

**Celebrating the
VHA John D. Chase Award for
Executive Excellence in Healthcare Winner**



On behalf of both AMSUS and the Veterans Health Administration Executive in Charge, Dr. Richard Stone, we would like to congratulate the winner of the 2020 VHA John D. Chase Award for Executive Excellence in Health Care, **Alan Bridges, M.D.**, Chief of Staff, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison WI.

This Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Award, named after Dr. John D. Chase, is for sustained executive leadership by an individual from any health care discipline. Dr. John D. Chase was the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration from 1974 to 1978. He served two years in the Navy and five years in the Army Reserve Medical Corps.

Dr. Bridges led the efforts, and brought in grant funding, to transform the Madison VA into a Whole Health system of care and consequently to engage and empower Veterans and employees for lifelong health, well-being and resilience. Dr. Bridges promotes a spirit of innovation and best practices as evidenced by the many projects he and his staff have submitted to the VISN 12 Hub (more than 15 Shark Tank Submissions, and over 250 innovation projects conducted over the last few years at the Madison VA). Currently, he is a key leader at our facility on the Madison VA High Reliability journey via his participation in the baseline assessment and promotion of a Just Culture.

During the COVID pandemic, Alan served on the COVID-19 Care Transition Planning national sequester, and served not only on the local Hospital Incident Command but also as the VISN 12 Medical Incident Commander, leading two of the Chicago area VA hospitals to carry out the VA's Fourth Mission/FEMA response. Alan also serves on the VHA 2020 Governance Board Strategic Planning Summit Steering Committee. He is a Clinical Service Line Integrated Project Team member and serves as a lead facilitator/instructor as well as author and content expert for the toolkit. He has served on the Health Care Delivery Committee since 2011 and was the Co-Chair of the New Initiatives and Innovations Subcommittee in 2014 and 2015.

Dr. Bridges routinely promotes health care and its administration via a forward-looking approach that employs exceptional use of data and analytics. In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the Madison VA as one of the national "Moving Forward" pilots, implementing dashboards, checklists and HRO huddle reports to safely increase face to face patient visits. He leads the Madison VA as a high performing facility with measures such as CMS Mortality, Outpatient care, Mental Health care, Care Transition, Employee Satisfaction and Hospital Rating all in the top quintile in SAIL. His MISSION Act quality standards outperformed community benchmarks on most measures.

Again, congratulations to **Dr. Alan Bridges** on winning the 2020 VHA John D. Chase Award for Executive Excellence in Health Care.