

VISN 4 MIRECC Bulletin

Highlights of recent activity and accomplishments of our MIRECC faculty

Announcements

Volume 1, Issue 2

MIRECC Staff Meets with President-Elect Transition Team

Thanks to VA VISN 4 Director, Mr. Michael Moreland, on November 24th **David Oslin, MD** had the opportunity to meet with one of the VA Transition team members for President-Elect Obama to discuss a wide range of topics related to the mental health care of veterans. Also discussed was the current status of the VA, critical issues for VA, as well as what the future holds. Specific topics covered included the Uniform Services Handbook, balancing creativity and innovation with standardization, and the unique role of research in the VA having a vital and direct impact on clinical care. This was a unique opportunity for both the VISN and MIRECC.

Awards

Gerald Goldstein, PhD will be receiving the *International Neuropsychology Society Distinguished Career Award* at the International Neuropsychological Society meeting in Atlanta, February, 2009.

Matthew Chinman, PhD (along with co-authors) received the *Outstanding Publication Award, American Evaluation Association, 2008* for their "Getting To Outcomes" publications. The 2008 Outstanding Publication Award is presented for a publication that has been instrumental to the development of theory or practice in the field of evaluation.

Honors

David Oslin, MD was elected to the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP).

Research Accomplishments/News

Armando Rotondi, PhD: 2 Grant Awards

- 1) *Accessible Website Design for Cognitive Impairments: e.g., Schizophrenia* (RR&D VA Merit Review)
- 2) *Treatment of OEF/OIF Veteran Neuropsychiatric Symptoms Following Traumatic Brain Injury* (HSR&D Pilot Project)

Steven Sayers, PhD: Grant Award, VA Central Office, *Family Outreach Pilot*

A pilot program to develop a public service campaign for family members of OEF/OIF veterans, to support family members in encouraging these veterans to engage in services at the VA. Project partners include staff from Durham, NC VAMC and VISN 6 MIRECC, as well Lori Maas, MSW, the Philadelphia VAMC OEF/OIF Program Manager.

Steven Forman, MD, PhD: Grant Award, RR&D VA Merit Review

Targeted Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to Decrease Food Cravings

Mark Salzer, PhD: Center Award, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Participation and Independent Living of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities

Selected Recent Publications

Sayers SL, Farrow V, Ross J, Oslin DW. Family problems among recently returned military veterans referred for a mental health evaluation. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.* (in press).

Cohen AN, Glynn SM, Murray-Swank AB, Barrio C, Fischer EP, McCutcheon SJ, Perlick DA, **Rotondi AJ, Sayers SL, Sherman MD, Dixon LB.** The family forum: Present and future directions in the implementation and dissemination of family psychoeducation. *Psychiatric Services, 2008; 59(1):40-48.*

Zisook S, **Kasckow J,** Golshan S, Fellows I, Sollarzano E, Lehman D, Mohamed S, Jeste D. Citalopram augmentation for subsyndromal depressive symptoms in middle-aged and older patients with schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.* (in press).

Gordon AJ, Liberto J, Granda S, Salmon-Cox S, Andrée T, McNicholas L. Outcomes of DATA-2000 Certification Trainings for the Provision of Buprenorphine Treatment in the Veterans Health Administration. *The American Journal on Addictions. 2008;17:459-462.*

Miller DD, **Caroff SN,** Davis SM, Rosenheck RA, McEvoy JP, Saltz BL, Swartz MS, Keefe RSE, Stroup TS, Lieberman JA. Extrapyramidal Side Effects of Antipsychotics in a Randomized Trial: Findings from the CATIE Schizophrenia Trial. *British Journal of Psychiatry, 2008;193:279-88.*

Selected Education Activities

Recent Events:

5th Annual PADRECC/MIRECC Symposium on Neurodegenerative Diseases: The Interface of Psychiatry & Neurology, A Case History of Motor, Psychiatry, & Cognitive Symptom Evolution
September 12, 2008, Philadelphia, Attendance: 116

This symposium used a case study format to highlight the complexities in managing a Parkinson's disease patient long-term from neurological, psychiatric, and cognitive standpoints.

Joel Streim, MD presented, "Informing Approaches to Elders at Risk," an invited keynote address at the SAMHSA/NIMH-sponsored conference on "Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention in Senior Living Communities", October 16, 2008, Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD.

VA Grand Rounds at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC): Readjustment Issues Experienced by Returning OEF/OIF Veterans
November 7, 2008, Pittsburgh, Attendance: 52

The MIRECC annual slot in the WPIC Grand Round Series brings veteran-related issues to a primarily non-VA clinician audience. This year's presenters included James Martorella, LSW (VAPHS OEF/OIF Program Manager), Brian Avant, LSW (VAPHS OEF/OIF Program Coordinator and Case Manager) and Captain Michael Clark (Advocate, US Army Wounded Warrior Program).

Upcoming Events:

The Future of Home-Based Mental Health Care for the Elderly

An educational collaborative offered by the Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania (GEC/PA) in conjunction with the VISN 4 MIRECC and GRECC, as well as the University of Pittsburgh and Temple University.

Tentative Program Dates:

Pittsburgh, September 11, 2009

Philadelphia, October 16, 2009

To request receipt of a brochure upon availability, please contact Sarah Aerni at sea33@pitt.edu.

Did you know... ?

...in 2008, VISN 4 MIRECC affiliated staff published (or had in press) 189 publications.

VISN 4 MIRECC

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