

# BRIEFINGS

*The latest news and updates from the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC*



## Director's Update



As the weather warms and new plant and animal life become more abundant around us, we are reminded that Spring is a time of growth, transformation and transition. And as in nature, growth and transformation are a common occurrence in the workplace. As the Interim Director of the VISN 6 MIRECC, I recognize that leadership change can bring uncertainty; however, it can also bring growth, fresh perspective and new opportunities.

Having been a part of the VISN 6 MIRECC since 2006 and in MIRECC leadership for several years, I am grateful and excited to continue our work together in this new role. I am deeply committed to the VISN 6 MIRECC and look forward to exploring new and impactful ways to grow our research, education and clinical efforts to improve Veteran Mental Health and to support the development of the next generation of MIRECC researchers and faculty.

As we look ahead to a future ripe with opportunity, I think about how our senior leadership is actively supporting emerging leaders. VISN 6 MIRECC fellows and early career investigators have been extremely productive disseminating research findings, clinical and education trainings, obtaining Career Development Awards and submitting Merit Awards. These accomplishments are reflective of both outstanding applicants and highly committed and engaged mentorship teams. I am honored and humbled to be a part of a Center so committed to training and mentorship. So, while we celebrate the growth and development of our fellows and early career investigators, we simultaneously recognize their mentors who have built a solid foundation upon which successful careers are built. The future of the MIRECC is bright and we look forward to many fruitful 'Springs' to come.

*Jennifer C. Naylor, PhD*

Interim Director, Mid-Atlantic (VISN 6) MIRECC

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# FOCUS ON THE VISN

## NEWS



## HONORS AND AWARDS



Drs. Wilfredo López-Ojeda, PhD (first left) and Robin Hurley, MD, FANPA (last right), along with Jake Shearer, MS (Toltech) (middle) and Amir Biglari, BS, Daniel Kirk, BS and Kameron Williamson, BS (not in photo), Wake medical students (MS2), were recently recognized (best poster) at the ANPA 33rd Annual Meeting for their work entitled "Extended Reality Technologies: Immersive Learning Experiences for Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neurosciences Pedagogies".



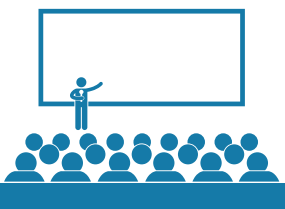
Dr. Robin Hurley, MD, FANPA, was recently recognized at the ANPA 33rd Annual Meeting for her long trajectory of service, conclusion of 6 years of executive leadership with the association, and strong female leadership role among other accolades.



Principal investigators Jennifer C. Naylor and Christine Marx, et al. (photos not included), received an *Intent to Fund* notification from CSRD for their project entitled "Investigating Novel Interventions for Low Back Pain in US Military Veterans: A Randomized Controlled Adaptive Phase II Trial".



Principal investigator Sarah Martindale, PhD, was funded by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) for her project entitled "Evaluating Reductions in Hippocampal Volume Related to Blast Exposure and their Effect on Memory Function".



## EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION



### Scientific Posters, Presentations, Webinars, Conferences and Other Research Activities

Biglari, A.A., Kirk, D.R., Shearer, J.V.W., Williamson, K.W., Hurley, R.A. and López-Ojeda, W. (March, 2023). Extended Reality Technologies: Immersive Learning Experiences for Neuroanatomy and Clinical Neurosciences Pedagogies. ANPA's 33rd Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. (Scientific poster\*)

López-Ojeda, W. and Hurley, R.A. (March, 2023). New Horizons for the Medical Metaverse: Clinical Neurosciences and Mental Health Interventions. ANPA's 33rd Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. (Scientific poster)

Magnante, A.T. and Resavy, R. (February, 2023). Dementia and Suicide Presented to the VA Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) 10 (Michigan, Indiana & Ohio) VISN 10 Suicide Prevention Team. (Webinar)

Martinez, B.S., Huggins, A., Baird, C. L., Francis, C., Scott, C., Hussain, A., Haswell, C. and Morey, R. (April, 2023). Lifetime mTBI Associated with Lower Grey Matter Volume of the Whole Cerebellum, Society for Biological Psychiatry, San Diego, CA. (Scientific poster)

Naylor, Jennifer C. (April, 2023). Co-Chair for VA RRD's Center/REAP/Consortium. (Scientific Review Meeting)

Sepeidh, B. and Giambarberi, L. (March, 2023). Patient-Centered Clinical Neuroscience in a Short Web-based Module: Cost effective Tool in Delivering Diagnosis and Treatment options for Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). ANPA's 33rd Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. (Scientific poster)

Shura, R. D. (March, 2023). Evaluating Adult ADHD: Do you really need neuro/psychological assessment? FY 2023 Psychotropic Drug Safety Initiative (PDSI). (Presentation)

\* Awarded best poster presentation

### Scientific Articles:

**Baker, C. A., Baum, L. J., Francis, J. P., Shura, R. D., & Ord, A. S. (2023).** Assessment of test bias on the MMPI-2-RF Higher Order and Restructured Clinical scales as a function of gender and race. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. Advanced Online Publication.

**Beckham, J.C., Calhoun, P.S., Chen, Z., Dennis, M.F., Kirby, A.C., Treis, E.T., Hertzberg, J., Hair, L.P., Mann, A.J., Budney, A.J., & Kimbrel, N.A.** Development of a mobile contingency management intervention for cannabis use reduction. *Behavior Therapy*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beth.2023.03.004>

**Halverson, T.F., Dillon, K., Weber, D., Dennis, P., Beckham, J.C., Calhoun, P.S., & Kimbrel, N.A. (in Press).** Interpersonal stress and nonsuicidal self-injury in veterans: An ecological momentary study. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

**Joiner, R. J., Martinez, B. S., Nelson, N. A., & Bergeman, C.S. (2022).** Perceived Control, Religiosity, and Subjective Well-being in Late Adulthood: Within-Person Changes Over a Ten-Year Span. *Psychology and Aging*, 37(7), 848. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pag0000713>

**King, H.A., Perry, K.R., Ferguson, S., Hicken, B.L., Jackson, G.L., Lynch, C., Woolson, S.L., Wortmann, J.H., Nieuwsma, J.A., & Parry, K.J. (in Press).** Identifying potentially morally injurious events from the veteran perspective: A qualitative descriptive study. *Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health*.

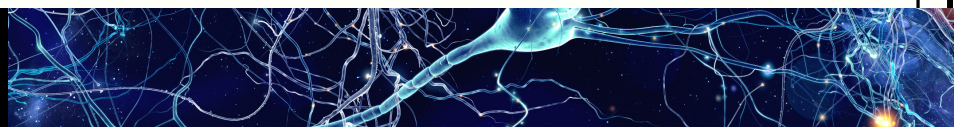
**López-Ojeda, W. & Hurley, R.A. (2023).** Ketone Bodies and Brain Metabolism: New Insights and Perspectives for Neurological Diseases. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.neuropsych.20230017>

**Patel, T. A., Blakey, S. M., Halverson, T. F., Mann, A. J., Calhoun, P. S., Beckham, J. C., Pugh, M. J., & Kimbrel, N. A. (in Press).** Experiential avoidance, posttraumatic stress disorder, and self-injurious thoughts and behaviors: A moderation analysis in a national veteran sample. *International Journal of Cognitive Therapy*.

**Shura, R. D., Miskey, H. M., Puente-López, E., Brochu, H. C., Magnante, A. T., O'Connor, V. L., Martindale, S. L., & Rowland, J. A. (2023).** The Miller Forensic Assessment of Symptoms Test (M-FAST) in Veterans. *Psychology & Neuroscience*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pne0000307>

**Shura, R. D., Miskey, H. M., McDonald, S. Rowland, J. A., Martindale, S. L., Wagner, H. R., & Tupler, L. A. (2023).** Personality Assessment Inventory suicidality scales: Suicidal Ideation (SUI), Suicide Potential Index (SPI), and S\_Chron in an Afghanistan/Iraq-era active and Veteran military sample. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. Advanced Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12961>

**Van Voorhees, E.E., Dillon, K.H., Crombach, A., Beaver, T., Kelton, K., Wortmann, J.H., VISN-B Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Workgroup & Nieuwsma, J.A. (in Press).** Enjoying the Violence of War: Association with Posttraumatic Symptomatology in U.S. Combat Veterans. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.



# RESOURCES FOR VETERANS & FAMILIES

Visit [Self-help resources](#) to obtain education and support information for Veterans, friends and family members who may be facing mental health challenges. VA specialists have assembled a short list of reviewer's recommended materials that may be helpful in finding the most appropriate information for you. We have a new education pamphlet on Moral Injury (MI), click [here](#). Please click on each resource topic for more information.

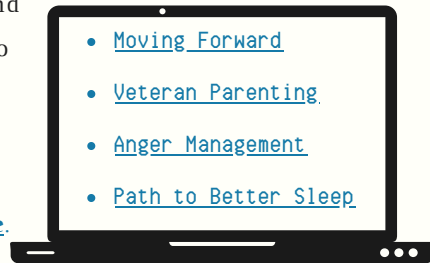
- [General Mental Health](#)
- [Depression & Anxiety](#)
- [PTSD](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\)](#)



For additional help, click "[How to Use.](#)"



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. For more information, click [here](#).



## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

The DMVA Resource Guide is produced and published by the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to assist and educate Veterans in learning about state and federal veteran benefits. View or Download by clicking [here](#).



## PROVIDER EDUCATION

### UPCOMING WEBINARS FOR NATIONAL CBOC MENTAL HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS (GRs) and OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- May 10 & 11, 2023 - Grief
- June 14 & 15, 2023 - Terms, Language, and Health Disparities for Transgender and Gender Diverse Veterans
- July 12 & 13, 2023 - Racial Justice
- August 9 & 10, 2023 - Written Exposure Therapy
- September 13 & 14, 2023 - Facilitating a Comfortable Environment for Women Veterans Receiving Mental Health Care in CBOCs

Click [here](#) to register



Check the website for previous webinars in this series available for credit in TMS.

For direct links to upcoming webinars, click [here](#).

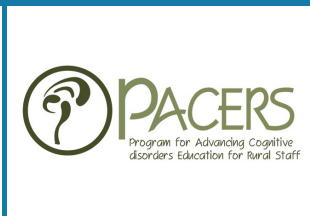
For previous GRs recordings click [here](#).

### MIRECC PRESENTS WEBINAR:

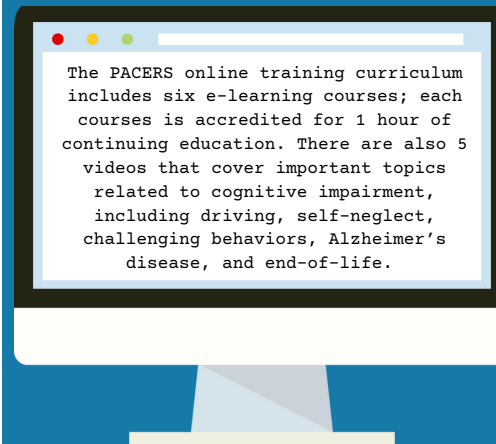
The 2022-2023 schedule for MIRECC Presents has concluded. MIRECC Presents will reconvene in October for the 2023-2024 schedule.

Register through [VA FFS TMS](#) then attend LIVE at <http://va-efrc-ees.adobeconnect.com/mireccpresents/>

Access the MIRECC Presents webinar series calendar for upcoming events online at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/vjsn20/Education/webinars-mirecc-presents.asp>



PACERS is an education program for health care staff who care for Veterans with cognitive disorders and their caregivers. While this program targets rural health care staff, providers working in any setting can benefit from this information.



The PACERS online training curriculum includes six e-learning courses; each course is accredited for 1 hour of continuing education. There are also 5 videos that cover important topics related to cognitive impairment, including driving, self-neglect, challenging behaviors, Alzheimer's disease, and end-of-life.

**VA Providers:** Take courses using TMS links

**Non-VA Providers:** Use TRAIN links

**Course 1:** Driving and Dementia-Hanging up the Keys.

**Course 2:** How to Deliver the Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

**Course 3:** How to Have an End of Life Discussion.

**Course 4:** How to Identify Self-Neglect.

**Course 5:** Addressing Decision-Making and Safety in Dementia.

[VISIT PACERS](#) for links to each course.



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## BRIEFINGS

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 our newsletter.

Next Issue: SUMMER 2023



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