



VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health



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Vol 2 (3) June 2006

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In Memoriam



We are saddened to report the death of Dr. Marian (Mimi) Butterfield from metastatic breast cancer, which she has valiantly fought for quite some time. Mimi has been a highly valued member of the VISN 6 MIRECC (where she served as Co-Director for Evaluation and leader of the Health Services Research effort). She was also active in both Mental Health Service Line and Health Services Research & Development activities, as well as with a host of national organizations, particularly the American Psychiatric Association. She was awarded multiple honors for her outstanding work on mental health interventions, gender and racial disparities in mental illnesses and medical comorbidities. Mimi will be missed dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, children, and other family members as they grieve her loss.

MIRECC Symposium

Post-Deployment Mental Health: Translating Research into Clinical Practice

American Psychiatric Association 159th Annual Meeting
Toronto, Canada May 24, 2006

Organized by Mimi Butterfield, MD, MPH, this well-received symposium was chaired by MIRECC Director Greg McCarthy, PhD.

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MIRECC Clinical Education Project Update



Jill Fowler, PharmD, presented "Pharmacist Medication Counseling for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and Their Caregivers" as a poster at the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists' Acute Care Practice Forum, April 24-26, 2006. The project was supported by a MIRECC Clinical Education grant to **Dr. Joe LaMotte** (Salisbury VAMC). Dr. Fowler's poster described the results of a pilot program she undertook with Dr. LaMotte. The project fulfilled the research component of Dr. Fowler's Clinical Scholar program, and was completed while she was a student at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Publications

Marx CE, Stevens RD, Shampine LJ, Uzunova V, Trost WT, Butterfield MI, Massing MW, Hamer RM, Morrow AL, Lieberman JA. Neuroactive Steroids are altered in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder: Relevance to pathophysiology and therapeutics. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2006 June;31(6):1249-1263. Epub 2005 Nov 23.

Marx CE, Trost WT, Shampine L, Behm FM, Giordano LA, Massing MW, Rose JE. Neuroactive steroids, negative affect, and nicotine dependence severity in male smokers. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* 2006 June; 186(3):462-472. Epub 2006 Jan 10.

Pierucci-Lagha A, Covault J, Feinn R, Khisti RT, Morrow AL, Marx CE, Shampine LJ, Kranzler HR. Subjective effects and changes in steroid hormone concentrations in humans following acute consumption of alcohol. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* 2006 June;186(3):451-461; Epub 2005 Dec 10.

Strauss JL, Calhoun PS, Marx CE, Stechuchak KM, Oddone EZ, Swartz MS, Butterfield MI. Comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder is associated with suicidality in male veterans with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. *Schizophrenia Research* 2006 May; 84(1):165-169. Epub 2006 March 29

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MIRECC Research Fellows Update

Dr. Christina Boggs, MIRECC Psychology Fellow, has accepted a full time staff psychologist position at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, FL. Dr. Boggs was highly productive during her first fellowship year and pursued interests surrounding posttraumatic stress disorder and psychological assessment. She will be leaving Durham at the end of June to develop and lead a military sexual trauma program at the James A. Haley VAMC. In addition to her clinical and training responsibilities, Dr. Boggs plans to continue an active research career with an academic faculty position at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Patrick Calhoun, Director of the VISN-6 MIRECC Post-Doctoral Psychology Program, noted, "I am really excited for Christina. She was recruited heavily for several exciting positions and I'm sure that the position at the Tampa VAMC and USF will be a great fit for her. I'm most pleased that Christina is going to continue a career in the VA. She is an outstanding young psychologist from whom I expect great things".

Dr. Boggs will continue to be available through outlook at christina.boggs@va.gov.



New MIRECC Research Fellows will be joining us soon:

Psychology - Jasmeet Pannu, PhD (University of Arizona) and **Scott McDonald, PhD** (Virginia Commonwealth University). Dr. Pannu is completing her internship at the Boston Consortium (which includes the Boston VAMC, Harvard Medical School, and Boston University). Dr. McDonald is completing his internship at the University of Birmingham Consortium (which includes UAB and the Birmingham VAMC).

Psychiatry - Rohan Calnaido, MD. Dr. Calnaido is presently completing his residency in psychiatry at Duke. His major MIRECC interest will be imaging aspects of pain.

Clinical Outreach

The VISN 6 MIRECC has recently been invited to partner with the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, the State Division of Veterans Services, the North Carolina National Guard and the Governor's Office to help develop a Governor's Summit on Returning Veterans and their Families. **Drs. Kudler, Straits-Troster, and Jones** are working closely with partners across the state and in DoD to plan this program. The Summit is tentatively scheduled for September 27, 2006.

Invited Lectures

On May 20, **Dr. Christine Marx (MIRECC Associate Director, Interventions Research Core)** chaired a symposium "Neurosteroids as Candidate Modulators of Pathophysiology and Novel Therapeutic Agents" at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry in Toronto, Canada.

Friedman J, Gaffney JE, Horton GP, Piersma HL. "An Overview of the Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)" North Carolina Psychological Association Spring Conference, Charlotte, NC, April 28, 2006

Hurley RA, Taber KH. Master Educator Clinical Consultation Session. "Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Traumatic Brain Injury" American Psychiatric Association 159th Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, May 23, 2006

Hurley RA, Taber KH. Grand Rounds. "Application of Neuroanatomy and Imaging to Neuropsychiatric Practice" Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, May 24, 2006

Marx, C. Science to Policy: Advancing Women's Mental Health Symposium. "Neuroactive Steroids in Men and Women: Investigations in Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, and Alzheimer's Disease" American Psychiatric Association 159th Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, May 24, 2006

Marx, C. Neurosteroids as Candidate Modulators of Pathophysiology and Novel Therapeutic Agents Symposium. "Neurosteroids in Men and Women: Investigations in Schizophrenia as Candidate Modulators of Pathophysiology in Alzheimer's Disease and Nicotine Dependence" Society of Biological Psychiatry 61st Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, May 20, 2006

Clinical Outreach

On June 12, **Dr. Harold Kudler (MIRECC Co-Director, Clinical Component)** presented "Mental Health Roles in Disaster Response" at the Duke Disaster Preparedness Training. This program, directed by David Marozzi, MD, Director of Disaster Preparedness, Duke University Medical Center, was part of a three day program of lectures and hands on training which culminated in a regional disaster drill. Over 250 medical, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Nursing and Pharmacy students took part in this event.

Publications

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Taber KH, Warden DL, Hurley RA. Blast-related traumatic brain injury: What is known? *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience* 2006 Winter; 18(2): 141-145.

Tupler LA, De Bellis MD. Segmented hippocampal volume in children and adolescents with posttraumatic stress disorder. *Biological Psychiatry* 2006 March 15;59(6):523-9. Epub 2005 Sep 30

VBA Blast Injury Video

On June 8, **Dr. Robin Hurley (MIRECC Co-Director, Education)** participated with other field experts, including representatives from the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), in the creation of a VBA training film for vocational rehabilitation counselors about blast injury and the results of traumatic brain injury.



Alfred Carroll of Blackberry Productions in Washington, D.C. captured these images during the filming.



MIRECC Symposium

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The symposium delineated the activities and direction of the VISN 6 MIRECC with respect to its diverse but interrelated Components and Cores. It also demonstrated both the extent to which clinical, research, and educational domains are tied together, and the growing network of collaborations within and outside of VHA that have already been initiated during the MIRECC's first year of operation.

Harold Kudler, MD, presented the clinically oriented activities undertaken by the VISN 6 MIRECC, in addition to the full range of DOD/VA programs directed at the problems experienced by returning OEF/OIF servicemen and women. In particular, his presentation focused on the evolving public health orientation of these programs, as opposed to the mental illness model, which has been associated with substantial barriers to returnee involvement.

Robin Hurley, MD, covered the important topic of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). In addition to describing the incidence, mechanisms, phenomenology, and management of this poorly understood type of injury, she stressed the educational efforts which have been undertaken by the VISN 6 MIRECC to improve the ability of DOD and VHA caregivers to detect and treat this condition.

The final four presentations provided an overview of the VISN 6 MIRECC's research portfolio. **Christine Marx, MD**, detailed the potential role of neurosteroids in post-deployment mental illness. **Scott Moore, MD, PhD**, discussed rodent studies carried out in his laboratory dealing with the physiologic and pharmacologic response of the amygdala to stressors. The MIRECC's exciting work in neuroimaging was covered by **Raj Morey, MD**, who described how advanced structural and functional imaging approaches now offer a window into the brain's response to physical and emotional stress, as well as its manifestation of pathophysiological states such as PTSD and TBI. **Jean Beckham, PhD**, presented the MIRECC's approach to the understanding of genetic factors in the susceptibility and development of deployment related illness. This approach has included the establishment of a major OEF/OIF registry, involving large numbers of both healthy and ill returnees, with blood samples stored for later genchip analyses and eventual correlation with epidemiologic, clinical, neuroendocrine, and imaging findings of other MIRECC research Cores.

Finally, the Symposium discussant, **Richard Weiner, MD, PhD**, demonstrated how the various elements described above tied in to the overarching mission of the VISN 6 MIRECC as translating research into practice.

Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:

June 2

Debra Volkmer, LCSW (Salisbury VAMC)

Adjustment to a Different World: Assisting the Veteran and Family with Transition from Deployment to Community Re-Integration

July 7

Dr. Ryan Dehaas (Salisbury VAMC)

Substance Abuse and Anxiety

This series is presented by V-tel and telephone conferences. Web-casting will become available in the near future. If any of you have suggestions or ideas for lectures or for the series process, please feel free to contact Dr. Robin Hurley or Dr. Katherine Taber with your feedback.

Below are the [V-tel phone numbers](#) to dial to participate in the series for the calendar year 2006. Dial in at starts at 11:45 am Eastern Time.

VISN 6 Office	304 262-3950	Hampton 5th Floor	304 262-3930
Asheville	304 262-3952	Richmond	304 262-3951
Beckley	304 260-4839	Salem	304 262-3942
Durham	304 262-3924	Salisbury	304 262-3948
Fayetteville	304 262-3928	CBOC Jacksonville	304-260-4809

There are ten audio lines scheduled. For [audio lines only](#) call: 800-767-1750 and inform the operator that you are calling in for the "V6 PD Mental Health Problems"