

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Office of Research and Development; Government Owned Invention Available for Licensing

**AGENCY:** Office of Research and Development, VA.

**ACTION:** Notice of government owned invention available for licensing.

**SUMMARY:** The invention listed below is owned by the U.S. Government as represented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and is available for licensing in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 207 and 37 CFR part 404 and/or CRADA Collaboration under 15 U.S.C. 3710a to achieve expeditious commercialization of results of federally funded research and development. Foreign patents are filed on selected inventions to extend market coverage for U.S. companies and may also be available for licensing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Technical and licensing information on the invention may be obtained by writing to: Sal Sheredos, Department of Veterans Affairs, Acting Director Technology Transfer Program, Office of Research and Development, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; fax: (202) 254-0473; e-mail at: [saleem@vard.org](mailto:saleem@vard.org). Any request for information should include the Number and Title for the relevant invention as indicated below. Issued patents may be obtained from the Commissioner of Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The invention available for licensing is: U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/600,797 "Human and Mouse Alkaline Ceramidase 1 and Skin Disease".

Dated: January 26, 2005.

**Anthony J. Principi,**  
Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.  
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**BILLING CODE** 8320-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act of 1974; Systems of Records

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is publishing notice of amendment and alteration to its system of records known as

"Veterans Appellate Records System-VA (44VA01)," and "Representatives" Fee Agreement Records System (81VA01)." VA is merging the information currently maintained in Representatives' Fee Agreement Records with the "Veterans Appellate Records System." The amendments will affect the sections entitled System Location; Categories of Individuals Covered by the System; Categories of Records in the System; Purpose(s); Routine Uses of Records Maintained in the System; and Policies and Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining, and Disposing of Records in the System. VA is publishing the combined system notice in its entirety at this time.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by VA on or before March 7, 2005, which is the date the amended system will become effective.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand-deliver written comments to: Director, Regulations Management (00REG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or fax comments to (202) 273-9026; or e-mail comments to [VAregulations@mail.va.gov](mailto:VAregulations@mail.va.gov). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to the Notice of Amendments to a System of Records. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call 202 273-9515 for an appointment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven L. Keller, Senior Deputy Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals (012), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-5978.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Veterans Appellate Records System (44VA01) was first established in 1975 to track claims for veterans benefits that had been appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA or Board). With the expansion of advanced technology and increased electronic data collection capacity, traditional methods of recordkeeping have changed significantly. BVA now maintains most of the records covered by 44VA01 in a computer database entitled Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System (VACOLS).

One of the traditional paper-based methods of keeping track of appeals at the Board was use of the Briefface folder. These Briefface folders traditionally reflected the status of the appeal as it traveled through the Board until an appeal was decided. Thereafter,

the Briefface was removed from the claims folder before the folder was returned to the VA Regional Office (VARO). The Briefface remained at BVA as a document in system 44VA01 until disposed of in accordance with procedures approved by the Archivist of the United States. However, since all the information contained in the Briefface is now tracked electronically, the Briefface is obsolete. Therefore, the Board is discontinuing this method of collecting data. Brieffaces in use as of March 31, 2002, will be maintained in an offsite storage facility once the Board has decided an appeal. They will be disposed of by shredding or burning after 18 months according to the timeline and procedural requirements of General Records Schedule 16, Item 7.

The Representatives' Fee Agreement Records System—VA, identified as 81VA01, was established in 1991 to allow the Board to monitor fee agreements between attorneys-at-law or accredited agents and claimants being represented before VA according to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5904. The information contained in this system includes paper copies of fee agreements and correspondence related to fee agreements and electronic information with regard to names and addresses of both parties to the agreements and VA identification numbers or social security numbers. Since most of this information is already contained in VACOLS (44VA01), we believe that merging the two systems will obviate the need to retain 81VA01 and will eliminate redundant data entry.

In addition, providing the information through VACOLS allows a VARO to locate any existing fee agreement that requires withholding of a portion of the payment of past due benefits to a beneficiary. As of April 1, 2003, fee agreements and powers of attorney received by the Board have been scanned and electronically available in VACOLS. Thus, VARO personnel no longer need to contact the Board in every instance where the question of fee agreements arises and the Board need not create paper file folders to hold duplicate copies of fee agreements. The original fee agreement remains in the claimant's file folder and the electronically attached copy along with other pertinent data, becomes part of VACOLS.

The System Location notice has been updated to reflect the locations of the computer servers that house the system as well as VA sites where non-electronic records (e.g., tapes of hearings) are housed, as well as the address of the Board's contractor.