



VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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Vol 6 (6) December 2010



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VISN 6 Leadership

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Recent Meeting Presentations



International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Symposium: Protective and Risk Factors for Adjustment Among OEF/OIF Veterans

Green KT, Calhoun PS, Dennis MF, Beckham JC. *Exploration of the Resilience Construct in Military Combat Veterans Who Have Served Since September 11, 2001 on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Severity and Functional Correlates.*

Pukay-Martin, Lovato, Beckham JC, Calhoun PS, Clancy CP, Hertzberg BP, Collie CF. *The Impact of Comorbid MDD on OEF/OIF Veterans Diagnosed With PTSD.*

Elbogen EB. *Development of Risk Assessment Tools for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans*

Straits-Troster K, Strauss J, Tupler L, Dyck D, Dolber T, Perlick D. *Supporting Family Resilience Among TBI Survivors: Multi-Family Group Treatment*

Panel: Creating State and Community Level Partnerships to Serve Combat Veterans and Their Families

Harold Kudler & Kristy Straits-Troster

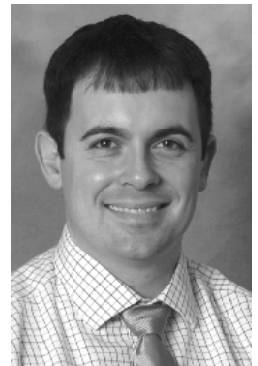
Poster:

Naylor JC, Payne VM, Youssef N, Strauss JL, Kilts JD, Capehart B, Keefe R, Davidson JRT, Marx CE. *Pilot Study of Aripiprazole as a Therapeutic Strategy in OEF/OIF - Era Veterans with PTSD.*

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Welcome to New MIRECC Fellows

Jared A. Rowland, PhD is the new MIRECC Fellow at our Salisbury VAMC site. He received a BS in Psychology from Clemson University, an MS in Applied Clinical Psychology from the University of South Carolina Aiken, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Tech. He completed his clinical internship at the Salem VAMC in Salem, VA. Jared's clinical focus is the evaluation of neuropsychological functioning in and the treatment of addictive behaviors.



Jared's research interests include better understanding complex decision making and its role in psychopathology as well as identifying

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Recent Meeting Presentations

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**American Medical Society of Uniformed Services**

Christian T-M, Goodale R, Kudler H, Meed JT, Straits-Troster K. *The Citizen Soldier Support Program – A Case Study.*



San Francisco • November 18–21, 2010

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies

Nieuwsma JA, Meador KG. *A new approach to collaborative care in VA: Engaging patients in mental health services via outreach to faith communities.*

Sayers S, Whitted P, Straits-Troster K, Hess T, Fairbank, J. *Families-At-Ease: A Pilot Program to Enhance Outreach to Military Veterans and Their Family Members.*

Strauss JL, Marx CE, Weitlauf JW, Stechuchak KM, Straits-Tröster K, Worjolah AW, Sherrod CB, Olsen M, Butterfield MI, Calhoun PS. *Associations Between Military Sexual Trauma and Trading Sex for Payment Among Women Veterans Receiving Outpatient Mental Health Treatment.*

Resources for VA Providers

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**EES Satellite Broadcast**

Course DXCLN-EES-J1399

Assessment and Management of Co-Occurring PTSD and TBI

Matthew Friedman, Larry Lehman,
David Cifu & **Robin Hurley**

Original broadcast September 29, 2010
17 rebroadcasts

October - December, 2010

**This presentation had already been
viewed 1,750 times by November 18!**

[http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/
cu_detail.asp?id=27005](http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/cu_detail.asp?id=27005)

Welcome to New MIRECC Fellows

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neurological structures and circuits associated with decision making. In addition to his clinical and research activities, Jared is going through the licensure process, studying for the EPPP, and working to be board eligible in clinical neuropsychology by the end of his fellowship. When not busy with psychology related tasks, Jared enjoys spending time with his wife, Meredith, playing with his dog, Doodle, reading, playing guitar, cooking, and cheering for the Clemson Tigers!

NiVonne Thompson, LCSW, PhD is in her second Fellowship year at our Richmond VAMC site. NiVonne earned a PhD in clinical psychology at Alliant International University. She participated in clinical neuropsychological training and research at the San Francisco VAMC, including several studies of neurocognitive performance among Veterans with psychiatric conditions. Her dissertation examined emotion recognition errors among Veterans with schizophrenia.



NiVonne completed a health psychology internship at NY City Health Care and Hospitals Corporation, where she provided care in the World Trade Center Environmental Health Clinic for people with problems associated with the September 11th attacks. Her broad research interests include the study of social/cognitive aspects of executive functioning related to functional outcome. Her pilot study investigates the utility of an "emotional" Stroop paradigm as a differential diagnostic tool among OEF/OIF combat Veterans with PTSD, mTBI and comorbid PTSD/mTBI. She is looking forward to submitting a Career Development Award and is excited about the combination of continuing clinical and research opportunities offered by a long-term VA career.

Invited Lectures

Dr. Jason A. Nieuwsma (MIRECC Researcher) presented *"Today's Veterans and Roles for Faith Communities"* November 2010 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Cary, NC.

Dr. Kristy Straits-Troster, (MIRECC Assistant Director, Clinical) presented *"Meeting the Challenges of Prolonged War, Deployment, and PTSD"* at the Wilson Medical Center Continuing Education Symposium, November 10-11 2010, Wilson NC

Resources for Providers

Report of the VA 2009 Consensus Conference: Practice Recommendations for Treatment of Veterans with Comorbid PTSD, mTBI and Pain

Dr. Robin A. Hurley (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) served on the Planning Committee, participated in the conference, and helped develop the conference summary and practice recommendations. The summary is now posted on the NC PTSD website.

http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/pages/handouts-pdf/TBI_PTSD_Pain_Practice_Recommend.pdf

Journal Articles

Duhaime AC, Gean AD, Haacke EM, Hicks R, Wintermark M, Mukherjee P, Brody D, Latour L, Riedy G, Common Data Elements Neuroimaging Working Group Members, Pediatric Working Group Members. *Common data elements in radiologic imaging of traumatic brain injury*. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 2010;91:1661-6.

Elbogen EB, Wagner HR, Fuller SR, Calhoun PS, Kinneer PM; Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center Workgroup, Beckham JC. *Correlates of Anger and Hostility in Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans*. American Journal of Psychiatry. 2010 Sep;167(9):1051-8.

Forbes D, Creamer M, Bisson JI, Cohen JA, Crow BE, Foa EB, Friedman MJ, Deane TM, Kudler HS, Ursano RJ. *A guide to guidelines for the treatment of PTSD and related conditions*. Journal of Traumatic Stress 2010; 23(5): 537-552.

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Project Update!

Engaging Chaplains in Mental Health Care

This project is funded by Central Office and housed within our MIRECC. Dr. Keith Meador is directing the initiative, and Dr. Jason Nieuwsma is serving as associate director. They recently held their second conference.



MENTAL HEALTH AND CHAPLAINCY

National Center for
PTSD
Posttraumatic
Stress Disorder

Bridging Chaplaincy and Mental Health Care

**November 4-5, 2010
Hines VAMC, Chicago IL**

New MIRECC Researcher

Mira Brancu, PhD, has worked as a Research Psychologist for the Registry study at the Durham VA MIRECC since August 2009. Last June she began transitioning into her current role as the Managing Director of the Registry project. Mira graduated from The Catholic University of America after completing her clinical internship at the Durham VAMC in 2009.

She is proud to call herself a generalist with clinical and research interests spanning health psychology, behavioral medicine, neuropsychology, compassion fatigue and self-care of medical professionals, and ethics. Formerly, Mira was a school counselor in both the public and private school settings providing counseling to elementary and high school students in the Washington DC-metropolitan area.



She completed MS and specialist degrees in school counseling from the University of Maryland and a BA in psychology from Binghamton University. She also worked as a licensed professional counselor providing in-home psychotherapy to underserved Medicaid recipients in Durham and Raleigh, NC. Mira lives in Carrboro, NC with her husband and two young children. They keep her busy most of the time.



Salisbury VAMC researchers Dr. Ruth Yoash-Gantz and Courtney McCormick (on right) at the American Psychological Association annual meeting in August 2010. Also pictured are Dr. Yoash-Gantz's husband and daughter.

Outreach to VA & Community Providers

MILITARY FAMILY ISSUES



Dr. Harold Kudler (Associate Director, Clinical) and **Dr. Kristy Straits-Troster (Assistant Director, Clinical)** have collaborated with the CSSP and NC-AHEC to develop this series of workshops.

This training will focus on aspects of today's military family that makes them unique. Various components of the military lifestyle will be reviewed such as a family perspective of military culture and the affects of deployment(s). Resources specific to healthcare professionals treating service members will be highlighted.

Who Should Attend? Psychologists, counselors, social workers and all healthcare practitioners who provide treatment to service men and women and/or their families.

2011 workshops:

Greensboro Wilson Raleigh Fayetteville Winston-Salem Greenville Charlotte

New Projects

Problem Solving Training

This is a national clinical pilot program sponsored by the VA's Office of Mental Health Services of a brief classroom or group-based training for Veterans. The hope is that learning problem solving skills will promote resiliency. This program was recently featured in the Fall 2010 issue of *HealthPOWER! Prevention News*.

Dr. Katherine Taber (Assistant Director, Education) is lead for our MIRECC on this project. She has recruited the collaboration of the VISN 6 ServMH group for both implementation and dissemination. Our MIRECC sent two people to the training in September - Debra Volkmer (Salisbury VAMC) and Jason Nieuwsma (Durham VAMC). A face-to-face ServMH meeting is being planned to disseminate both the training and lessons learned. Dr. Nieuwsma is also interested in incorporating the training into his ongoing work with chaplains.

Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

January 14

Dr. David Oslin (VISN 4 MIRECC)

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.

Journal Articles

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Henderson CH, Jackson C, Slade M, Young AS, Strauss JL. *How should we implement psychiatric advance directives? Views of consumers, caregivers, mental health providers and researchers.* Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research, 2010; 37: 447-458.

McDonald SD, Calhoun PS. *The diagnostic accuracy of the PTSD Checklist: A critical review.* Clinical Psychology Review. 2010 Dec;30(8):976-87

Morey RA, Selgrade ES, Wagner HR 2nd, Huettel SA, Wang L, McCarthy G. *Scan-rescan reliability of subcortical brain volumes derived from automated segmentation.* Human Brain Mapping 2010 Nov;31(11):1751-62.

Taber KH, Hillman EMC, Hurley RA. *Optical Imaging: A New Window to the Adult Brain.* Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience 2010 Fall; 22(4): iv, 357 - 360.

Watson N, Bryan BC, Thrash TM. *Self-discrepancy: Comparisons of the psychometric properties of three instruments.* Psychological Assessment 2010 22(4):878-892.

Visit our web site for more resources
<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6.asp>