



Web Sitings

Teaching Kids About Vets

To help America's children learn more about what it means to be a veteran, the VA has unveiled a new web site: VA Kids (www.va.gov/kids). This site is an entertaining and informative way for young people to learn about who veterans are, what they've done for our country, and why it's important to care for and respect them. VA Kids features fun facts about the VA, Veteran's Day, rehabilitative and special events for disabled veterans, and links to sites that contain more information about veterans.

The site is divided into three areas geared toward the following groups: students in kindergarten through fifth grade, students in sixth through twelfth grade, and teachers. For the younger students, VA Kids uses age-appropriate language to relay "cool facts" about veterans and the American flag. It features interactive activities, such



as puzzles, coloring pages, and matching contests. Games include "Make a Medal," in which kids can select words, colors, and shapes to create their own medals for bravery, honor, or heroism; and "Patriotic Pairs," a version of "Concentration" in which kids click on stars to reveal and try to match VA symbols hidden behind them.

For the older students, there's information on volunteer programs and scholarships, as well as educational resources, games, and reference links. The teacher section contains supplementary veteran education resources, suggests classroom activities, and explains how to schedule a veteran guest speaker at your school.

Recognizing Metabolic Syndrome

Founded in 2001, the Metabolic Syndrome Alliance (MSA) is a group of health care professionals seeking to raise awareness and promote understanding within the medical community of the link between cardiovascular disease and insulin-resistant states, such as type 2 diabetes mellitus and a risk factor cluster known as the metabolic syndrome. The alliance describes its web site, MSA Today (www.msatoday.com), as the first and only web site to focus on the prevention, detection, and management of metabolic syndrome. It is sponsored by Innovia Education Institute, LLC (Laurel, MD) and supported by an unrestricted educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline (London, UK).

Created as a collaboration between cardiologists and endocrinologists, MSA Today features continu-

ing medical education programs concentrating on the metabolic syndrome, which they estimate affects about 47 million Americans. The site seeks to provide the latest clinically relevant information on preventing, diagnosing, and managing the metabolic syndrome. Use the site's list of diagnostic tools to identify the symptoms of the syndrome, or use its patient assessment guides and interactive surveys to recognize risk factors. You can access MSA Today's slide library and download the latest research, as well as recommended management and treatment practices. Be sure to take note of learning opportunities offered by upcoming national symposia and local conferences. ●

