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140 Fountain Parkway  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
(727)575-8025

# News Release

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Contact: Shane Suzuki, Miami VAHCS Public Affairs Officer  
[shane.suzuki@va.gov](mailto:shane.suzuki@va.gov), O: 305-575-7303

## VA Sunshine Healthcare Network Announces New Healthcare System Director

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul M. Russo as the new Director of the Miami VA Healthcare System. Russo will oversee delivery of health care to more than 57,000 Veterans living in South Florida and an operating budget of \$478 million. With 2,600 staff and facilities in Broward County, Deerfield Beach, Hollywood, Homestead, Key Largo, Key West, and Pembroke Pines, the Miami VA Healthcare System is one of the most diverse of the nation's 152 VA Medical Centers. In addition to health care services for Veterans, the Miami VA Healthcare System offers extensive education programs for doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, while supporting nearly \$9 million in research funding including the work of Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Andrew V. Schally.

"We are excited to bring Mr. Russo on board as the new medical center director. His strong leadership qualities, experience, and previous relationships with both the West Palm Beach VA and Miami VA will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve," said Nevin M. Weaver, VISN 8 Network Director. "We anticipate he will arrive at the medical center within the next 45 to 60 days to begin his appointment."

Russo has served Veterans in seven medical centers during his nearly 30 years of service in the Veterans Health Administration, most recently as director of the Salisbury, North Carolina VA Medical Center. Previous to that appointment, he served as associate director at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center from December 2004 to July 2010.

Russo earned his bachelor's degree in Clinical Nutrition in 1982 from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, obtaining his registered dietitian credential in October 1982. He earned his master's degree in Health Services Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2005. He is board certified as a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE) and is a recipient of the 2006 ACHE Regent Award.

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