



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM GUIDE: 1202.07  
JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD

As of November 20, 2018, the John B. Barnwell Award Handbook (1202.07) has been replaced with this Program Guide. This Program Guide replaces all prior official ORD guidance for the John B. Barnwell Award.

**ISSUANCE DATE: November 20, 2018**

# JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD

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## JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD

### 1. PURPOSE

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Program Guide provides information and procedures relating to the nomination, application, review, and selection process for the annual John B. Barnwell Award for outstanding scientific achievements in clinical research that advance the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and disorders in the Veteran population.

### 2. BACKGROUND

a. The John B. Barnwell Award (Barnwell Award) is the Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR&D) Service's highest honor for outstanding achievement in clinical research.

b. The Barnwell Award was established in 2007 to honor John Blair Barnwell, M.D., distinguished educator and physician-scientist, who was the Director of Research and Education at the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)) Central Office in the 1940s. Prior to joining VA, Dr. Barnwell was a Professor at the University of Michigan and held positions as Director of the Tuberculosis Division at the Veterans Administration (1946 to 1960) and President of the National Tuberculosis Society (1946). Honors and awards received by Dr. Barnwell include the Trudeau Medal (1950), at the time the highest honor bestowed by the National Tuberculosis Society; the Dearholt Medal from the Mississippi Valley Conference on Tuberculosis; and the Bruce H. Douglas Award from the American Thoracic Society.

c. Dr. Barnwell's contributions to VA include the formation of the Veterans Administration/Army-Navy Cooperative Studies in the Chemotherapy of Tuberculosis Program, which pioneered the model of the multi-site clinical trials to test treatments for tuberculosis following World War II. Furthermore, Dr. Barnwell's leadership inspired enthusiasm and passion for the care of patients and fostered a tradition of top-level clinician-researchers within VA. Through his efforts, the depth and quality of VA patient care was greatly enhanced with the influx of broad, multi-disciplined talent in medicine and science.

d. In the spirit of Dr. Barnwell's prolific professional accomplishments, the Barnwell Award aims to recognize senior VHA investigators who have achieved national and international acclaim for clinical research accomplishments in areas of prime importance to VA's research mission and who have also demonstrated a high level of clinical commitment to the patient population.

### 3. SCOPE

The Barnwell Award is given for outstanding scientific achievements in clinical research that advance the diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment of diseases and disorders in the Veteran population. Although the award may occasionally recognize a single exceptionally-influential contribution, it is generally expected that recipients will have

made notable sustained contributions that lead to treatment advances related to diseases and conditions that are relevant to Veterans' health care.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY

a. Clinical research recognized by the Barnwell Award should reflect influential scientific efforts that impact clinical implementation of new diagnostic, interventional/treatment, or preventive strategies, and/or provide definitive evidence for informing practice. Such research could include, but is not limited to: prospective interventional clinical trials (drug, device, or other interventions including behavioral or psychosocial therapy), development of radiological methods, electrophysiological diagnostics, development and clinical validation of laboratory tests, preventive strategies for chronic and/or disabling conditions, development or application of innovative methodological designs, or analytical strategies. Other examples may include rigorously conducted observational studies that focus primarily on populations to address a specific clinical question. Typically, this research will have in large part been conducted within VA medical facilities.

b. To be eligible for the Barnwell Award, nominees must meet all the following requirements:

(1) **VA Employment Status.** A current VA paid appointment of at least 25 hours per week (5/8ths) or an approved waiver.

(2) **Funded Research.** Current status as the Principal Investigator (PI) or Study Chair of a funded VA Merit Award, VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) Award, National Institutes of Health (NIH), or Department of Defense (DoD) grant or as a leading biostatistician or pharmacist on an active CSP protocol.

(3) **Presence at VA.** Performed research at a VA facility for at least the previous 5 years.

(4) **Active Funding History.** Minimum of 10 cumulative years serving as PI or Study Chair of funded VA Merit Awards, VA CSP Awards, NIH, or DoD grants or as a leading biostatistician or pharmacist on CSP protocols

(5) **First-time Awardee.** Has not received the Barnwell Award previously.

#### 5. NOMINATION PROCESS

Applicants for the award may be nominated in two ways:

a. VA medical facilities may submit applications to the Director, CSR&D annually by the specified application submission deadline.

b. Qualified applicants may be identified by CSR&D program staff and invited to submit applications by the specified application submission deadline. **NOTE:** *These applicants must apply through their local R&D Office and will be subject to review and*

*selection by their local R&D Committee (RDC) and Medical Center Director (MCD).*

## **6. BARNWELL AWARD APPLICATION**

Detailed instructions on the preparation and submission of a Barnwell Award application package can be found in Appendix A and on the VA research website. Applications are due by the deadline specified on the submission calendar for the Office of Research and Development (ORD) <http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/process/submission-calendar.cfm>. **NOTE:** *This is an internal VA Web site not available to the public.*

## **7. BARNWELL AWARD REVIEW COMMITTEE**

a. The committee consists of Federal government employees, to include VA clinician scientists, former Barnwell award recipients, and representatives from other Federal agencies that fund clinical research. Members are chosen for their scientific expertise and knowledge of the scientific review process.

b. Once the application submission period has concluded, the Barnwell Award Program Manager convenes a committee to review the applications.

c. Applications are reviewed based on the criteria outlined in paragraph 8, and the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Director, CSR&D, for consideration and, as appropriate, recommendation to the Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO).

d. At the recommendation of the Barnwell Award Review Committee, an application may be retained by CSR&D and reconsidered during the subsequent round of review.

## **8. BARNWELL AWARD CRITERIA**

The Barnwell Award Review Committee bases its recommendation on the following criteria:

a. The significance of the applicant's contributions to a defined field of clinical, behavioral and/or methodology research that has led to the advancement of prevention, diagnosis or interventional/treatment strategies of conditions important to Veterans' health or aligned with VA's research portfolio.

b. The originality of the research.

c. Evidence of contributions to outstanding scientific innovation that have influenced preventive, diagnostic, or treatment strategies of conditions important to Veterans' health.

d. Evidence that the research has had or will have a broad impact on scientific or clinical disciplines and evidence that the nominee's VA employment and support are acknowledged consistently in the nominee's publications and presentations.

e. Evidence of outstanding scientific achievement including, but not limited to: sustained history of national peer-reviewed funding, including the applicants current VA and non-VA funding status; publications in high quality scientific journals; invited lectures at national and international scientific meetings; evidence of sustained high-quality service and leadership to VA and Veterans in clinical and research areas; membership in and service to national and international professional organizations; editorial service to professional journals; membership on grant review committees; and other national and international research prizes.

## 9. BARNWELL AWARD DETAILS

The Barnwell Award consists of:

a. **Personal Cash Award and Plaque.** The recipient receives a personal cash award in the amount of \$5,000 and an inscribed plaque commemorating the recipient's scientific achievements.

b. **Research Support.** The recipient receives research support in the amount of \$50,000 per year for 3 years.

c. **Ceremony.** The Barnwell Award is presented to the recipient at an appropriate ceremony.

d. **Publication of Award.** CSR&D publishes the Barnwell Award announcement in a scientific journal related to the recipient's field of research. The VA facility at which the recipient is employed receives an inscribed plaque honoring the recipient.

## 10. PROCEDURES & RESPONSIBILITIES

a. **Barnwell Program Manager.** The Barnwell program manager works with the CSR&D Director to establish a due date for the Barnwell Award applications. Barnwell Program Manager works with ORD personnel to post the Barnwell Award announcement on the VA intranet and sends the announcement to Medical Center Directors to announce to their researchers.

b. **CSR&D Scientific Program Managers.**

(1) Identify highly qualified candidates and solicit applications from the Associate Chief of Staff for R&D (ACOS/R&D), or Coordinator for R&D of the appropriate VA medical facility.

(2) At the request of Barnwell Award Program Manager, identify appropriate reviewers for the Barnwell Award Review Committee.

c. **Research and Development (R&D Committee).** The local facility R&D Committee evaluates the merits of potential candidates for the Barnwell Award, nominates the single most outstanding candidate, and recommends the nominee to the Medical Center Director (MCD) for approval.

d. **ACOS/R&D or Coordinator for R&D.** The ACOS/R&D, or Coordinator for R&D, ensures that all required application materials are submitted to ORD by the deadline specified on the submission calendar published by ORD.

e. **MCD.** The MCD, with advice from the facility's R&D Committee, may support one nomination for the Barnwell Award per round.

f. **Barnwell Award Review Committee.**

(1) Barnwell Program Manager organizes the award review committee.

(2) The committee evaluates all applications for the Barnwell Award that were received by the published deadline. Using the specified award criteria for guidance, the committee recommends the most qualified candidate for the award to the CSR&D Director.

(3) The committee can recommend that no award be made that year if no candidate meets Barnwell Award criteria.

g. **Barnwell Award Program Manager.**

(1) Convenes the Barnwell Award Review Committee.

(2) Prepares a request for approval of the Committee's recommended candidate to the Director, CSR&D, together with a request for a monetary award of \$5,000 on VA Form 4659, Incentive Awards Recommendation and Approval.

(3) Notifies the recipient's VA medical facility of the Award and instructs the medical facility to provide the monetary award to the recipient and to request reimbursement from the ORD following approval of the candidate by the Under Secretary for Health.

(4) Orders commemorative plaques for the recipient and for the sponsoring VA medical facility.

(5) Coordinates the presentation of the award and placement of the award announcement in a scientific journal related to the recipient's field of research.

h. **Director, CSR&D.**

(1) Reviews the recommendation of the Barnwell Award Review Committee; recommends approval or disapproval of the committee's recommendation; and, if approved, forwards the recommendation to the CRADO.

(2) Ensures award funding is distributed to the recipient's VA medical facility upon approval of the nomination by the Under Secretary for Health.

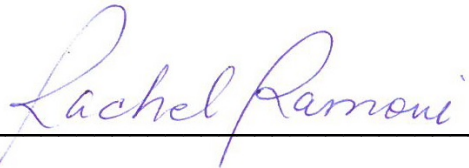
i. **CRADO.** The CRADO reviews the recommendation of the Director, CSR&D. If the CRADO concurs with the recommendation, the CRADO signs VA Form 4659 and

submits it for approval through the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, and the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, to the Under Secretary for Health. Upon approval of the nomination by the Under Secretary for Health, the CRADO notifies the recipient's Medical Center Director in writing of the Award.

j. **VHA Awards Team.** The VHA Awards Team verifies the accuracy of the information submitted in the recommendation, ensures that all VA Awards meet the standards outlined in VA Directive 5013, and assists in coordinating the approval process.

k. **Under Secretary for Health.** The Under Secretary for Health, or designee, reviews and, as appropriate, approves the nomination and presents a plaque to the recipient and to the Director of the recipient's VA medical facility at an appropriate ceremony. The Barnwell program manager works with the Under Secretary for Health's staff and the medical facility to coordinate the presentation of the award.

APPROVED:



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Rachel Ramoni, DMD, ScD  
Chief Research and Development Officer



APPENDIX A

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE  
CLINICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

JOHN B. BARNWELL AWARD

**1. BACKGROUND.** The John B. Barnwell Award is Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR&D) Service's highest honor for scientific achievement in clinical research. VA Medical Centers submit applications for their selected nominees annually. In addition, Program Staff in BLR&D and CSR&D can identify highly qualified investigators directly and solicit applications; in this case nominations would still be approved by the VA Medical Center Director.

**2. FORMAT.** Applications should consist of single-spaced typed pages with 1-inch margins at each edge. Use only letter-quality, black print. The font size should be 11 point or larger and typeface can be Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, or Palatino Linotype.

**3. CONTENT.** Each application should consist of the following materials:

a. A cover sheet listing the following information in the order specified:

(1) Award Type: John B. Barnwell Award.

(2) Name and degree(s) of applicant.

Do NOT include nominee's date of birth or *social security number (SSN)*. *This will be requested for final awardees only to allow for required security and background reviews.*

(3) Name of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center.

(4) Nominee's current VA employment status (in 8ths).

(5) Number of years employed by VA.

(6) Nominee's academic title, academic institutions and department (indicate tenure status).

(7) Location of nominee's VA laboratory and VA office.

(8) The applicant's current VA and non-VA funding status.

(9) Name, title, and signature of the VA Medical Center Director and Associate Chief of Staff for Research.

- b. A complete and current curriculum vitae (with funding history and bibliography of the applicant, not to include abstracts, submitted papers, or papers in preparation).
- c. A summary (two-page maximum) of the applicant's research achievements highlighting the real-world impact of the applicant's body of work or significant/measurable outcomes of the applicant's research.
- d. Up to five letters of support generated within the previous 6 months from scientists who are not employees of the applicant's VA medical center or members of the faculty at the affiliated medical school. Letters should be included with the application. Please do not have letters sent by mail to VACO.
- e. Three reprints representative of the applicant's major original research publications. reprints should include the applicant's VA affiliation and acknowledge VA awards (i.e. compliance with VHA Handbook 1200.19 - Presentation of Research Results).

**4. SUBMISSION.** Convert the completed nomination package including publications, letters of support, and CV into one Portable Document File (PDF) and transmit by email to the Barnwell Program Mailbox: [vhacobmareview@va.gov](mailto:vhacobmareview@va.gov). Ensure that the e-mail attachment does not exceed 5 megabytes. In the Subject line, please indicate Barnwell Award and the name of the nominee.

**5. TIMETABLE FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW**

- a. Deadline for receipt of applications is February 1. If the deadline falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the due date is the next business day.
- b. Administrative review of applications will be in February/March. The applicant/VAMC will be informed if the application will not be forwarded for review due to administrative issues.
- c. Committee review of applications in May.

**6. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mark H. Roltsch, Ph.D.  
Barnwell Awards Program Manager  
Clinical Science Research and Development Service  
Office of Research and Development  
Telephone: 202-443-5738  
E-mail: [mark.roltsch@va.gov](mailto:mark.roltsch@va.gov)