

**Kaiser Media Fellowships Program: The VA System--Sitevisit to Washington DC, Wilmington, DE, Coatesville, PA and Baltimore, MD Sunday, August 7-Friday, August 12, 2005**

(I:DC05.program)

Accommodation: August 7/10: The Sofitel Hotel, 806 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

August 10/11: Sheraton Suites Wilmington, 422 Delaware Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19801

August 11/12: The Sofitel Hotel, 806 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

**Sunday, August 7—Washington, DC**

6:30pm: Fellows meet in hotel lobby, The Sofitel, DC

6:45pm: Walk to restaurant

7:00pm: Dinner, Rosa Mexicano, 575 7th Street at F St NW

**Monday, August 8—Washington, DC**

7:20am: Walk from hotel to US Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont  
Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20420, **Room 830**

7:45am: Continental Breakfast

8:00am: Briefings on the VA Health Care System  
VA 101: Basic facts and figures about VA, how veterans access and use  
VA health care—Under Secretary for Health Dr. Jonathan Perlin

9:00am: VA Information Technology and Electronic Medical Records System: A  
national model—Gail Graham, Director, Health and Data Informatics

9:30am: Break

9:45am: Quality of VA Health Care and Improving Performance: How we  
measure what we do—Dr. Barbara Fleming, Chief Officer for Quality  
and Performance

10:15am: Patient Safety: Creating a culture of safety in health care—Noel  
Eldridge, Executive Assistant, VA Center for Patient Safety

10:45am: The CARES Program: A plan for modernizing health care facilities—  
Dr. Susan Pendergrass

11:15am: Seamless Transition: Service members becoming veterans—John Brown,  
Director, VA Seamless Transition Office

11:45am: Lunch, Room 930

1:00pm: Overview of Special Programs:

--Women veterans:

Carol Turner, Director, Womens Veterans Health Program

--Readjustment Counseling Program:

Al Batres, Director

--Pharmacy Benefits:

Michael Valentino, Chief Consultant Pharmacy Benefits Management

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**Monday, August 8—Washington, DC (cont.)**

2:30pm: Break  
--VA Research:  
Tim O’Leary, Director, Biomedical Laboratory, Research &  
Development  
3:15pm: Q&A with Under Secretary for Health Dr. Jonathan Perlin  
3:45pm: Closing & wrap-up  
4:00pm: Return to hotel  
6:20pm: Meet in hotel lobby; walk to restaurant  
6:30pm: Dinner, Georgia Brown’s, 950 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, (between I and K streets)

**Tuesday, August 9—Washington, DC**

8:30am: Walk to Kaiser Family Foundation DC offices, 1330 G Street  
9:00am: Continental breakfast  
Meeting with Veterans Service Organization reps and Congressional  
veterans committee staff  
Barbara Jordan Conference Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Kaiser Family Foundation  
Office, 1330 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005  
--James Doran, National Service Director, AMVETS  
--David Gorman, Executive Director, Disabled American Veterans  
--Robert Wallace, Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
--Tom Zampieri, Director of Government Relations, Blinded Veterans  
Association  
12:00pm: Depart by van to Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 50 Irving Street, NW,  
Washington, D.C., 20042  
12:30pm: Greeting in the ATRIUM, welcome and brief remarks, Mr. Sanford M.  
Garfunkel, Director  
12:50pm: Tour of the Infectious Disease Clinic  
1:10pm: Working Lunch  
Presentation of HIV/AIDS Program  
2:00pm: Demonstrations, tours, and Q&A session  
HIV/AIDS briefing  
4:30pm: Board van for hotel  
5:45pm: Walk from hotel to restaurant  
6:00pm: Dinner, “Zaytinya,” 701 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

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**Wednesday, August 10—Wilmington, DE/Coatesville, PA**

7:00am: Meet in lobby; Check out of hotel  
Catch taxi to Union Station  
8:05am: Depart by train to Wilmington, DE  
9:30am: Arrive Wilmington; van to hotel, check in, Sheraton Suites Wilmington, 422 Delaware Avenue  
10:00am: Depart by van to Wilmington VA Medical Center, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy  
10:15am: Welcome by Mr. Richard Citron, Director  
10:30am: Meeting with Veterans Service Officers and veterans  
11:00am: Tour of Wilmington VA Medical Center and visit to Vet Center  
12:00pm: Lunch at Medical Center  
1:00pm: Depart by van to Coatesville VA Medical Center  
2:00pm: Arrive, Coatesville VA  
Welcome by Mr. Gary Devansky, Director  
Presentations and tours  
4:00pm: Depart by van to Wilmington  
7:00pm: Dinner, "Deep Blue," 111 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overnight: Sheraton Suites Wilmington

**Thursday, August 11—Wilmington, DE/Baltimore, MD/Washington, DC**

8:00am: Meet in lobby; Check out of hotel  
Catch taxi/shuttle to train station  
9:06am: Depart by train to Penn Station, Baltimore, MD  
9:57am: Arrive Baltimore; depart by van to Baltimore VA Medical Center, 10 North Greene Street  
11:00am: Welcome by Mr. Dennis H. Smith, Director, VA Maryland Health Care System  
Presentations and tours  
12:30pm: Working lunch, presentations, tours continue  
2:00pm: Depart medical center by van to Baltimore VA Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center, 3900 Loch Raven Blvd.  
2:30pm: Tour of BREEC  
3:30pm: Depart by van to Penn Station  
4:41pm: Depart by train to Union Station, DC  
5:30pm: Arrive DC, taxi to hotel, check in, The Sofitel, DC  
6:30pm: Walk to Ten Penh restaurant, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
7:00pm: Dinner with Dr. Kenneth Kizer, former VA Under Secretary for Health

**Friday, August 12—Washington, DC**

Fellows depart Dulles/Reagan

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**Participants**

2004 Kaiser Media Fellows

Micah Fink, coordinating producer, *Wide Angle*, Thirteen/WNET, New York  
Phil Galewitz, health writer, *The Palm Beach Post*  
Karen Thomas, writer, *Dallas Morning News*  
Susan Wagner, producer, 20/20-ABC News, New York City

Invited Journalists

Sandra Boodman, staff writer, *The Washington Post*  
Bob McAuley, medical editor, *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland  
Judy Nichols, senior reporter, *The Arizona Republic*  
Joanne Silberner, health policy correspondent, NPR  
Joseph Shapiro, science desk correspondent, NPR  
Steve Sternberg, medical reporter, *USA Today*

Kaiser Family Foundation Staff

Penny Duckham, executive director, Kaiser Media Fellowships Program  
Megan Thomas, program associate, Kaiser Media Fellowships Program

Department of VA

Dan Bruneau, Director, Communications Management  
Troy Knighton, Public Health Strategic Health Care Group  
Kathryn Maginness, Director of Network Support  
Connie Raab, Public Health Strategic Health Care Group