

Mission and Goals



Paul M. Hoffman, MD
RORC REAP
Principal Investigator

The Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC) located at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville, FL, is the only Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) supported by corefunding from both Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) and Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) services.

The coalescence of expertise and talent among neuroscientists, interdisciplinary rehabilitation researchers, health service researchers, clinicians, and social scientists at the RORC, the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center (BRRC), the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), the Stroke and Polytrauma Quality Enhancement Research Initiatives (QUERIs), and the University of Florida provide access to unusually strong and innovative research programs aimed at improving VA rehabilitation care.

Using the depth and breadth of expertise available in the community, the RORC is uniquely positioned to strengthen existing outcome evaluation methods and measures in rehabilitation outcomes research. Through our local and regional collaborations with QUERIs and the VHA National Rehabilitation Program Office, Patient Care Services, our findings will continue to improve the quality of rehabilitation programs for veterans and influence future health policy.

MISSION

The mission of the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC) is to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves the health, function, and community reintegration of post-deployed veterans and veterans with neurological impairment.

Research Focus

Rehabilitation and the management of disability and illness are emerging as dominant themes in the VHA strategic vision. The RORC mission directly addresses these evolving priorities through research by examining how to improve the access, design, administration, management, and cost of care; by using state of the science methodologies to develop new and more precise measures across the continuum of care; and by evaluating innovative systems and processes of care through the continuum, including the psychosocial aspects of recovery, informal caregiving, and community reintegration.

Our primary research focus is to evaluate rehabilitation programs and interventions that result in optimal patient outcomes. Research is organized thematically by outcomes of interest. These outcomes include:

- Health
- Function
- Independence
- Quality of Life
- Community Integration
- Access
- Quality
- Cost

Research programming is supported by Administrative, Methodological, Dissemination and Career Development/Training Cores. A Steering Committee of national content area experts and an Advisory Panel of local VA and UF leaders provide guidance and support.



RORC Leadership

Paul M. Hoffman, MD
Principal Investigator

Diane Cowper Ripley, PhD
Co-Principal Investigator

Core Investigators

Elizabeth M. Hannold, PhD
Huanguang 'Charlie' Jia, PhD
Maude R. Rittman, PhD
Constance R. Uphold, PhD
Craig A. Velozo, PhD
W. Bruce Vogel, PhD
Debbie Wilson, PhD

Affiliate & Associate Investigators

Tracey E. Barnett, PhD
Rebecca J. Beyth, MD
Muna Canales, MD
Toni Chiara, MD
Sandra L. Hubbard, PhD
Lewis Radonovich, MD
L. Douglas Ried, PhD
Ron Shorr, MD
Shahnaz Sultan, PhD
Samuel S. Wu, PhD
Linda J. Young, PhD

Pre-Post-Doctoral Fellows

Magaly Freytes, PhD
Sergio Romero, PhD

Administrative Staff

Wendi Spisak, *Administrative Officer*
Shaira Bailey, *Asst. Administrative Officer*
Charisma Brown, *Human Resources Specialist*
Jini Hanjian, PhD, *Education Specialist*
Cozette Hazel, *Budget Analyst*
Lynda Marin-Santiago, *Grants/IRB Specialist*
Elizabeth Matheny, *Program Specialist*
Kristen Wing, *Public Affairs Specialist*

Selected Current RORC Projects

- Cost-Effectiveness of Stroke Rehabilitation Settings in the VA
- Dissemination Evaluation of Educational Materials for Puerto Rican OIF/OEF Veterans and Families
- Identifying Potential Demand for VA Rehabilitation Services for OEF/OIF Veterans
- VA and Non-VA Healthcare Utilization and Outcomes by Veterans with Stroke
- Web-based Informational Materials for Caregivers of Veterans Post-Stroke



Research results from RORC projects will be used to improve the quality of care and quality of life for veterans receiving rehabilitation services through the VA.

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www.va.gov/orc



Research Service (151B)
NF/SG Veterans Health System
1601 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608

Phone: 352-376-1611, ext. 6843

Fax: 352-271-4540

Email: RORC@med.va.gov

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