

**Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

February 23 and 24, 2004  
Room 819, Lafayette Building, 811 Vermont St.  
Washington, D.C.

Meeting Agenda

**Monday, February 23, 2004**

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|---------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 8:45   | <b>Welcome, introductions, and opening remarks</b>   | Mr. Jim Binns                        |
| 8:45 – 9:15   | <b>Update on ongoing VA Gulf War illness research projects</b><br><i>Dr. Concato, director of the Clinical Epidemiology Unit at West Haven VAMC, will provide an update on VA's study investigating levels of a mutant form of acetylcholinesterase (AChE-R) in ill Gulf veterans. Mr. Kaplan will report on other VA Gulf War illness research projects of interest.</i>  | Dr. John Concato<br>Mr. Roger Kaplan |
| 9:15 – 9:45   | <b>Research funded under the Deployment Health Initiative</b><br><i>Ms. Hans is staff assistant for Gulf War illnesses in VA's Office of Research and Development. She will update the Committee on proposals received and projects funded under VA's Deployment Health and Cooperative Studies funding announcements.</i>   | Ms. Preeti Hans                      |
| 9:45 – 10:15  | <b>Overview of VA administration of Gulf War illness research proposals, review, and funding</b><br><i>Mr. Gough is Acting Director of Administration in VA's Office of Research and Development. He will discuss how Gulf War illness research proposals are scientifically reviewed, funded, and prioritized, and provide additional information on the \$20 million Deployment Health funding initiative.</i> | Mr. Joe Gough                        |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <b>Break</b>   |                                      |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | <b>Discussion</b>  |                                      |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <b>Leishmaniasis in veterans of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom</b><br><i>Dr. Magill is Science Director at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. He will provide an overview of detection and assessment of leishmania infection in Gulf War veterans, and preliminary information regarding leishmania infection in military personnel serving in the current conflict in Iraq.</i>                       | Dr. Alan Magill                      |

- 12:00 – 1:00      **Lunch**
- 1:00 – 1:45      **Role of stress-activated kinase in the pathogenesis of Gulf War Syndrome**  
*Dr. Liu is Assistant Research Professor of Pharmacology at Boston University. She will discuss her research on the induction of mixed lineage kinases and neuroinflammation by stress, vaccines, and pyridostigmine bromide, and the potential use of kinase inhibitors to prevent or treat the adverse consequences.*      Dr. Ya Fang Liu
- 1:45 – 2:30      **Immunotoxicity of low-dose sarin and silica inhalation**  
*Dr. Sopori is Senior Scientist and Director of the Immunology Program at Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute. He will present results of his studies investigating immunological effects of inhaled exposure to sarin, sand, and cholinergic agents such as pyridostigmine bromide.*      Dr. Mohan Sopori
- 2:30 – 2:45      **Break**
- 2:45 – 3:30      **East Orange VAMC research on immune parameters in ill Gulf War veterans**  
*Dr. Ottenweller is Professor of Neurosciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He will discuss studies at the East Orange VA Center for Environmental Hazards Research on lymphocyte subpopulations and cytokine levels in symptomatic and healthy Gulf veterans.*      Dr. John Ottenweller
- 3:30 – 4:30      **Immune activation and Th1/Th2 cytokine balance in Gulf War-related illnesses**  
*Dr. Peakman is with the Department of Immunobiology in the School of Medicine at King's College in London. He will present results of a study of cellular immune activation associated with multisymptom illness in British Gulf War veterans.*      Dr. Mark Peakman
- 4:30 – 5:00      **Discussion**
- 5:00 – 5:30      **Public Comment**
- 5:30              **Adjourn for the day**

Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, February 24, 2004**

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|---------------|--|-----------------------|
| 8:00 – 9:00   | <b>Overview of potential health consequences of depleted uranium use</b><br><i>Mr. Marshall is with Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. He will provide an overview of possible concerns related to radiological and chemical effects of DU exposures in Gulf War veterans.</i>   | Mr. Al Marshall       |
| 9:00 – 10:00  | <b>Research on the effects of depleted uranium from the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute</b><br><i>Dr. Pellmar will report on the results of multiple studies conducted by investigators at the Department of Defense's Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute assessing the biological effects of implanted DU fragments in animals.</i>  | Dr. Terry Pellmar     |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Break</b>   |                       |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | <b>Studies of the uptake and neurological effects of inhaled uranium</b><br><i>Dr. Lewis is director of the Community Environmental Health Program at the University of New Mexico. She will report on her research on the potential for inhaled uranium to enter the brain through the nose and cause neurological damage.</i>  | Dr. Johnnye Lewis     |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | <b>Surveillance of veterans exposed to depleted uranium during the Gulf War</b><br><i>Dr. McDiarmid directs VA's Depleted Uranium Program at the Baltimore VAMC. She will present an overview of the results of the program's ongoing clinical surveillance of Gulf War veterans who have embedded DU fragments, DU-contaminated wounds, and significant inhalational exposure to DU.</i>  | Dr. Melissa McDiarmid |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | <b>Discussion</b>  |                       |
| 12:00 – 1:00  | <b>Lunch</b>   |                       |
| 1:00 – 1:30   | <b>Overview of research on infectious diseases in Gulf War veterans</b>  | Dr. Lea Steele        |
| 1:30 – 2:15   | <b>Findings on mycoplasma infection and treatment from VA's antibiotic treatment trial</b><br><i>Dr. Donta is retired Professor of Medicine at Boston University Medical School and principle investigator of VA's antibiotic treatment trial. He will present findings from the study and discuss their implications with respect to the role of mycoplasma infection and antibiotic treatment in Gulf War veterans' illnesses.</i> | Dr. Sam Donta         |
| 2:15 – 3:00   | <b>Update on recently published research</b>   | Dr. Beatrice Golomb   |

3:00 – 3:30	<b>Committee business</b>
3:30 – 4:00	<b>Public comment</b>
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>