

BRIEFINGS

The latest news and updates from the Mid-Atlantic MIRECC



Director's Update



The VISN 6 MIRECC's baseline Post-Deployment Mental Health (PDMH) Study included 3877 Veterans who served since September 11, 2001 and enrolled across multiple MIRECC sites for over 12 years. This robust dataset includes extensive psychiatric and physical assessment data and blood samples collected for genomic and metabolomic analyses.

In January 2018 the MIRECC officially added a longitudinal arm to the PDMH Study (PDMH-Longitudinal, PDMH-L) to call-back Veterans 10-12 years after their initial baseline visit. We are thrilled to share that the PDMH-L has conducted follow up assessments and collected additional blood samples from more than 700 Iraq/Afghanistan-era Veterans who had initially participated in the baseline PDMH Study! In addition, we are now able to utilize linked electronic medical record (EMR) data to explore treatment utilization and other longitudinal variables of interest in this cohort. VISN 6 MIRECC investigators interested in using these resources may submit an official request to obtain available PDMH, PDMH-L and linked EMR data using the [MIRECC portal](#). Statistical support is also available upon request in the same portal. Please reach out to Drs. [Jared Rowland](#) or [Robert Shura](#) if additional information is needed.

Jennifer C. Naylor, PhD

Director, Mid-Atlantic (VISN 6) MIRECC

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FOCUS ON THE VISN

NEWS



HONORS AND AWARDS



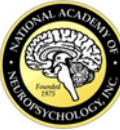
Dr. Eric Dedert, PhD received the *APA Division 18 Psychologists in Public Service Award for Outstanding Paper in Psychological Services* publication. The American Psychological Association (APA) Division 18 Patrick H. DeLeon Best Paper Award for Psychological Services is given annually to the most outstanding published article in Division 18's peer-reviewed journal, *Psychological Services*, that makes a major contribution to public service psychology and best represents Division 18's values of serving underserved populations in diverse settings, for the public good. The APA Division 18 is dedicated to Psychologists in Public Service. Congratulations to Dr. Dedert for this recognition.



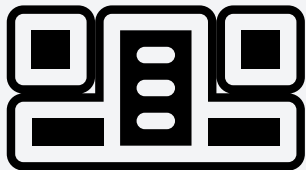
Dr. Victoria O'Connor, PhD was awarded a Clinical Research Grant (Mentor: Sarah L. Martindale, PhD) by the *National Academy of Neuropsychology* for her proposal entitled: "The Effect of Early Psychosocial Risk and Modifiable Lifestyle Factors on Neuropsychological Outcomes following Mild Traumatic Brain Injury". Congratulations to Dr. O'Connor for this award.



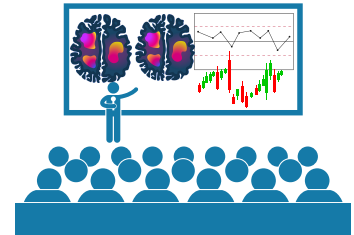
Drs. Robin Hurley, MD, FANPA and Wilfredo López-Ojeda, PhD, MS are the current contributors of "Windows to the Brain", a featured section of the *Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences* published quarterly every year since 1999. The articles published in *Windows to the Brain* during 2022 represented 10% of the top 20 articles during the entire life of the Journal's existence. These included the top two articles with highest online usage: [Extended Reality Technologies: Expanding Therapeutic Approaches for PTSD \(Winter 2022\)](#) and [Cranial Nerve Zero \(CN 0\): Multiple Names and Often Discounted yet Clinically Significant \(Spring 2022\)](#). Congratulations to Drs. Hurley and López-Ojeda for this achievement.



RESEARCH

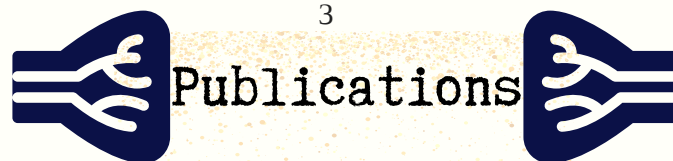


EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION



Scientific Posters and Presentations

- Baird, C. L., Huggins, A., Hussain, A., Martinez, B.S., Singh, S., Kim, J., Vissa, K., Mahajan, A., Bride, J., Nadareishvili, N., Morey, R., Turner, R., (June, 2023). Neuroimaging Study Effects of Repeated Head Impacts through high-level American Football Participation on Predicted Brain Age: A Preliminary Poster. Annual Symposium of the National Neurotrauma Society, Austin, TX. (Scientific poster)
- Etzel, L., Miskey, H. M., & Shura, R. D. (June, 2023). The Relationship Among Cognitive Complaints, Depressive Symptoms, and Performance-Based Executive Functioning by TBI Severity. 21st Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington, DC. (Scientific poster)
- Martindale, S. L., Belding, J. N., Crawford, C. D., & Rowland, J. A. (June, 2023). Validation of Military Occupational Specialty as a Proxy for Blast Exposure. 40th Annual Symposium of the National Neurotrauma Society, Austin, TX. (Scientific poster)
- Miskey, H.M., Shura, R. D., Puente-López, E., Brochu, H. C., Magnante, A. T., O'Connor, V. L., Martindale, S. L., & Rowland, J. A. (June, 2023). The Miller Forensic Assessment of Symptoms Test (M-FAST) in Veterans. 21st Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington, DC. (Scientific poster)
- O'Connor, V. L., Magnante, A. T., Rowland, J. A., & Shura, R. D. (June, 2023). Psychiatric Conditions Affect Total and Affective Disorders Scores of the Structured Inventory of Malingered Symptomatology. 21st Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington, DC. (Scientific poster)
- Rowland, J. A., Stapleton-Kotloski, J. R., Godwin, D. W., & Martindale, S. L. (June, 2023). TBI and PTSD Alter Long-Term Symptom Outcomes Through Distinct Neurological and Psychological Pathways. 40th Annual Symposium of the National Neurotrauma Society, Austin, TX. (Scientific poster)
- Shura, R. D. & Armistead-Jehle, P. (June, 2023). Staying up to Date II: A Review of Validity Literature from 2022. 21st Annual Conference of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, Washington, DC. (Workshop presentation)



Book Chapters:

Wortmann, J. H., Nieuwsma, J., & Meador, K. (2023). Integrative Spiritual Care for Mental Health Concerns: Lessons from an Intensive Chaplaincy Training Program. In C. Cook et al. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Spirituality, Religion, and Medical Humanities*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Wortmann, J. H., Fink, A. & Smigelsky, M. (2023). Psychological Assessment of ADSMs and Veterans for the Purpose of Culturally Responsive Treatment. In R. Johnson (Ed.), *Foundational Mental Health Practices with Active-Duty Service Members and Veterans*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Scientific Articles:

Aurora, P, LoSavio, ST, Kimbrel, NA, Beckham, JC, Calhoun, PS, Dillon, KH. (in Press). Examining the daily relationship between guilt, shame, and substance use among Veterans with psychiatric disorders. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*.

Ford, C. G., Smigelsky, M. A., Yi, J. Y., Trimm, V. M., Wortmann, J. H., Meador, K. G., & Nieuwsma, J. A. (2023). Measuring morality: Analyzing the factor structure of the moral foundations questionnaire in veterans. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 79, 954– 968.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23448>

Halverson, TF, Dillon, K, Weber, D, Dennis, P, Beckham, JC, Calhoun, P.S., & Kimbrel, N.A. (2023). Interpersonal stress and non-suicidal self-injury in veterans: An ecological momentary study. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/sltb.12963>

Halverson, T. F., Calhoun, P., Elbogen, E., Andover, M. S., Beckham, J., Pugh, M. J., & Kimbrel, N. A. (2023). Nonsuicidal Self-Injury among Veterans is Associated with Psychosocial Impairment, Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors, and Underutilization of Mental Health Services. *Death Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2023.2216169>

Kimbrel, N.A., Garrett, M.E., Evans, M.K., Mellows, C., Dennis, M.F., Hair, L.P., Hauser, M.A., Ashley-Koch, A.E., Beckham, J.C., & VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Workgroup. (in Press). Large epigenome-wide association identifies multiple novel differentially methylated CpG sites associated with suicidal thoughts and behaviors in veterans. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

López-Ojeda, W. & Hurley, R.A. (2023). Digital Innovation in Neuroanatomy: Three-Dimensional (3D) Image Processing and Printing for Medical Curricula and Health Care. *J Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosc. Summer*; 35(3):206-209. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.neuropsych.20230072>

López-Ojeda, W. & Hurley, R.A. (in Press). Medical Metaverse, Part 2: Artificial Intelligence Algorithms and Large Language Models in Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences. *J Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosc.*

Martindale, S. L., Belding, J. N., Crawford, C. D., & Rowland, J. A. (2023). Validation of Military Occupational Specialty as a Proxy for Blast Exposure Using the Salisbury Blast Interview. *Journal of Neurotrauma*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/neu.2023.0067>

Martindale, S. L., Vujanovic, A. A., Ord, A. S., Cary, A., & Rowland, J. A. (2023). Distress Tolerance Mitigates Effects of Posttraumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Blast Exposure on Psychiatric and Health Outcomes. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.1037/rep0000502>

Martinez, B. S., Denis, D., Kim, S. Y., DiPietro, C. H., Stare, C., Kensinger, E. A., & Payne, J. D. (2023). The effects of cognitive reappraisal and sleep on emotional memory formation. *Cognition and Emotion*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02699931.2023.2221843>

McGeary, C. A., Morland, L. A., Resick, P. A., Straud, C. L., Moring, J. C., Sohn, M. J., Mackintosh, M.-A., Young-McCaughan, S., Acierno, R., Rauch, S. A. M., Mintz, J., McGeary, D. D., Wells, S. Y., Grubbs, K., Nabity, P. S., McMahon, C. J., Litz, B. T., Velligan, D. I., Macdonald, A., Mata-Galan, E., Holliday, S. L., Dillon, K. H., Roache, J. D., & Peterson, A. L. (2023). Impact and efficiency of treatment across two PTSD clinical trials comparing in-person and telehealth service delivery formats. *Psychological Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000774>

O'Connor, V. L., Rowland, J., Naylor, J., Magnante, A., Craig, K., Miskey, H., Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Workgroup & Martindale, S. L. (2023). Time Doesn't Heal All: PTSD Symptoms Exacerbate the Relationship between Age and Pain Intensity. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*. [doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2023.1221762](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2023.1221762)

Patel, T. A., Mann, A. J., Nomamiukor, F. O., Halverson, T. F., Calhoun, P. S., Beckham, J. C., Pugh, M. J., & Kimbrel, N. A. (in Press). The association of military sexual assault and nonsuicidal self-injury in U.S. Gulf War-I era veterans. *Military Psychology*.

Shura, R. D., Rowland, J. A., Miskey, H. M., Ord, A. S., Magnante, A. T., & Martindale, S. L. (2023). Symptom Validity Indices in the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist-5. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jts.22957>

Van Voorhees, E.E., Dillon, K.H., Crombach, A., Beaver, T., Kelton, K., Wortmann, J.H., Visn-Mid-Atlantic Mirecc Workgroup, Nieuwsma, J (2023). Enjoying the Violence of War: Association with Posttraumatic Symptomatology in U.S. Combat Veterans. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001530>

Watkins, LL, Losavio, ST, Calhoun, PS, Resick, PA, Sherwood, A, Coffman, CJ, Kirby, AC, Beaver, TA, Dennis, MF, Beckham, JC. (2023). Effect of Cognitive Processing Therapy on Markers of Cardiovascular Risk in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Patients: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*. [doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychores.2023.111351](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2023.111351)

Wilson S.M., Abigail C. Mulcahy, Tiffany M. Lange, Madeleine R. Eldridge, Hollis J. Weidenbacher, George L. Jackson, Jennifer M. Gierisch, Matthew J. Crowley, Patrick Calhoun (2023). Rolling out PRIDE in All Who Served: Barriers and Facilitators for Sites Implementing an LGBTQ+ Health Education Group for Military Veterans. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2023 Jul;38 (Suppl 3):849-856. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37340269/>

Wilson, SM, Blalock, D.V., Young, J.R., Griffin, S.C., Hertzberg, J.S., Calhoun, P.S., & Beckham, J.C. (2023). Mobile health contingency management for smoking cessation among veterans experiencing homelessness: A comparative effectiveness trial. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 35, 102311. [doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102311](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102311)



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.

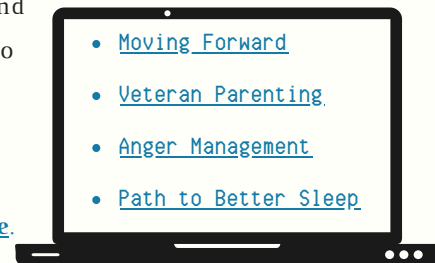
- [General Mental Health](#)
- [Depression & Anxiety](#)
- [PTSD](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\)](#)



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](#).



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

- 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](#).

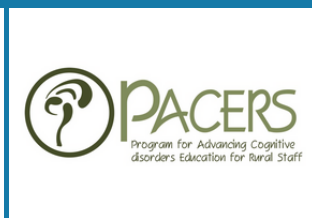
MIRECC PRESENTS WEBINAR:

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

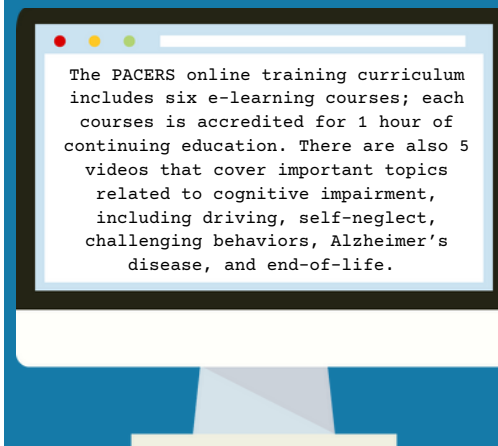
Register through [VA EES TMS](#) then attend LIVE at <http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/mireccpresents/>

Access the MIRECC Presents webinar series calendar for upcoming events online at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/vsn20/Education/webinars-mirecc-presents.asp>

PROVIDER EDUCATION



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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