

## Rehabilitation Engineering and Platform Technology Center

Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D) Service, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), offers an opportunity for VA medical centers to submit proposals to establish centers that focus on engineering technologies to address sensory deficits, motor impairment, or limb loss.

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Platform Technology Center is expected to provide cutting-edge translatable solutions to issues of sensory deficit, motor impairment, or limb loss. The center will cultivate a community of VA clinician scientists and scholars, train personnel to practice in a multidisciplinary environment, share intellectual and physical resources, incorporate best methods, and take a proactive comprehensive approach to veterans' rehabilitation.

Investigators may request up to \$850,000 annually, with required competitive renewal on a 5-year cycle. Proposals that incorporate materials science, computer-aided design (CAD) and/or computer-aided manufacturing (CAM), microtechnology, neural prostheses, robotics, tissue engineering, molecular biology, and other emerging biomedical engineering applications are expected. Proposals that incorporate

therapies and technologies to promote amputee healthcare or are used in the development, fit, and maintenance of prostheses are greatly encouraged.

Proposals are due March 1, 2004, and will be reviewed May 2004. The director and associate director for research must have doctoral degrees and at least a five-eighths VA appointment.

For more information, contact Danielle M. Kerkovich, PhD, Acting Assistant Director, RR&D, at 202-254-0258 or [danielle@vard.org](mailto:danielle@vard.org). Letter of intent (LOI) instructions, proposal development, and submission guidelines are available on-line at [www.vard.org](http://www.vard.org), "Guidelines for Researchers and Opportunities for Funding."

RR&D is an intramural funding program that supports a full spectrum of research to improve quality of life for impaired and disabled veterans through centers of excellence, Research Enhancement Award Programs (REAPs), and a community of scientists, clinicians, allied healthcare professionals, and engineers. RR&D has committed more than \$40 million to research to give veterans back their functional independence.

