

To All Employees:

I'm happy to share some exciting news with all of you. I had the honor of celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of our SFVAHCS employees during the 2019 Federal Employee of the Year Awards ceremony in the Dolby Cinema at Dolby Labs yesterday.

The annual awards, given by the San Francisco Bay Area Federal Executive Board, recognize outstanding current San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento federal employees who have demonstrated exceptional and noteworthy performance and results, excellent leadership, innovative approaches to assignments, and/or continuous improvement of procedures and processes.

20 out of the 45 finalists came from SFVAHCS! 10 individuals and 1 team were selected as this year's winners. We are all very proud of this achievement.

Please join me in congratulating the award winners and finalists for all of their hard work and contributions to the SFVAHCS and our Veterans!

2019 Federal Employees of the Year award winners are:

Harry Lampiris, M.D.

For over 25 years, Dr. Harry Lampiris has made an indelible impact as a doctor, teacher, and leader in infectious disease. He deserves specific recognition for his recent work in fiscal stewardship for our health care system. In the last two years, Dr. Lampiris has helped reduce the use of unnecessary and expensive testing, while still maintaining a level of exceptional care. Though his hard work, collaboration, and insights, this project managed to reduce the number of expensive send out labs by 23%, while providing exceptional care.

Kathleen (Katie) Sarmiento, M.D., MPH

More than 1 million Veterans are affected by sleep apnea, and access to sleep care is severely limited. Dr. Sarmiento has established a regional and national telehealth network, TeleSleep, to reach rural Veterans with sleep disorders to improve access, reducing rurality as a disparity in sleep care. Since March 2017, TeleSleep has trained 105 clinicians and non-clinicians and provided care to more than 51,000 Veterans, of which 33% are rural. More than 50% of sleep care at the San Francisco VA, Health Care System, is now provided through telehealth or at rural clinics, reducing travel burden and the cost for the health care system, while improving patient satisfaction.

Michi Yukawa, M.D., MPH

Dr. Michi Yukawa, Community Living Center (CLC) medical director, has created a truly Veteran-centered, inter-professional culture of care and service. She promotes clinical excellence in caring for some of VA's most vulnerable, medically ill, older Veterans. She is a superb role model, teacher, clinician, researcher, leader, mentor, and team member. She is beloved and respected by CLC inter-professional staff, who appreciate her collaborative and caring approach. Dr. Yukawa exemplifies the generous, caring, intellectual, and compassionate

qualities that any organization would be proud to recognize as the professional Employee of the Year.

Intensive Management for Patient Aligned Care Teams

Dr. Jessica Eng, Dr. Nathan Ewigman, Stephen Forte, Angela Bodnar

Intensive Management for Patient Aligned Care Teams (IMPACT), a multidisciplinary clinical team, provides care to Veterans with complex care needs in the San Francisco VA Health Care System. The program cares for the most complex patients, filling a critical need that is not met by any other team. They work, and problem solves outside the boundaries of the Medical Center and provide creative, resourceful plans of care. IMPACT is rapidly deployable and exceedingly nimble; offers comprehensive, wraparound services; streamlines interventions; optimizes care; reduces costs; improves reimbursement and embodies the VA's mission to provide holistic, well-coordinated, patient-centered care. Besides the utility of the team itself, the health care providers who make up the IMPACT are making a significant impact on Veterans.