

## **University Relationships for smaller NPCs**

Priscilla West  
Executive Director  
Veterans Education & Research  
Association of Northern New England

## **University Relationships for smaller NPCs**

- Board support: an important prerequisite
- Institutional history
- Institutional special interests
- Academic representative on NPC Board

## **Initiating Contact with University**

- Meet with director of Grants and Contracts
- Discuss role of VA NPC in grants administration
- Benefits of NPC for VA hospitals and investigators
  - VERA funds
  - Knowledge of VA regulatory requirements
- Be forthright about long-term plans for federal funds administration

## **Maintaining Contact with University**

- Get permission from university director of Grants and Contracts to contact staff
- Pre-award managers
- Post-award managers

## **Contact Information:**

**Priscilla West**, Executive Director  
Veterans Education & Research  
Association of Northern New England  
P.O. Box 4655  
White River Junction, VT 05001  
T: 802-295-9363, ext. 5682  
E: [priscilla.west@va.gov](mailto:priscilla.west@va.gov)

## **SIBCR & UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

Multi-year saga for federal grants  
administration  
What was key?

Eileen Lennon, Ph.D., Executive Director, SIBCR

## **SIBCR & UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

- SIBCR handled clinical studies
- Worked with junior investigators on many nonprofit and voluntary health organization grants
- BIG MOMENT: R&D Committee policy that non-VA grants had to go thru SIBCR (except federal grants until agreement with UW)

## **SIBCR & UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

- Primary reason that succeeded in moving federal grants for administration by SIBCR:

**CUSTOMER SERVICE!!!**

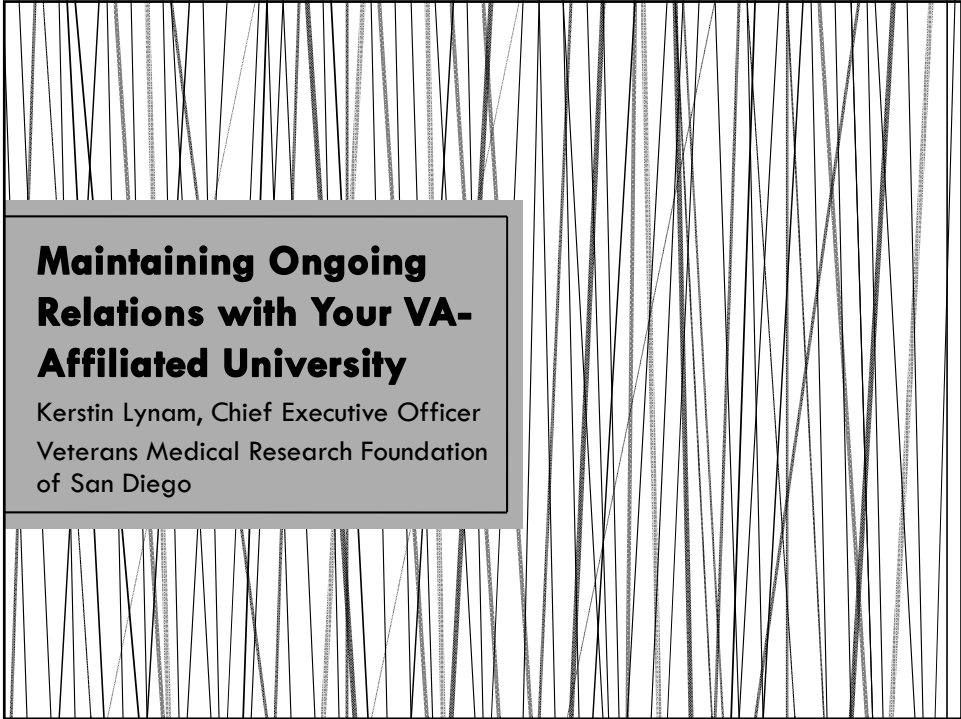
- VA researchers believed better served by SIBCR
- UW heard from their own faculty that the grants conducted at the VA should go through SIBCR
- Belief that the University was not treating its VA faculty equitably
- Process was slow (very slow), but maintained collegiality -- important in Seattle

- Support of VA senior management
- Support of the R&D Committee policy
- But mainly, SIBCR support to the PIs as the major point
- PIs wanted to work with SIBCR
- SIBCR staff believe in the VA research program and want to help “our” PIs succeed



**Contact Information:**

**Eileen Lennon, Ph.D.**, Executive Director  
Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical  
Research  
1660 S. Columbian Way (151F)  
Seattle, WA 98108  
T: 206-204-6179  
E: [eileen@sibcr.org](mailto:eileen@sibcr.org)



## **Maintaining Ongoing Relations with Your VA-Affiliated University**

Kerstin Lynam, Chief Executive Officer  
Veterans Medical Research Foundation  
of San Diego

## **Maintaining NPC/University Relations**

- Joint Operations Team
- Proactive communication on hot topics
- Informal but regular meetings among top level administrators
- Backing up VA communications

**Contact Information:**

**Kerstin Lynam**, Chief Executive Officer  
Veterans Medical Research Foundation of San Diego  
3350 La Jolla Village Drive (V151A)  
San Diego, CA 92161  
T: 858-642-3070  
E: [klynam@vmrf.org](mailto:klynam@vmrf.org)