

Research at the Durham  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
(1953–2005)

*An Overview*

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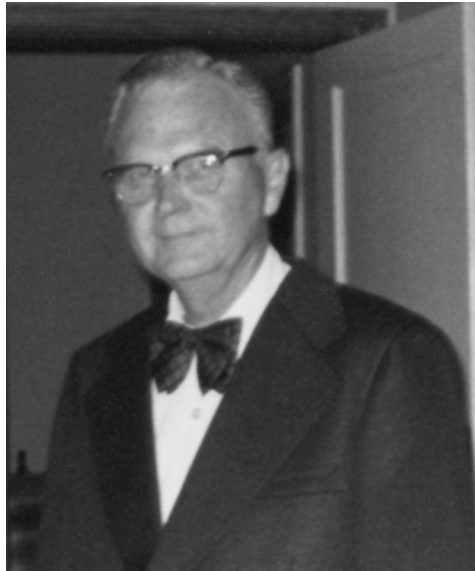
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## Dedication

Although a number of individuals have made major contributions to the Research Program at the DVA, Burley Houston McCraw clearly stands out as the primary guiding force. As the Administrative Officer for Research and Development, Burley steered the fledgling program during its major developmental phase. Without his untiring effort, undoubtedly the program could not have achieved the current level of success.



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## Preface

This overview of the research carried out at the Durham Veterans Affairs Hospital (DVA)\* from its inception through 2005 had a somewhat unusual—bizarre—genesis. Marguerite T. Hays, M.D. was commissioned by the Central Office Research Service to write a comprehensive two-volume history of research endeavors of the Veterans Administration. The plan was to have one volume contain an overview of research from a number of individual medical centers, including the DVA. I was asked by the Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Research and Development, J. Brice Weinberg, M.D. to prepare a response. For reasons not entirely clear, I agreed. A manuscript was completed and submitted to Dr. Hays in 2003. Without explanation, approximately one year later, the project was cancelled abruptly. This situation was discussed with John D. Shelburne, M.D., Ph.D., Chief of Staff, and Dr. Weinberg. Since the initial manuscript contained important historical information, a proposal was developed to significantly expand its scope and to publish a revised overview. After they both volunteered to be very supportive of this venture, I “elected” to proceed.

The original manuscript gave a brief synopsis of the research efforts of a few selected investigators as examples of the research program, but was, by no means, exhaustive. In deciding on the format for this expanded overview, an effort was made to catalogue all of the investigators who carried out independent funded research for a significant period of time at the DVA and to document their subsequent careers. These data illustrate the fact that these individuals made major contributions both to research and to

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\* DVA will be used throughout the text to designate the facility currently known as the Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Duke Medical Center (DUMC) as well as to a number of other academic institutions.

In preparing this manuscript, most of the historical information was obtained through personal communication with a number of individuals<sup>(1)</sup>. Unfortunately, the majority of the historical records are no longer available locally, having been transferred to Central Office where, if they exist, are in an unavailable format. Thus, the only recourse was to depend on hearsay. Obviously, relying on the potentially faulty memory of colleagues and myself is by no means a perfect way to retrieve comprehensive data. Undoubtedly, investigators who should have been included were not. For these inadvertent errors, I apologize. However, the presented material does codify a wealth of information which otherwise would have been lost.

## Acknowledgments

The good-natured effort of Bettie C. Houston, who typed the multiple drafts of this manuscript, is gratefully appreciated.

Judith C. Rembert was responsible for amassing, collating, and cataloging the data, as well as providing invaluable editorial assistance.

The staff of Medical Media, Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center, was responsible for the illustrations.