



# VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

Editors: Katherine H. Taber, PhD  
Robin A. Hurley, MD

Vol 7 (1) February 2011



## MIRECC Leadership

### Director

John Fairbank, PhD  
fairbank@psych.duhs.duke.edu

### Associate Director - Education

Robin A. Hurley, MD  
robin.hurley@va.gov

### Assistant Director - Education

Katherine H. Taber, PhD  
katherine.taber@va.gov

### Associate Director - Clinical

Harold Kudler, MD  
harold.kudler@va.gov

### Assistant Director - Clinical

Kristy Straits-Troster, PhD  
kristy.straits-troster2@va.gov

### Associate Director - Evaluations

Richard Weiner, MD, PhD  
richard.weiner@va.gov

### Co-Associate Director - Research &

### Assistant Director - Research - Genetics

Jean C. Beckham, PhD  
jean.beckham@va.gov

### Co-Associate Director - Research &

### Assistant Director - Research - Interventions

Christine Marx, MD  
marx0001@mc.duke.edu

### Assistant Director - Research - Health Services

Patrick Calhoun, PhD  
patrick.calhoun2@va.gov

### Assistant Director - Research - Neuroscience

Scott D. Moore, MD, PhD  
scott.moore2@va.gov

### Assistant Director - Research - Neuroimaging

Rajendra A. Morey, MD  
morey@biac.duke.edu

### Assistant Director - Research - Neurocognitive

Larry A. Tupler, PhD  
larry.tupler@va.gov

### Associate Directors - Special Fellowship for Physicians

Christine Marx, MD - Durham VAMC site  
marx0001@mc.duke.edu

Robert Schneider, MD - Richmond VAMC site  
robert.schneider3@va.gov

Robin Hurley, MD - Salisbury VAMC site  
robin.hurley@va.gov

### Associate Directors - Special Fellowship in Psychology/Allied Health

Patrick Calhoun, PhD - Durham VAMC site  
patrick.calhoun2@va.gov

Treven Pickett, PsyD - Richmond VAMC site  
treven.pickett@va.gov

Ruth Yoash-Gantz, PsyD - Salisbury VAMC site  
ruth.yoash-gantz@va.gov

## VISN 6 Leadership

### VISN 6 Director

Daniel F. Hoffmann, FACHE

### Director - Mental Health Service Line

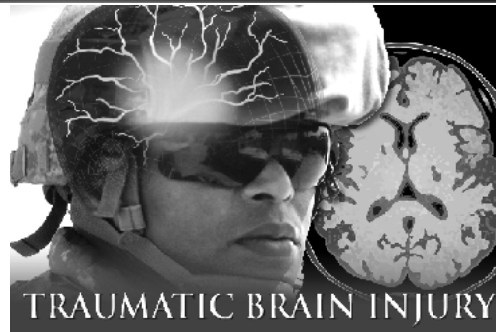
Paul M. Russo, MHSA, FACHE, RD

## 2011 NATO Advanced Research Workshop: Wounds of War III



This workshop  
is supported by:

The NATO Science for Peace  
and Security Programme



## Coping with Blast-Related Traumatic Brain Injury in Returning Troops

February 20-22, 2011, Vienna, Austria

### Panel: Diagnostic and Assessment Issues

Robin A. Hurley *Neuropsychiatry of Traumatic Brain Injury  
and Common CoMorbidity*

### Workgroup: Diagnostic and Assessment Issues

Robin A. Hurley - Moderator

### In the News!

One of our researchers, **Dr. Jason Nieuwsma**, was coauthor on a recent review paper on treatment resistant depression that has received a lot of attention.

### Talk therapy may help tough-to-treat depression

By Genevra Pittman In *Reuters Health* January 13, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/13/us-talk-therapy-idUSTRE70C5IB20110113>

## Recently Approved Grants

**Meador K & Nieuwsma J (VA Co-Leads)** *DoD/VA Integrated Mental Health Strategy Initiative Strategic Action #23: Role of Chaplains/Community Clergy in VA Mental Health Care*, DoD/VA Integrated Mental Health Strategy Initiative (IMHS)

The IMHS was launched in the Fall of 2010. The goal is to improve mental health care services for Service Members and Veterans via better integration of aims and efforts across DoD and VA. One specific strategic action of the IMHS is to enhance the role played by chaplains at the intersection of faith and mental health. This project seeks to : 1) increase support of continuity in the role of the chaplain between the Services and VA; and 2) improve identification of how to facilitate access to mental health care through collaboration with community clergy and faith communities to promote care that is consistent with the values and preferences of veterans.

### Approved Research Sites & Contacts:

#### Durham VA

Study Coordinator  
mireccstudies@va.gov  
919-416-5915

#### Hampton VA

Rita Davison  
rita.davison@va.gov  
717-722-9961 ext 2324

#### Richmond VA

Robin Lumpkin  
robin.lumpkin@va.gov  
804-675-5000 ext 4251

#### Salem VA

Sarah Voss Horrell  
sarah.vosshorrell@va.gov  
540-982-2463 ext 1-1467

#### Salisbury VA

Mary Peoples  
mary.peoples1@va.gov  
704-638-9000 ext 2956

## Invited Lectures

**Dr. Jason A. Nieuwsma** (MIRECC Researcher) presented *"Integrating mental health and chaplain services to enhance veteran care"* in the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Research Lecture series, December 2010, Durham NC

**Dr. Nagy Youssef**, (MIRECC Fellow) presented *"Improving Diagnostic Accuracy of Bipolar Disorder: Treatment & Prognostic Implications"* in the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Research Lecture series, October 21, 2010, Durham NC and at Grand Rounds, University of South Alabama, November 11, 2010, Mobile AL

### 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 third conference.



#### Bridging Chaplaincy and Mental Health Care

January 20-21, 2011  
San Diego CA

There were 68 attendees, including broad representation from VA chaplaincy and mental health, local clergy, and active duty military chaplains. Terri LaVelle attended as representative from the White House. Her blog about the meeting will be posted at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/01/18/caring-america-s-veterans-bridging-chaplaincy-and-mental-health-care>

### Journal Articles

Dao TK, Youssef NA, Gopaldas RR, Chu D, Bakaeen F, Wear E, Menefee D. *Autonomic cardiovascular dysregulation as a potential mechanism underlying depression and coronary artery bypass grafting surgery outcomes.* Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery. 2010; 5:36.

Dedert EA, Becker ME, Fuemmeler BF, Braxton LE, Calhoun PS, Beckham JC. *Childhood traumatic stress and obesity in women: the intervening effects of PTSD and MDD.* Journal of Trauma Stress. 2010; 23(6):785-63.

Guerra VS, Calhoun PS, VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC OEF/OIF Registry Workgroup. *Examining the relation between posttraumatic stress disorder and suicidal ideation in an OEF/OIF veteran sample.* Journal of Anxiety Disorders. 2011; 25(1):12-8.

continued on page 3

## New MIRECC Researcher

In November **Jennifer Runnals, PhD** joined the MIRECC in Durham as a Research Psychologist working on the Registry and SCID administration. She recently graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University after completing her clinical internship at the Durham VAMC. Jennifer's clinical specialty is treatment of anxiety disorders and her research projects have focused on PTSD.



Prior to working on her doctorate, Jennifer was the director of the Washington DC branch of Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation, overseeing aptitude assessment. She completed a MS in Clinical Psychology from Augusta State University, and her BA in Industrial Psychology at Christopher Newport University. Jennifer lives in Mebane with her husband and two young daughters.

## 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 1 day 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**  
**March**  
**Rocky Mount, NC**  
**Monday, March 28**

**April**  
**Greenville, NC**  
**Monday, April 11**  
**Greensboro, NC**  
**Thursday, April 14**

**May**  
**Winston-Salem, NC**  
**Thursday, May 12**

**Raleigh, NC**  
**Friday, May 13**  
**Fayetteville, NC**  
**Thursday, May 26**

**June**  
**Charlotte, NC**  
**Monday, June 13**

Brochure: [http://www.seahec.net/departments/ce/forms\\_and\\_files/brochures/military.pdf](http://www.seahec.net/departments/ce/forms_and_files/brochures/military.pdf)



## Free Web Courses for Providers

[www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier](http://www.aheconnect.com/citizensoldier)

Click on **New Users** to register. You will then see the available web courses listed:

*Treating the Invisible Wounds of War: Part 1 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*

*Treating the Invisible Wounds of War: Part 2 - Traumatic Brain Injury*

*Treating the Invisible Wounds of War: Part 3 - Issues of Women Returning from Combat*

These courses were developed by MIRECC faculty in collaboration with Citizen Soldier Support Program (CSSP) and North Carolina Area Health Education Center (NC AHEC). They are designed to help primary care physicians, case workers, mental health providers - who may see a veteran or family member on an unrelated issue - develop a better understanding of the culture in which veterans and their families live and work, and provide best practices for identifying, assessing and treating mental health problems that result from the trauma of war.

## Journal Articles

continued from page 2

Hayes J, Morey RA, Petty CM, Seth S, Smoski MJ, McCarthy G, LaBar KS. *Staying cool when things get hot: Emotion regulation modulates neural mechanisms of memory encoding*. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*. 2010 Dec 22;4:230.

Klein RC, Mace BE, Moore SD, Sullivan PM. *Progressive loss of synaptic integrity in human apoE4 targeted replacement mice and attenuation by apoE2*. *Neuroscience* 2010; 4:1265-1272.

Naylor JC, Li Q, Kang-Park M-H, Wilson WA, Kuhn C, Moore SD. *Dopamine attenuates evoked inhibitory synaptic currents in central amygdala neurons*. *European Journal of Neuroscience*. 2010; 32:1836-1842.

Taber KH, Salpekar J, Wong AHC, Hurley RA. *Developmental Origins for Neuropsychiatric Illness*. *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience* 2011; 23(1):1-5

## Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

### March 11

Dr. David F. Drake (Director, Interventional Pain Clinic, Richmond VAMC)  
*Acupuncture in Pain Medicine*

### April 8

Dr. Ajit Pai (Medical Director, Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, Richmond VAMC)  
*The Right Time to Drive*

### May 13

Dr. Brian McMahon (Virginia Commonwealth University)  
*TBA*

### June 10

Dr. Shane McNamee (Chief, PM&R, Richmond VAMC)  
*TBA*

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.

Visit our web site for more resources

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