




GULF WAR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

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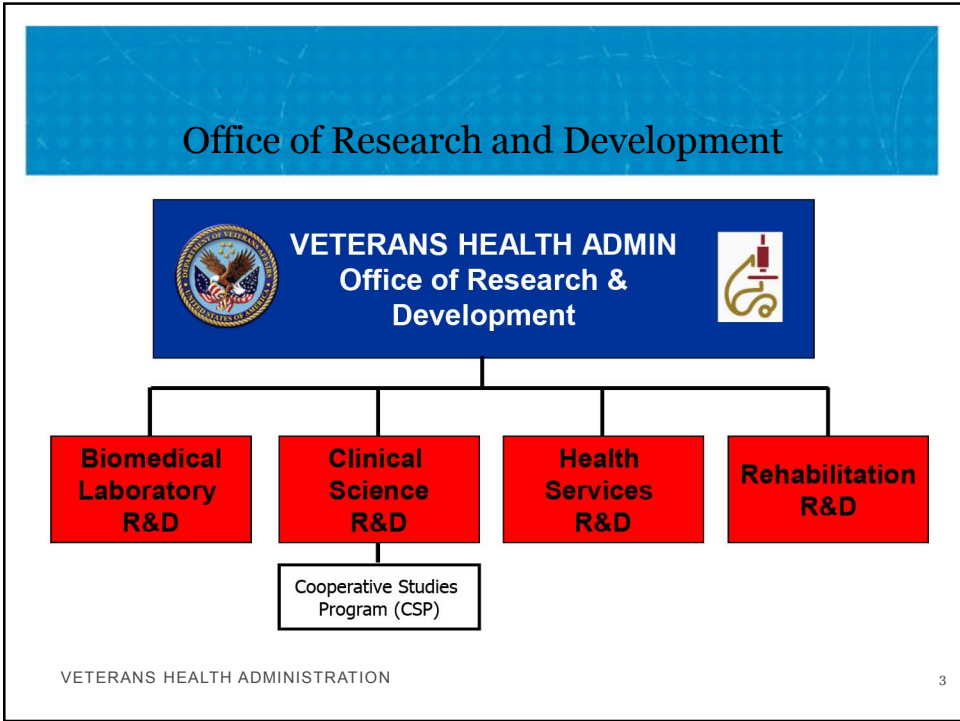
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VHA-ORD Research

- **The VA research program is *intramural***
- **116 VAMCs have capacity for research; More than 90 are funded by VA at any time**
- **Research is related to the clinical practice at VAMCs**
- **Broad, extensive research portfolio that balances the needs of all Veterans**

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Gulf War Research – Requests for Applications (RFAs)

Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development (BLR&D):

- BX-13-011
Award for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)
- BX-13-012
Pilot Projects for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)

Clinical Science Research & Development (CSR&D):

- CX-13-011
Award for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)
- CX-13-012
Pilot Projects for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)
- CX-13-013
Award for Research on Treatments for Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI) – (clinical trial)

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Gulf War Research Strategic Plan (2013-2017)

<http://www.research.va.gov/resources/pubs/docs/GWResearch-StrategicPlan.pdf>

- **5.1 Symptomatic and Specific Treatments**
- **5.2 Databases and Continued Surveillance**
- **5.3 Establish an Evidence-Based Case Definition of Chronic Multisymptom Illness in Gulf War Veterans**
- **5.4 Genetic, Genomic, and Systems Biology**
- **5.5 Biomarkers**
- **5.6 Animal Models**
- **5.7 Improve Coordination and Communication**
- **5.8 Translate Research Findings into Practice**

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Case Definition of Chronic Multisymptom Illness in 1990-1991 Gulf War Veterans

- **Case Definition of Chronic Multisymptom Illness in Gulf War Veterans**
 - Contract with the Institute of Medicine
 - May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014
 - Open Meeting – June 26, 2013 (1:00-5:45pm)
 - Expect the IOM report in early Spring

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VA-ORD Gulf War Research Funding

Fiscal Year (FY)	VA Merit Review	UTSW Contract	FY Total
2004	\$ 7.64 M		\$ 7.64 M
2005	\$ 9.48 M		\$ 9.48 M
2006	\$ 13.01 M		\$ 13.01 M
2007	\$ 7.06 M	\$ 15.00 M	\$ 22.06 M
2008	\$ 6.93 M	\$ 15.00 M	\$ 21.93 M
2009	\$ 9.63 M	\$ 6.97 M	\$ 16.60 M
2010	\$ 11.57 M	\$ 2.29 M	\$ 13.86 M
2011	\$ 5.54 M	\$ 0.03M	\$ 5.57 M
2012	\$ 6.72 M		\$ 6.72 M
2013	\$ 7.94 M		\$ 7.94 M
Total 2004-2013	\$ 85.52 M	\$39.29 M	\$ 124.81 M

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VA-ORD Gulf War Research Requests for Applications (RFAs)

	Proposals Received	Projects Funded	Funds Approved
Spring 2011	10	1	} \$ 4.0 M
Fall 2011	16	2	
Spring 2012	15	4	} \$ 11.4 M
Fall 2012	17	3	
Spring 2013	22	5	} \$ 12.6 M
Fall 2013	13	2	

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Gulf War Research Projects

Active (FY2014):

- Bacterial Overgrowth Associated with Chronic Multi-Symptom Illness Complex
- Bacterial Host Defense Mechanisms in Polyaromatic Hydrocarbon Carcinogenesis
- Somatic hypersensitivity in Veterans with IBS
- Multiple Antigenic Peptides to Alter the Course of Autoimmune Disease
- Immunoregulation of Myelin Specific T Lymphocytes
- Central Mechanisms Modulating Visceral Sensitivity
- Neuroprotection and Myelin Repair Mechanisms in Multiple Sclerosis
- Sleep Neurobiology and Circuitry
- Prevention of Hippocampal Neurodegeneration Due to Age and Apnea
- Epigenetic Mechanisms Relevant to the Pathogenesis of ALS
- Nanoparticle Coupled Antioxidants for Respiratory Illness in Veterans

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Gulf War Research Projects

Active (FY2014):

- Impact of exercise training on pain and brain function in Gulf War Veterans
- Understanding Pain of Gastrointestinal Origin in Women that Serve in OEF/OIF
- Memory and Mood Enhancing Therapies for Gulf War Illness
- MEG Synchronous Neural Interactions (SNI) in Gulf War Veterans
- rTMS for the Treatment of Chronic Pain in GW1 Veterans
- Vascular and Skeletal Muscle Function in Gulf War Veterans Illness
- Diagnostic Utility of mtDNA Content and Exercise Challenge in Veterans with GWI
- Transcranial, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Therapy to Improve Cognition in GWVI
- Examination of Cognitive Fatigue in Gulf War Illness Using fMRI
- RCT of Duloxetine & Pregabalin for the treatment of Gulf War Illness in Veterans
- Longitudinal assessment of Gulf War veterans with suspected Sarin exposure

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Gulf War Research Projects

- **Gulf War Research Topics Selected for Funding**
 - Identification of Plasma Biomarkers in Ill Gulf War Veterans
 - Steroid Treatment for Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
 - Therapies for Improving Brain Function in a Mouse Model of Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
 - Gulf War Exposures and Reproductive Risk
 - Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy for Gulf War Veterans
 - Neuroimaging and Biomarkers in Gulf War Veterans
 - Complementary and Alternative Medicine for Gulf War Veterans
 - Neuroinflammation and Hippocampal Effects in Gulf War Veterans
 - Gender Differences in Patient Symptoms

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Gulf War Research Projects

- **Recently Completed Gulf War Research Projects**
 - Autonomic Functions of Gulf War Veterans with Unexplained Illnesses
 - Motor Neuron Function of Gulf War Veterans with Excessive Fatigue
 - Diarrhea-Predominant Irritable Bowel Syndrome in Persian Gulf Veterans
 - Inspiratory Flow Dynamics During Sleep in GWS and the Effect of CPAP
 - Behavior of Neural Stem Cells in a Rat Model of GWS
 - Multiple Sclerosis in Gulf War Veterans
 - A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Mindfulness-Based Intervention for Gulf War Syndrome

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Gulf War Research Biorepositories

- **CSP #585 Gulf War Era Cohort and Biorepository**
 - Kick-Off meeting – August 29-30, 2013
 - Enrolling participants very soon
- **Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Biorepository**
 - Began operations - July, 2012

http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tissue_banking/default.cfm

Gulf War Activities

- **Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force**
 - Draft report posted on-line for comments
- **Coordination with DoD-CDMRP**
 - Joint VA/DoD Gulf War Program Review, Sep 2013
 - Regular briefings/updates
 - Special RFAs
 - Annual Report to Congress
- **Researchers Meeting (September 18, 2012)**
 - Planning for 2014



COMMENTS/QUESTIONS ?

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Gulf War Research Portfolio Criteria

- **Gulf War Research Portfolio – Criteria for Inclusion (2005)**
 - Studies of chronic multisymptom illnesses (CMI) affecting GW Veterans, including case definitions for CMI in GW Veterans and the general population.
 - Conditions and/or symptoms occurring with higher prevalence in GW Veterans
 - Long-term health effects of potentially hazardous substances, alone and in combination, to which GW Veterans may have been exposed to during deployment.
 - Other topics from the 19 Topics forming the framework for the *Annual Report to Congress on Federally Sponsored Research on GW Veterans' Illnesses*.

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