



# Accolades and Achievements

## RORC REAP Selected As Southeastern Satellite for the Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Eastern Region (VRHRC-ER)

A multi-disciplinary team of investigators from the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center and the newly established Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Eastern Region (headquartered in White River Junction, VT), will be collaborating on projects to improve the access to and quality of care received by veterans living in rural areas. Team members will work together to develop and implement innovations, such as tele-health technology and mobile clinics, to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare to veterans throughout rural America. RORC REAP investigators will analyze the cost-effectiveness and quality of care of these programs, as well as patient satisfaction, and will make recommendations about how these services can be provided for veterans in rural areas across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The Lake City VA Medical Center will be a demonstration site for the delivery of specialty care and rehabilitation services to disabled veterans living in rural areas. Some current rural health initiatives already underway at the Lake City VA Medical Center, include the Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) program, which provides low vision rehabilitation to help veterans maximize their functional vision and increase their independence; and the Comprehensive Care Clinic for Veterans with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Spinal Cord Injury (SCI). The MS/SCI Clinic in Lake City is evaluating exercise and pulmonary rehabilitation for veterans with MS utilizing video transmission to rural sites and home tele-health monitoring and prevention of skin breakdown and pressure ulcers. Future clinical demonstration projects to be conducted in the NF/SGVHS will evaluate the video transmission of specialty care and rehabilitation training for caregivers of veterans in rural areas.

## RORC REAP Associate Director Diane Cowper Ripley Featured in VA Research Currents

Diane Cowper Ripley, PhD was featured in the VA Research and Development publication *Research Currents* in an article titled “**Putting Polytrauma Care ‘On the Map.’**” Dr. Cowper Ripley and her team’s work in Geographic Information Systems was highlighted along with results from their research that tracked access to VA care for traumatically wounded veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The findings from their work will help VA planners decide where to locate services for current and future cohorts of veterans.

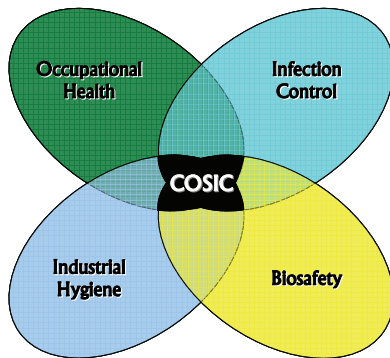


To read the full VA *Research Currents* article, please visit: <http://www.research.va.gov/news/features/polytrauma.cfm>.

To view some of [Dr. Cowper Ripley's](#) other work utilizing Geographic Information Systems, please see the VA Health Care Atlas at <http://www1.va.gov/rorc/products.cfm>.

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## RORC REAP Investigator Lew Radonovich, MD to Lead New Center for Occupational Safety and Infection Control (COSIC)



Dr. Lew Radonovich recently received funding for the Center for Occupational Safety and Infection Control (COSIC), to serve the Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards in its efforts to answer questions or solve problems related to occupational safety or environmental biohazards that arise in the field of operations.

Center staff will interact with experts that reside within the VA national network, including researchers, clinicians, public health and safety professionals and others with pertinent expertise and skills. Experts will be engaged from the academic and private sectors as required by the scope and complexity of each project.

The objectives of the COSIC are to 1) conduct policy and procedural analysis and recommend modifications, when indicated, 2) perform demonstration projects that are required to assess feasibility of proposed applications, and 3) carry-out projects that utilize clinical investigation as a means to

assess validity.

One of the Center's first projects is a demonstration of ultraviolet germicidal irradiation for respiratory infection prevention. Future project topics include: assessment of hospital airflow during pandemic surge cohorting, determining cost-effective terminal cleaning methods for rooms occupied by patients with antibiotic resistant infections, modeling of interventions during infectious disease outbreaks, and assessment of novel methods to eradicate mold infestation.

## STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Linda Young, PhD Receives Founders Award from American Statistical Association (ASA)

Dr. Linda Young received the Founders Award from the American Statistical Association for her service and extraordinary leadership as vice president and as chair of the Council of Sections, Chair of the Section on Statistics Education, and Chair of the Section on Statistics and the Environment. She has also provided leadership to many other statistical societies and made outstanding contributions to leadership and scholarship in statistical methods research, particularly for agricultural, ecological, environmental and public health studies.

*Dr. Young is a member of the RORC REAP Methodology Core and Professor in the Statistics Department of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.*

### Joyce K. Stechmiller, PhD, ARNP a New Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN)

Dr. Joyce K Stechmiller, a national expert in wound care, was recently named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing( FAAN), The academy awards fellowships to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to effective nursing through practice, research, creative development, scholarly work, the influence of public policy or a combination of these.

*Dr. Stechmiller is an RORC REAP Affiliate Investigator, Director of Skin and Wound Care Education at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, and Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Florida.*

### Sam Wu, PhD Promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. Wu, Director of Biostatistics Core for the RORC, was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor in the University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Health Policy Research.



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