



# VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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## Education Component Update MIRECC Newsletter Evaluation

Katherine H. Taber, PhD

We have just completed our third year of producing the MIRECC newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to ask you, the reader, what you think of it. An evaluation form is included at the end of this issue, for those that prefer to print it out. The same form is also available as a Word file, for those that prefer the paperless approach. Either form can also be provided by [mary.peoples1@va.gov](mailto:mary.peoples1@va.gov). Please take a few moments to answer the questions. We welcome feedback from our readers.

## Recently Approved Grants

**Beckham JC** Nicotine Patch Pre-treatment for smoking cessation in PTSD. VA Merit Review

**Marx C** Pregnenolone for Cognitive and Negative Symptoms in Schizophrenia. VA Merit Review

**Marx C** Neurosteroids as Critical Modulators of the Stress Response in PTSD. Department of Defense

## New MIRECC Researcher - Hampton VAMC



My name is Evan Alvord. I was born and raised in Ashland Oregon, attended college in Santa Barbara California and recently received my Psy.D. from George Fox University in Portland Oregon. My wife Leilani and I moved to Hampton Virginia last year for Internship and we liked the area so much we decided to stay for my residency. I have wanted to work with Veterans, ever since my Grandpa began sharing his WWII submarine stories with me as a child. The Hampton VA has been an invaluable training site, offering a breadth of diverse experiences, which have more then exceeded my expectations. Over the last year and a half, we have thoroughly enjoyed touring

the east coast and its abundance of historical destinations. In my free time I watch every Buffalo Bills football game and on most Saturdays I search for colonial and Civil War artifacts with a metal detector. Someday I would like to donate my collection to a museum or historical society.

## Outreach to Community Providers



Clinical Update 2008

February 11-12, Pinehurst NC

**Harold Kudler, MD** (Interim Director, MIRECC), **Kristy Straits-Troster, PhD** (Interim Associate Director, Clinical) and **Everett Jones, MD** presented "**Addressing the Needs of Returning Veterans**".

**Robin Hurley, MD** (Associate Director, Education) and **Katherine Taber, PhD** (Assistant Director, Education) presented "**Assessing the Needs of Persons with TBI, Parts 1 and 2**".

This annual conference focuses on psychiatrists, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, therapists and counselors, case managers, and others who worked in the public mental health system. The purpose is to provide information on the most recent therapeutic and medical approaches to the treatment of mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. More than 75 mental health professionals and administrators attended the conference.



Mountain Area Health Education Center



**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**Traumatic Brain Injury:  
Reconnecting the Dots**

February 15, Asheville NC

**Robin Hurley, MD** (Associate Director, Education) and **Katherine Taber, PhD** (Assistant Director, Education) presented "**Mapping TBI from the Front to Communities**".

This full-day conference provided an overview of TBI across the lifespan, from shaken baby syndrome to falls among the elderly. Following the keynote address, the conference tracked the course of management from the acute, traumatic injury phase, through rehabilitation, to ongoing supports and resources needed from community mental health, allied health, and legal/public assistance providers.

## Invited Lectures

**Dr. Robin Hurley** (Associate Director, Education) presented "**Behavioral Neuroanatomy in Neuropsychiatry**" and "**Neuroimaging in Neuropsychiatry**" on January 19 as part of the Idaho Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, Boise ID.

## Publications

Calhoun PS, Wiley M, Dennis MF, Means MK, Edinger JD, Beckham JC. Objective evidence of sleep disturbance in women with posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2007; 20:1009-1018.

Cook JW, McFall MM, Calhoun PS, Beckham, J.C. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Smoking Relapse: A theoretical model. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. 2007; 20:989-998.

Hurley RA, Taber KH. Acute and Chronic Lyme Disease: Controversies for Neuropsychiatry. *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience*. 2008; 20(1):iv-6.

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## Books

Hurley RA, Taber KH (eds): *Windows to the Brain, Insights from Neuroimaging*. Washington DC: American Psychiatric Press, February 2008.



**American College of  
Neuropsychopharmacology  
46th Annual Meeting  
December 9-13, 2007  
Boca Raton, FL**

### Panel Discussion

**Neurosteroids as Therapeutic Agents:  
Evidence for Efficacy in Schizophrenia, Seizure  
Disorders, and Traumatic Brain Injury**

**Christine Marx, MD** (Assistant Director, Research - Interventions) organized and chaired this panel discussion. Dr. Marx also presented "**Proof of Concept Trial with the Neurosteroid Pregnenolone - Targeting Positive and Negative Symptoms in Schizophrenia**" as part of this very well-attended session.

## Publications

(continued from page 2)

McCrea M, Pliskin N, Barth J, Cox D, Fink J, French L, Louis, Hammeke T, Hess D, Hopewell A, Orme D, Powell M, Ruff R, Schrock B, Terryberry-Spohr L, Vanderploeg R, Yoash-Gantz R. Official Position of the Military TBI Task Force on the Role of Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Psychology in the Evaluation, Management, and Research of Military Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury. *Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 2008;22(1):10 - 26.

Morey RA, Petty CM, Cooper DA, Labar KS, McCarthy G. Neural systems for executive and emotional processing are modulated by symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder in Iraq War veterans. *Psychiatry Research: Neuroimaging*. 2008;162(1):59-72.

Roberts ME, Fuemmeler BF, McClernon FJ, Beckham JC. Association between trauma exposure and smoking in a population-based sample of young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2008;42(3):266-74.

Sacks MB, Flood AM, Dennis MF, Hertzberg MA, Beckham JC. Self-mutilative behaviors in male veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. 2008;42(6):487-94.

## Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

### March 14

Ashley Campbell PhD (Houston VAMC)  
*"Programming and Treatment Issues for Veterans Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan"*

### April 11

Deborah Lee LCSW (VISN 6 Homeless Coordinator)  
*"Homelessness Among OEF/OIF Veterans and Homeless Prevention"*

### May 9

Robyn D. Walser, PhD (Palo Alto VAMC)  
*"PTSD and Substance Abuse in OEF/OIF Veterans"*

This series is presented by V-tel and audio conferences. We are having increasing participation from sites outside VISN 6. Our assigned call in numbers may change, depending upon how many sites expect to join in. For this reason, the number that each VISN 6 site will use to dial in will be included in an email notification prior to each presentation.

If you wish to attend from a site outside of VISN 6, please contact Mary Peoples ([mary.peoples1@va.gov](mailto:mary.peoples1@va.gov); 704-638-9000 ext 2956) so she can make the necessary arrangements.



Implementation across  
 the Nation: From  
 Bedside and Clinic to  
 Community and Home

**Baltimore, MD Feb. 13-15, 2008**

### Presentations from our MIRECC:

**Strauss JL, Stechuchak KM, Olsen MK, Zervakis JB, O'Loughlin SH, Swanson J, Henderson RC, Swartz MS, Oddone EZ, Weinberger M, Butterfield MI.** Results From Randomized Controlled Trial to Facilitate the Use of Psychiatric Advance Directives: Lessons Learned.

**Strauss JL, Jeffreys AS, Almirall D, Marx CE, Morey RA, Olsen MK, O'Loughlin SH, Close JE, Chaudhry N, Oddone EZ, Butterfield MI.** A Transportable, Self-Management Intervention for PTSD Related to Military Sexual Trauma: Preliminary Findings from a Randomized Trial.

## VISN 6 MIRECC Newsletter Evaluation Form

We want to make the VISN 6 MIRECC newsletter more interesting and relevant and therefore welcome feedback from our readers. Please take a few minutes to fill out this evaluation form. It will help us to keep improving the newsletter. You can return this form to us by **fax (704-638-3857)** or **e-mail (mary.peoples1@va.gov)**. Thank you for your time.

<b>All questions are rated on a scale of 1-6 with 1 being the lowest and 6 being the highest.</b>						
	<b>Low</b>					<b>High</b>
<b>Do you find the newsletter useful and informative?</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Do you find the content to be balanced?</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Is the information/content relevant to you?</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Is the information presented effectively?</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>What is your opinion of the design/layout/graphic appearance?</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Please give us your feedback on the various sections of this newsletter</b>						
<b>Research project updates</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Clinical project updates</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Education project updates</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Fellowship updates</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Invited lectures</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Publications</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Presentations</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Noon Vtel lectures</b> Comments:	1	2	3	4	5	6

What other types of information would you like to see included in the newsletter?

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the newsletter in general, or any ideas on how to improve it?