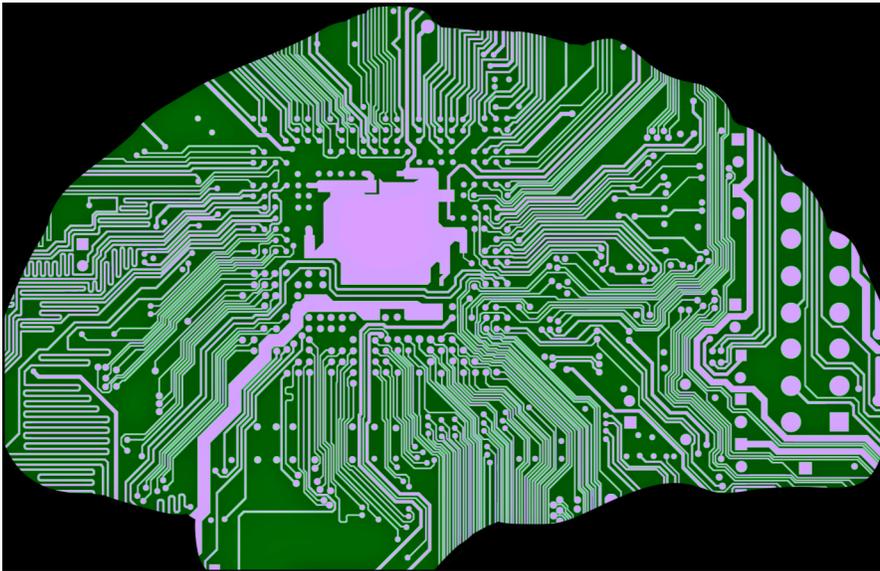


# VETERANS UPDATE

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## VA PARTNERS WITH DEEPMIND



The Department of Veterans Affairs announced approval of a research partnership with DeepMind to help address patient deterioration during hospital care, which accounts for 11 percent of

in-hospital deaths worldwide.

The partnership will analyze roughly 700,000 health records — with personal identity information removed — to identify risk factors and predict possible onset.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 29, 1 to 3 p.m.**  
**Celebrate Women's History Month**, R.I. Veterans' Home, 480 Metacom Avenue, Bristol.

**Apr. 14, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
**Middletown VA Clinic Town Hall**, VA Clinic, One Corporate Place, Middletown, RI.

**Apr. 28, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
**New Bedford VA Clinic Town Hall**, 175 Elm Street, New Bedford, MA.

**May 12, 1 to 2:30 p.m.**  
**Hyannis VA Clinic Town Hall**, 233 Stevens St., Hyannis, MA

"The collaboration is an opportunity to advance the quality of care for our nation's Veterans by predicting deterioration and applying interventions early," said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin.

## CAMP LEJEUNE EXPOSURE — VETERANS AND FAMILIES

You may know that VA provides cost-free health care for certain conditions to Veterans who served at least 30 days of active duty at Camp Lejeune from Jan. 1, 1957 through Dec. 31, 1987.

VA also established a presumptive service connection for Veterans exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from Aug. 1, 1953 through Dec. 31, 1987 who later developed certain conditions.

But did you know that eligible family members who lived at Camp Lejeune from 1957 to 1987 can also apply for out-of-pocket reimbursement of medical expenses related to 15 health conditions?

Learn more at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/)

**CAMP LEJEUNE**  
**VETERAN OR FAMILY MEMBER?**  
Learn about your health benefits today

## MINDFULNESS STUDY FOR CHRONIC PAIN



Dr. Benjamin Greenberg, associate director of the VA Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, left, and Dr. Armin Zand Vakili, a psychiatry resident, demonstrate using an electroencephalogram to record brain activity with Hannah Swearingen, a health science specialist, at the Providence VA Medical Center March 9, 2018. (Providence VA Medical Center Photo by Winfield Danielson)

Researchers at the Providence VA Medical Center are investigating how mindfulness-based care benefits Veterans who suffer from chronic lower back pain.

“This work is an important step towards improving outcomes of this and other related mind-body interventions, by helping to understand how they work in the brain,” said Dr. Benjamin Greenberg, associate director of the VA Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, which is located on the Providence VAMC campus.

Mindfulness is a therapeutic technique that focuses the patient’s awareness on the present moment, acknowledging and accepting feelings, thoughts and bodily sensations. Some research suggests the technique can reduce stress and emotional reactions. Use of the therapy continues to grow as VA and other health care organizations seek alternatives to opiates and other medications for managing

chronic pain.

The purpose of the study is to learn how the brain changes in response to mindfulness training by enrolling 30 Veteran participants who will receive eight weeks of mindfulness training in weekly two-hour sessions. The participants will undergo magnetic resonance imaging, known as MRI, and an electroencephalogram, known as EEG, before and after completion of the training.

The MRI uses powerful magnets and a computer to make detailed pictures from inside body, while the EEG records the brain’s electrical activity.

“We will look at the EEG and MRI data alongside disability rating scales,” said Greenberg. “We think the data will change in predictable ways that can help providers refine their use of mind-body therapies to treat not only chronic back pain, but a wide range of issues.”

One cohort of Veterans has run through the eight-week mindfulness course and the study is currently running a second cohort.



### Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave  
Providence, RI 02908  
401-273-7100

Veteran’s Crisis Line:  
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):  
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:  
866-400-1241

Community Care /  
Veteran’s Choice Office  
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:  
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office  
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:  
[www.providence.va.gov](http://www.providence.va.gov)

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