

## General Lessons Learned re: Previous GWI Research Programs

RAC Recommendations Regarding Previous VA and UTSW Programs (from RAC 2004 Report and April 2008 Recommendations Re: UTSW)

- **Comprehensive plan.** Begin with a comprehensive research plan that addresses priority research topics identified in RAC reports. The plan should include information on the objectives and hypotheses of the program and of each study, the design of each study, and how individual studies and components relate to one another.
- **Expert Panel.** Utilize a formal expert panel of scientists from inside and outside VA knowledgeable in GWI and related fields to develop the plan, including some RAC members.
- Place responsibility for **reviewing proposals** and approving what studies to fund in the hands of the same or similar scientists taking into account the relevance to the plan as well as the scientific merit of the proposals.
- **Manage** the program as a coherent whole, under the direction of people committed to solving the problem with expertise directly relevant to GWI.