Hi, my name’s Lisa Brenner. I’m the director of the Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention and the Co-Director of the Military and Veteran Microbiome Consortium for Research and Education, or the MVM CoRE. The MVM CoRE is a hub for inquiry, exploration, and education related to the human microbiome. Each person’s microbiome is unique and shaped by various factors. The microbiome also affects mental and physical health. Our consortium includes researchers from diverse organizations and specialties to create a multi-faceted approach to microbiome research.

Currently, the 4 pillars of MVM CoRE research are the Veteran Microbiome Project, Probiotics and Immunomodulation, the Built Environment, and Environmental Pathogens. Each pillar relates to different microbiome research topics.

1. The Veteran Microbiome Projects
   a. Veterans and military service members have unique lifestyles and challenges. The Veteran Microbiome Project uses microbiome samples, survey questionnaires, and data from the electronic medical records to investigate the role of the human and built microbiomes on mental and physical health.

2. Probiotics and Immunomodulation
   a. Certain microorganisms have the potential to benefit mental and physical health. We are currently researching how probiotics and modulation of the immune system can improve health outcomes.

3. Built Environment
   a. The built environment, which consists of human-made spaces where people live and work, can shape the human microbiome and in turn impact mental and physical health. Our researchers examine how various aspects of the built environment such as air quality, lighting, and surface microbes influence well-being.

4. Environmental Pathogens
   a. We also focus on how environmental pathogens impact the health of Veterans and service members by influencing inflammatory and metabolic pathways.

Microbiome research has the potential to impact prevention and intervention for many conditions. Military and Veteran Microbiome Consortium for Research and Education remains committed to exploring the complexities of the human microbiome in pursuit of healthier and happier lives for all members of our community.