

Presentation 3 - Preeti Hans

VA's Deployment Health Initiative

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Description of Research Projects Funded under the Deployment Health Initiative in Late FY 03 and FY 04

- Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development (BLR&D)
- Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR&D)
- Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D)

- Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D)
- Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)

- Fall 2002 Deployment Health Research Solicitation was Announced by BLR&D and CSR&D
 - One project titled "The Role of Dietary Choline in Neuroprotection" was funded for three years beginning in FY 04 (\$450,000)
 - Three projects did not receive funding from the 2003 Fall Review
 - Cut off scores for the Services was a score below 22

RR&D

- RR&D Scientific Review occurred in Jan 04
 - Two proposals have received conditional funding
 - RR&D usually has a funding cut-off score of 21

HSR&D

- HSR&D Review occurred in Jan 04
- 2 Proposals were not funded
- HSR&D usually has a funding cut-off score of 22-20

HSR&D

- “Neuropsychological Assessment of a Population-Based Sample of Persian Gulf War Veterans and Controls” Mitchell T. Wallin, MD, MPH
 - Goal of study is to understand the neurocognitive health of Gulf War veterans
 - FY 02-04 (\$100,000)

CSP

- Solicitation for Persian Gulf War Veterans’ Illness Research was announced in Fall of 1997 and then re-announced in Winter of 2000
- Hypothesis-driven, multi-site, randomized clinical trials to evaluate treatments proposed for Veterans with GWI
- 5 Major Studies concerning ALS, EBT, ABT, Millennium Cohort Study, and a National Health Survey of Gulf War Era Veterans & their Families have been funded

CSP

- **EBT Study funded for \$9.2 Million Dollars from 1999-2001**
 - 1100 veterans with GWI for assessment on the independent impact of aerobic exercise and cognitive therapy, on relieving symptoms of GWI (pain, fatigue, cognitive difficulties)
 - 2x2 Factorial design
 - Both treatments, especially exercise resulted in improvement in fatigue, cognitive symptoms, distress and mental health functioning (JAMA March 2003)

CSP

- **ABT Study funded for \$7.8 Million from 1999-2002**
 - 500 Veterans with GWI who tested positive for mycoplasma
 - Determine effectiveness of doxycycline on reducing symptoms of GWI and lowering blood levels of mycoplasma
 - Results: No significant difference between treatment with doxycycline and treatment with placebo

CSP

- **National Health Survey of GW Era Veterans and Their Families was funded for \$11.9 Million (1998-2001)**
 - Examination of physical health of 1,000 deployed GW veterans and their families compared with 1,000 non-deployed veterans and their families
 - Results are embargoed pending publication

CSP

- **Millennium Cohort Study (2.1 Million from 2001-2002)**
 - Cross-sectional sample of 100,000 US military personnel (Oct 2000)
 - Prospective study --survey every 3 years
 - Objective: compare change in health status between deployed and non-deployed personnel and incidence rates of chronic disease between cohorts

CSP

- ALS Prevalence Study funded for 1.5 Million from 2000-2002
 - All occurrences of ALS for 10 year period since Aug 1990 among active duty military and mobilized Reserves, who served during Gulf War (Aug 1990-July 1991)
 - Results: veterans who deployed to Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm are twice as likely as non-deployed counterparts to develop ALS