

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

## Agenda

<b>Date</b>	<b>September 7-8, 2023</b>
<b>On-site Location</b>	<b>Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Washington, D.C.</b> Sonny Montgomery Room (room 230) 810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington DC 20420
<b>WI-FI Password</b>	tbd
<b>Join online – Day 1 September 7</b>	Webex url: <a href="https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m973072c682802f428665ee5a37cb3d18">https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m973072c682802f428665ee5a37cb3d18</a> Meeting number (access code): 2762 359 0372 Meeting password: RACGWVI_Day1 <b>Join by phone:</b> 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free
<b>Join online – Day 2 September 8</b>	Webex url: <a href="https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m32f2b30d08ef4c61e4a7deccf3be9bdc">https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m32f2b30d08ef4c61e4a7deccf3be9bdc</a> Meeting number (access code): 2764 342 8041 Meeting password: RACGWVI_Day2 <b>Join by phone:</b> 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	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.
<b>Focus of Current Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss current state of GWI case definition and scientific strength of evidence needed for translational application and implementation.</li> <li>• Present new technologies that may aid in advancing the understanding of Gulf War Illness.</li> <li>• RACGWVI recommendations will be deliberated.</li> </ul>
<b>Committee Chair</b>	Dr. Cheryl Walker
<b>Committee Vice-Chair</b>	Dr. Kenneth Ramos
<b>Designated Federal Officer (DFO)</b>	Dr. Karen Block
<b>Alternate DFO</b>	Marsha Turner
<b>Members</b>	Dr. James Baraniuk, Ronald Brown, Brent Casey, Col. Richard Gaard, Dr. Drew Helmer, Thomas Mathers, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Sonya Smith, Dr. Elaine Symanski, Barbara Ward, Jane Wasvick, William "Bill" Watts, Dr. James Woody
<b>Moderator</b>	Kenneth Powell, Institute for Learning, Education and Development (ILEAD - formerly EES)
<b>Time Zones</b>	ET = Eastern Time

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

**9:00am – 2:30pm ET**

9:00-9:10	<b>Welcome and Introductions Meeting Overview</b>	<b>Cheryl Walker, PhD</b> RACGWVI Chair
9:10-9:40	<b>Discussion with VA Leadership</b>	<b>Senior Leadership Department of Veterans Affairs</b>
9:40-9:50	Break	
9:50-10:10	<b>The Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) Program</b>	<b>Amy Kilbourne, PhD, MPH</b> QUERI Director VA ORD Health Services Research & Development
10:10-10:30	<b>VA Science and Health Initiative to Combat Infectious and Emerging Life- Threatening Diseases (VA SHIELD)</b>	<b>Robert Bonomo, MD</b> Director, VA SHIELD Chief, Medical Service and Director, Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Ctr, Cleveland VA Medical Center
10:30-11:15	<b>Department of Defense - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA): Biological Technologies</b>	<b>Jean-Paul Chretien, MD, PhD</b> Commander, Medical Corps, US Navy Program Manager Biological Technologies Office, DARPA  <b>Thomas Thomou, PhD</b> Senior Scientist & Engineer, DARPA
11:15-11:45	<b>Department of Defense Serum Repository (DODSR)</b>	<b>Sauna L Stahlman, MPH, PhD</b> Senior Epidemiologist Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) Defense Health Agency--Public Health Directorate
11:45-11:55	Break	
11:55-12:20	<b>Gulf War Veterans and Sleep Apnea</b>	<b>Linda Chao, PhD</b> Research Biologist, San Francisco VA Health Care System Professor, Dept of Radiology, Biomed Imaging, Psychiatry University of California, San Francisco
12:20-12:40	<b>Update on an ICD-10 CM Gulf War Illness Diagnostic Code</b>	<b>Beatrice Golomb, MD, PhD</b> Professor of Medicine UC San Diego School of Medicine
12:40-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-1:40	<b>Veteran Shared Experience</b>	<b>Mr. William "Bill" Watts</b> 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
1:40-1:50	<b>VA Gulf War Research Program Updates</b>	<b>Karen Block, PhD</b> Senior Program Manager Gulf War Research VHA Office of Research & Development (ORD)
1:50-2:00	<b>Veteran Engagement Subcommittee Report</b>	<b>Drew Helmer, MD, MS</b> Deputy Director, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety, VAMC, Houston, TX
2:00-2:30	<b>Committee Discussion</b>	<b>RACGWVI</b>
2:30pm	Adjourn	

**RACGWVI Subcommittee  
Veteran Engagement Session**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, September 7, 2023</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>4:00-7:00pm Eastern Time</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Washington, D.C.</b> Sonny Montgomery Room (room 230) 810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington DC 20420
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	1990-91 Gulf War Veteran listening session
<b>Committee Chair</b>	Dr. Cheryl Walker
<b>Committee Vice-Chair</b>	Dr. Kenneth Ramos
<b>Designated Federal Officer (DFO)</b>	Dr. Karen Block
<b>Alternate DFO</b>	Marsha Turner
<b>Moderator</b>	William “Bill” Watts
<b>Participants</b>	Ronald Brown, Dr. Drew Helmer, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, William “Bill” Watts
<b>Join online</b>	Webex url: <a href="https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mffbfb7cc7db9d87b21d3459616456aef">https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=mffbfb7cc7db9d87b21d3459616456aef</a> Meeting number (access code): 2762 256 8644 Meeting password: RACGWVI_#1 <b>Join by phone:</b> 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free

**Agenda**

4:00–4:10	Welcome / Overview / Introductions	Chair
4:10-4:15	Rules of Engagement	Veteran Bill Watts
4:15–4:30	VA Research: Accomplishments and Importance of Participation	Dr. Karen Block
4:30–5:15	As 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran: – What past and present health problems concern you most about the 1990-91 Gulf War? – What treatments have helped you manage your Gulf War health problems?	Dr. Drew Helmer
5:15-5:30	Break	
5:30–6:15	– What aspect of your Gulf War illness most affects your quality of life? (e.g., interference with daily life, work, and family activities or social interactions) – What helps you most to manage these interferences?	Veteran Ron Brown
6:15–7:00	– If you could tell the VA Secretary one thing about being a Gulf War Veteran with Gulf War illness, what would it be?	Veteran Delphine M-Foster
7:00pm	Adjourn	

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2023**  
**9:00am – 1:30pm ET**

9:00-9:05	<b>Welcome / Opening Remarks</b>	<b>Kenneth Ramos, MD, PhD</b> RACGWVI Vice-Chair
9:05-9:15	<b>RACGWVI Recommendation Process</b>	<b>Karen Block, PhD</b> Senior Program Manager Gulf War Research VHA Office of Research & Development (ORD)
9:15-9:45	<b>RACGWVI Work Group 1A Contextual feedback on draft recommendations</b>	<b>Dr. Jim Baraniuk, Ms. Sonya Smith</b> Co-Chairs, Work Group 1A
9:45-10:15	<b>RACGWVI Work Group 1B Contextual feedback on draft recommendations</b>	<b>Dr. Elaine Symanski, Dr. James Woody</b> Co-Chairs, Work Group 1B
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-10:45	<b>RACGWVI Work Group 2 Contextual feedback on draft recommendations</b>	<b>Dr. Drew Helmer, Dr. Kenneth Ramos</b> Co-Chairs, Work Group 2
10:45-11:15	<b>RACGWVI Work Group 3 Contextual feedback on draft recommendations</b>	<b>Mr. Ron Brown, Mr. Tom Mathers</b> Co-Chairs, Work Group 3
11:15-11:45	<b>Public Comment</b>	
11:45-12:30	<b>Committee Discussion RACGWVI Recommendations</b>	<b>RACGWVI</b>
12:30-1:30	Working Lunch <b>Committee Business 2024 meeting plans</b>	<b>RACGWVI</b>
1:30pm	Adjourn	