VA Research: Bridging the Gap

Research Day, May 19, 2017
Malcom Randall VA Medical Center
Gainesville, Florida

Program

8:30 **Meet and Greet, Refreshments and Poster Exhibit**

8:55 **Call to Order**

9:00 **Program Opening**

Welcome	**Helen Vaillancourt, Event Coordinator**
Pledge	**Jerald Majetich, Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps, Army**
National Anthem	
Leadership Comments	**<u>Dr. Nadeau to introduce</u>:** **Thomas Wisnieski, Director** **Wende K. Dottor, Deputy Director** **Bradley S. Bender, MD, Chief of Staff**

9:45-10:00 **Jerald Majetich, Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps and U. S. Army**

10:00-10:20 **UF Guest Speaker: Steven T. DeKosky, MD, FACP, FANA, FAAN**
"Old Disease in New Helmets: Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury"

10:20-10:40 **Kenneth Cusi, MD**
"Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: The Overlooked Complication of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes"

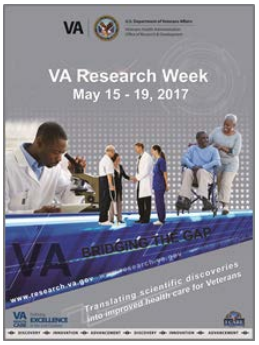
10:40-11:00 **Sandra Winter, PhD, OTR/L**
"Driving Intervention for Returning Combat Veterans"

11:00-11:20 **Kevin Wang, PhD**
"From Mild Traumatic Brain Injury to CTE: Are Veterans at Risk?"

11:20-11:40 **Floyd J. Thompson, PhD**
"Getting the Iron Out, Exciting New Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury"

11:40-12:00 **Concluding Remarks** **Stephen E. Nadeau, MD**
Questions
Gift Basket Drawing

12:00-1:00 **Research Poster Exhibit**
Talk personally with VA researchers about their work!



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Research Day, May 19, 2017

Malcom Randall VA Medical Center - Auditorium

Gainesville, Florida

No admission charge and open to the public!

8:30 a.m. Meet and Greet, Refreshments and Poster Exhibit
9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, VA Leadership

Jerald Majetich, former Sergeant

- 1988-1992 U.S. Marine Corps, honorable discharge
- 1993-2007 U. S. Army, retired
- 1999 Indiana National Guard, Squad Leader 2nd Battalion, 152nd Infantry
- 2005 Severely wounded in Iraq
- Recipient of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and many other medals
- 2007 Wounded Warrior Transition Specialist
- 2010 Wall Street Warfighters Program
- 2011 Vice President, Business Development, Drexel Hamilton, Jacksonville, FL

Sergeant Majetich was severely wounded in Iraq on October 29, 2005 while serving as a Tactical Team Leader with the 304th Psychological Operations Company in the U.S. Army. He will share his inspirational journey from survival, recovery and his new life today.

Steven T. KeKosky, MD, FACP, FANA, FAAN

- Guest Speaker, University of Florida
- Deputy Director, McKnight Brain Institute, UF
- Aerts-Cosper Professor of Alzheimer's Research, UF College of Medicine
- Associate Director, 1Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, UF
- Professor of Neurology, UF College of Medicine

10:00 a.m. "Old Disease In New Helmets: Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury"

In the last decade, owing to increasing numbers of Veterans and athletes (especially American football players) with recurrent traumatic brain injury (TBI) and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), CTE has moved to the forefront of dementia research. In this presentation Dr. DeKosky will discuss the concept and brain changes in CTE, and how ongoing research in Alzheimer's disease has given us a jump start in understanding CTE diagnosis and possible treatments.

Kenneth Cusi, MD

- Research Scientist, NF/SGVHS
- Professor of Medicine, University of Florida
- Chief, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Division, Department of Medicine, University of Florida
- Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism

10:20 a.m. ***"Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: the Overlooked Complication of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes"***

Diabetes appears to promote the development of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), the more severe form of the disease, and increases the risk of cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Patients and physicians face many uncertainties, including fragmented information on the natural history of the disease, challenges in the diagnosis of NASH, and the fact that only a few pharmacological agents have proven to be effective. This presentation will aim to educate patients and clinicians so they recognize the complexity of the disease and there is a greater awareness about its diagnosis and management. To this end, we share recent work done at the VA by our group to screen and treat these patients, sharing innovative research done at this VA (and at the San Antonio, TX VAMC) that has moved the field forward.

Sandra Winter, PhD, OTR/L

- Health Scientist Specialist, CINDRR, NF/SGVHS
- Research Occupational Therapist, NF/SGVHS
- Associate Director, Institute for Mobility, Activity, and Participation, College of Public Health and Health Professions, UF
- Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, UF

10:40 a.m. ***"Driving Intervention for Returning Combat Veterans"***

Dr. Winter's presentation covers a line of collaborative research between the University of Florida, the Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and VA Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service since 2007 to determine the driving intervention needs of returning combat Veterans and test a tailored intervention in a clinical trial. VA is a leading provider of driving rehabilitation and as such is well positioned to serve Veterans with driving difficulties. VA Research at NF/SGVHS has state of the art driving simulators which facilitate research and intervention with Veterans and enable tailoring of driving scenarios addressing Veteran-centric driving concerns.

Kevin Wang, PhD

- VA Research Speaker
- Research Health Scientist, BRRC
- Director, Program for Neurotrauma, Neuroproteomics and Biomarkers Research
- Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Physiological Sciences
- Affiliate Professor of Analytical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, UF

11:00 a.m. ***"From Mild Traumatic Brain Injury to CTE: Are veterans at Risk?"***

Veterans who experienced repeated mild TBI or blast brain injuries during their military services might be at risk of developing a neurodegenerative condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) later in life. Dr. Wang's presentation focuses on CTE as a protein-misfolding disease that resulted from repetitive mild traumatic brain injury. His laboratory has developed brain cell-based and animal-based models of CTE in order to study this disease condition. In addition, his laboratory is also developing blood tests by detecting brain-released biomarker proteins that track with possible human CTE development. Understanding the mechanism behind CTE formation will benefit Veterans and Non-Veterans with prior history of repetitive mTBI.

Picture pending.

Floyd J. Thompson, PhD

- VA Research Speaker
- Research Health Scientist, BRRC, NF/SGVHS
- Co-Director, Neurobiology of CNS Trauma and Rehabilitation Laboratory
- Initiative Coordinator, Rehabilitation Neuroscience Initiative, BRRC, NF/SGVHS
- Professor Emeritus, Department of Neuroscience, UF
- Adjunct Professor, Department of Physiological Sciences, Collage of Veterinary Medicine, UF

11:20 a.m. ***"Getting the Iron Out, Exciting New Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury"***

The issue of iron associated inflammation influences the outcome of the majority of Veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Our recent studies have revealed that experimental TBI induces multiple microbleed-associated iron deposits in the brain. These iron deposits induce multiple streams of inflammation that enhance prolonged disability. Our preliminary data using iron chelation therapy revealed significant removal of iron, and significant reduction in long term TBI-induced disability.

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Research Poster Exhibit

After the research presentations, there will be an Interactive Research Poster Exhibit showcasing 12 VA researchers and their studies. This is an opportunity to talk personally with researchers about their work – all this and more while enjoying our Research Day celebration cake and refreshments.

For more information contact Research Service at 352-548-6000, extension 4917
email **helen.vaillancourt@va.gov** or visit **www.northflorida.va.gov/research/**