



Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center  
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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We invite any media interested in interviewing our VA staff to learn more about care and services to contact our Public Affairs Officer at 989-497-2500, extension 13010 or e-mail [tara.scheuer@va.gov](mailto:tara.scheuer@va.gov)

## **Aleda E. Lutz VAMC celebrates 70 years of academic partnerships to improve the health of Veterans and the nation**

**Saginaw, MI** - The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC announced today as part of its 75th anniversary commemoration of academic affiliations that it has trained 156 Health Professional Trainees (HPTs) for the annual year (1 July – 30 June) 2020-2021 in collaboration with more than 18 different affiliates.

Our medical center began partnering with its affiliates primarily in the fields of Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Nurse Practitioner, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Physical Therapy, Audiology, Optometry and Medical Student Program. These future professionals are the Nation's health care workforce pipeline who will go on to care for Veterans and other patients in urban and rural communities across the U.S.

The commemoration is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) overall 75th anniversary celebration of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) occurring throughout 2021.

"It is an honor to be a part of positive advancements and cutting-edge efforts serving those who served our nation. Our medical center takes pride in its academic partnership and achievements during the past 70 years," said Dr. Barbara Bates, Medical Center Director. "We look forward to continuing our partnerships that benefit us all with the passion to learn and power to heal."

During the pandemic, VA has worked with medical schools and programs across the country to utilize health professions trainees to care for Veterans virtually and in-person while completing their training requirements. The number of physician residents training in VA over the past year increased by more than 2,000 and, according to the [American Association of Medical Colleges](#), applications to medical schools have increased by 18% for the upcoming 2021 academic year.

Our medical center's recent and continuing participation in COVID-19 Moderna Vaccinations continues to grow as the quantities of vaccines become available. We are currently administering the vaccine to frontline staff and high-risk Veterans, 75 and older

and those with medical comorbidities. Veterans wanting to receive the vaccine can let their providers know, but there is no wait list to be put on and you cannot walk-in. The Veterans will be contacted by VA for an appointment based on availability of the Vaccine and fall in the criteria. Employees have and continue to be deployed to various hospitals to provide care during our 4<sup>th</sup> mission efforts.

VA's academic mission began in 1946 with the adoption of [Policy Memorandum No. 2](#), establishing a remarkable partnership between VA and its academic affiliates. [Seventy-five years later](#), VA provides training to nearly 70% of all U.S. physicians. Approximately 120,000 health professions trainees help care for more than 9 million Veterans at clinical sites around the country.

Affiliated with more than 1,800 academic institutions including 97% of America's medical schools, VA trains future health professionals in over 40 disciplines including physicians, psychologists, nurses, pharmacists and social workers.

For more information about VHA's 75th anniversary, click [here](#).

For more information about academic affiliates, visit VA's Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) [website](#). For details on anniversary activities, go to the [OAA 75th anniversary webpage](#).

For more information about Aleda E. Lutz VAMC's academic affiliates program and anniversary events, please contact Dr. Edward Graham, Designated Education Office 989-497-2500 extension 11875.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center. It provides care to over 37,400 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at [www.saginaw.va.gov](http://www.saginaw.va.gov).

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