Announcements

Our Web-Site is Live!
http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn6/

We are making many of our lectures, articles, and educational materials available by posting them on our new website. We will be adding more in future, so check back on a regular basis to see what is new!

Welcome to New MIRECC Researcher

Natalya Faynboym, MD, FAAPMR recently joined the Salisbury VAMC Rehabilitation Medicine Service. Dr. Faynboym graduated summa cum laude from both High Point University and Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine. Her Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency was at the University of Missouri - Columbia, where she served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Faynboym has extensive experience in treatment of TBI. Most recently she has served as Medical Director of Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation and Director of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service Line at WFU Baptist Medical Center. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at WFU. She looks forward to working closely with the Polytrauma/TBI team at Salisbury VAMC. Dr. Faynboym’s research interests include cognitive neuropsychology and the integrative medicine model as it relates to the treatment of individuals with acquired brain injury.
Publications


Update on the MIRECC Research Fellows

We are extremely pleased to announce that Dr. Scott McDonald has accepted a Research Psychologist position at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. McDonald was an outstanding MIRECC Fellow. His advanced specialty clinical training was in neuropsychology. His research included investigations of the validity of measures of posttraumatic stress disorder in returning OEF/OIF veterans as well methods to accurately assess sequelae of traumatic brain injury.

During his two-year tenure he authored 7 scientific articles and made 6 presentations at national meetings including the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the VA's National Mental Health Meeting.

Psychology Fellowship Director, Dr. Patrick Calhoun: “It is a real strength of the fellowship program, that we are retaining outstanding young psychologists like Dr. McDonald in the VA.”

CONTINUING THE TRANSFORMATION OF VA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:
BRIDGING THE GAPS
July 21-24, 2008, Arlington, VA
From our MIRECC


Eggleston AM, McDonald SD, Beckham JC, Calhoun PS. Alcohol and other substance use among Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans with and without posttraumatic stress disorder.

Kudler H, Straits-Troster K. State-Level Partnerships Can Increase Access to Care for OEF/OIF Veterans and Their Families: VISN 6

McDonald SD, Eggleston AM, Beckham JC, Straits-Troster K, Calhoun PS and the VISN-6 OEF/OIF Registry. Performance Characteristics of the Primary Care-PTSD Screen among Global War on Terrorism Veterans.


Volkmer D, Taber KH. Outreach Initiatives to Address Readjustment and PTSD Issues: A SeRV MH/MIRECC Collaboration.
Recent Presentations

**Recent Presentations**


**Naylor J.** *L-Serine Predicts Self-Reported Pain in Female OEF/OIF Veterans.* 63rd Annual Biological Psychiatry Meeting May 1-2, 2008, Washington DC.

**Invited Lectures**

On June 19, **Dr. Christine Marx** (Assistant Director - Interventions Research Core) presented “Neuroactive Steroids in Depression, PTSD, and Schizophrenia” at the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society. Dr. Marx presented “Proof-of-Concept Trial of Pregnenolone Targeting Negative and Cognitive Symptoms in Schizophrenia” on July 7 to the MIRECC in Baltimore, MD.

**Dr. Kristy Straits-Troster** (Assistant Director, Clinical) presented “Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Primary Care” as part of the VA's National Primary Care Conference: Using System Redesign to Build Better Primary Care Systems, July 30-August 1, Arlington, VA.

**Dr. Robin Hurley** (Associate Director, Education) gave 5 presentations of “PTSD: Psychiatric and Medical Co-Morbidities” at the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Conference, August 5-7, Atlanta, GA. This was a Compensation and Pension Examination Program.

**Recent Presentations**


**Yoash-Gantz RE, Pickett TC, Campbell TA, Nelson LA, Tupler LA.** *Processing speed and response inhibition in OEF/OIF veterans with TBI.* 2008 American Psychological Association Convention, August 14-17, 2008, Boston, MA.


**Recent Presentations**

**Mild Traumatic Brain Injury an Interdisciplinary Approach**

August 18, Winston-Salem NC

**Dr. Natalya Fayboym** presented “Overview of Mild Brain Injury” and “Neuropharmacology in Mild Brain Injury”. The target audience included nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreation therapists, case managers, educators, and rehabilitation healthcare professionals.

**Outreach to Community Providers**

**Noon V-tel Lecture Schedule:**

**September 12**
Kimberly A. Arlinghaus, MD (Houston VAMC & VISN 16 MIRECC)

*Basic Cognitive and Neuropsychiatric Assessment*

**October 12**
Jeffrey Kuch, MD (Salisbury VAMC)

*“Dangers in the Desert- Medical Problems in retuning OEF/OIF Veterans”*

This series is presented by V-tel and audio conferences. We are having increasing participation from sites outside VISN 6, so our assigned numbers may change. The number that each VISN 6 site will use to dial in will be included in an email notification prior to each presentation.

If you wish to attend from a site outside of VISN 6, please contact Mary Peoples (mary.peoples1@va.gov; 704-638-9000 ext 2956) so she can make the necessary arrangements.
Outreach to Community Providers

Dr. Robin Hurley (Associate Director, Education) and Dr. Katherine Taber (Assistant Director, Education) have collaborated with the Citizen-Soldier Support Program and North Carolina’s AHEC to develop a series of workshops on TBI.

**Traumatic Brain Injury**

*Invisible Wounds of War*

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**Working with Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families**

**2008**

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**2009 (dates to be announced)**

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**Purpose**

This training is designed for professionals in the community who military service members may seek treatment for undiagnosed brain injury. The purpose is to learn how to apply existing clinical skills to their work with military service members of Afghanistan and Iraq and their families.

**Target Audience**

Physiatrists, rehabilitation professionals, mental health professionals, family physicians, psychologists, social workers, counselors, case managers, psychiatric professionals, nurses, family therapists, clergy, substance abuse counselors, Speech Therapists, Physical Therapists and assistants, Occupational Therapists and assistants

**Learning Objectives**

1. Develop an understanding of military culture and how to use this to establish credibility and effectiveness of treatment
2. Develop an awareness of the brain and how TBI occurs
3. Increase ability to identify the effects of TBI and impact on life such as employment and family relationships
4. Increase awareness of TBI screening
5. Develop an awareness of key players in TBI rehabilitation
6. Increase awareness of TBI treatment options and resources

- [Registration Link for Greensboro](http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24893)
- [Registration Link for Asheville](http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24894)
- [Registration Link for Hickory](http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24895)
- [Registration Link for Charlotte](http://www.aheconnect.com/registration/coastal/eventdetail.asp?EventID=24839)