

## Appendix A

### Presentation 1 – Robert Haley



## The Epidemiologist's Rule Number 1

*The first step in investigating  
a new disease is:  
Establish a Case Definition\**

\*Gregg et al. *Field Epidemiology*. Oxford University Press:1996

**Conducted a Survey in a Reserve Seabees Battalion  
24<sup>th</sup> Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Battalion\***  
**December 1994 – February 1995**

The image shows two survey forms from the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). The top form is the "Item/Response Booklet" by Louis C. Merv, Ph.D., with the acronym "PARI". The bottom form is the "Survey of Symptoms and Exposures in Veterans of the Persian Gulf War". Both forms have "Name Tag Number" fields at the top. The PAI form has "Part 1. Exposure Survey" and "Part 2. Symptom Survey" sections. The survey form has "Survey of Symptoms and Exposures in Veterans of the Persian Gulf War" and "Part 2. Symptom Survey" sections. Both forms contain a "CONFIDENTIALITY" statement and a signature of "John Haley, M.D." and "Eric Post". A small note at the bottom of the survey form states: "This study is being conducted by the Division of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Department of Defense, Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702." To the right of the forms, a list of cities is displayed: Knoxville, Birmingham, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Atlanta.

**Knoxville  
Birmingham  
Winston-Salem  
Charlotte  
Atlanta**

**\*Seabees uniquely go all over the theater, and this was the only Reserve seabees battalion.**

**Haley Symptom Questionnaire:  
Example Question on Paresthesias**

**2-stage factor analysis  
Symptom factors  
Syndrome factors**

4. In the past 5 years, have you experienced tingling, burning or stinging pain in any part of your body lasting all day and continuing for at least a month? (DO NOT count feelings that come and go quickly and are not present continuously.)

CIRCLE ONE

YES .....  1  2

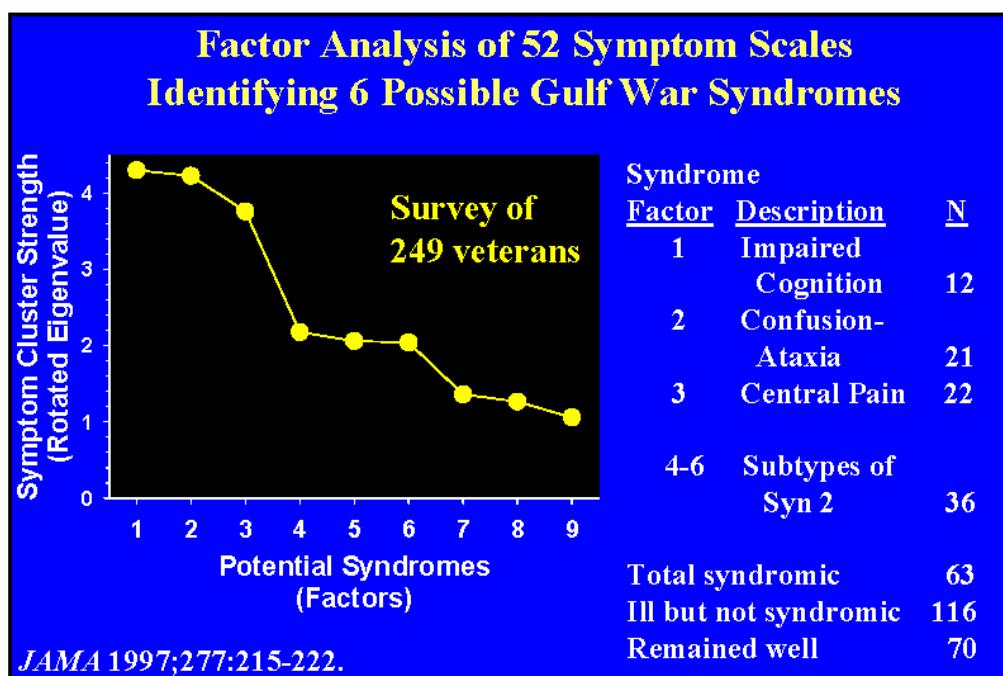
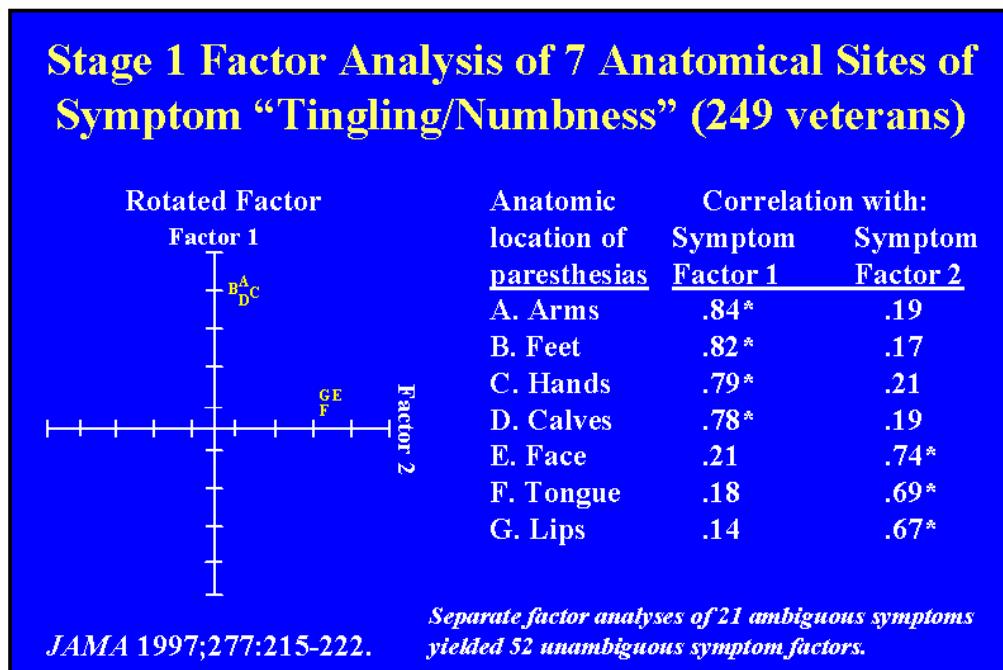
NO .....  1  2

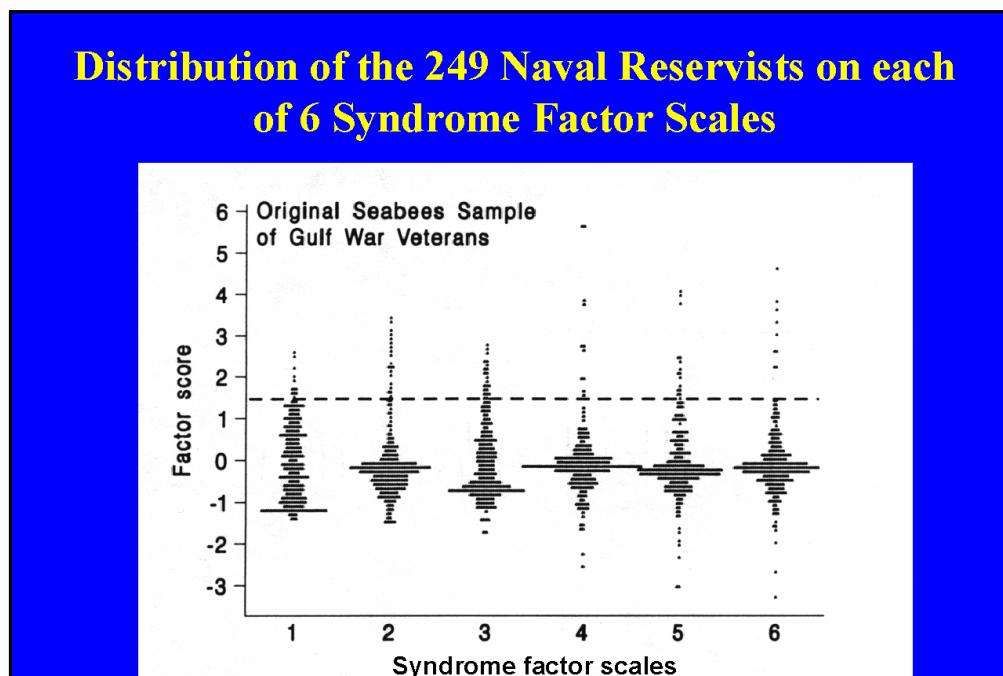
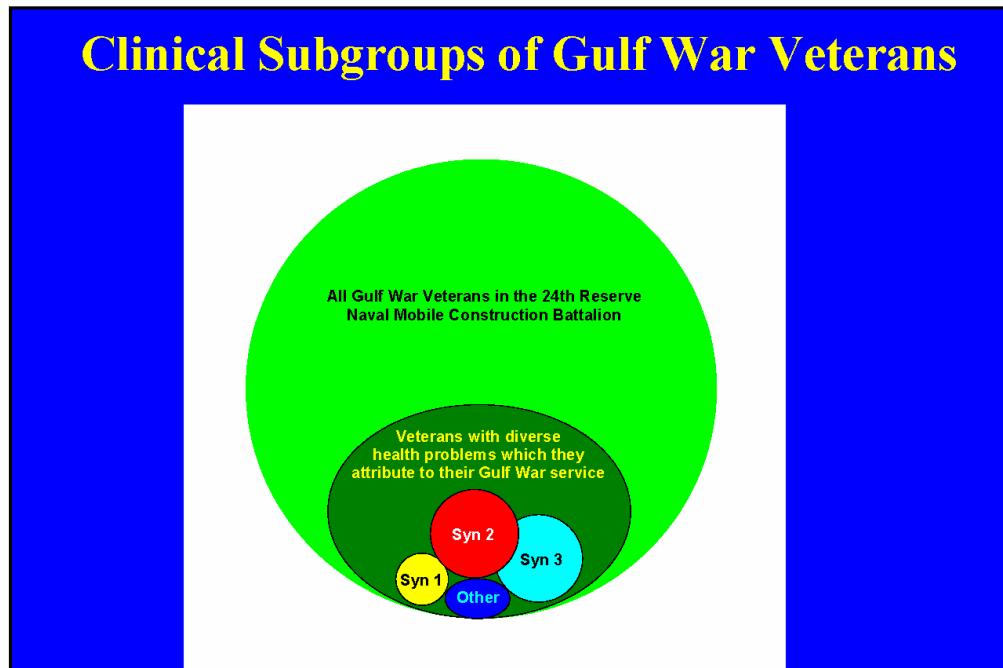
If you answered "Yes," answer Question #4A.  
If you answered "No," skip to Question #5.

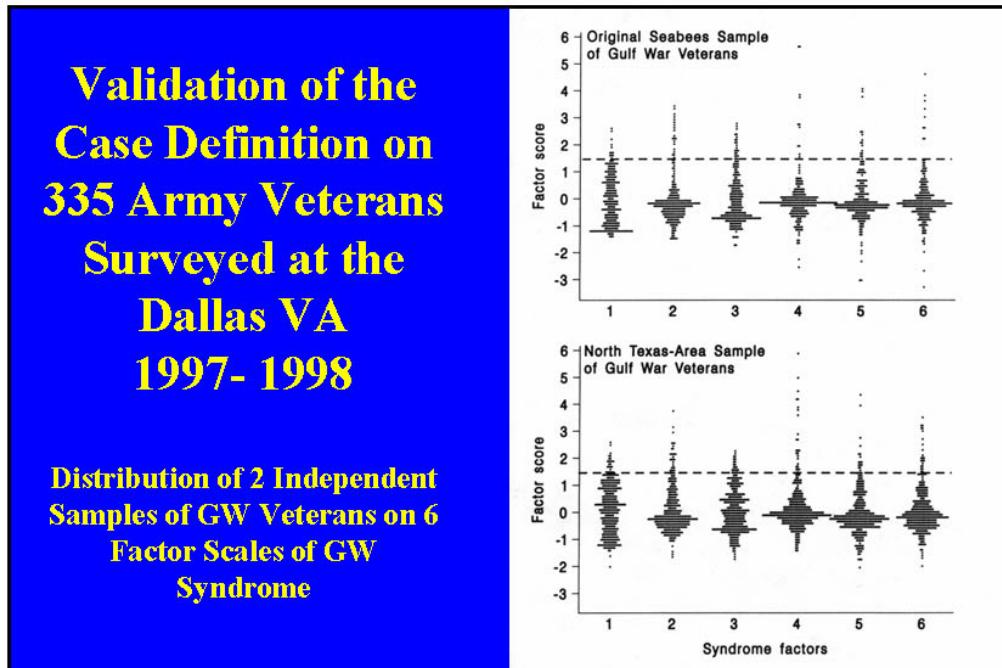
4A. Please indicate what part of your body was affected by this pain, in what month and year it began, and whether it is still a problem for you.

Was this area involved?	YES NO	If yes, in what month/year did it begin?		Is it still a problem?
		MONTH	YEAR	
Scalp .....	1 2		/	YES NO
Face .....	1 2		/	1 2
Lips .....	1 2		/	1 2
Tongue .....	1 2		/	1 2
Chest .....	1 2		/	1 2
Back .....	1 2		/	1 2
Hands .....	1 2		/	1 2
Arms .....	1 2		/	1 2
Abdomen .....	1 2		/	1 2
Groin .....	1 2		/	1 2
Genital area .....	1 2		/	1 2
Rectal area .....	1 2		/	1 2
Thighs .....	1 2		/	1 2
Calves .....	1 2		/	1 2
Feet .....	1 2		/	1 2
Other .....	1 2		/	1 2

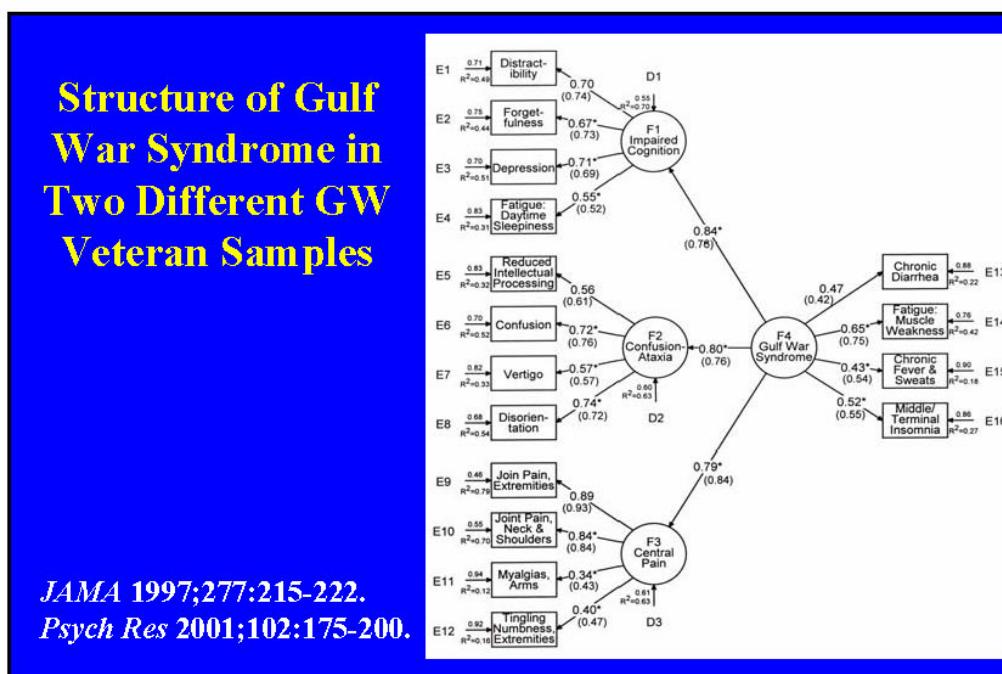
..... specify \_\_\_\_\_







**Distribution of 2 Independent Samples of GW Veterans on 6 Factor Scales of GW Syndrome**



## Comparison of Factor Models from Symptom Surveys of Gulf War Veterans

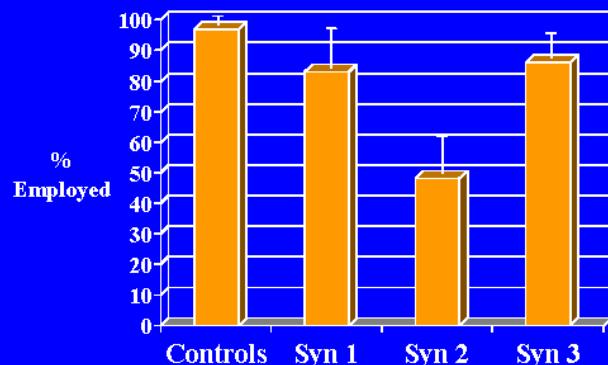
Year	Author	Cognitive	Neurologic	Pain/sensory
1997	Haley	F1	F2	F3
1998	Fukuda	F1	---	F2
1999	Ismail	F1	---	F3
2001	Haley	F1	F2	F3
2001	Cherry	F1	F3	F2
2001	Bourdette	F1	F2†	F3
2002	Kang	F1	F2	F3

\*Did not measure the symptoms of the neurologic factor.

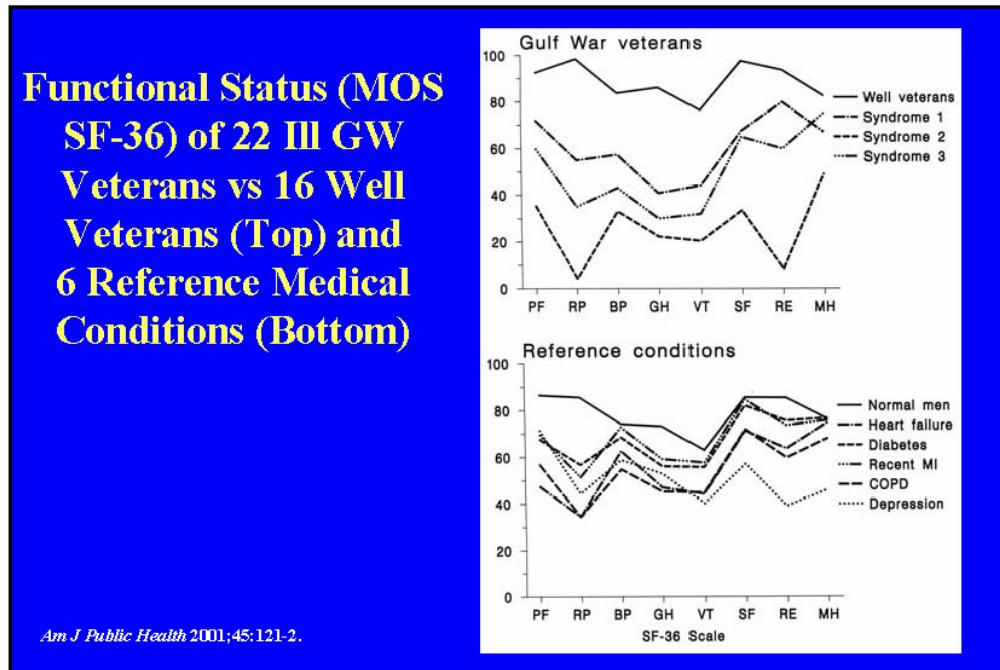
†"Mixed somatic" symptoms included autonomic symptoms.

Knoke (2000) and Doebbeling (2000) measured symptoms of standard psychiatric conditions and thus found none of the syndrome factors found by the other groups.

## Comparison of Syndromes On Percentage Employed in 1995 (N=249)



JAMA 1997;277:215-222.



**Epidemiologic Study of Risk Factors for Haley Gulf War Syndromes (N=249)**

<u>Syndrome</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>RR</u>	<u>P value</u>
1 Impaired cognition	Wore flea collar (chlorpyrifos)	8.2	.001
	Military security	6.4	.007
2 Confusion-ataxia	Chemical nerve agent exposure	7.8	<.0001
	Many advanced side effects of PB	32.4	<.0001
	N.E. Saudi on 4 <sup>th</sup> day of Air War*	4.3	.004
3 Central pain	Many advanced side effects of PB	5.1	<.0001
	Index of DEET insect repellent use	7.8	<.0001

\*Paths crossed near Khafji on Jan. 19-20, 1991.  
*JAMA 1997;277:215-222.*

## Hypothesis Regarding The Nature of Gulf War Syndrome

- There is a Gulf War *syndrome* with 3 variants, or subgroups.
- It is due to brain cell damage or destruction in deep brain structures (e.g., basal ganglia and brainstem).
- The symptoms resemble those of well understood diseases of these deep brain structures (early Parkinson's, Huntington's).

## Hypothesis Regarding The Cause of Gulf War Syndrome

- The most likely causes include low-level sarin, possibly in combination with OP pesticides, pyridostigmine tablets, pesticides, DEET, etc., caused cellular damage in deep brain structures
- Probably more pronounced in those soldiers with low natural resistance to OP effects (blood esterase activity).

## **Undertook a Series of Clinical Case-Control Studies**

**Purpose:** To attempt to validate the case definition

**Research Question:** Do the syndromes differ from controls and among themselves on objective biological parameters?

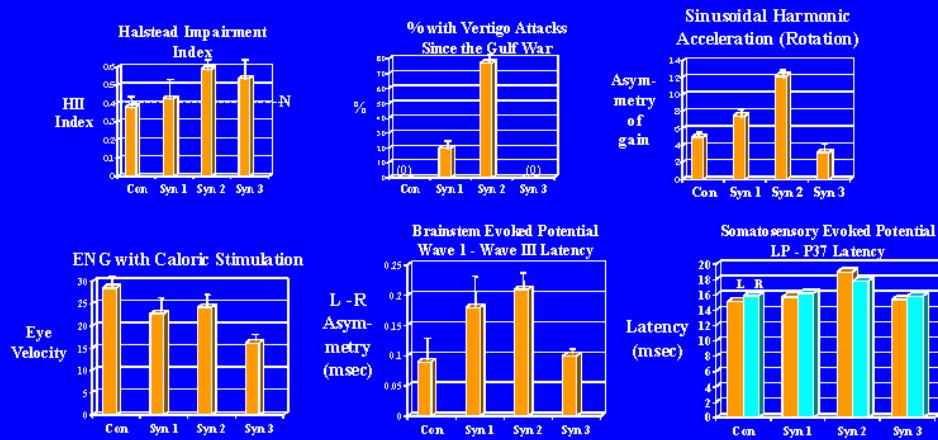
## **From the 249 Surveyed Veterans Selected Smaller Samples for Case-Control Studies of Brain Function and Serologic Markers**

- 23 ill veterans (“cases”)
  - 5 Syndrome 1
  - 13 Syndrome 2
  - 5 Syndrome 3
- 20 well veterans (“controls”)  
(from the same battalion and age-sex-education-matched to cases)

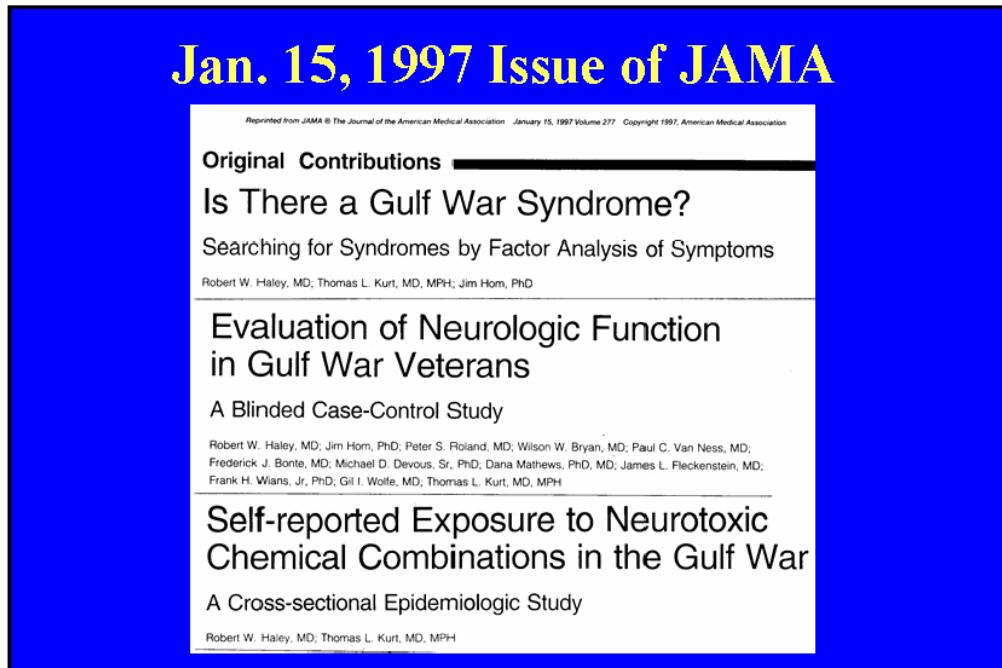
## Usual Medical Tests Gave Negative Results No Significant Group Differences

- Clinical neurologic examination
- Clinical interpretation of brain MRI and resting HMPAO-SPECT scans (read blindly by 3 radiologists)
- Routine blood work (CBC, chemistries, glucose, ESR)
- Creatine kinase
- Serum protein electrophoresis
- Serum cholinesterase levels and variant phenotypes
- ANA, RF, immunoglobulins, C3/C4
- Anti-double stranded DNA, acetylcholine receptor antibodies

## Positive Results On Neurophysiologic Tests



JAMA 1997;277:2223-230.



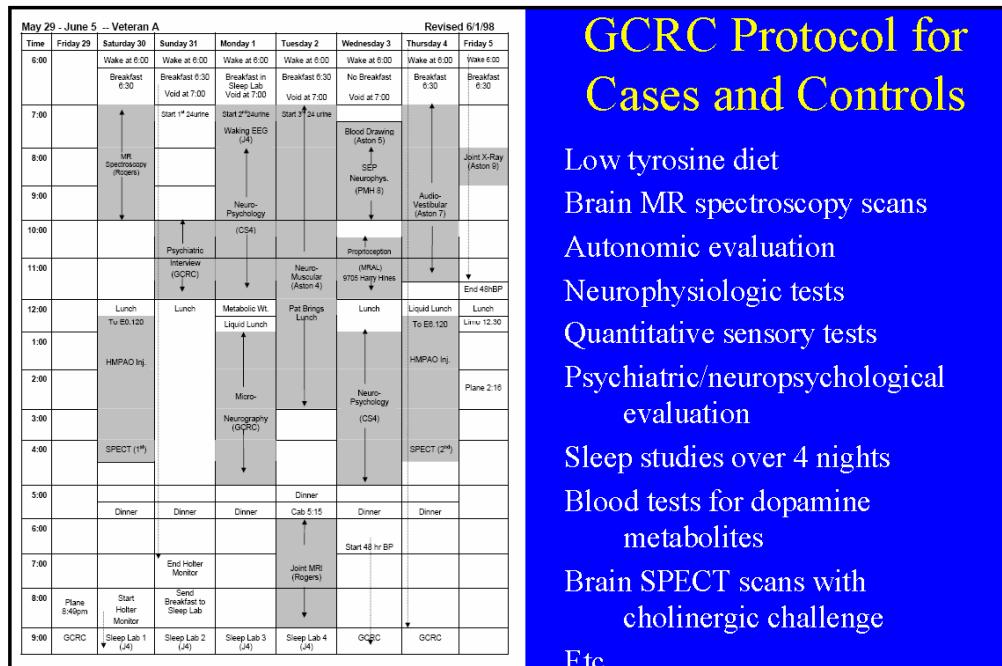
Col. Bill Davis had a twin!



January-June 1998

**Second Clinical Case-Control Study with  
More Advanced Tests of Brain Function and  
Genetic Predisposition**

- 23 ill veterans (“cases”)
  - 5 Syndrome 1
  - 13 Syndrome 2
  - 5 Syndrome 3
- 20 well veterans (“controls”)  
(from the same battalion and  
age-sex-education-matched to cases)

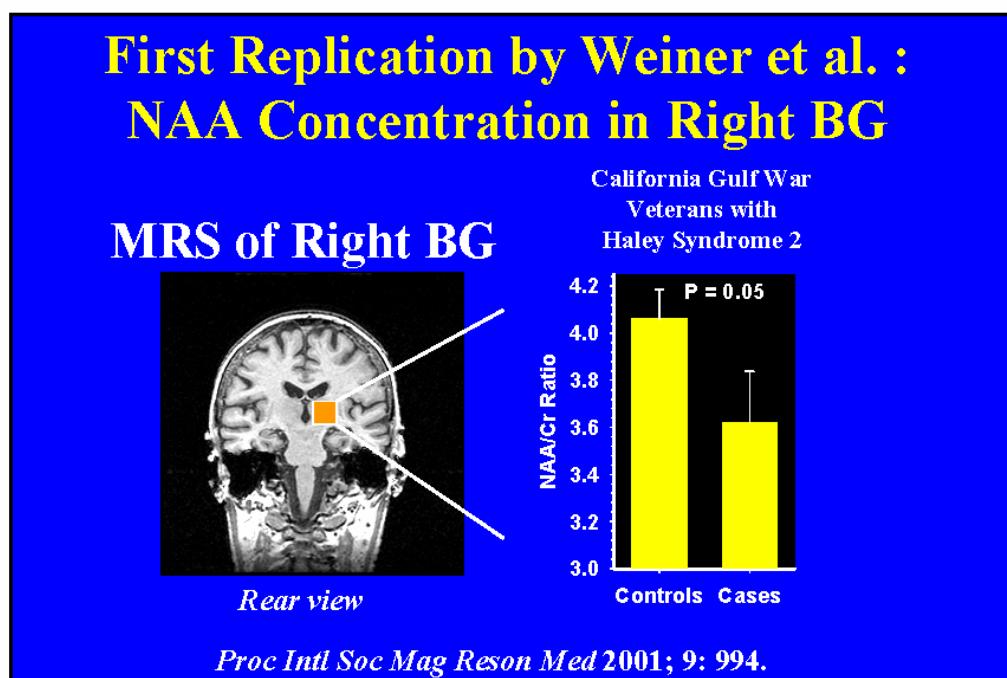
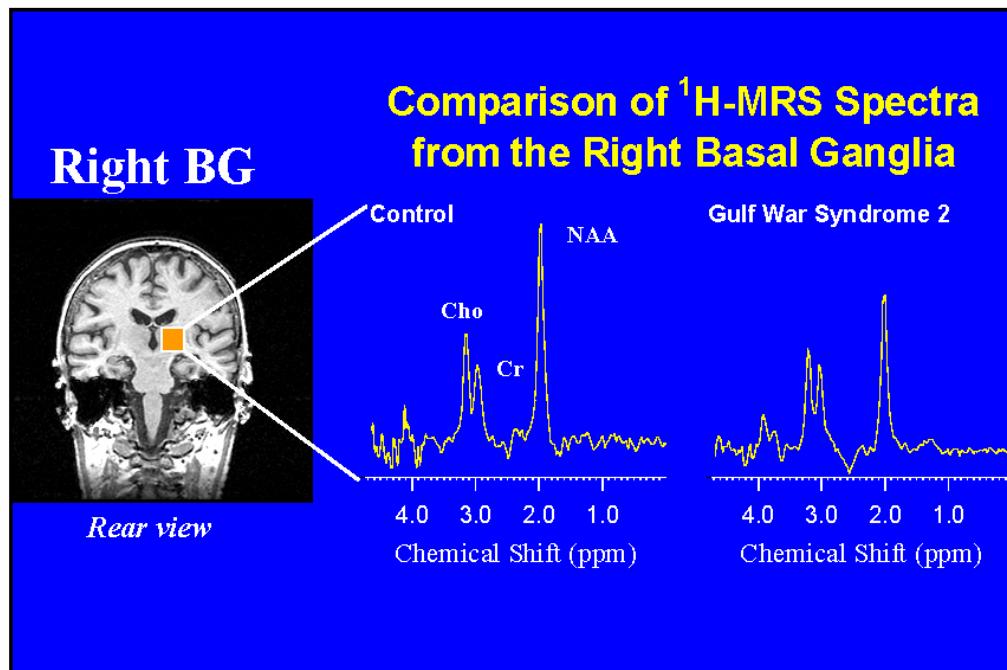


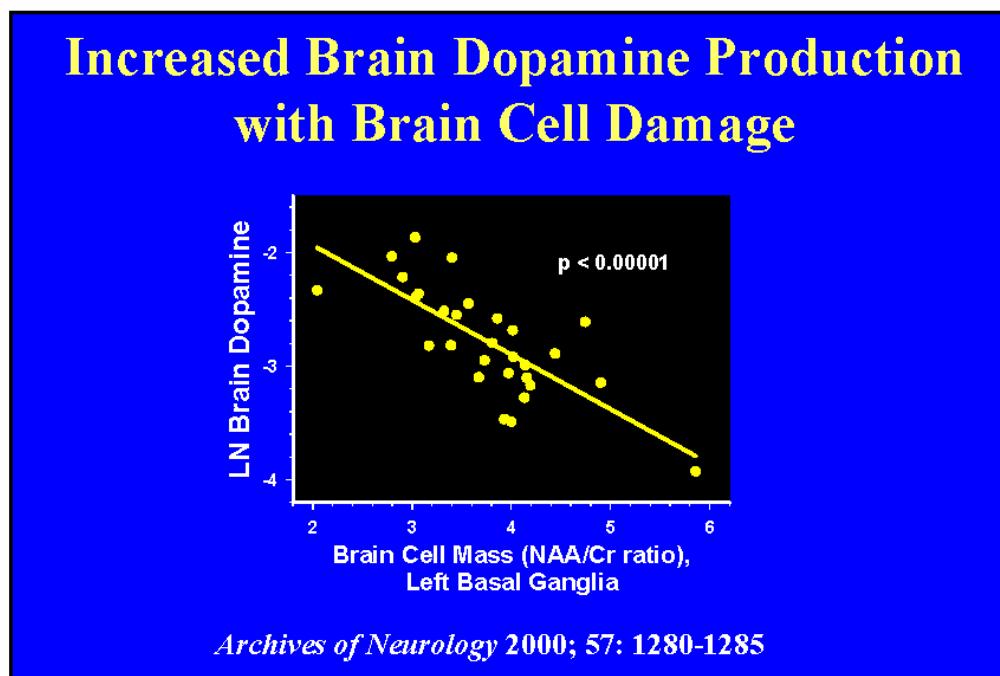
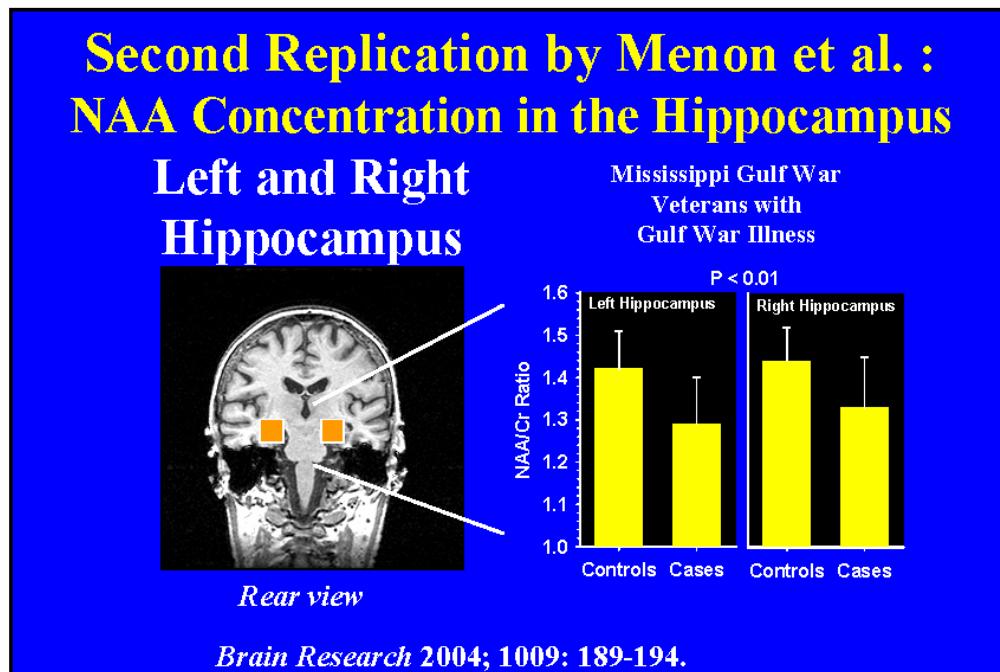
**Scatter Plot Data:**

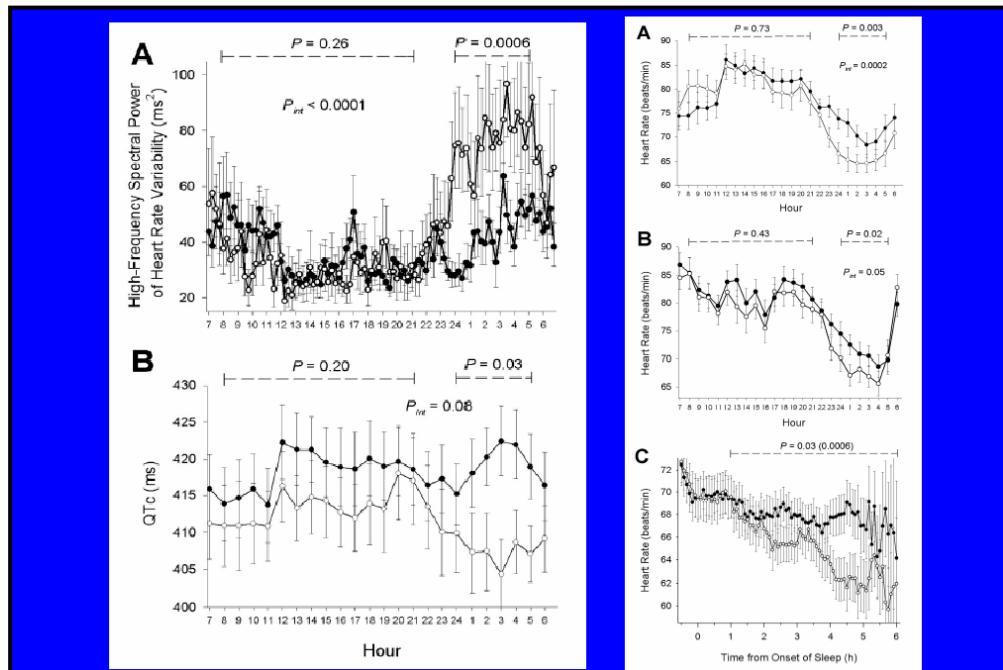
Patient Group	Individual PON-Q Enzyme Activity (U/ml)
Con	15, 20, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160
Syn 1	35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 100, 110, 120
Syn 2	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120
Syn 3	55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90

**Bar Chart Data:**

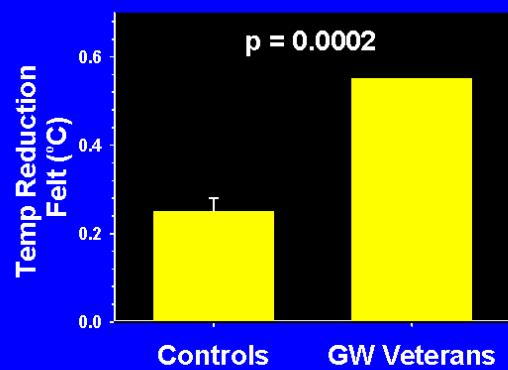
Patient Group	Mean PON-Q Arylesterase Activity (U/ml)
Controls	~88
Syn 1	~72
Syn 2	~56
Syn 3	~70



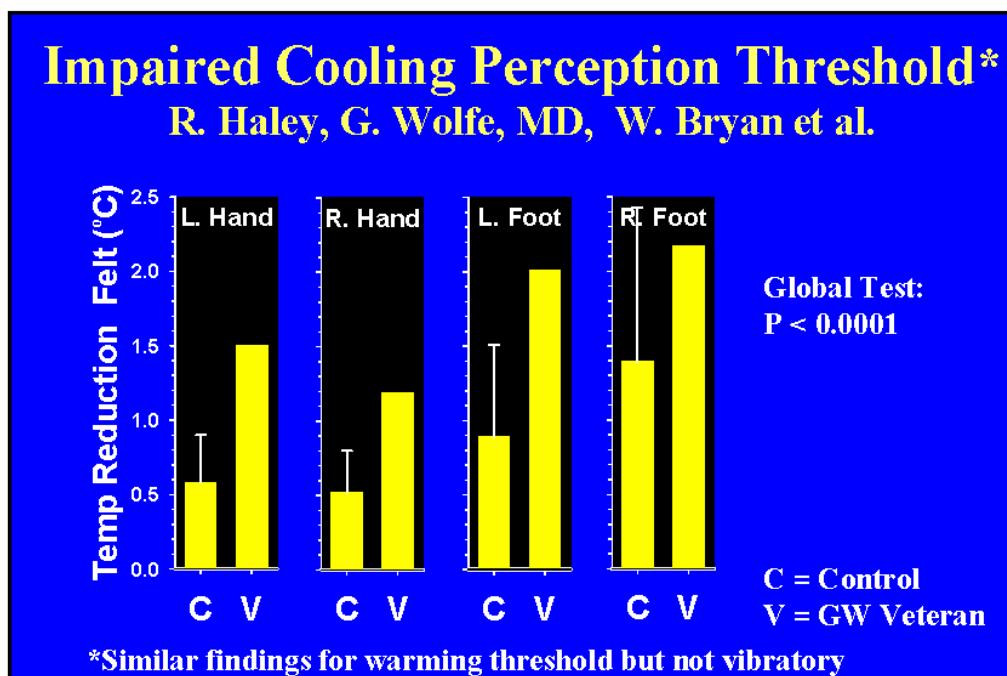


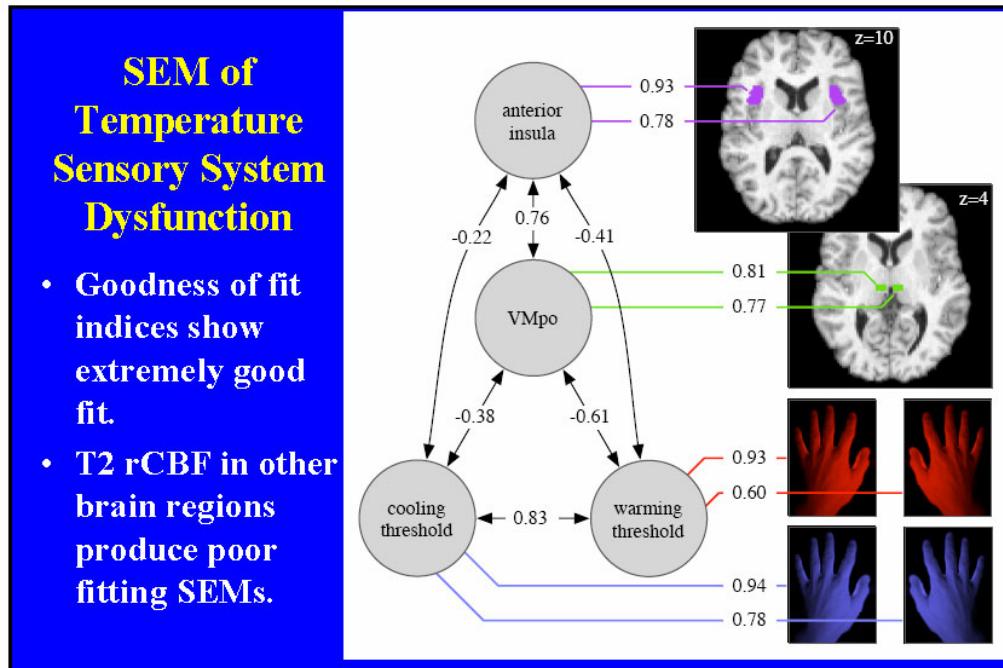


## Jamal et al. 1996 Study: Abnormal Ability to Sense Changes in Temperature



*J Neurol, Neurosurg, & Psychiatr* 1996; 60: 499-451





**October 2002**  
**Alteration of Cholinergic Receptors in**  
**Rats by Low-Level Sarin**

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**Lovelace Respiratory**  
**Research Institute**  
**Albuquerque, NM**



Funded by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense  
Henderson et al. *Toxicology Applied Pharmacology* 2002;184:67-87

Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology 184, 67–76 (2002)  
doi:10.1006/taap.2002.9495

**Response of Rats to Low Levels of Sarin**

Rogene F. Henderson,\* Edward B. Barr,\* Walter B. Blackwell,\* Connie R. Clark,† Carole A. Conn,\* Roma Kalra,\* Thomas H. March,\* Mohan L. Sopori,\* Yohannes Tesfaigzi,\* Margaret G. Ménache,\*<sup>1</sup> and Deborah C. Mash‡

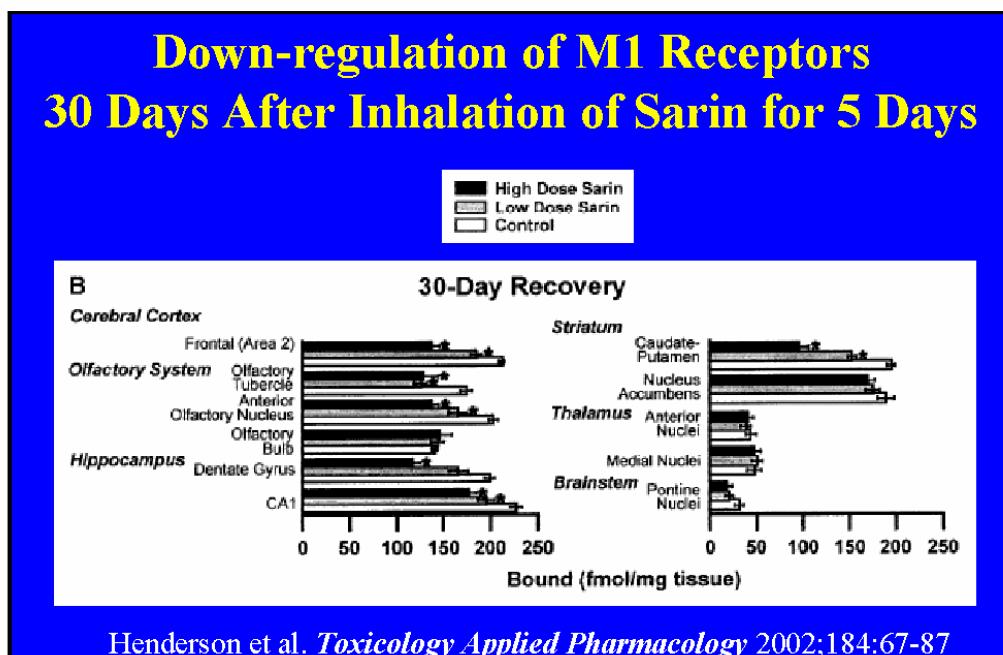
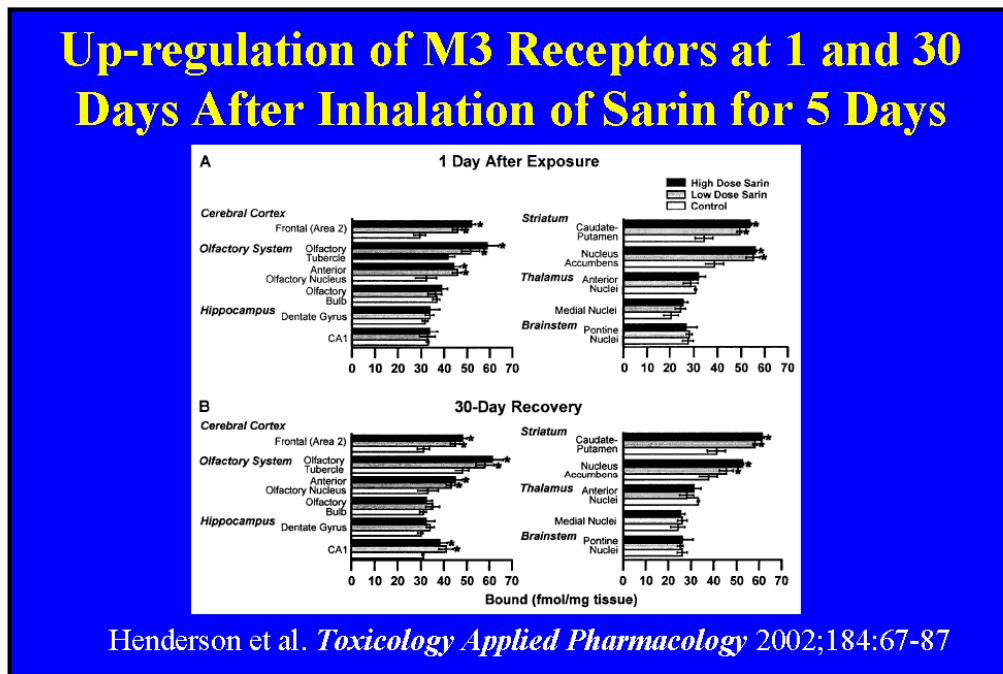
\*Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108; †U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen, Maryland 21010; and <sup>1</sup>University of Miami, Miami, Florida 33101

Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology 184, 82–87 (2002)  
doi:10.1006/taap.2002.9497

**Subclinical Doses of the Nerve Gas Sarin Impair T Cell Responses through the Autonomic Nervous System**

Roma Kalra, Shashi P. Singh, Seddigheh Razani-Boroujerdi, Raymond J. Langley, Walter B. Blackwell,  
Rogene F. Henderson, and Mohan L. Sopori

*Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108*



If soldiers suffered brain cell damage from sarin nerve gas (a cholinergic stimulant), we might expect to see an abnormal brain cell response to an experimental cholinergic challenge.

- So we performed an experiment to see how the cholinergic stimulant *physostigmine* would affect regional cerebral bloodflow (rCBF) measured by  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HMPAO-SPECT scans.
- The same 21 cases (5, 11, 5) and 17 controls

### Cholinergic Challenge Experiment

#### Session 1



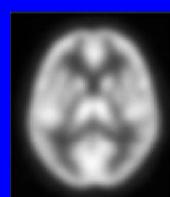
60 minute infusion\*



$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HMPAO injection



SPECT Scan†



SPECT image

#### Session 2 (3 days later)



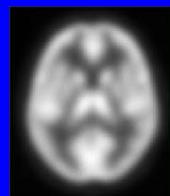
60 minute infusion\*



$^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HMPAO injection



SPECT Scan†



SPECT image

## The Statistical Development Team



Wayne Woodward   Bill Schucany   Dick Gunst   Robert Haley  
Pat Carmack   Jeff Spence

