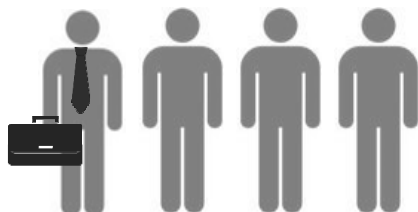


## Vietnam-Era Twin (VET) Registry 2018 Focus Group Summary

A key part of the management of the Vietnam-Era Twin (VET) Registry is to ensure retention of members like you. To help us improve our operations and services, the Seattle Epidemiologic Research & Information Center (ERIC) holds in-person focus groups to get direct feedback from Registry members about their experiences. Below is a summary of the 2018 focus group findings.

### WHO ATTENDED THE FOCUS GROUPS?

The 2018 focus groups were held in **East Orange** and **Springfield, NJ**. VET Registry members who lived within 50 miles of the focus group locations were invited to participate.



- A total of 12 Registry members attended the focus groups.
- Members attended with and without their twins.
- 75% of the members who attended the groups are now retired.

### WHY DID MEMBERS CHOOSE TO ATTEND?

Focus group attendees understand that the research they are participating in could benefit other Veterans. Some focus group participants said:

***“We just want to help. We want to continue to serve.”***

***“We are unique because of the genetics of twins and you can study genes and environment.”***

### WHAT DID WE LEARN ABOUT YOU?

Members who attended the group were willing to participate in most types of research including paper surveys, in-person visits, telephone interviews, and web-based studies.





Members who attended the group were willing to participate in research that involved donating blood, saliva, urine, hair and nail samples, and were least likely to participate in studies requesting fat or muscle biopsy.

## WHAT DO MEMBERS WANT TO KNOW?

The members who attended the focus group were interested in learning more about the findings of the studies they participate in, and how their contributions to research may help others. They also expressed that they would like to receive updates from the Seattle ERIC more often.

- More information about VET Registry studies, and a full list of all VET Registry Publications can be found on the Seattle ERIC website:  
<https://www.seattle.eric.research.va.gov/VETR/Home.asp>.
- The Seattle ERIC sends regular mailings to VET Registry members, including newsletters, Veterans Day postcards, and National Health Observance (NHO) materials. We are working on increasing the frequency of these mailings.

## Thank you!

Thank you for your continued membership in the VET Registry. If you have any questions about focus groups or other VET Registry studies, you may reach us toll-free at **1-800-329-8387 ext. 61964**.