

**VA VISN 2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention  
Current Funded Projects 2014**

**Britton (Co-I)**

*Opioid Misuse and Overdose Risk Patterns in Recent Veterans*

Sponsor: NIDA

Period of Award: 2014-2018

Description: The aim of this study is to track the changing dimensions of Veterans' reintegration experiences that impact prescription opioid misuse behavior and other substance use patterns.

**Britton (PI)**

*Motivational Interviewing to Prevent Suicide in High Risk Veterans*

Sponsor: VA/CSR

Period of Award: 2012-2017

Description: The aim of this project is to test the efficacy of Motivational Interviewing to Address Suicidal Ideation (MI-SI) with psychiatrically hospitalized Veterans at high risk for suicide.

**Britton (PI)**

*Influences on Call Outcomes among Veteran Callers to the National Crisis Line*

Sponsor: VA/QUERI

Period of Award: 2011

Description: The aim of this project is to examine the associations between call characteristics and outcomes for the Veterans Crisis Line.

**Britton (Consultant)**

*Development of an Intervention for Soldiers and Veterans with Co-Occurring Traumatic Brain Injury and Substance Abuse*

Sponsor: CDMRP

Date of Award: 2009-2011

Description: This study will design a novel SA intervention and related treatment manual and educational materials for individuals who served in the military and have co-occurring mild TBI and SA.

**Britton (Co-I)**

*Facilitating Use of the Veterans Crisis Line in High Risk Patients*

Sponsor: VA/HSRD

Period of Award: 2014-2017

Description: The aim of this study is to test the impact of a brief intervention to increase Veteran Crisis Line usage in high risk Veterans on Crisis Line usage, health service usage, and suicide attempts.

**Conner (Co-I)**

*Warning Signs for Suicide Attempts*

Sponsor: Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC) of U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MOMRP)

Period of Award: 9/1/13 – 9/1/15

Description: Identify warning signs for suicide attempts in Veterans and civilians recruited from 3 VHA hospitals and 2 civilian hospitals.

**Conner (Co-I)**

*Increasing Treatment Seeking Among At-Risk Veterans Calling the Crisis Line*

Sponsor: VA HSR&D Merit Award 1 I01 HX00805-01A2

Period of Award: 8/15/14 – 8/15/15

Description: Examine a brief phone intervention to promote treatment follow through in treatment resistant Veteran callers to a national crisis line who report suicidal ideation.

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**Conner (Co-I)**

*Increasing Treatment Seeking among At-Risk Service Members Returning from Warzones*

Sponsor: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, HRPO Log No. A-17345 (Proposal No. 11108008)

Period of Award: 12/1/13 – 12/1/18

Description: RCT to examine the efficacy of a brief phone intervention to promote treatment follow through in 1,200 military service members, reservists, and Veterans identified through internet media who report suicidal ideation.

**Conner (PI)**

*Modeling the Social Environmental Influences and Mechanisms of Suicide*

Sponsor: NIMH (R01 MH099436)

Period of Award: 12/1/12 – 8/30/15

Description: Analysis of social and environmental variables underlying the etiology of suicide at multiple levels using National Violence Data Reporting System (NVDRS) and Census Bureau's American Community Study.

**Conner (Mentor)**

*Motivational interviewing to prevent suicide in high risk Veterans*

Sponsor: VA CSR&D 1IK2CX000641-01

Period of Award: 4/1/12 – 3/31/17

Description: Career Development Award to establish a program of research examining the use of Motivational Interviewing to prevent suicide with psychiatrically hospitalized Veterans.

**Conner (Co-I)**

*Acute alcohol use and suicide*

Sponsor: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism R01 AA020063-01

Period of Award: 9/1/11 – 8/31/15

Description: Analysis of NVRS data to examine the role of acute alcohol use in suicide.

**Conner (PI)**

*Meta-analysis of case-control psychological autopsy studies of suicide*

Sponsor: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Period of Award: 10/1/11 – 9/30/13

Description: Meta-analysis of case-control studies of suicide, with a focus on mood and substance use disorders.

**Conner (Mentor)**

*Behavioral treatment for alcohol dependent women with co-occurring depression*

Sponsor: NIAAA K23 AA017246-01

Period of Award: 9/5/08 – 1/31/14

Description: I was mentor on this Career Development Award to adapt Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Depression to the treatment of women with concurrent alcohol dependence and depression.

**Conner (PI)**

*Etiology of suicide attempts during adolescence and emerging adulthood*

Sponsor: CDC R01 CE001882-01

Period of Award: 8/1/10 – 7/31/13

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Description: Secondary analysis project examined risk and protective factors for suicide attempts among youth using longitudinal datasets gathered for the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA).

**Karras (PI)**

*Evaluation of the VA's communication and outreach activities implemented by the Suicide Prevention Program*

Sponsor: Mental Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs

Period of Award: 10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015

Description: This evaluation examines the broader effects of communication and outreach initiatives implemented by the VA's Suicide Prevention Program. More specifically, data will be collected to determine the impact of communication on key determinants of behavior (e.g., attitudes, perceptions, social norms) that can help to mitigate risk, support the development of environments that motivate healthy action (e.g., individual feels comfortable seeking help, family encouraged to link those in crisis to care), and promote suicide prevention among Veteran communities (e.g., facilitate timely engagement in care).

**Karras (PI)**

*Unlocking the potential of VA means safety programs: An evaluation of the use of public messaging to promote firearm safety to Veterans*

Sponsor: Mental Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs

Period of Award: 10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015

Description: Examine the efficacy of firearm safety messages to increase cognitive and behavioral outcomes related to the safe storage of firearms in the home among Veteran populations.

**Karras (Co-I)**

*Implementation and evaluation of a lethal means counseling training to VA behavioral health providers*

Sponsor: Mental Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs

Period of Award: 10/1/2013 - 9/30/2015

Description: Implement a pilot training program on lethal means counseling at the San Francisco VA Medical Center (CA) that seeks to improve the way VHA mental health service providers counsel their at-risk patients on reducing access to firearms.

**Knox (PI)**

*Outcomes in Veteran Callers to VA's 24/7 Suicide Hotline*

Sponsor: National Institute of Mental Health

Period of Award: 10/1/2012-12/31/2014

Description: The goal of this study is to achieve a better understanding of the clinical outcomes associated with calling VA's 24/7 Suicide Hotline. Key to evaluating whether VA's Suicide Hotline is an effective component of VA's overall comprehensive suicide prevention plan is to (1) To assess the extent to which Veteran callers to the hotline demonstrate reduced distress (as manifested by anxiety, depression, anger or confusion) at the beginning and then again at the end of calling the hotline.; (2) determine the extent to which suicidal callers have attempted or reattempted suicide, been placed on the Suicide Prevention Coordinator high-risk list, or have been hospitalized and; (3) to describe responder intervention behaviors and determine whether intervention styles impact changes in distress during the call and a Veteran's willingness to accept a referral to a VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

**Knox (PI)**

*A Brief Intervention to Reduce Suicide Risk in Military Service Members and Veterans*

Sponsor: Military Operational Medicine Research Program

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Period of Award: 9/30/2009-09/29/2013

Description: The project leaders in SAFE VET [Brown, Currier, Knox, Stanley] along with VISN19 Site Lead [Brenner] successfully applied for a Department of Defense research grant to study the effectiveness of the SAFE VET intervention.

**Pigeon (Co-I)**

*RCT of Behavioral Activation for Depression and Suicidality in Primary Care*

Sponsor: VA/HSRD

Period of Award: 9/1/14 – 8/31/18

Description: The major goal of this RCT is to compare a brief behavioral activation intervention delivered in primary care to treatment as usual for veterans with depression.

**Pigeon (PI)**

*An Adjunctive Behavioral Sleep Intervention to Prevent Veteran Suicides*

Sponsor: VA/HSRD

Period of Award: 8/1/14 - 6/30/15

Description: The major goal of this project is to test CBT for insomnias an adjunctive treatment in depressed veterans with suicidal ideation.

**Pigeon (Co-I)**

*Yoga for Sleep in Cancer: The Role of Circadian, Physical and Immune Function*

Sponsor: NIH/NCI

Period of Award: 7/1/14 – 6/30/19

Description: RCT to test a yoga intervention against cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia on sleep and functional outcomes in cancer survivors with insomnia.

**Pigeon (Co-I)**

*Cognitive Rehabilitation for Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses*

Sponsor: VA/CSRD

Period of Award: 7/1/14 – 6/30/17

Description: The major goal of this RCT is to test the effectiveness of delivering phone-based problem solving therapy on cognitive function in Veterans with Gulf War Illness symptoms.

**Pigeon (Co-I)**

*Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) to Decrease Suicidal Ideation and Enhance Well-Being in Women Veterans Exposed to Military Sexual Trauma*

Sponsor: VA HSR&D/QUERI

Period of Award: 5/1/13 – 4/30/14

Description: A small, pilot efficacy study to determine if women Veterans with a history of military sexual trauma and past-year suicidal ideation receiving MBSR will have greater improvements than a waitlist control condition.

**Pigeon (PI)**

*Pilot Test of Behavioral Activation for Depression & Suicidality in Primary Care*

Sponsor: VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

Period of Award: 1/1/13 – 12/31/13

Description: This study is testing the comparative effectiveness of 2 versus 4-session behavioral activation in depressed primary care Veterans.

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Role: Principal Investigator (with J. Funderburk)

**Pigeon (PI)**

*Managing Sleep Symptoms & Modifying Mechanisms of Traumatic Stress*

Sponsor: NIH/NINR

Period of Award: 9/27/12 – 7/31/16

Description: This RCT will test whether, and how, CBT for insomnia (CBT-I) may directly improve PTSD and depression symptoms and lead to enhanced response to cognitive processing therapy for PTSD and whether effects on PTSD and depression are associated with changes in stress hormone output and cytokine levels.

**Pigeon (PI)**

*Slow Wave Sleep and Inflammatory Processes in Pain*

Sponsor: NIH/NIA

Period of Award: 9/27/12 – 8/31/15

The goal of this project is to generate proof of concept for an inflammatory pathway that may contribute to links between poor sleep and chronic pain.

**Pigeon (Co-I)**

*Integrative Physiology of Gulf War Illness: Role of Autonomic Function, Central Neural Processing, and Sleep*

Sponsor: DOD/CDMRP

Period of Award: 8/1/11 – 7/30/12

Description: A one year consortium development award to develop the infrastructure to study the physiology of Gulf War Illness in a consortium composed of multiple institutions.

**Pigeon (PI)**

*Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Primary Care Veterans with PTSD Symptoms*

Sponsor: VA Patient Care Services – Meditation Clinical Demonstration Projects Program

Period of Award: 7/1/11 – 9/30/13

Description: Small RCT to test feasibility, acceptability and initial efficacy of a brief form of mindfulness based stress reduction for primary care patients with PTSD.

**Pigeon (PI)**

*Brief CBT for Insomnia in VA Primary Care Patients with Depression & Insomnia to Reduce Suicide Risk*

Sponsor: VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

Period of Award: 4/1/11 – 3/31/14

Description: Small pilot RCT to test the efficacy of a brief behavioral sleep intervention on depression and suicidal ideation among veterans from VA primary care with depression and sleep disturbance.

Role: Principal Investigator

**Rasmussen (PI)**

*Risk and Protective Factors for Veteran Suicide Following Discharge from VA Nursing Homes*

Sponsor: VISN2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

Period of Award: 2014-2015

Description: This project will utilize chart reviews of VA medical records to differentiate Veterans who die by suicide in the six months following discharge from VA nursing homes from those who did not die by suicide.

**Simons (PI)**

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*Veterans in Transition: Returning to the Community after a Community Living Center Stay*

Sponsor: VISN2 Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention – Pilot Award

Period of Award: 2014-2016

Description: This qualitative pilot study will gather preliminary data related to the experiences of Veterans who return to the community from a VA nursing facility in order to explore factors that contribute to successful transitions. Results will inform a broader study focused on biopsychosocial well-being and risk for suicide during late life care transitions.