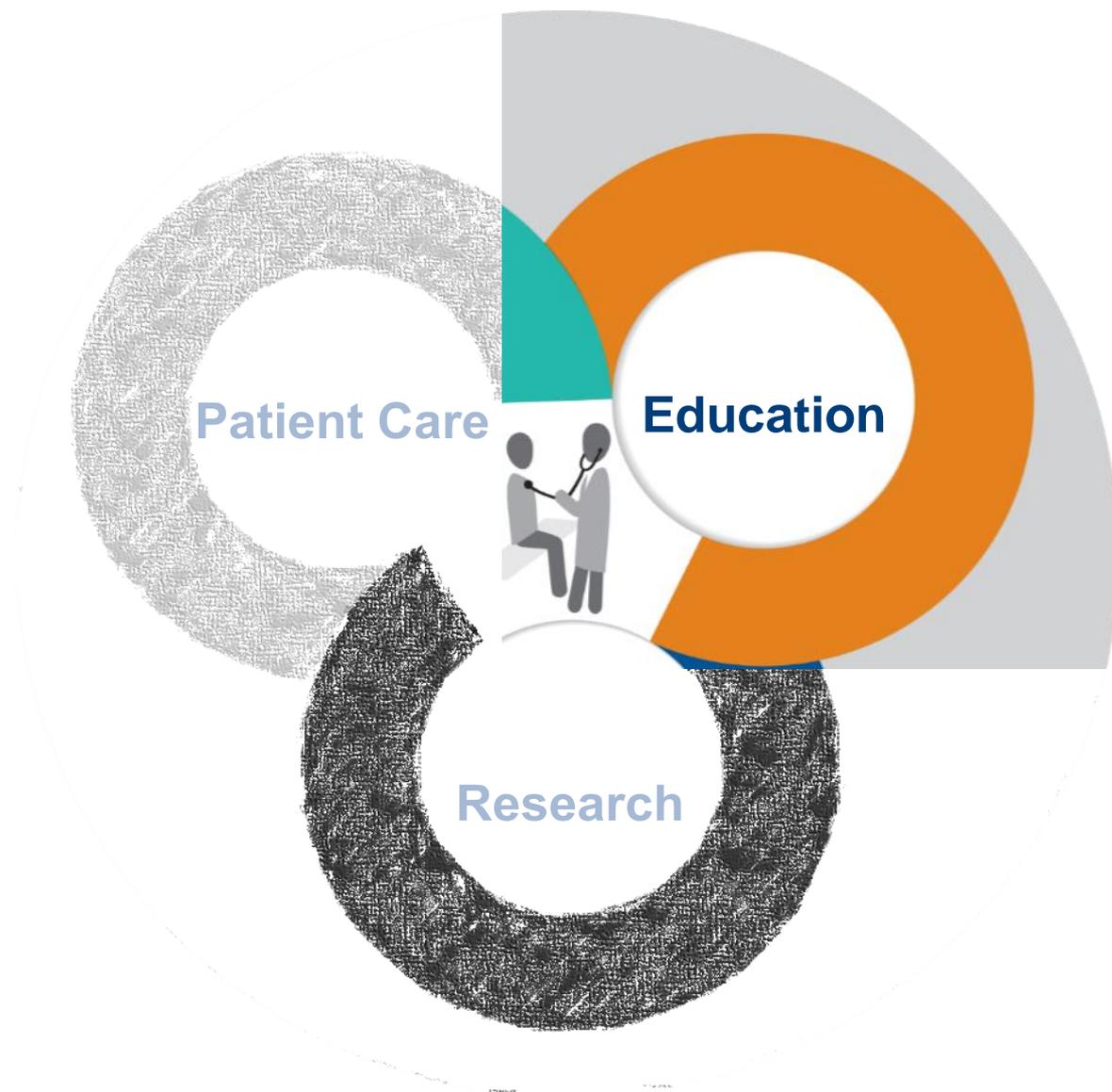
## Teaching Hospitals

**43,768 residents rotated through**  
**VA facilities in 2016**

# Academic Medical Centers and VA: Three Shared Missions



# Academic Medical Centers and VA: Education



# Education Mission Background

## Background



**The VA is the single, largest provider of health care training in the United States**

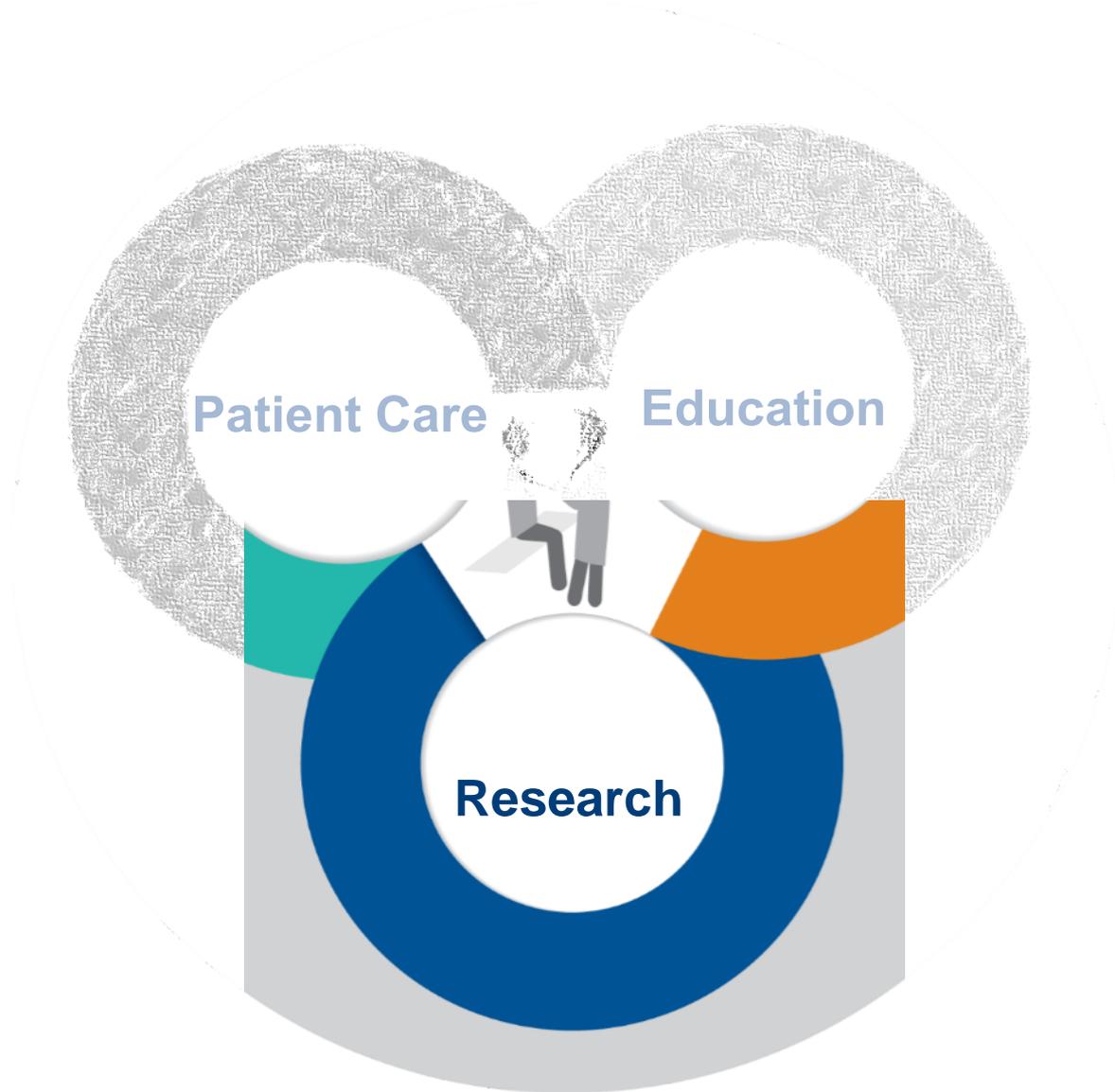
- **3/4 of U.S. physicians receive at least part of their training at VA facilities working with academic medical centers (AMCs)**
- In addition to VA collaboration with 135 of 147 schools of medicine
  - VA also collaborates with 30 of 33 DO granting schools
  - More than 40 other clinical education programs affiliated with 1,800 education institutions

# Education Mission Partnership: Essential for Veterans



- **Residents' Care:** Veteran care provided by residents adds to VA workforce
- **Competence:** Exposure to Veterans develops clinical and cultural competence
- **Enhanced Recruitment:** Residents are twice as likely to work at VA after VA training
- **ACGME:** Academic medical centers are ACGME sponsor of VA residency positions
- **Equality Improvement:** Academic environment improves quality of care

# Academic Medical Centers and VA: Research



# Research Mission Partnership: Background



- **Historic Success:** Cardiac pacemaker, CAT scan, organ transplant, nicotine patch, MVP
- **Veteran-Centric:** Research on conditions prevalent among Veterans (PTSD, TBI, prosthetics)
- **Strengthen Affiliations:** Many researchers have dual appointments at VA and academic affiliates
- **Fast Improvement of Care:** Large VA integrated network ideal for health services research
- **World Renowned Research:** 3 Nobel Prizes, 6 Lasker awards

# Research Mission Partnership: Essential for Veterans



- **Intramural:** Researchers are 5/8 VA employees, most provide care to veterans
- **Increased Collaboration:** Between VA & academic affiliate experts
- **Sharing University Resources:** Medical libraries, IT support, grants mgmt. expertise, IRB/animal care oversight
- **Taxpayer Investment:** Leverage \$675 million VA Budget into \$1.8 billion enterprise
- **Next Generation:** Recruitment to VA and Veterans' issues

# Academic Medical Centers and VA: Patient Care



# Patient Care Mission Partnership: Background



- **Shared Missions:** VA & academic medicine have shared mission to care for our nation's Veterans
- **Nearby:** By design, VA facilities were often built with geographic proximity to AMCs
- **Medical Home:** VA is a “medical home” for Veterans in primary care, mental health, and outpatient services
- **Health Leader:** The VA is a health care leader on conditions prevalent in the Veteran population
- **Specialized Care:** AMCs provide a disproportionate share of specialized services not available elsewhere for medically complex patients, including Veterans
- **Standby Care:** AMCs maintain critical standby services: e.g., burn units, level 1 trauma centers, ICUs

# Patient Care Mission Partnership: Essential for Veterans



- **Direct Contracting with Affiliates:** Puts Veterans first in line for complex specialized services at AMCs
- **Cutting Edge Care:** AMC faculty are at the forefront of medicine and provide cutting-edge, high-quality care
- **Co-Location:** Physical integration at co-located facilities and electronic record/billing integration facilitate a seamless Veteran patient experience
- **Economies of Scale:** Using AMC services, technology, and expertise where VA lacks sufficient patient volume saves costs and improves quality
- **Ready to Help:** In 2014, 161 AAMC members announced their capacity to help VA

# The VA and Academic Medicine: Partnering for Veterans' Health

## Three Key Points:

**#1**

Academic affiliates (teaching hospitals and medical schools) are integral to the VA and Veterans

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