

Department of  
Veterans Affairs

# Memorandum

Date: JUL 02 2019

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services (10P)

Subj: Mark Wolcott Awards for Clinical Excellence Notice (VIEWS #00245885)

To: Network Directors (10N1-23), Chief Medical Officers, Facility Directors (00),  
Chiefs of Staff, VHA Central Office Program Offices

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the acceptance of nominations for the 2019 Mark Wolcott Awards for Clinical Excellence. Established in 1996, this award program recognizes outstanding Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care providers who are deserving of special recognition for their contributions in enhancing clinical care. It was named after Mark Wolcott, M.D., who dedicated over 40 years of his life to serve and improve the quality of health care for VHA's Veteran population.
2. Dr. Wolcott's vision, commitment, and dedication were noteworthy during his tenure in two separate assignments at VHA Central Office as the Associate Chief Medical Director for Clinical Affairs and as the Chief of Research in Surgery. His other Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) assignments included Chief of Surgery and Chief of Staff at the VA medical facility in Salt Lake City, UT; Chief of Thoracic Surgery at the VA medical facility in Augusta, GA; and Chief of Surgical Service at the VA medical facility in Miami, FL.
3. Two award categories have been established:
  - a. **Excellence in Clinical Care Delivery.** The recipient of this award is to be a provider in any health care setting who has demonstrated excellence in hands on direct patient care.
  - b. **Excellence in Clinical Care Leadership.** The recipient of this award is to be a health care provider in a leadership or management position who has demonstrated excellence through exceptional support for direct patient care providers, including support of innovations enhancing the quality of direct patient care delivery.
4. These awards are given annually to honor care given the previous year. The nominees must be VHA employees currently practicing at least 5/8 time in any health care profession. Each winner receives a plaque and a \$5,000 cash award. Alternative non-monetary recognition may be offered in lieu of a \$5,000 cash award.

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5. Each VA medical facility director, VHA Central Office Chief Consultant, or Clinical Program Director may nominate one candidate in each category per year.
6. The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services will appoint an evaluation committee to review all nominations.
7. The nomination package **must** include:
  - a. A letter from the VA Medical Facility Director, VHA Central Office Chief Consultant, or Clinical Program Director summarizing the basis for the nomination.
  - b. Concurrence by the Network Director for field nominees or the VHA Chief Program Officer for VHA Central Office nominees.
  - c. Current curriculum vitae, resume, or other summary of education, training, and work history.
  - d. Letters of support outlining the nominee's contributions.
  - e. A summary of the nominee's achievements clearly identifying the nomination category. The summary is not to exceed three pages and needs to address the items in paragraph 7e (1) or paragraph 7e (2) below:

**(1) Award for Excellence in Clinical Care Delivery.**

- (a) Evidence that the nominee exemplifies Dr. Wolcott's excellence in the delivery of care and has had an effective role in improving the quality of health care for Veteran patients.
- (b) Evidence that the nominee has been a positive role model for the health care profession and is recognized by management and colleagues for excellence and dedication in the provision of care.
- (c) Evidence that the nominee works effectively with the health care team to promote excellence in the delivery of clinical care.
- (d) Evidence that the nominee is recognized by the patients served as an outstanding healthcare provider.

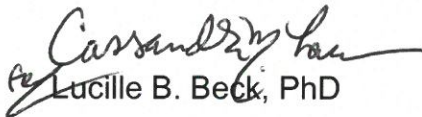
**(2) Award for Excellence in Clinical Care Leadership.**

(a) Evidence that the nominee's leadership has significantly contributed to improving the quality of patient care, either locally, throughout the Network, or nationally.

(b) Evidence that the nominee supports originality, creativity, and innovation in the delivery of direct clinical care.

(c) Evidence that the nominee's outstanding leadership is recognized by management, colleagues, and subordinates.

8. The submission process includes:
  - a. Submitting an electronic copy of the nomination package to the Wolcott Awards Nomination SharePoint: [2019 Wolcott Award Submission](#).
  - b. The nomination package is due no later than **August 30, 2019**.
9. Inquiries regarding this award may be directed to Ana Y. Rivera, at (202) 461-5825 or [ana.rivera@va.gov](mailto:ana.rivera@va.gov).
10. This VHA memorandum is certified by the direction of the Office of the Under Secretary for Health.

  
Lucille B. Beck, PhD