

Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

Date	August 20-21, 2024
Time	August 20: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mountain Time (MT) / 11:00am to 5:00pm Eastern Time (ET) August 21: 9:00am to Noon MT / 11:00am to 2:00pm ET
Location	The Benson Hotel & Faculty Club, 13025 E. Montview Blvd., Aurora, CO 80045
Join online – August 20	Webex url: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mf8041252f79288e6e3dae062aa7d856c Meeting password: GWVET1991! Join by phone: 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free Meeting number (access code): 2828 129 4501
Join online – August 21	Webex url: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m6a2eeeff9e182753391e8f5dbc0a3571 Meeting password: GWVETS1991! Join by phone: 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free Meeting number (access code): 2824 038 6205
Purpose of Meeting	The purpose of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RACGWVI) is to advise the Secretary VA on research, plans and strategies related to understanding and treating the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the 1990 - 1991 Gulf War.
Focus of Current Meeting	This meeting will focus in part on 1) diversity, equity, inclusion, and women's health research, 2) research project updates, 3) updates on committee membership and recommendations, and 4) a report from the Veteran Engagement Subcommittee.
Committee Chair	Cheryl Walker, PhD
Vice-Chair	Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD
Designated Federal Officer (DFO)	Karen Block, PhD; Alternate DFO Marsha Turner
Members	Ronald Brown; Col. Richard Gaard; Drew Helmer, MD, MPH; Thomas Mathers; Delphine Metcalf-Foster; Sonya Smith, MHS; Elaine Symanski, PhD; Barbara Ward; Jane Wasvick; William "Bill" Watts; James Woody, MD, PhD

Agenda		
AUGUST 20, 2024		
9:00 (Mountain Time)	Opening Remarks	Karen Block, PhD RACGWVI Designated Federal Officer
9:00-9:15	Welcome, Introductions and Overview	Cheryl Walker, PhD RACGWVI Chair
9:15-9:25	Veteran Shared Experience	James Woody, MD, PhD, Capt. (Ret) 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
9:25-9:35	Message from VA Senior Leadership	Secretary Denis McDonough (video)
9:35-10:00	Update and Committee Discussion on RACGWVI Recommendations	Karen Block, PhD Director of Gulf War, Senior Scientific Program Manager VA Office of Research & Development
10:00-10:20	RACGWVI Subcommittee Veteran Engagement Session Report and Future Direction	Thomas Mathers RACGWVI Subcommittee Chair
10:20-10:40	<u>Women of the Gulf War: Understanding Their Military and Health Experiences Over 30 Years</u>	Megan Lafferty, PhD Qualitative Methodologist Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR
10:40-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:20	<u>What Drives Women Veterans' Trust in VA Health Care?</u>	Elizabeth Yano, PhD, MSPH National Director, VA Women's Health Research Network Director, VA HSR Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy VA Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System
11:20-11:40	<u>VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiative</u>	Shakeria Cohen, PhD, MSCR Co-Chair, DEI Work Group VA Office of Research and Development
11:40-12n	<u>Women's Enhanced Recruitment Process (WERP)</u>	Karen Goldstein, MD, MSPH Co-Director, Evidence Synthesis Program Co-Lead, Women's Health Research Network Durham VA Health Care System, Durham NC
12n-12:20	<u>Overview of Efforts to Increase Women Enrollment in the Veterans Affairs Million Veteran Program</u>	Stacey Whitbourne, PhD Director, Cohort Development and Management Million Veteran Program Coordinating Center VA Boston Healthcare System, Boston, MA
12:20-12:40	<u>Women's Operational Military Exposure Network Center of Excellence</u>	Maheen Mausooof Adamson, PhD, MHL Director for Research, Women's Operational Military Exposure Network Center of Excellence (WOMEN CoE) VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
12:40-2:00	Lunch	
2:00-2:30	Committee Planning	Cheryl Walker, PhD
2:30-3:00	Public Comment	William "Bill" Watts Moderator
3:00	Adjourn	

AUGUST 21, 2024

9:00 (Mountain Time)	Welcome and Overview	Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD RACGWVI Vice-Chair
9:05-9:20	PACT Act Sec. 405. Improving Compensation for Disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War Veterans	Stephen Hunt, MD Persian Gulf Registry Physician VA Puget Sound Health Care System Seattle
9:20-9:30	Constructing a Clinical Gulf War Illness (GWI) Case Definition Using Natural Language Processing and Advanced Machine Learning Algorithms	Javad Razjouyan, PhD, MSc Assistant Professor of Medicine Health Services Research Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston TX
9:30-9:40	Committee Discussion with Drs. Hunt and Razjouyan	Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD Moderator
9:40-9:45	Leveraging Research from Other Diseases to Inform Studies on Gulf War Illness	Drew Helmer, MD, MPH Deputy Director, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQeST)
9:45-10:05	<u>Deep Phenotyping of Post-Infectious Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</u>	Brian Walitt, MD, MPH Supervisory Physician/Interoceptive Disorders Unit National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke (NINDS) Bethesda, MD
10:05-10:25	<u>Persistent Antigens Inflicting Chronic Damage on the Brain and Other Organs in Gulf War Illness, Long-COVID-19, and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome</u>	Apostolos P Georgopoulos, MD, PhD Director, Brain Sciences Center Veterans Affairs Health Care System Minneapolis, MN
10:25-10:45	Cooperative Studies Program (CSP 2006) Million Veteran Program 029 Cohort: GWI and COVID Health Outcomes	Donna White, PhD, MPH Investigator, Clinical Effectiveness & Population Health Program, IQeST
10:45-11:00	Committee Discussion with Drs. Walitt, Georgopoulos and White	Drew Helmer, MD, MPH Moderator
11:00-11:10	Break	
11:10-11:15	RACGWVI Membership Updates	Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD RACGWVI Vice-Chair
11:15-11:30	Parting Thoughts from RACGWVI Members	Richard Gaard, Col. (Ret.) Barbara Ward William "Bill" Watts James Woody, MD, PhD, Capt. (Ret.)
11:30-12:00	Public Comment	William "Bill" Watts Moderator
12:00	Adjourn	