



VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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Announcements Our Web-Site is Live!

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6/>

We are making many of our lectures, articles, and educational materials available by posting them on our new website. We will be adding more in future, so check back on a regular basis to see what is new!

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MIRECC CENTERS

VISN 6 MIRECC

VISN 6
Post Deployment Mental Health

Our MIRECC is organized as a translational medicine multi-site center focused on post deployment mental health issues. The overarching goals are improving clinical assessment and treatment and development of novel interventions through basic and clinical research.

The central campus is located at the Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. Staff and collaborators are also located at the Salisbury, Richmond, Hampton and Salem VA Medical Centers.

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Welcome to New MIRECC Researcher

Natalya Faynboym, MD, FAAPMR recently joined the Salisbury VAMC Rehabilitation Medicine Service. Dr. Faynboym graduated



summa cum laude from both High Point University and Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine. Her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency was at the University of Missouri - Columbia, where she served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Faynboym has extensive experience in treatment of TBI. Most recently she has served as Medical Director of Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation and Director of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service Line at WFU Baptist Medical Center. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor

in the Department of Neurology at WFU. She looks forward to working closely with the Polytrauma/TBI team at Salisbury VAMC. Dr. Faynboym's research interests include cognitive neuropharmacology and the integrative medicine model as it relates to the treatment of individuals with acquired brain injury.

Publications

Beckham JC, Wiley MT, Miller SC, Dennis MF, Wilson SM, McClernon FJ, Calhoun PS. Ad lib smoking in post-traumatic stress disorder: An electronic diary study. *Nicotine Tob Res.* 2008 Jul;10(7):1149-57.

Bradford DW, Kim MM, Braxton LE, Marx CE, Butterfield M, Elbogen EB. Access to medical care among persons with psychotic and major affective disorders. *Psychiatr Serv.* 2008 Aug;59(8):847-52.

Elhai J, Calhoun PS, Ford J. Statistical procedures for analyzing mental health services data. *Psychiatry Res.* 2008 Aug 15;160(2):129-36.

Naylor JC, Hulette CM, Steffens DC, Shampine LJ, Ervin JF, Payne VM, Massing MW, Kilts JD, Strauss JL, Calhoun PS, Calnaido RP, Blazer DG, Lieberman JA, Madison RD, Marx CE. Cerebrospinal fluid dehydroepiandrosterone levels are correlated with brain dehydroepiandrosterone levels, elevated in Alzheimer's disease, and related to neuropathological disease stage. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2008 Aug;93(8):3173-8.

Update on the MIRECC Research Fellows

We are extremely pleased to announce that **Dr. Scott McDonald** has accepted a Research Psychologist position at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. McDonald was an outstanding MIRECC Fellow. His advanced specialty clinical training was in neuropsychology. His research included investigations of the validity of measures of posttraumatic stress disorder in returning OEF/OIF veterans as well methods to accurately assess sequelae of traumatic brain injury.



During his two-year tenure he authored 7 scientific articles and made 6 presentations at national meetings including the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the VA's National Mental Health Meeting.

Psychology Fellowship Director, Dr. Patrick Calhoun: "It is a real strength of the fellowship program, that we are retaining outstanding young psychologists like Dr. McDonald in the VA."



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**



Employee Education System

CONTINUING THE TRANSFORMATION OF VA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

BRIDGING THE GAPS

July 21-24, 2008, Arlington, VA

From our MIRECC

Beckham JC, Becker ME, Hamlett-Berry KW, Drury P, Kang HK, Wiley MT, Calhoun PS, Moore SD, Bright MA, McFall M. Findings from a Clinical Demonstration Project to Reduce Smoking for Veterans Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Calhoun PS, Eggleston AM, McDonald SD, Kudler H, Beckham JC, Straits-Troster K. Prevalence of Hazardous Alcohol Use and Risk Reduction Counseling Among OEF/OIF Veterans.

Eggleston AM, McDonald SD, Beckham JC, Calhoun PS. Alcohol and other substance use among Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans with and without posttraumatic stress disorder.

Kudler H, Straits-Troster K. State-Level Partnerships Can Increase Access to Care for OEF/OIF Veterans and Their Families: VISN 6

McDonald SD, Eggleston AM, Beckham JC, Straits-Troster K, Calhoun PS and the VISN-6 OEF/OIF Registry. Performance Characteristics of the Primary Care-PTSD Screen among Global War on Terrorism Veterans.

Payne, VM, Naylor JC, Hamer RM, Kilts JD, Strauss JL, Hertzberg MA, Davidson JRT, Marx CE. Adjunctive Pregnenolone in PTSD: Proof-of-Concept Findings Consistent with Antidepressant and Resilience-Enhancing Actions.

Volkmer D, Taber KH. Outreach Initiatives to Address Readjustment and PTSD Issues: A SeRV MH/MIRECC Collaboration.



Outreach to Community Providers

National Association of Social Workers
Specialty Practice Sections

Health

Section **Connection**

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NASW
SPECIALTY PRACTICE SECTIONS

Doherty JB, Womack S, Hurley RA, Taber KH.
*Social Work Services for Persons with
Traumatic Brain Injury.* NASW SPS Newsletter
2008; 1:2,6-7.

Mild Traumatic Brain Injury an Interdisciplinary Approach

August 18, Winston-Salem NC

Dr. Natalya Faynboym presented
“Overview of Mild Brain Injury” and
“Neuropharmacology in Mild Brain Injury”.
The target audience included nurses,
physical therapists, occupational therapists,
recreation therapists, case managers,
educators, and rehabilitation healthcare
professionals.



Recent Presentations

Eggleston AM, Vasey MW, Beck SJ, Calhoun PS. *Components analysis of a brief intervention for college drinkers.* 31st Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, June 28-July 2 2008, Washington DC.

Eggleston, A.M., et al. *Alcohol use among OEF-OIF veterans with and without posttraumatic stress disorder.* 31st Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, June 28-July 2 2008, Washington DC.

Kilts J. *Neuroactive Steroids and Self-Reported Pain in Veterans who Served during Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom.* 17th Annual Meeting of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society June 17-22, 2008, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands.

Naylor J. *L-Serine Predicts Self-Reported Pain in Female OEF/OIF Veterans.* 63rd Annual Biological Psychiatry Meeting May 1-2, 2008, Washington DC.

Invited Lectures

On June 19, **Dr. Christine Marx (Assistant Director - Interventions Research Core)** presented “*Neuroactive Steroids in Depression, PTSD, and Schizophrenia*” at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society. Dr. Marx presented “*Proof-of-Concept Trial of Pregnenolone Targeting Negative and Cognitive Symptoms in Schizophrenia*” on July 7 to the MIRECC in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Kristy Straits-Troster (Assistant Director, Clinical) presented “*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Primary Care*” as part of the VA’s National Primary Care Conference: Using System Redesign to Build Better Primary Care Systems, July 30-August 1, Arlington, VA.

Dr. Robin Hurley (Associate Director, Education) gave 5 presentations of “*PTSD: Psychiatric and Medical Co-Morbidities*” at the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Conference, August 5-7, Atlanta, GA. This was a Compensation and Pension Examination Program.

Recent Presentations

Strauss JL, Jeffreys AS, Almirall D, Marx CE, Morey RA, Olsen MK, O’Loughlin SH, Close JE, Chaudhry N, Butterfield MI, Oddone EZ. *Guided Imagery for Military Sexual Trauma-Related PTSD.* VA Senior Leadership Conference, August, 2008, Washington D.C.

Strauss JL, Marx CE, Morey RA, Jeffreys, A, Almirall D, O’Loughlin SH, Close JE, Chaudhry N, Oddone, EZ. *Effects of Military Sexual Trauma on Women Veterans.* American Veterans 64th National Convention, August 2008, Orlando, FL.

Yoash-Gantz RE, Humphrey KL, Friedman JW. *Prevalence of Vascular Cognitive Impairment Among a Veteran Population.* 2008 American Psychological Association Convention, August 14-17, 2008, Boston, MA.

Yoash-Gantz RE, Pickett TC, Campbell TA, Nelson LA, Tupler LA. *Processing speed and response inhibition in OEF/OIF veterans with TBI.* 2008 American Psychological Association Convention, August 14-17, 2008, Boston, MA.

Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

September 12

Kimberly A. Arlinghaus, MD (Houston VAMC & VISN 16 MIRECC)

Basic Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Assessment”

October 12

Jeffrey Kuch, MD (Salisbury VAMC)

“Dangers in the Desert- Medical Problems in retuning OEF/OIF Veterans”

This series is presented by V-tel and audio conferences. We are having increasing participation from sites outside VISN 6, so our assigned numbers may change. 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; 704-638-9000 ext 2956) so she can make the necessary arrangements.



Outreach to Community Providers

Dr. Robin Hurley (Associate Director, Education) and **Dr. Katherine Taber** (Assistant Director, Education) have collaborated with the Citizen-Soldier Support Program and North Carolina's AHEC to develop a series of workshops on TBI.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Invisible Wounds of War

Working with Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families

2008

October 7	Greensboro
October 9	Asheville
November 4	Hickory
November 5	Charlotte

2009 (dates to be announced)

Wilmington
Rocky Mount
Greenville
Fayetteville
Raleigh

Purpose

This training is designed for professionals in the community who military service members may seek treatment for undiagnosed brain injury. The purpose is to learn how to apply existing clinical skills to their work with military service members of Afghanistan and Iraq and their families.

Target Audience

Physiatrists, rehabilitation professionals, mental health professionals, family physicians, psychologists, social workers, counselors, case managers, psychiatric professionals, nurses, family therapists, clergy, substance abuse counselors, Speech Therapists, Physical Therapists and assistants, Occupational Therapists and assistants

Learning Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of military culture and how to use this to establish credibility and effectiveness of treatment
2. Develop an awareness of the brain and how TBI occurs
3. Increase ability to identify the effects of TBI and impact on life such as employment and family relationships
4. Increase awareness of TBI screening
5. Develop an awareness of key players in TBI rehabilitation
6. Increase awareness of TBI treatment options and resources

Oct 7	Greensboro	http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24893
Oct 9	Asheville	http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24894
Nov 4	Hickory	http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24895
Nov 5	Charlotte	http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24899