



The Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN) began with a June 2012 award from the Department of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. The Center is a collaboration between the Providence VA Medical Center, Brown University, Butler Hospital, Lifespan, and Massachusetts General Hospital.

## Rehabilitation Research & Development Merit Award

**Congratulations!**  
to M. Tracie Shea, PhD on her  
recent RR&D Merit Award  
“Interpersonal Therapy for Veterans  
with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)”

Interpersonal problems such as relationship conflict and social isolation are common among Veterans with PTSD and serve as barriers to successful posttraumatic adjustment. The main interventions for PTSD at VA facilities, i.e. Prolonged Exposure, Cognitive Processing Therapy, and Trauma-Focused CBT, do not directly target these relationship difficulties and many Veterans do not complete these treatments. Couple and family approaches for PTSD address relationship problems, but logistics sometimes make it difficult for couples to attend sessions and these approaches do not involve Veterans who are socially isolated or unmarried. There is accumulating evidence that Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) for PTSD may be effective in reducing symptoms and improving interpersonal functioning. This study, a randomized controlled trial, aims to provide evidence regarding whether IPT for PTSD could be a useful addition to current treatments delivered at the VA.

Dr. Shea’s study involves the New Orleans VA as another site, and collaborations with co-investigators at Georgetown Medical School.

Dr. Shea received her Ph.D. in psychology from Catholic University in 1981. She was formerly at the National Institute of Mental Health, where she was Chief of the Personality Disorders Program, and Associate Coordinator of NIMH Treatment of Depression Collaborative Research Program.



Dr. Shea is a staff psychologist at the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders Clinic and Director of PTSD Research at the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center where she is also Co-Director of the CfNN FA4 Neuromodulation Core (PTSD, Pain, Depression) and she is Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University. She was a member of the Work Group on Personality Disorders for the DSM-IV; is a former president of the North American Society for Psychotherapy Research, and a former member of the Executive Board of the International Society for the Study of Personality Disorders. She was an associate editor of the Journal of Personality Disorders, and has served on several other boards. Dr. Shea’s current research focuses on PTSD and other trauma-related symptoms in Veterans. She was a training site PI for two Cooperative Studies Program multi-site RCTs on treatment of PTSD in Veterans; she was also the PI of research funded by the Department of Defense including a treatment development study and a longitudinal study of predictors of PTSD in OEF/OIF Veterans. Her current research includes an RR&D SPiRE Award for a pilot RCT of aerobic exercise for PTSD, and an RR&D Merit Award for a RCT examining a cognitive behavioral treatment for anger problems in returning Veterans. She has authored numerous publications in the areas of personality traits and disorders, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- May 18-22, 2015  
Research Week
- May 25, 2015  
Memorial Day

### MEETING DATES:

- May 12, 2015 4:00PM  
CfNN Executive Council Mtg.
- May 13, 2015  
12:00PM  
IRB Meeting
- May 26, 2015 4:00PM  
CfNN Leadership Mtg.
- May 27, 2015  
12:00PM  
R&D Meeting

### APPROACHING DEADLINES

- June 2, 2015  
V1CDA applications are due

If you are planning to submit please contact:

Candace Shuman  
Grants Manager  
401-273-7100 X3872  
Fax 401-457-3305  
Candace.Shuman@va.gov

## *Recent Publications*

1. Park YS, Hochberg LR, Eskandar EN, Cash SS, Truccolo W.  
Early detection of human focal seizures based on cortical multiunit activity.  
Proc IEEE Eng Med Biol Soc.2014:5796-9
2. Malik WQ, Hochberg LR, Donoghue JP, Brown EN.  
Modulation depth estimation and variable selection in state-space models for neural interfaces.  
IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2015 Feb;62(2):570-81.Epub 2014 Sept 26.
3. Bacher D, Jarosiewicz B, Masse NY, Stavisky SD, Simeral JD, Newell K, Oakley EM, Cash SS, Friehs G, Hochberg LR.  
Neural Point-and-Click Communication by a Person with Incomplete Locked-In Syndrome.  
Neurorehabil Neural Repair. Epub 2014 Nov 10; DOI: 10.1177/1545968314554624.
4. Masse NY, Jarosiewicz B, Simeral JD, Bacher D, Stavisky SD, Cash SS, Oakley EM, Berhanu E, Eskandar E, Friehs G, Hochberg LR, Donoghue JP.  
Reprint of “Non-casual spike filtering improves decoding of movement intention for intracortical BCIs”.  
J Neurosci Methods. 2015 Apr 15;244:94-103. doi: 10.1016/j.neumeth.2015.02.001. Epub 2015 Feb 11.
5. Markant J, Worden MS, Amso D.  
Not all attention orienting is created equal: Recognition memory is enhanced when attention orienting involves distractor suppression.  
Neurobiol Learn Mem. 2015 Apr;120:28-40. doi: 10.1016/j.nlm.2015.02.006. Rpub 2-15 Feb 17.
6. Steenkamp MM, Suvak MK, Dickstein BD, Shea MT, Litz BT.  
Emotional Functioning in Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder: Comparison to Borderline Personality Disorder and Healthy Controls.  
J Pers Disord. 2015 Jan 6:1-15. [Epub ahead of print]
7. Yen SC, Corkery MB, Chui KK, Manjourides J, Wang YC, Resnik LJ.  
Risk Adjustment for Lumbar Dysfunction: Comparison of Linear Mixed Models With and Without Inclusion of Between-Clinic Variation as a Random Effect.  
Phys Ther. 2015 Apr 23. [Epub ahead of print]
8. Bedard P, Sanes JN.  
Brain representations for acquiring and recalling visual-motor adaptations.  
Neuroimage. 2014 Nov 1;101:225-35. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroimage.2014.07.009. Epub 2014 Jul 12.
9. Cash SS, Hochberg LR.  
The Emergence of Single Neurons in Clinical Neurology.  
Neuron. 2015 Apr 8;86(1):79-91. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2015.03.058. Review.

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### **Contracting Cut-off Dates**

**We received notification of the cut-off dates for requests for purchase submitted to Contracting. They are:**

**Orders between \$25,000 and \$150,000—June 30th (to Nancy Gilbride or John Parkhurst by June 16th)**

**Orders between \$3,000 and \$25,000—July 15th (to Nancy Gilbride or John Parkhurst by July 1st)**

**We MUST have the requests 2 weeks prior to the cutoff, to complete the supporting documentation!**

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