

## VISN 4 MIRECC Bulletin

Highlights of recent activity and accomplishments of our MIRECC faculty

### Announcements

Volume 1, Issue 1

#### Awards

**Gerald Goldstein, PhD**, was given a Distinguished Lifetime Contribution to Neuropsychology Award by the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) at its annual meeting in New York this October.

#### Media

**Ruben Gur, PhD**, was interviewed by the History Channel this past July for a program being created on Brain Imaging.

#### Appointments

**Matt Chinman, PhD**, joined the Pittsburgh site of the VISN 4 MIRECC in June and has a dual appointment at the RAND Corporation (Pittsburgh site). Dr. Chinman is a health services researcher whose current research focuses on Peer to Peer Services. Dr. Chinman relocated from Los Angeles where he worked with the VISN 22 MIRECC and the Santa Monica office of RAND.

**Robert Sweet, MD**, was elected to the Board of Directors, American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry.

### Research Accomplishments/News

**Raquel Gur, MD, PhD**, and **Ruben Gur, PhD**: MGI Grant Awarded, *A Neurobehavioral Family Study of Schizophrenia*, Funding Source: NIMH.

**James Tew, MD**: Grant Awarded: Practice Change Fellowship, *Enhancing Transitional Care Quality for Older Adults Discharged from Psychiatric Hospitals*, Funding Source: Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation. [www.practicechangefellows.org/2008fellows.asp](http://www.practicechangefellows.org/2008fellows.asp)

Barry Fisher, MD, **Gretchen Haas, PhD**, Aaron Jacoby, PhD and Gordon Frankle, PhD: Grant Awarded, *Alterations of GABA Neurotransmitter Function in Veterans with PTSD*, Funding Source: CPPF.

**Shahrazad Mavandadi, PhD**, **David Oslin, MD** and **Steve Sayers, PhD**: Grant Awarded, *Health-Related Social Control among Veterans with Depression in Primary Care*, Funding Source: CPPF.

### Recent Publications

**Berrettini WH**, Yuan X, Tozzi F, Song K, Chilcoat H, Francks C, Waterworth D, Muglia P, Mooser V: Alpha-5/Alpha-3 nicotinic receptor subunit alleles increase risk for heavy smoking. *Molecular Psychiatry* 13:368-73, 2008.

**Cornelius JR**, Kirisci L, Reynolds M, Homish GG, Clark DB: Husbands' SUD is associated with higher levels of co-occurring but not no-co-occurring psychiatric disorders among their wives. *Addictive Behaviors* 33:1231-1234, 2008.

**Zanjani F, Mavandadi S, TenHave T**, Katz I, Durai NB, Krahn D, Llorente M, Kirchner J, Olsen E, Van Stone W, Cooley S, **Oslin DW**. Longitudinal course of substance treatment benefits in older male veteran at-risk drinkers. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*. 63(1):98-106, 2008 Jan.

**Suh, JJ, Langleben, D, Ehrman, R**, Hakun, JG, Wang, Z, Li, Y, Busch, SI, **O'Brien, CP & Childress, AR**. (2008, In Press). Low prefrontal perfusion linked to depression symptoms in methadone-maintained opiate-dependent patients. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

### Education Activities

#### Recent Events:

MIRECC Staff were well represented at the VA National Mental Health Meeting held in Arlington, VA, July 2008. Not only were numerous staff in attendance, the following presentations and posters were facilitated by VISN 4 MIRECC staff:

#### Presentations:

**Armando Rotondi, MD**: Improving Outcomes for SMI via Web-Based Treatments Designed for Those with Cognitive Impairments.

**Gretchen Haas, PhD**: Suicidal Behavior in Homeless Veterans: Significance of Comorbid Medical and Mental Health Problems in Screening for Recent Suicidal Ideation and Attempt Behavior.

**Johanna Klaus, PhD**: Current Status of VISN4 Behavioral Health Lab Implementation.

#### Posters:

Effect of Age on Citalopram Augmentation for the Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia and Depressive Symptoms: VISN 4 (**J. Kasckow**, I. Fellows, S. Golshan, E. Solorzano, S. Zisook)

Personal, Medical and Healthcare Utilization Differences Between Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Homeless Veterans: VISN 4 (**A.J. Gordon**; M. Hilton; **G.L. Haas**; **T. Andree**; **G. Goldstein**)

Examining the Value of a Brief Follow-up Service for Alcohol Dependent Patients: Can a Simple Follow-up Improve Rates of Sustained Engagement in Specialty Care?: VISN 4 (**E. Rowland**)

A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Close Monitoring Program for Minor Depression and Distress: VISN 4 (**A. Eakin**)

Correlates of Improvement in Depressive Symptoms among Veterans Enrolled in a Telephone-Based Depression Monitoring Program: VISN 4 (**S. Mavandadi**, **V. Farrow**, **L. Witte**, **H. Quattrone**, **E. Ingram**, **J. Ross**, & **D. Oslin**)

Characteristics of At-Risk Drinkers Identified in a Primary Care Based Intervention Study: Telephone Care Management for At-Risk Drinkers: VISN 4 (**M. Aiello**)

Patient-Initiated Dialogue in Chronic Heart Failure Care: Implications for Recovery-Oriented Care: VISN 4 (**C. Appelt**, K.L. Rodriguez, G.E. Switzer, **J.F. Luther**, A.F. Sonel, R.M. Arnold)

Mental Health and Adherence to Self-care in Older Veterans with Heart Failure and Diabetes: VISN 4 (**S. Sayers**, **S. Mavandadi**; **P. Jackson-Malik**; J. Stern; J. Murphy; M.G. Wiener)

#### Other Recent Events:

The MIRECC co-sponsored a training on *Using Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) in a Group Setting*, on Monday, September 29, 2008 at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, University Drive Division.

**Joel Streim, MD**, was a keynote speaker at a SAMHSA-sponsored conference on Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention in Residential Care Facilities for Older Adults, Gaithersburg Maryland, October 16, 2008.

### Did you know... ?

...that the VISN 4 MIRECC was first funded in October 1999, becoming the 8th MIRECC in the country. Today there are 10 MIRECCs and 4 Centers of Excellence nationwide.

### VISN 4 MIRECC

Philadelphia VAMC/116A  
University & Woodland Avenues  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
7180 Highland Drive, 151R-H  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

David Oslin, MD  
Director  
VISN 4 MIRECC

Gretchen Haas, PhD  
Site Director  
VISN 4 MIRECC Pittsburgh

VISN 4 MIRECC Bulletin Contact: Sara Salmon-Cox, MS, OTR/L, [sara.salmon-cox@va.gov](mailto:sara.salmon-cox@va.gov)