



# VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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Vol 5 (6) December 2009



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## Presentations from Our MIRECC



Atlanta GA, November 5 - 7, 2009

### Symposia

#### *Translational Research Meets Implementation Science: The VA MIRECC on Deployment Mental Health*

Fairbank, John, PhD; Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD, ABPP; Schlenger, William, PhD; Kudler, Harold, MD

The VISN 6 MIRECC is one of ten Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers. Each is built around a specific theme: our focus is deployment mental health. The needs of new combat veterans and their families require a broad translational approach and the disciplined application of implementation science. This symposium provides a window on three interlocking MIRECC projects: (1) Data from the VA Environmental Epidemiology Service on 45,152 female and 325,971 male veterans of the wars in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom or OEF) and Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom or OIF) who have already sought VA healthcare will be analyzed for any gender-specific differences in their mental health findings; (2) A new multi-family group clinical intervention study for OEF/OIF survivors of traumatic brain injury and their families is underway to assess the feasibility and efficacy of this approach to improve coping and quality of life among TBI-affected veterans and families; and (3) An overview of the MIRECC Deployment Mental Health Registry which has been designed to incorporate a broad array of psychometric, neuroimaging and genetic data including state of the art assessment of mental disorders, traumatic brain injury, and resilience. Each of these components offers an opportunity to test hypotheses generated in the other MIRECC components.

#### *Gender-Specific Mental Health Findings Among OEF/OIF Veterans Seeking VA Care* Kudler, Harold, MD

*Adaptation of Multi-Family Group Treatment for Veterans With TBI and Their Families* Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD; Perlick, Debbie, PhD; Kline, Anna, PhD; Strauss, Jennifer, PhD; Norell, Diane, MSW, OTR/L, CPRP

#### *Translational Research Meets Implementation Science: The VA MIRECC on Deployment Mental Health* Schlenger, William, PhD; Fairbank, John, PhD; Green, Kimberly, MSHS

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### Approved Research Sites & Contacts:

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## Presentations from our MIRECC

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### Symposia

#### **25 Years of ISTSS: Psychodynamic Contributions Then and Now**

Wittmann, Lutz, PhD, MA; Lindy, Jacob, MD; Marmar, Charles, MD; **Kudler, Harold, MD**; Brett, Elizabeth, PhD

#### **Trauma and Health Risk Behavior**

Mosher-Wilson, Sarah; **Dedert, Eric, PhD**; **Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD, ABPP**; **Eggleston, Angela, PhD**; **Beckham, Jean, PhD**

#### **Including Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma and Resilience in DSM-V**

**Kudler, Harold, MD**; Sagi-Schwartz, Avi; Yehuda, Rachel, PhD; Danieli, Yael, PhD; Barel, Efrat, PhD; Van Ijzendoorn, Marinus; Bakermans-Kranenburg, Marian, PhD

#### **Anger and Violence Among U.S. Veterans Returning From Afghanistan and Iraq**

**Calhoun, Patrick, PhD**; Elbogen, Eric, PhD; Taft, Casey, PhD; Crawford, Eric, PhD

### Posters

#### **Resilience in Modern War: Psychometrics of the Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale With Combat Veterans**

Bryan, Brandon, PsyD; Taber, Katherine, PhD; Hurley, Robin, MD; Calhoun, Patrick, PhD; Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD

#### **Examining the Relationship Between PTSD and Suicidality in an OEF/OIF Veteran Sample**

Guerra, Vito, PhD; Calhoun, Patrick, PhD; Registry Workgroup, OEF/OIF

#### **Trading Sex for Payment Associated With Trauma History in Male Veterans With Severe Mental Illness**

Strauss, Jennifer, PhD; Weitlauf, Julie, PhD; Stechuchak, Karen, MS; **Calhoun, Patrick, PhD**; **Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD, ABPP**; Marx, Christine, MD

#### **Support Strategies for Exposed Trauma Veterans Returning to Rural and Community Settings**

**Kudler, Harold, MD**; Straits-Troster, Kristy, PhD

#### **Sample Characteristics Influence the Structure of PTSD Symptoms**

McDonald, Scott, PhD; **Calhoun, Patrick, PhD**

## Publications

Bryan B, Andrews C, Hurley RA, Taber KH. *Electrical Injury, Part II: Consequences*. Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience 2009 Summer; 21(4):iv, 357-361.

Chung L, Moore SD. *Neuropeptides modulate compound postsynaptic potentials in basolateral amygdala*. Neuroscience. 2009 Dec 29;164(4):1389-97.

Ulmer CS, Calhoun PS, Edinger JD, Wagner HR, Beckham JC. *Sleep disturbance and baroreceptor sensitivity in women with posttraumatic stress disorder*. Journal of Traumatic Stress. 2009 Dec;22(6):643-7.

Vrana SR, Hughes JW, Dennis MF, Calhoun PS, Beckham JC. *Effects of posttraumatic stress disorder status and hostility on cardiovascular responses to relived anger in women with and without PTSD*. Biological Psychology 2009 Dec;82(3):274-80.

### National Invited Lectures



**AMSUS**  
The Society of the Federal Health Agencies

115th Annual AMSUS Pre-Meeting Interdisciplinary Clinical Education seminar  
November 15, 2009 St Louis MO

#### **Psychological and Physical Injuries: Management and Practice Across the Spectrum**

*Neuropsychiatry of MTBI and PTSD* **Dr. Robin A. Hurley** (MIRECC Associate Director, Education)



**Polytrauma/TBI System of Care national conference call**  
December 16, 2009

*TBI and Suicide* **Dr. Donald Eknoyan** (MIRECC Associate Director, Special Fellowship for Physicians)

### Invited Lectures

**Dr. Robin A. Hurley** (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) presented "*Mild TBI Neuropsychiatry: Medications, Sleep, and Headache*" at the VISN 9 TBI Conference, Nashville TN, November 17-18, 2009. **Dr. Hurley** presented "*New TBI Research from MIRECC*" at the Asheville VAMC Research Retreat, Asheville NC, November 24, 2009.

**Dr. Vito Guerra** (MIRECC Psychology Fellow) presented "*Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and the Risk of Suicidality and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury*" as part of the VISN 6 MIRECC Research Lecture series, Durham NC, December 10, 2009.

## Resources for Providers

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*Treating the Invisible Wounds of War*

*ICARE: What Primary Care Providers Need to Know About Mental Health Issues Facing Returning Service Members and Their Families*



### National Service

**Dr. Robin Hurley** (Associate Director, Education) was an Invited Participant at the VA Mental Health Summit, held in Washington DC on October 26-28, 2009. She also served as the TBI consultant to the Undersecretary's Committee on PTSD meeting held in Washington DC on November 19 - 20, 2009.

### Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

January 8 TBA

### February 12

Dr. Shirley Glynn (Los Angeles VAMC & UCLA)  
*"Family Therapy and the VA"*

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](mailto:mary.peoples1@va.gov); 704-638-9000 ext 2956) so she can make the necessary arrangements.

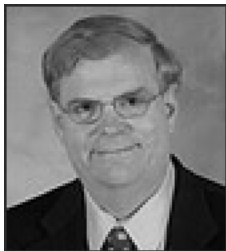
## Resources for Employers



stopping violence, in and through, the workplace



### Employers Support for Working Veterans Webinar Series



## From the Battlefield to the Workplace: Helping Veterans and Their Families Succeed

Webinar by **Dr. Harold Kudler** (Associate Director, Clinical)

<http://www.peaceatwork.org/veteransMH.htm>

The Department of Veterans Affairs is closely cooperating with DoD, the NC Governor's office, Veterans Service Organizations, and many other individuals and organizations to inform our newest veterans, i.e. those returning from duty in the Global War on Terror, of VA health care benefits and job opportunities. This presentation will describe the VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network's (VISN 6) experience in meeting the needs of our newest veterans.

We will review the challenges and successes in assisting these veterans in dealing with physical and mental health issues, including traumatic brain injury, loss of limbs, PTSD, substance abuse, family problems and related circumstances. We will also indicate how VA is reaching out to new veterans by establishing outpatient services in close proximity to where the majority of veterans reside.