

RESEARCH 554 NEWSLETTER



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Research 554 Newsletter Staff

Editor: Marc Goalstone
 Photographer: Ron Bouchard



INVESTIGATOR OF THE MONTH



James M. Beck, M.D., has been appointed as the next Chief of Medicine at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System. He will also serve as Professor, Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care, Department of Medicine, University of Colorado, Denver. Dr. Beck joins the ECHCS from the VA Ann Arbor Health Care System and the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Beck is a graduate of Tufts University and is an AOA graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, followed by fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

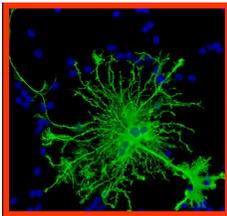
Dr. Beck’s clinical interests focus on critical care medicine and on pulmonary infections in immunocompromised hosts, particularly individuals with HIV infection. Dr. Beck has received multiple clinical teaching awards and has been selected for *Best Doctors in America* since 1994. He has been the Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center since 2001. Dr. Beck has maintained a funded basic science laboratory for over 20 years focused on pulmonary host defense against the opportunistic fungus *Pneumocystis*. Most recently, his laboratory focus has been on pathogenesis of accelerated emphysema in individuals with HIV infection. (cont’d on page 7).

ACOS CORNER—ROBERT KEITH, MD



The Denver VA Medical Center is one of 50 VAMCs selected across the nation to serve as an enrollment site for the Million Veteran Program (MVP)! This research program will help us better understand how genes affect Veterans’ health and illness with the ultimate goal of the program is to transform health care.

(Cont’d on page 6)



2.1 *Materials* All General lab reagents were from Antibodies were from...

MICROSCOPY CORE

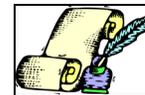


Ron Bouchard



Oroboros Oxygraph-2k

RECENT VA RESEARCH GRANTS AND PUBLICATIONS



Here are a few VA publication authors this issue:

William Proctor
Allan Prochazka
Hugo Rosen
Gregory Schwartz
Karen Stevens
Marc Goalstone

From Fall Round 2011 –awarded from Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development Service.

Merit - Mary Bessesen, M.D.

Merit - Mayumi Fujita, M.D.
Merit - David Schwartz, M.D.
CDA-2 - Kalynn Schulz, Ph.D.
CDA-2 Alena Grabowski, Ph.D.

Michael Ho, MD, PhD received an SDP 12-179, entitled “Hybrid Effectiveness-implementation Study to Improve Clopidogrel Adherence”.

Mary (Meg) Plomondon, MSPH, PhD received an RRP 12-199, entitled “Improving Anticoagulation Practices for Patients Presenting with ACS”

The Vevo 2100 Ultrasound is the world’s first ultra-high frequency linear array technology. This system utilizes solid-state transducers and are customized specifically for animal research.

Superb B-mode (2D) imaging has frame rates up to 1000 fps with multiple linear focal zones for enhanced image uniformity.

M-mode assesses motion in cardiovascular applications in addition to Pulsed-wave Doppler (PWD) for blood flow quantification. Color Doppler shows flow direction, mean velocities and identifies small vessels not seen in B-mode. Power Doppler is used for relative quantification of blood flow.

The Vevo 2100 can also make use of MicroMarker Contrast Imaging agents (Micro Bubbles) for relative perfusion and targeted molecular data.

There are many more uses for the Vevo. I will be happy to discuss those with you.

X 3651. Bldg. #23

Ron.Bouchard@ucdenver.edu

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Leslie Knaub presented at the February RIP talks. Her topic was the new Oroboros Oxygraph-2k. Here are some of the highlights of the talk:

The Oroboros Oxygraph-2k (O2k) allows for the evaluation and diagnosis of mitochondrial function in health and disease by providing dynamic measurement of metabolic flux. Using the O2k, respiration

can be measured in isolated mitochondria, intact cells, permeabilized cells and tissues and microorganisms. This high-resolution respirometry permits measurements in extremely small samples. With small amounts of samples and correspondingly low respiratory flux, the oxygen capacity of the system is exhausted

slowly, allowing sufficient time to evaluate the stability of respiratory activity in each metabolic state and permit complex titration regimes of substrates and inhibitors.

Dr. Neda Rasouli, MD, will be presenting her research titled “Adipose tissue hypoxia and insulin resistance”. We will meet on Monday, April 2 at 10 AM in the Building C-111.



WISH LIST



This is a new column requesting **your input**. If you have a particular piece of equipment that you would like to place on the “Wish List” please let us know.

Please give us make and model, manufacturer, catalogue number and price. We will place this item on the Research’s Wish List in hopes that if monies come in for purchasing such equipment, we will have the list ready to go.

Contact: Pamela.Rice@va.gov or x 3846



UPCOMING VA RESEARCH DEADLINES

ITS for HSR&D Merit Opens April 1 - Closes May 1, 2012

LOI for HSR&D Career Development Due April 12, 2012

Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) for Merit and Career Development Due June 1, 2012.

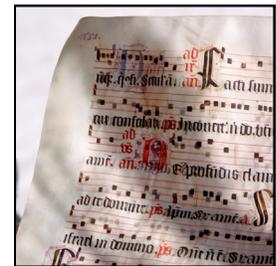
LOI for RR&D Due April 30, 2012

Rehab Research & Development (RR&D) Due June 1, 2012

If you have access to a VA computer deadlines for All VA ORD Services are located at

<http://vaww.research.va.gov/funding/process/submission-calendar.cfm>

Laurie.Grevious@va.gov x 2574



NEWCOMERS

Katherine Fagan



She moved to Denver for graduate school and is currently a MPH student at the Anschutz Medical Campus concentrating in Community and Behavioral Health Science. Katherine enjoys golfing, and Denver Broncos football.

Others this month:

Maggie Stanislawski

Tina Seagroves

Please say “hello” to Katherine, Maggie and Tina and welcome them to the 554.

Katherine Fagan is a new research assistant in the Cardiology department. She grew up on a wheat and barley farm in north-central Montana and graduated from Carroll College in Helena, MT in 2009.

If you have anyone that you would like to add to our “Newcomers” column please contact:

Marc.Goalstone@va.gov



VISN 19 MIRECC



Recently **Dr. Grahame Simpson** (Liverpool Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit & University of Sydney, Australia) developed and tested a ground-breaking intervention – called **Window to Hope** – designed to help reduce hopelessness and suicidal behavior among traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivors. Previous research indicates that hopelessness is a greater predictor of suicidality than even depression and that significant numbers of persons with moderate to severe TBI report feeling hopeless.

The Window to Hope program is based upon principles and techniques derived from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), including behavioral activation, cognitive restructuring, problem-solving, and relapse prevention. Rather than simply reduce hopelessness, Window to Hope seeks to instill a positive sense of hopefulness and re-establish an individual's valued sense of self. This

four-part strategy is translated metaphorically and visually into a Window of Hope, with each of the four panes providing a glimpse into a more positive future.

Based upon the success of the original study, Dr. Lisa Brenner, Director of the VISN 19 MIRECC, will partner with Dr. Simpson to conduct a randomized clinical trial of Window to Hope at the Denver VAMC. Drs. Simpson and Brenner will introduce a cross-cultural adaptation of the intervention for U.S. military Veterans and hope to replicate previous results.

On March 7, 2012, Dr. Simpson presented at the Fourth Annual Aaron Bailey Memorial Suicide Prevention Lecture held at the Anschutz Medical Campus. The lecture was titled "A Decade of Research into Suicidality after Traumatic Brain Injury: Progress, Controversies and the Road Ahead." He spoke again at the Denver VAMC on the following day regarding "Preventing Suicide after TBI: What Do We Need to Know?" The lecture given at the VAMC will be posted on the [VISN 19 MIRECC website](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/): <http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/>.



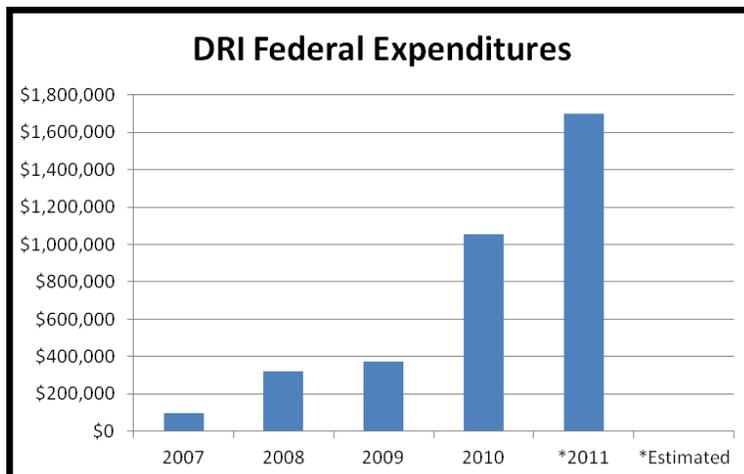
WINDOW TO HOPE

RECENT VISN 19 MIRECC PUBLICATIONS

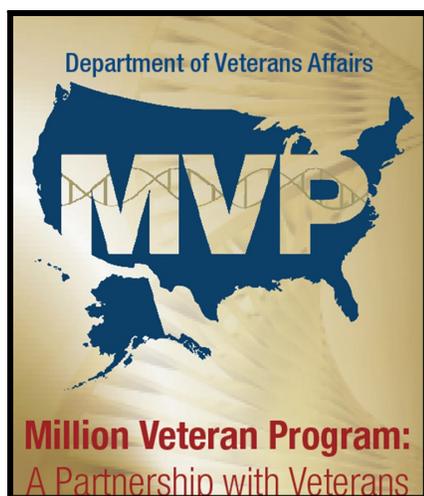
- Allen, M. H.**, Daniel, D. G., Revicki, D. A., Canuso, C. M., Turkoz, I., Fu, D. J., et al. (2012). Development and Psychometric Evaluation of a Clinical Global Impression for Schizoaffective Disorder Scale. *Innov Clin Neurosci*, 9(1), 15-24.
- Brenner, L. A.** (2011). Neuropsychological and neuroimaging findings in traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. *Dialogues Clin Neurosci*, 13(3), 311-323.
- Brenner, L. A., & Barnes, S. M.** (2012). Facilitating Treatment Engagement During High-Risk Transition Periods: A Potential Suicide Prevention Strategy. [doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300581]. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102(S1), S12-S14.
- Brenner, L. A.**, Breshears, R. E., **Betthausen, L. M.**, Bellon, K. K., Holman, E., Harwood, J. E., et al. (2011). Implementation of a suicide nomenclature within two VA healthcare settings. *J Clin Psychol Med Settings*, 18(2), 116-128.
- Freedenthal, S., Lamis, D. A., Osman, A., Kahlo, D., & **Gutierrez, P. M.** (2011). Evaluation of the psychometric properties of the Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire-12 in samples of men and women. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 67(6), 609-623.
- Gutierrez, P. M.**, Freedenthal, S., Wong, J. L., Osman, A., & Norizuki, T. (2012). Validation of the Suicide Resilience Inventory-25 (SRI-25) in Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Samples. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 94(1), 53-61.
- Hart, T., **Brenner, L.**, Clark, A. N., Bogner, J. A., Novack, T. A., Chervoneva, I., et al. (2011). Major and minor depression after traumatic brain injury. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 92(8), 1211-1219.
- Knox, K. L., Stanley, B., Currier, G. W., **Brenner, L.**, Ghahramanlou-Holloway, M., & Brown, G. (2012). An Emergency Department-Based Brief Intervention for Veterans at Risk for Suicide (SAFE VET). [doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300501]. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102(S1), S33-S37.
- Osman, A., Freedenthal, S., **Gutierrez, P. M.**, Wong, J. L., Emmerich, A., & Lozano, G. (2011). The Anxiety Depression Distress Inventory-27 (ADDI-27): a short version of the Mood and Anxiety Symptom Questionnaire-90. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 67(6), 591-608.
- Wagner, P. J., **Wortzel, H. S.**, Frey, K. L., Anderson, C. A., & Arciniegas, D. B. (2011). Clock-drawing performance predicts inpatient rehabilitation outcomes after traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*, 23(4), 449-453.
- Wortzel, H. S.**, Kraus, M. F., Filley, C. M., Anderson, C. A., & Arciniegas, D. B. (2011). Diffusion tensor imaging in mild traumatic brain injury litigation. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*, 39(4), 511-523.
- Wortzel, H. S.**, Strom, L. A., Anderson, A. C., Maa, E. H., & Spitz, M. (2012). Disrobing associated with epileptic seizures and forensic implications. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 57(2), 550-552.
- Yurgelun-Todd, D. A.**, **Bueler, C. E.**, **McGlade, E. C.**, Churchwell, J. C., **Brenner, L. A.**, & **Lopez-Larson, M. P.** (2011). Neuroimaging correlates of traumatic brain injury and suicidal behavior. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 26(4), 276-289.



DRI has seen a significant growth in federally-sponsored funding over the last 5 years in the forms of direct and subawards. The DoD is the primary federal source, but the NIH recently funded a second direct award. Subaward sources are multi-agency. Support to investigators is crucial to future project development, starting with grant submission. DRI is eager to assist investigators with their grant applications. As a reminder, NIH R01 Parent Grants are due 06/05/2012. Contact Christine Webb (christine.webb2@va.gov) for assistance in preparation and submission.



DRI receives funding from Federal, State, and private sources. Support is provided to investigators in the grant application process, i.e. budget/administrative preparation. Hiring staff is flexible, with a generous benefits package available for eligible DRI employees. If you're thinking of submitting a proposal, call Paul Saenger (5412) or Christine Webb (2596).



The MVP is a national, voluntary research program conducted by the VA Office of Research & Development. MVP aims to enroll as many as one million Veterans over the next five to seven years. Participants will be asked to complete a one-time study visit (approx. 20 minutes in length) and to provide a blood sample for genetic analysis. Participation also includes filling out health surveys, allowing ongoing access to medical records and agreeing to future contact. This research program will establish one of the largest databases of genes and health history. The results of MVP may lead to new ways of preventing and treating common illness. Robert Keith MD is coordinating the Denver effort and working with a team of research nurses and coordinators.

The location of the MVP:

**Denver VAMC
Room 8D109a
1055 Clermont St.
Denver, Colorado 80220**

To learn more about the Million Veteran Program, visit the [web-site](#), check out this [promotional brochure](#), call toll-free 866-441-6075 or [email](mailto:Robert.Keith@va.gov) Dr. Keith. Robert.Keith@va.gov

SAY HELLO TO: Dr. James M. Beck (ECHCS CHIEF OF MEDICINE)



James M. Beck, M.D., (cont'd from front page)

Dr. Beck is currently Principal Investigator of the University of Michigan site for the Lung HIV Microbiome Project, a multi-center translational project funded by the NIH. He has been the recipient of Career Development Awards from the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as NIH and Merit Review support.

Dr. Beck has extensive experience in postgraduate medical education, serving for the last 8 years as Associate Director of the University of Michigan's Internal Medicine Residency Program. He was recently named Director of Internal Medicine Fellowship and Physician-Scientist Programs at Michigan, and has expanded Michigan's program for individuals training through the American Board of Internal Medicine's Research Pathway. He is active in leadership of the American Thoracic Society, currently serving as Chair of the Education Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors. He previously served as Chair of the ATS Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections and as Chair of the ATS International Conference Committee.

Please say "hello" to Dr. Beck and make him feel at home at the 554.