COPES Center VA Post-Exposure Evaluation and Symptomatology Center

The purpose of the COPES Center is to generate new knowledge about clinical presentations, health trajectories, and management strategies for PAS. In addition to supporting the two COPES projects, the center will train clinicians learned from diagnosing and treating chronic multi-symptom illness (CMI) in Veterans to improve the care of PAS and engage Veterans, clinicians, and other stakeholders to enhance the relevance and impact of research on PAS and ameliorate inequities associated with PAS in vulnerable Veteran populations.

Funding: VA HSROD C1922986
Timeline: 05/01/2021 - 04/30/2027
Principal Investigators:
- Matthew Samore (VA Salt Lake City)
- April Mohanty (VA Salt Lake City)
- Jane Mathews (VA Salt Lake City)
- Adam Gordon (VA Salt Lake City)

COPES Project 1 Identifying Post-COVID Phenotypes and Related Health Inequities

This project seeks to define and characterize PAS using unsupervised clustering and survey data. The project will identify characteristic clinical management strategies and care delivery models for PAS and assess health inequities in PAS phenotypes, symptom trajectories, and management.

Funding: VA HSROD H1003668
Timeline: 01/01/2021 - 07/30/2023
Principal Investigators:
- Kristina Crothers (VA Puget Sound)
- Kristina Bajema (VA Portland)
- Matthew Maciejewski (VA Durham)

COPES Project 2 Leveraging Knowledge of Chronic Multi-symptom Illness to Improve Care for Veterans Post-COVID

This project seeks to adapt and refine Concurrent Care training for PAS using an interactive, iterative, user-centered design process informed by qualitative interviews and focus groups to optimize clinician access, uptake, and utilization.

Funding: VA HSROD H1003667
Timeline: 10/01/2021 - 09/30/2027
Principal Investigators:
- Lisa McDermott (VA New Jersey)
- Shannon Nugent (VA Portland)

Long COVID Collaborative Merit Exercise Challenge of Gut Microbiome and Neuroinflammation in PAS: Clinical Characteristics of COVID-19

This project will determine the effects of a standard exercise challenge (SEC) on post-exertional malaise, gut microbiome diversity (structure) and metabolism (function), and neuroinflammation (positive emission tomography imaging of T2* relaxometry) in Veterans with PAS.

Funding: VA CR3B1 D1 C502616
Timeline: 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2027
Principal Investigators:
- Diane Cook (VA Madison)
- Jacob Lindheimer (VA Madison)

LAUREL Chronic Lung Disease and COVID-19: Understanding Symptomology, Recovery, & Rehabilitation Needs

This project will identify factors associated with severity and complications of COVID-19 using patient-reported data collected via surveys and medical records in PAS cases for up to 4 years. The study also includes Veterans with COVID-19 and will be used to understand the impacts of infections on their quality of life and health care coordination, including rehabilitation services.

Funding: VA RRRO D1 I0003666
Timeline: 11/01/2021 - 11/01/2025
Principal Investigators:
- Kristina Crothers (VA Puget Sound)
- Aaron Turner (VA Puget Sound)

Learn more about LAUREL

CIPHER Centralized Interactive Phenomics Resource

CIPHER has undertaken several COVID-19-related projects to collate and facilitate VA research. This program is identifying patients in medical records who have long COVID (per WHO definition) via chart review. This will be used to understand the utility of ICD-10-CD code (‘post-COVID-19, condition post, long haul’) for identifying long COVID patients in EHRs and to develop and train a phenotyping algorithm for long COVID.

Funding: VA Timeline: Ongoing
Principal Investigators:
- Jacqueline Hemler (VA Boston)
- Kelly Chu (VA Boston)
- Monika Haripriy (VA Boston)

Learn more about CIPHER

MVP Survey Million Veterans Program COVID-19 Survey

The survey was disseminated to MVP participants from May 2020 to March 2021 as part of an MVP Core Activity. An MVP COVID Follow-up Survey is under consideration, which would assess additional COVID infections, vaccination status, and long-COVID symptom checklist. MVP also has a scientific study phase to long COVID that has been launched soon in collaboration with the Department of Energy.

Funding: VA Timeline: Ongoing
Principal Investigators:
- Sumitra Harikishan (VA Central Office/Office of Research and Development)
- Michelle Gaziano (VA Boston)
- Stacey Whisburn (VA Boston)

Learn more about MVP

CO-PE6 COVID-19: Understanding Symptomology, Recovery, & Rehabilitation Needs

This project will identify factors associated with severity and complications of COVID-19 using patient-reported data collected via surveys and medical records in PAS cases for up to 4 years. The study also includes Veterans with COVID-19 and will be used to understand the impacts of infections on their quality of life and health care coordination, including rehabilitation services.

CO-PE5 Epidemiology, Immunology, and Clinical Characteristics of COVID-19 within VHA

This study will characterize the epidemiologic, immunologic, socioeconomic, and clinical determinants of short- and long-term outcomes among Veterans as a function of SARS-CoV-2 infection. These data will be used to identify predictive epidemiologic and virus-hosting phenotypes of PAS using machine learning strategies.

Funding: VA CSP20A Timeline: 05/01/2023 - 04/30/2027
Principal Investigators:
- Jonathon R. Alford (VA Salt Lake City)
- Dr. Benjamin D. Chinsky (VA Seattle)

Learn more about CO-PE5

Long COVID Practice Based Research Network

Long COVID Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) aims to identify and support data-driven, practice-based and stakeholder-informed research on long COVID. They also connect research coordinators to current Long COVID clinical, research, and operational activities.

Funding: VA HSROD Timeline: 2023-2027
Principal Investigators:
- Allison Gaston (VA Minneapolis)
- R. Adams Dudley (VA Dudley)
- Kristina Crothers (VA Portland)
- Aaron Turner (VA Puget Sound)
- Matthew Maciejewski (VA Durham)

Learn more about Long COVID PBRN

CO-PE5 COVID-19: Understanding Symptomology, Recovery, & Rehabilitation Needs

The CO-PE5 project establishes a platform for studies of Real World Effectiveness (RWE) using National VA databases in collaboration with FDA and BARDA. The overarching goal is to determine if receipt of outpatient COVID-19 pharmacotherapies, including nirmatrelvir-ritonavir, masnrepivir, remdesivir, and others, reduces the risk of hospitalization, death, acute and post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 in order to rapidly inform treatment practices.

Funding: VA CSP20B Timeline: 04/01/2022 - 04/30/2027
Principal Investigators:
- Kristina Crothers (VA Salt Lake City)
- George Joannou (VA Puget Sound)
- Director, West Haven Clinical Epidemiology Research Center (CERC)
- Ali Heneen

Learn more about CO-PE5