



## Strategic Alliances for Veteran Voice and Engagement (SAVVE)

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

### PATIENTS, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### WHO WE ARE

**Strategic Alliances for Veteran Voice and Engagement (SAVVE)** is an initiative aimed at developing researchers and Veterans who have the savvy to effectively engage stakeholders in impactful research. This initiative grew out of the endeavors of the Patient Engaged in Education and Research (PEER) Group, the patient and caregiver arm of a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institutes (PCORI) Eugene Washington Engagement Award to the University of Wisconsin (PI: Safdar). The purpose of the PEER group is to facilitate conversations between patients, families, caregivers, researchers, clinicians and other stakeholders. PEER Group membership is comprised primarily of older adults from rural areas in Wisconsin and includes Veteran representation. While our PEER Group effort is primarily focused on research around healthcare-associated infections, engaging with the Veteran population around this cause certainly added knowledge that will prove helpful in a multitude of settings.

#### WHAT WE OFFER: SERVICES

**Without funding:** SAVVE investigators are interested in collaborating in proposal submissions as co-investigators where appropriate, and will provide proposal review. As a part of this process ...

- SAVVE may provide one-time or ongoing consultations depending on the applicant's desired involvement, and may provide referral to other training resources.
- The SAVVE team has navigated the Veterans engagement waters and has Veteran-focused research connections across the country which can serve as access points.
- SAVVE may refer applicants, as appropriate, to other ICTR-CAP partner programs with particular expertise in engaging hard-to-reach patient stakeholder groups.

**With funding:** The SAVVE team would provide the same items as above, in addition to the following:

- Ongoing consultation with identification of key stakeholders
- Assistance in operationalizing and evaluating stakeholder participation
- Review of multi-stakeholder group materials (e.g., agendas, presentations)
- Guidance on optimizing participation in multi-stakeholder groups
- Grant review following a pilot award

#### ABOUT PAYMENT

- Our funding model is primarily as co-investigator on proposed research

## ABOUT THE INTAKE PROCESS

If you're interested in working with SAVVE, please contact us! We will start by asking you to complete an inventory of needs, indicating the level of involvement you're seeking from SAVVE. This document will be reviewed by the team to ensure SAVVE is a good fit for the project. Once an inventory of needs is collected, the study team will meet with the applicant and discuss the project. Alternatively, if it seems that your needs might be better addressed by another ICTR-CAP resource, we will help you make that connection.

## STATEMENT: ARE WE A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR NEEDS?

Engaging Veterans in the research process brings unique challenges for researchers. SAVVE investigators have extensive experience working with Veteran stakeholders to address these challenges. Drawing from our experiences, we can help you to effectively partner with Veterans in research. Some questions we can help answer include:

- How does engagement work with Veterans, particularly within the VA HSR&D context?
- What sort of onboarding process is necessary to engage the Veterans?
- How/will Veterans be compensated?
- What types of orientation or training will Veterans need/receive to engage in the research process?
- How, when, where do you recruit Veterans?
- What types of resources are available to help in the process?

## CONTACT INFORMATION

We are excited to facilitate the **Strategic Alliances for Veteran Voice and Engagement initiative**, so please contact us if you would like information or would like to be connected to these resources.

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## UW ICTR-CAP Partner Programs Supporting Stakeholder Engagement in Translational Research

\*[Center for Patient Partnerships](#) \* [Program of Research on Outcomes for Kids](#) \* [Sonderegger Research Center](#)  
\* [Wisconsin Network for Research Support](#) \* [Wisconsin Surgical Outcomes Research Program](#)\*

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