

**Memorandum of Agreement between the Veterans Health Administration, the United States Army Medical Department, the United States Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the United States Air Force Medical Service**

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCHANGE OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO PROMOTE CROSS CULTURAL AWARENESS**

ARTICLE I: INTRODUCTION

1.0. **Purpose:** By this agreement, the parties seek to establish a framework for the establishment of healthcare professional exchange programs at the local level to facilitate the cross cultural education of healthcare professionals to promote awareness of the capabilities, standards of care, and services provided in their counterpart agencies to better facilitate the transition and coordination of care of mutual beneficiaries to promulgate best practices across agencies. This memorandum specifies the commitments of the parties to enhance existing and develop new professional exchange opportunities.

1.1. This Memorandum of Agreement is under the authority of 38 U.S.C. 8111. All activities under this agreement shall comply with 38 U.S.C. 8111 and Departmental requirements applicable to actions under that authority.

ARTICLE II: GENERAL UNDERSTANDING

2.1. **Mutual Commitments:** The parties of this agreement agree to seek opportunities for cross cultural exchange of healthcare professionals within their facilities.

2.2. Exchange opportunities are not limited to, but may include:

- a) Sponsorship of rotations for interns and residents in each other's facilities.
- b) Exchange of staff for specified periods of time.
- c) Reciprocal sharing of staff in each others facilities (an example would be an arrangement where in an on-going basis, on Thursdays VA staff work in a DOD facility, and DOD staff work in a VA facility).
- d) Visiting lecturer series.

2.3. **Nonexclusivity:** This agreement does not limit the signatory parties from establishing similar agreements with any other entity.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1. This Agreement does not nullify existing local agreements.

3.2. This Agreement may be amended only by written agreement of the signatory parties.

- 3.3. This Agreement may be terminated by a signatory party by providing the other parties at least 90 days advance written notice of its intent to terminate and the development of provisions to ensure patient care, teaching, and other activities are not disrupted.
- 3.4. The responsibility for salaries and other compensations remains with the parent organization. Parties agree that the sharing of any resources exchanged will be of equivalent value.
- 3.5. Leadership of the host facility is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable requirements for credentialing and privileging professional staff.
- 3.6. Exchanges of DoD healthcare professionals under this agreement are exempt from required approval by the Director, Administration and Management under DoD instruction 1000.17, "Detail of DoD Personnel to Duty Outside the Department of Defense," April 16, 2008.



Date: 9/16/08

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP  
Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration



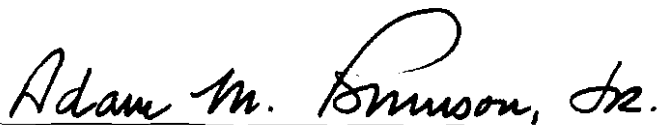
Date: 8 Oct '08

S. Ward Casscells, M.D.  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)



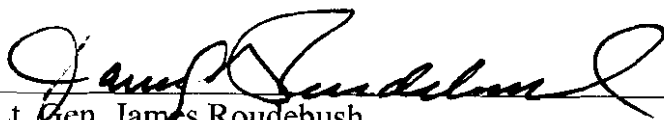
Date: 29 SEP 08

LTG Eric Schoomaker  
Surgeon General, United States Army



Date: 29 Sept 08

VADM Adam Robinson  
Surgeon General, United States Navy



Date: 29 Sept 08

Lt. Gen. James Roudebush  
Surgeon General, United States Air Force