



# VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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## Clinical Component Update Upcoming Webinar!



SAMHSA's Military Families Strategic Initiative  
Service Systems Development Program (SSSDP)

### Building a Healthy Future for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

Harold Kudler, MD (MIRECC Associate Director, Clinical)

June 29, 2011 2:00 - 3:30 (EST)

Multiple deployments, trauma (psychological, neurological, and physical), and reintegration challenges have far-reaching effects on the behavioral and social health of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). An effective response requires bridging cultures and systems to develop an integrated system with appropriate continuity of care measures provided. This response involves going beyond the longstanding systemic barriers of behavioral health systems to create a collaborative approach addressing the full impact of a decade of war on SMVF and our communities. The target audience for this Webinar includes representatives from State, Territory, and Tribal behavioral health systems serving Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.

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## Research Component Update Neuroimaging Core

Two presentations by Dr. Raj Morey's group received honors at the Society for Biological Psychiatry 66th Annual Meeting meeting in May!

### Late Breaking Oral Presentation:

**Effects of mild traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder on white matter integrity in post-9/11 veterans.**

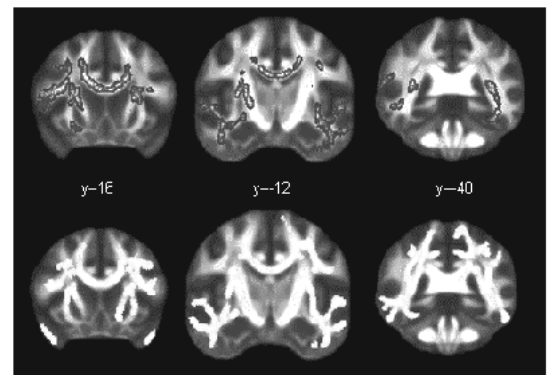
### Top Poster - Blue Ribbon Award:

**Clinical predictors of white matter disruption in chronic mild traumatic brain injury among post-9/11 veterans**

**Background:** Mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With no overt lesions on conventional MRI, diagnosis relies on accurate history and assessment of behavioral symptoms that frequently overlap with comorbid PTSD and depression. Our goal was to assess white matter in relation to clinical predictors of TBI and PTSD.

**Figure:** Our results with DTI whole brain crossing fiber analysis shows that duration of loss of consciousness (blue, upper panel) and feeling dazed and confused (pink, lower panel) predicts disruption of white matter in mild TBI.

Although present in some subjects, neither PTSD nor depression were predictive of loss of white matter integrity.



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## Clinical Component Update

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A public health perspective is essential in meeting the complex challenge of being a nation at war. This Webinar will discuss essential elements and best practices of a comprehensive behavioral and public health system serving SMVF. Dr. Harold Kudler will provide an overview of the current behavioral health system environment. He will also provide information on core components and principles of an integrated behavioral health system of response and care. This webinar will provide participants with new ways of thinking about system development, policies, practices, and planning activities through dialogue and collaboration. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

### To register for the Webinar, RSVP to:

[www.mymeetings.com/emeet/rsvp/index.jsp?customHeader=mymeetings&Conference\\_ID=5390692&passcode=8525629](http://www.mymeetings.com/emeet/rsvp/index.jsp?customHeader=mymeetings&Conference_ID=5390692&passcode=8525629)

**For the audio portion call:** 888-455-5810

**For the web portion visit:**

[www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW5390692&p=8525629&t=c](http://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW5390692&p=8525629&t=c).

conference number: 5390692 passcode: 8525629

## Project Update!

### Engaging Chaplains in Mental Health Care

This project is funded by Central Office and housed within our MIRECC. Dr. Keith Meador directs the initiative, and Dr. Jason Nieuwsma serves as associate director. They recently held a meeting that brought together experts from the DOD, VA, and research community.

#### DOD/VA Collaborative Workgroup Meeting for DOD/VA Integrated Mental Health Strategy (IMHS) Strategic Action #23: Chaplains' Roles

**May 25-26 2011, Silver Spring MD**

The meeting was held at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. The purpose was to consider innovative opportunities for integrated mental health and spiritual care.

## Research Component Update

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**Conclusions:** Assessment of crossing fibers, coupled with methodological advances for robust whole brain analyses confirm the presence of a diffuse pattern of white matter disruption predicted by loss of consciousness and by feeling dazed and confused. These findings are consistent with a mechanism of diffuse injury that involves a cascade of inflammatory and neurochemical events.

## Book Chapters

French LM, **Taber KH**, Helmick K, **Hurley RA**, Warden DW. *Traumatic Brain Injury in the Military Population*. In: Ritchie, EC (ed). *Combat and Operational Behavioral Health*. In: Lenhart MK, (ed). *The Textbooks of Military Medicine*. Washington, DC: Department of the Army, Office of The Surgeon General, Borden Institute; 2011:225-244.

## Invited Lectures

**Dr. Robin A. Hurley** (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) presented "*Research Collaborations: TBI - Related Research Efforts in a Mid-Size VA*" as part of the Health Research Forum held at the Canadian Embassy, Washington DC, May 3-4 2011. She presented "*Strategic Approach to US/Canada Collaborations*" at the Defense Research and Development Canada Research Collaboration Summit held at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem NC, May 17 2011.

**Dr. Harold Kudler** (MIRECC Associate Director, Clinical) presented "*Developing and Applying Clinical Practice Guidelines and Public Health Principles in Service to Military Members, Veterans and their Families in the Aftermath of War*" as a pre-conference workshop, 12th European Conference on Traumatic Stress, Vienna, June 2, 2011.

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## Outreach to Providers

### Group Supervision for Clinicians Listening to Trauma Histories

Therapists treating PTSD often find themselves in parallel turmoil, as they react to the patient's inner and outer worlds. Good clinical supervision is essential. In addition to receiving guidance and support from an experienced colleague, having the opportunity to share one's often turbulent emotions and learning how these can be used to better understand the case are also important.

**Facilitator:** **Dr. Harold Kudler**, Psychiatrist & MIRECC Associate Director - Clinical

**Purpose:** Assist presenter in processing a case that is particularly disturbing and hard to let go of.

**Audience:** Trauma clinicians and staff who routinely hear disturbing trauma histories

**Objectives:** As a result of participating, the attendee will be able to:

Develop new personal and professional strategies and new clinical understanding;

Recognize the potential effects of trauma narratives on therapists and staff;

Identify the importance of on-going clinical supervision in work with trauma

**Upcoming sessions:** **July 20, August 17, September 28, October 12, November 9, December 28**

Participation available in person (Durham VA) or by audio-teleconferencing.

Register to participate or present a case at an upcoming session by contacting Jaimie Marinkovich ([jaimie.marinkovich@va.gov](mailto:jaimie.marinkovich@va.gov); 919-286-0411 ext 5554).

## Durham MIRECC Research Lecture Series

- July 21** *Magnetic Resonance Microscopy : Applications in Neuroscience* - G. Allan Johnson, Professor of Radiology and Physics, Duke U, Durham. NC
- August 11** *Involuntary Outpatient Commitment: A View Post-Tucson* - Marvin Swartz, MD, Division Head, Social and Community Psychiatry, Duke U, Durham. NC
- September 29** *Treatment of Teen Depression and Its Impact on the Mental Health of Veteran Parents* - John Curry, PhD, Dir Clinical Psychology Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, School of Medicine Duke U, Durham. NC
- October 20** *iRest Yoga Nidra Meditation for Combat Stress Conditions* - Robin Carnes, E-RYT 500, MBA available for audio conferencing Certified iRest® Meditation and Yoga Instructor, DOD & Karen Soltes, LCSW, E-RYT, Washington DC VAMC
- November 10** *Compassion Fatigue & Caregiver Burden -Literature Review, What's Missing, How Does it Apply to OEF/OIF Veterans & Family Members* - Mira Brancu, PhD, Psychologist, VISN 6 MIRECC, Durham NC
- December 15** *Meta Analysis of Neuropsychological Functioning in Euthymic Bipolar Disorder: An Update & Investigation of Moderator Variables* - Monica Mann-Wrobel, PhD, VISN 6 MIRECC, Durham, NC

This series is presented live at our Durham site. Occasionally, a lecture is opened up for live participation by audio-conferencing. Lectures are also archived as webcasts at: <http://mireccweb.biac.duke.edu/Mediasite/Viewer/>  
Contact Jaimie Marinkovich (jaimie.marinkovich@va.gov; 919-286-0411 ext 5554) with any questions.

### Meeting Presentations

**Morey RA, Selgrade ES, Petty CM, Haswell CC, Beall S, Nasser JD, Marx C, Hayes JP, Mid-Atlantic Workgroup, McCarthy G.** *Effects of mild traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder on white matter integrity in post-9/11 veterans.* **Late Breaking Oral Presentation**, Society for Biological Psychiatry 66th Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, May 12-14, 2011.

**Morey RA, Selgrade ES, Petty CM, Haswell CC, Beall S, Nasser JD, Marx C, Hayes JP, Mid-Atlantic Workgroup, McCarthy G.** *Clinical Predictors of White Matter Disruption in Chronic Mild Traumatic Brain Injury among Post-9/11 Veterans.* **Top Poster Award**, Society for Biological Psychiatry 66th Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, May 12-14, 2011.

**Morey RA, Selgrade ES, Petty CM, Haswell CC, Beall S, Nasser JD, Marx C, Hayes JP, Mid-Atlantic Workgroup, McCarthy G.** *Reduced Amygdala and Hippocampal Volumes Associated with PTSD in Recent Military Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.* Society for Biological Psychiatry 66th Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA, May 12-14, 2011.

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### Journal Articles

**Calhoun PS, Wagner HR, McClernon FJ, Lee S, Dennis MF, Vrana SR, Clancy CP, Collie CF, Johnson YC, Beckham JC.** *The effect of nicotine and trauma context on acoustic startle in smokers with and without posttraumatic stress disorder.* *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*, 2011; 215(2): 379-89.

**Calhoun PS, Levin HF, Dedert EA, Johnson Y, The VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Registry Workgroup, Beckham JC.** *The relationship between posttraumatic stress disorder and smoking outcome expectancies among U.S. military veterans who served since September 11, 2001.* *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 2011; 24(3): 303-308.

**Morey RA, Hariri AR, Gold A, Hauser MA, Munger H, Dolcos F, McCarthy G.** *Serotonin transporter gene polymorphisms and brain function during emotional distraction from cognitive processing in posttraumatic stress disorder.* *BMC Psychiatry*. 2011; 11:76.

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## ★ Free ★ Web Courses for Providers

*Treating the Invisible Wounds of War*

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

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

**1 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

**2 - Traumatic Brain Injury**

**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.

## Meeting Presentations

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**Rowland JA, McCormick CL, Yoash-Gantz RE.** *PTSD, but not mTBI, impairs attention and free recall in OEF/OIF Veterans.* 9th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington DC, June 9-11, 2011.

**Rowland JA, Yoash-Gantz RE, McCormick CL.** *The impact of complex attentional processes on prompted confabulation.* 9th Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington DC, June 9-11, 2011.

**Ye S, Youssef NA.** *Mood Symptoms Are Associated With Higher Incidence and Severity of Acute Akathisia Among Patient Treated With Antipsychotic in an Acute Inpatient Unit.* Alabama Psychiatric Society Meeting, Montgomery AL, April 9, 2011.

## Invited Lectures

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**Dr. Keith Meador** (MIRECC Researcher) presented “*Integrating mental health and chaplain services to enhance Veteran care*” at the Military Chaplain Association Biannual Conference, Hampton VA, May 2011.

**Dr. Rajendra Morey** (MIRECC Assistant Director, Research - Neuroimaging Core) presented “*Functional Imaging of Cognitive Deficits in PTSD and TBI*” as part of the Advanced Imaging of Neurotrauma Symposium, American Society of Neuroradiology 49th Annual Meeting, Seattle WA, June 5, 2011. He also gave a presentation as part of the symposium “*Structural and Functional Neuroimaging, Pituitary Dysfunction, and Animal Modeling In Blast Concussion mild TBI*” 3rd Federal Interagency Conference on TBI, Washington DC June 13-15, 2011.

**Dr. Jason A. Nieuwsma** (MIRECC Researcher) presented “*Mindful evidence-based care: A role for acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)*” at the Military Chaplain Association Biannual Conference, Hampton VA, May 2011.

## Journal Articles

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**Stevens FL, Hurley RA, Taber KH.** *Anterior Cingulate Cortex: Unique Role in Cognition and Emotion.* Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience. 2011 Spring; 23(2): 120-125.

**Strauss JL, Marx CE, Weitlauf JC, Stechuchak, KM, Straits-Tröster K, Worjolah AW, Sherrod CB, Olsen MK, Butterfield MI, Calhoun PS.** *Is military sexual trauma associated with trading sex among women veterans seeking outpatient treatment for depression?* Journal of Trauma and Dissociation, 2011; 12 (3): 290-304.

**Trivedi RB, Nieuwsma JA, Williams JW Jr.** *Examination of the utility of psychotherapy for patients with treatment resistant depression: A systematic review.* Journal of General Internal Medicine, 2011, 26: 643-650.

### Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

This series will resume in September

### National Service

**Dr. Nagy Youssef** (MIRECC Psychiatry Fellow) co-chaired the recent annual conference of the American Academy for Clinical Psychiatrist (AACP). He also served as the medical co-director for CE and CME. The conference, “*Psychotic and Cognitive Disorders: Solving Clinical Challenges, Improving Patient Care*”, was attended by over 450 mental health professionals from the US and 5 other countries. Dr. Youssef also serves on the board of directors for the AACP and the editorial board of the society’s journal, *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry*.