



# RESEARCH UPDATE

SPRING 2016

## A Note from the Associate Chief of Staff



Welcome to the inaugural Providence VAMC Research Update Newsletter. VA Research's fundamental mission is to advance the health care of Veterans. At Providence, over 65 investigators are actively engaged in preclinical, clinical or population health research. The Providence VA research program focuses on health issues that affect Veterans, such as physical disabilities, mental health illnesses, long term care and chronic diseases. We are home to three research Centers in the areas of cardiopulmonary vascular biology, long term services and support, and neurorestoration and neurotechnology. Our talented investigators, research staff, study participants, and collaborative partnership with academic affiliates

enables us to ask and answer important questions that affect the health of our Veterans. In this issue of the newsletter, we highlight one of the ongoing studies lead by Dr. Frank evaluating novel treatment modalities for post traumatic stress disorder. Also, we would like to introduce our VA Career Development Awardees who are doing cutting edge research at Providence. We look forward to any comments and suggestions about our research program and invite you to attend our Research Week celebration May 20, 2016 from 1 to 3 p.m., with a keynote presentation delivered by Dr. Wen-Chih Wu, MD, MPH, Tracey Taveira, PharmD and Lisa Cohen, PharmD titled "Epidemiological and Health Services Research to Improve Heart Failure Outcomes."

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## Treating PTSD with Virtual Reality

**Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation-Augmentation of Virtual Reality Exposure for PTSD (TAVRE):** Researchers at the Providence VA Medical Center, led by **Mascha Frank, PhD**, are conducting a study to find out if the use of a low electrical current on the scalp makes it easier to watch deployment scenes from Iraq and Afghanistan using virtual reality in people with PTSD. The ultimate goal is to find out if low electrical current stimulation can improve and shorten treatment for PTSD. The study is researching OEF/OIF Veterans, between the ages of 18 and 60, who have a diagnosis of PTSD. If you are interested in learning more about the TAVRE study, please contact: Causey Dunlap, Research Assistant 401-273-7100 X 6221.

**For more information regarding the Research Service at Providence VAMC, please visit:**

[http://www.providence.va.gov/research/research\\_service.asp](http://www.providence.va.gov/research/research_service.asp)



*Treating PTSD with Virtual Reality:  
Dr. Mascha Frank pictured running a TAVRE session.*



# Research Centers at Providence VAMC

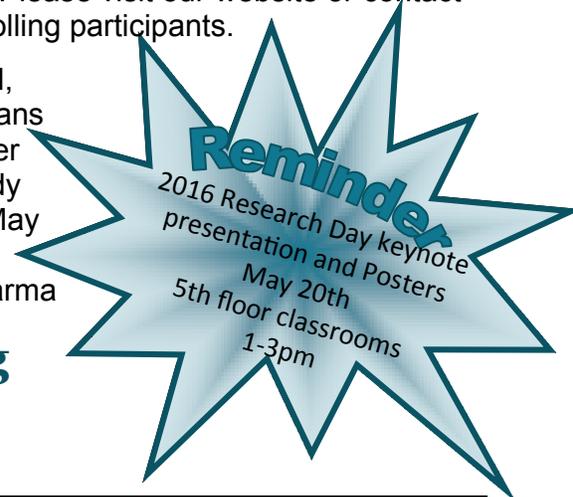
**Center for Neurotechnology and Neurorestoration (CfNN):** The mission of CfNN is to generate novel device-based therapies to restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system that prevent normal daily activities. The major areas on research include brain-computer interfaces for limb movement, understanding use of advanced arm prosthetics for limb loss, investigating technology-enhanced neurorehabilitation and use of neuromodulation technology to restore affective and cognitive function. Principal Investigator: Dr. Leigh Hochberg

**Center of Innovation-Long Term Services and Support:** The mission of COIN-LTSS is to advance scientific inquiry and health services research on long-term services and support programs and policies for Veterans who's medical and/or psychosocial conditions place them at risk for greater functional restriction and decreased community participation. This Center works closely with the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service at Veterans Health Administration to come up with actionable results to help improve access, quality and value of long term services for Veterans. Principal Investigator: Dr. James Rudolph

**CardioPulmonary Vascular Biology Center of Biological Research Excellence:** This NIH-funded center consolidates a multidisciplinary group of investigators in the areas of pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases to develop insights into basic mechanisms of disease pathogenesis and translate them to improvements in treatment of heart and lung diseases. Principal Investigator: Dr. Sharon Rounds

Providence VA is a part of the VISN 1 **Clinical Trial Network** that provides opportunities for our Veterans to participate in Clinical Trials in Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases. Please visit our website or contact our research office to get information on research studies currently enrolling participants.

**Million Veteran Program:** Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a national, voluntary research program funded entirely by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development. The goal of MVP is to partner with Veterans receiving their care in the VA Health Care System to study how genes affect health. Veterans began participating in the program May 17, 2016. More information on MVP can be found at: <http://www.research.va.gov/MVP/default.cfm>. Principal Investigator: Dr. Satish Sharma



## Awards & Funding

Over the past few months the following funding opportunities have been awarded to the Providence VA Medical Center for the Research service.

Project Number	Title	Investigator	Funding Duration
BLR&D	<b>Calcific Atherosclerosis is Mediated by Macrophage Adhesion Signaling</b>	Dr. Alan Morrison	10/1/14 – 9/30/17
HSR&D I IR 15-321	Peer Support to Enhance Diabetes Shared Medical Appointments: Examining Comparative Effectiveness in VA Health System	Dr. Wen-Chih (Hank) Wu	3/1/16 – 2/29/20
RR&D A1743-P	Effect of Prosthetic Socket Design on Residual Limb Motion using Biplane X-Ray Video	Dr. Susan D'Andrea	1/1/16 – 12/31/17
RR&D	<b>Pilot Testing of Theta-Burst Neuromodulation for Chronic PTSD</b>	Dr. Noah Philip	4/1/16 – 4/31/18
HSRD; HSR-6 IIR 15-120	Improving Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Living Centers	Dr. David Dosa	7/1/16-6/30/20
HSRD; HSR-5 IIR 15-292	Risk-Adjusting Hospital Outcomes for Veterans' Socioeconomic Status	Dr. Amal Trivedi	1/1/17 – 12/31/19
HSR&D	<b>Evaluating Cash Benefit Programs for Veterans' Long Term Care</b>	Dr. Kali Thomas	7/1/16 – 6/30/21

\* **Career Development Awardees marked in bold.**

**QUESTIONS?**  
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