The Brain Rehabilitation Research Center (BRRC) at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center (MRVAMC) in Gainesville, FL is seeking a new Center Director. The BRRC is one of fourteen national Centers sponsored by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Service and has been continuously funded since 1999. The mission of the BRRC is to leverage principles of neuroplasticity to treat and improve motor, cognitive, and behavioral/emotional function in Veterans with neurologic disease or injury. Comprised of both clinical and preclinical research, the BRRC’s portfolio focuses on functional recovery as well as central and peripheral mechanisms of dysfunction and treatment in areas of traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), spinal cord injury (SCI), and stroke.

The BRRC Director is expected to:

- Serve the Center’s mission with vision and strategic planning to enhance the research portfolio, improve impact on rehabilitation practice, expand ability to recruit and retain both young and established investigators, increase participation in multi-center rehabilitation trials, and promote national leadership in areas of BRRC rehabilitation research.
- Oversee the BRRC’s annual budget, which includes the core grant award, local Medical Center support, and special project funds from RR&D (total center funding exceeds $1 million per year, not including investigator-initiated grants and awards).
- Work closely with the Associate Chief of Staff for Research (ACOS/R), Deputy Chief of Staff for Research (DCOS/R) and Medical Center leadership to ensure that sufficient VA resources and research space are available to support the BRRC’s research activities.
- Work closely with BRRC’s Medical Director to foster and engage MRVAMC clinicians and clinical services in rehabilitation studies.
- Provide scientific and administrative leadership and mentorship to both young and established clinical and preclinical Investigators and Staff of the Center.
- Demonstrate by personal example a dedication to compassionate care, personal and professional development, and effective communication and outreach.
- Act as a BRRC representative in a national group of VA RR&D Center Directors and VA Central Office Staff.

The BRRC currently supports a multidisciplinary group of 13 Investigators and 3 trainees and operates a budget approximating $8 million in annual research grants funded by VA, other federal agencies (e.g., NIH, DOD, etc.), and private foundations. The Center has 8,000 square feet of research space, including clinical and wet labs at MRVAMC. Its research is organized into three initiatives and two cores: Rehabilitation Neuroscience Initiative, Cognitive and Emotion Function Initiative, Motor Function Initiative, Neuroimaging and Biomarkers Core and Human Motor Performance Core. A four-member administration team provides the infrastructure support.
The Center Director position will be supported by medical center funds, with an appointment ranging from 5/8th to 8/8th. A competitive start-up package and lab space will be provided. VA offers an outstanding benefits package that includes federally subsidized health insurance, retirement benefits (Thrift Savings Plan with matching contributions and a federal pension), 11 federal holidays, 4-8 hours of paid time off earned per every two weeks (depending on duration of federal employment), and an additional 4 hours of sick time earned every two weeks.

In addition, a joint appointment at the University of Florida (UF; the academic affiliate to MRVAMC), may be negotiated based on the needs of UF and the credentials of the applicant. The specific UF College, Department, and academic rank for a joint appointment would occur in consultation with UF, according to the applicant’s training, academic discipline, existing funding, scholarly achievements, and the associated department’s resources and needs.

**Position Requirements:**
Candidates must have earned a M.D., Ph.D, or other doctoral degree in a scientific field relevant to the BRRC Mission and are expected to have an active and distinguished record of research and scholarly achievement within the field(s) of TBI, PTSD, SCI, and/or stroke rehabilitation through grants supported by VA, other federal agencies (e.g., NIH, DOD, etc.), and/or private foundations. Candidates should have a significant history of research funding, and evidence of successful mentoring to both young and established scientists. Previous experience as a Center Director or Co-Director within VA or a university setting is preferred but not required.

To ask questions or if you are interested in applying, please contact Yi Zhang, PhD ([Yi.Zhang1@va.gov](mailto:Yi.Zhang1@va.gov)). Candidates who wish to apply should provide their CV, a cover letter describing their research program and their research vision for the future, and contact information for 3-5 professional references.