



# VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Post Deployment Mental Health

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## Focus on the VISN

### Leadership Activities

VA Public Affairs recently filmed an interview with Mr. Hoffman (Network Director), Dr. Robin Hurley (MIRECC Associate Director, Education) and Dr. Edward Abraham (Dean, Wake Forest School of Medicine) that will be used in updating VHA video on VHA-university partnerships. The focus of the interview was the strengthening affiliation between the medical school and Salisbury VA and how this improves clinical care for Veterans and enhances both education and research.

## Bridging Mental Health and Chaplaincy



[www.mirecc.va.gov/mentalhealthandchaplancy](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/mentalhealthandchaplancy)

Three videos are now available on the website of the Mental Health and Chaplaincy program that provide introductory education on the rationale and basic considerations for integrating mental health and chaplain services. The target audience is chaplains and mental health providers (both VA and non VA). In addition, all others who are interested are encouraged to view the videos. Up to 3 Continuing Education Credits (ACCME, APA, and ASWB) can be earned.

★ **Video #1** addresses the need to consider including spiritual care providers as part of the treatment team in an effort to provide holistic, patient-centered care. This video covers the rationale for integrating mental health and chaplain services, research findings in the domain of religion, spirituality, and health, and cautionary considerations in interpreting and applying research findings.

continued on page 2

## Recently Approved Grants

**Pat Calhoun (PI)** *Mobile contingency management for smoking cessation in returning US Veterans.* NCI R01

## Education Update



**Mental Health Innovations**  
Updates from VA's Specialized Mental Health Centers  
JANUARY 2015  
IN THIS ISSUE:  
Advances in Technology Serving Veterans

The topic focus for the January issue is use of technology to better serve our Veterans.

[www.mirecc.va.gov/newsletter/current.asp](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/newsletter/current.asp)

## Approved Research Sites & Contacts:

**Durham VA**  
Study Coordinator  
mireccstudies@va.gov  
919-416-5915

**Hampton VA**  
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## Focus on the VISN

continued from page 1

★ **Video #2** features an in-depth examination of the similarities between the disciplines of psychology and chaplaincy in terms of their use of, and emphasis on, narrative. It explores the concept of narrative and narrative medicine, the way in which various disciplines can use narrative to improve patient care, and highlights potential benefits of including chaplains on treatment teams, given their unique perspectives on narrative.

★ **Video #3** focuses on the research that has been conducted at VA and DOD sites regarding chaplaincy as it relates to mental health care, as well as the roles and duties of VA and DOD chaplains, and the strides that the mental health field has made in the inclusion of spirituality as a component of holistic health care. Research findings from the Integrated Mental Health Strategy report on chaplains' roles in the VA and DOD are discussed, as well as an in-depth exploration of what chaplains do and what they can offer mental health care, and ways in which the mental health field is bridging towards spirituality.

### Invited Lectures

**Cantrell W, O'Mara S.** *Enhancing Care Through Mental Health Integration of Chaplain Services: A Critical Component of Suicide Prevention* (2 hour presentation) at the VA/DoD Suicide Prevention Conference, Dallas, TX. January 27, 2015

**O'Mara S, Rhodes JE, Stevens M, Nobles J, Nieuwsma JA.** *Joint Incentive Fund 1: Improving patient-centered care via integration of chaplains with mental health care.* Invited talk presented to the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces, January 2015, Washington, DC.

### Transitions

Please join in congratulating Misty Brooks, who in January of this year became our new National Training Programs Coordinator. Misty has worked for the MIRECC since 2007, serving an important operational role, managing daily workflow and countless administrative items. She will now take those valuable skills into her new position which includes responsibilities for coordinating of 6 National Evidence Based Psychotherapy Training Programs hosted by the VISN 6 MIRECC.



### Educational Resources from the TBI Model Systems Carolinas Site

**Heads Up - An Ounce of Prevention**

**Heads Up - Fatigue**

**Heads Up - Irritability**

**Heads Up - Plans for the Future**

**Heads Up - Sleep Disturbances after TBI**

<http://www.carolinashealthcare.org/carolinas-rehab-heads-up-educational-resources>

## Meeting Presentations



### Networks, Connectivity, and Neuropsychology

International Neuropsychological Society 43rd Annual Meeting  
February 4 - 7, 2015, Denver CO

### Symposium:

**Shura RD (Chair), Miskey HM, Homaifar BY, Rowland JA, Tupler LA.** *Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Functioning of OIF/OEF/OND Veterans.*

**Homaifar BY, Shura RD, Miskey HM, Yoash-Gantz RE, Rowland JA.** *The Relationship of Suicidal Ideation to Objective and Subjective Executive Functioning.*

**Miskey HM, Yoash-Gantz RE, Taber KH.** *The Relationship of Self-Reported Disinhibition and Posttraumatic Stress to Objective Performance.*

**Rowland JA, Stapleton-Kotloski J, Taber KH, Godwin DW.** *PTSD and mTBI Alter Resting State Brain Network Structure in Unique Ways at Different Bandwidths.*

**Shura RD, Rowland JA, Yoash-Gantz RE.** *The Behavioral Dyscontrol Scale - II: A Unique Measure of Executive Functioning.*

**Tupler LA, Yoash-Gantz RE, Campbell TA, McDonald SD, McCormick CL, Shura RD, Miskey HM, Pickett TC, Walker WC.** *Olfactory Deficits in Veterans Serving Post-9/11 Reporting TBI: A Potential Biomarker of Injury.*



From left to right: Drs. Yoash-Gantz, Rowland, Shura, Miskey, Tupler and Homaifar at the INS meeting.

### Posters:

**Miskey HM, Gross PL.** *Neuropsychological Assessment of a Veteran with a Large Arachnoid Cyst.*

**Miskey HM, Shura RD, Yoash-Gantz RE, Rowland JA.** *Personality Assessment Inventory Profiles of Post-deployment Veterans: Differential Effects of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychopathology.*

**Shura RD, Davidson LL, Feierstein RE.** *Assessment and Treatment of a Veteran with Conversion Myoclonus and PTSD.*

**Shura RD, Miskey HM, Rowland JA, Yoash-Gantz RE, Denning JH.** *Embedded Performance Validity Measures with Post-deployment Veterans: Cross-validation and Efficiency with Multiple Measures.*

## Journal Articles

Carpenter GS, Carpenter TP, Kimbrel NA, Flynn EJ, Pennington ML, Cammarata C, Zimering RT, Kamholz BW, Gulliver SB. *Social support, stress, and suicidal ideation in professional firefighters*. American Journal of Health Behavior. 2015; 39(2): 191-6.

Farnsworth JK, Drescher KD, Nieuwsma JA, Walser RB, Currier JM. *The role of moral emotions in military trauma: Implications for the study and treatment of moral injury*. Review of General Psychology, 2014; 18: 249-262.

Gold AL, Morey RA, McCarthy G. *Amygdala-prefrontal cortex functional connectivity during threat-induced anxiety and goal-distraction*. Biological Psychiatry. 2015; 77(4): 394-403.

Hurley RA, Patel S, Taber KH. *A Practical Update on Neuroimaging for Psychiatric Disorders-Part 1*. Psychiatric Times 2015; 32(2); 1.5 CME Feb 20, 2015 - Feb 20, 2016.

Hobkirk AL, Watt MH, Green KT, Beckham JC, Skinner D, Meade CS. *Mediators of interpersonal violence and drug addiction severity among methamphetamine users in Cape Town, South Africa*. Addictive Behaviors, 2015; 42: 167-71.

Malte CA, Dennis PA, Saxon AJ, McFall M, Carmody TP, Unger W, Beckham JC. *Tobacco use trajectories among a large cohort of treated smokers with posttraumatic stress disorder*. Addictive Behaviors, 2015; 41: 238-46.

Shura RD, Rowland JA, Yoash-Gantz RE. *The Behavioral Dyscontrol Scale-II with Non-Elderly Veterans*. Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, 2014; 29(5): 409-414.

Taber KH, Hurley RA, Haswell CC, Rowland JA, Hurt SD, Lamar CD, Morey RA. *White Matter Compromise in Veterans Exposed to Primary Blast Forces*. Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, 2015; 30(1): E15-E25.

Youssef NA, Bradford DW, Kilts JD, Szabo ST, Naylor JC, Allen TB, Strauss JL, Hamer RM, Shampine LJ, Marx CE. *Exploratory Investigation of Biomarker Candidates for Suicide in Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder: Preliminary Findings of Altered Neurosteroid Levels*. Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention. 2015; 36(1): 46-54.

## Meeting Presentations



**Crawford EF, Boeding S.** *Surveying Treatment Preferences in OEF-OIF Veterans with PTSD Symptoms: A Step Toward Veteran-Centered Care.*

**Fleming CE, Crawford EF.** *Veterans' Preferences for Receiving Information about VA Services: Is Getting the Information You Want Related to Increased Healthcare Utilization?*

**Hawkins KA, Crawford EF.** *An examination of treatment barriers and preferences among returning veterans with anger problems.*

### Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies



48th Annual Convention | Nov. 20-23, 2014

# PHILADELPHIA

### Symposium:

**Sayers S (Chair).** *Couples and the Emotional Cycles of Military Deployment.*

**Curry JF, Kiser L, Ventimiglia A, Dowling L.** *Family Assessment Method for Post-deployment Military and Veteran Families: Focusing on Needs and Strengths.*

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

### In the News! Excerpts from "Dallas VA conference discusses clergy's role in suicide prevention" by Jasmine Aguilera

.....since 2008, the VA and the U.S. Department of Defense have been exploring ways to incorporate spiritual guidance into service members' mental health care..... About 59 percent of chaplains in the VA system and 79 percent in the active-duty military said they perceive that veterans and service members commonly seek help from clergy instead of a mental health care provider....



.....With clergy, veterans often reveal very personal information about their relationships, family and work, said Bill Cantrell, associate director of chaplaincy for the Mental Health and Chaplaincy program. That is information that the patient may not feel comfortable revealing to anyone else, he said, speaking at a recent suicide prevention conference in Dallas.

In 2010, the VA and the Pentagon launched an official strategy that included establishing collaborations between mental health care and chaplaincy at seven VA centers across the U.S.....Cantrell, who is also a Navy chaplain at the Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center in North Carolina, said suicide rates among veterans and service members are increasing and this strategy could save lives.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20150208-dallas-va-conference-discusses-clergys-role-in-suicide-prevention.ece>

## ★ 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 - *Treating the Invisible Wounds of War (TTIWW) (english & spanish editions)*
- 2 - *TTIWW - A Primary Care Approach*
- 3 - *TTIWW - Employee Assistance in the Civilian Workforce*
- 4 - *TTIWW - Issues of Women Returning from Combat*
- 5 - *TTIWW - Recognizing the Signs of mTBI during Routine Eye Examinations*
- 6 - *TTIWW - Understanding Military Family Issues*
- 7 - *TTIWW - Taking a Military History: Four Critical Questions*

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.



### **CBOC Mental Health Rounds**

Each CBOC MH Rounds presentation is now offered twice a month.

**Wednesday March 11 from 9-10 am ET**

**Thursday March 12 from 12-1 pm ET**

***Addiction in Late Life***

**David Oslin, MD**

**Wednesday April 8 from 9-10 am ET**

**Thursday April 9 from 12-1 pm ET**

***Brief CBT***

**Remember to register in TMS for a session to receive credit. Log into your TMS account to join the presentation.**

**May 13 & 14     *Hoarding***

**June 10 & 11     *Opioid Risk Management & MH***

Contact Ashley McDaniel with any questions:  
[ashley.mcdaniel@va.gov](mailto:ashley.mcdaniel@va.gov) or 501-257-1223

### **Online Training Resources for Veterans**

<http://www.veterantraining.va.gov/>

There are several free and anonymous on-line education and life coaching programs that use interactive exercises and video demonstrations to teach skills for overcoming life challenges such as relationship and parenting problems, financial hardship, and re-adjustment issues.

#### **Moving Forward - Overcoming Life's Challenges**

Moving Forward is an educational and life coaching program that teaches Problem Solving skills to help you better handle life's challenges

#### **Parenting for Service Members & Veterans**

This on-line course provides parents with tools that strengthen parenting skills and helps them reconnect with their children.

#### **PTSD Coach Online**

PTSD Coach Online is for anyone who needs help with upsetting feelings. Trauma survivors, their families, or anyone coping with stress can benefit.

**Visit our web site for more resources**

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