

Biographies

Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee on Veterans' Gulf War Illnesses September 18, 2018

James L Breeling M.D. Dr James Breeling has been a clinical Attending Physician in Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital and at the Boston VA Medical Center. He also served as the Associate Chief, Medical Service, and as the Associate Chief of Staff at VA Boston before embarking on a long career in Information Technology and Informatics. Dr. Breeling led the VA New England Network in Informatics including several national development projects in VISTA/CPRS (Problem List, Progress Notes, Decision Support System, Clinical Reminders, and others). While on detail to the VA's Office of Information & Technology, he led the national IT field organization and managed the sustainment budget planning activities for a \$2.8 billion IT sustainment effort. He moved to the VHA's Office of Research and Development in 2014 and has led and managed the major IT programs for VA Research including the Million Veteran Program. Most recently, Dr. Breeling has planned and accomplished the Interagency Agreement between the VA and the Department of Energy to bring exascale computing to VA scientific problems. He is also involved in the current transition away from VISTA/CPRS to a commercial EHR system for the Department. His expertise is in IT/Informatics, Project/Program Management and Strategic Planning.

Nancy Grace Klimas, M.D. Dr. Nancy Klimas is the Director, Environmental Medicine Research Program, Miami VA Medical Center; Chair, Department of Clinical Immunology and Professor, Nova Southeastern University; Director, NSU Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine; Associate Dean of Research, College of Osteopathic Medicine at Nova Southeastern University; and Professor Emerita of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Nancy Klimas directs the Environmental Medicine Program at the Miami VAMC and the NSU Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, a multi-disciplinary research and clinical program that is taking a systems biology approach to understanding complex medical illnesses. NSU INIM partners with the Miami VAMC to study Gulf War illness (GWI) and myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS); the institute brings 62 investigators, clinicians, and support staff working together to deliver targeted therapy for complex medical conditions. Dr. Klimas is a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology. She is a practicing clinician, having cared for thousands of ME/CFS and GWI patients, inspiring this research focus. She is a founding member and past president of the International Association for CFS and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (IACFS/ME), a professional organization of clinicians and investigators, and received its highest honor in 2013, the Perpich Award for contributions to the field. She served on the Health and Human Services (HHS) CFS Advisory Committee for 11 years and the VA GWI Research Advisory Committee the past 3 years. She was a member of the Institute of Medicine's ME/CFS Case Definition Committee and the NIH Pathways to Prevention (P2P) Committee, and she is a member of the NASA Immunology Integration Committee.

W. Ian Lipkin, M.D. Dr. Ian Lipkin is internationally recognized for his contributions to global public health through the innovative methods he developed for infectious diseases diagnosis, surveillance, and discovery. Most notably, he had the first use of subtractive cloning in microbial discovery, the first use of next generation sequencing for investigating outbreaks, and developed gene capture technologies including VirCapSeq-VERT and BacCapSeq as well as multiplexed serological assays to detect vector-borne diseases. These advances have been critical in replacing culture-dependent methods of global health management by creating new criteria for disease causation and de-linking spurious associations between putative agents and diseases. Such examples include refuting the MMR vaccine having a role in autism and XMRV in ME/CFS. Lipkin has been at the forefront of outbreak response to many of the world's recent outbreaks, including West Nile Virus in NYC (1999), SARS in China (2003), MERS in Saudi Arabia (2012–16), Zika in the US (2016), and encephalitis in India (2017). He promotes public health awareness via print and broadcast media and also served as the scientific advisor for the Soderberg film "Contagion". Some of his most prestigious honors include Pew Scholar (Biomedical Sciences), Walter Reed Distinguished Lecturer, the Drexel Prize in Translational Medicine, the Mendel Medal (Villanova University), and the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the Peoples Republic of China. He is the Director of the Center for Solutions for ME/CFS, the Director for the Center for

Research in Diagnostics and Discovery, and the Director for the Center of Infection and Immunity with the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

Pamela J. Powers, COS, VA. As Chief of Staff of Veterans Affairs, Pamela Powers is the senior advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the federal government's second-largest Cabinet department, with a budget of more than \$188 billion and over 357,000 employees serving in VA medical centers, clinics, benefits offices, and national cemeteries across the country. Ms. Powers has nearly 30 years of service in the Air Force and the Department of Defense, with experience in executive-level management, policy development, strategic planning and programming, legislation, operations, and communications. Before joining VA, Ms. Powers served as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. In that capacity, Ms. Powers was responsible for day-to-day operations of Department of Defense Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and quality of life matters. During her military service, Ms. Powers was assigned to posts in Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, Kuwait, and Washington, D.C. She served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, where she managed operations of the Office of Legislative Affairs and led the Department of Defense Congressional Travel Program. Ms. Powers also served as the Executive Director for the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee and as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Manpower and Reserve Affairs. In 2015, Ms. Powers deployed to Kuwait, where she served as Chief of Staff to the 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force-Levant, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Psychology, Ms. Powers holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College and a Master of Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. She also served as a Department of Defense Congressional Fellow in the Office of Senator Susan Collins of Maine. Ms. Powers retired from the Air Force as a colonel on March 1, 2018, and her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Matthew J. Reinhard, Psy.D. Dr. Matthew Reinhard is a clinical neuropsychologist and was appointed Director of the War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC), located at the Washington, DC, VA Medical Center on February 1, 2011. The WRIISC-DC is a national VA Post-Deployment Health Resource and one of only three in the entire Veterans Health Administration system. The WRIISCs, which are programs within the VHA Post Deployment Health Service (10P4Q), develop and provide post-deployment health expertise to Veterans and their health care providers through clinical programs, research, education, and risk communication. Dr. Reinhard obtained his B.A. degree from Long Island University and his M.A. and Doctorate of Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University, and he completed an APA approved internship program at the Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. He completed a two-year National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) post-doctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior (formerly the Neuropsychiatric Institute). Dr. Reinhard began his career with the Washington, DC, VAMC in 2006 as a clinical psychologist in the PTSD treatment program. He joined the WRIISC-DC in 2008 as a clinical neuropsychologist and served as the Acting Director of the WRIISC-DC in 2010. He is Principal Investigator on several competitively funded research grants. He has an academic appointment at the Associate Professor rank from Georgetown University Medical School, Department of Psychiatry.

Mitch Wallin, M.D. Dr. Mitch Wallin received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. He completed his medicine internship at Northwestern University followed by residency in Neurology at the University of Minnesota. He subsequently pursued a Preventive Medicine residency and earned a Master's of Public Health/International Health at Johns Hopkins University. While in Baltimore in 1996, Dr. Wallin was recruited by John Kurtzke to join the faculty at the VA Medical Center-Washington, DC and the Neurology Department at Georgetown University. Dr. Wallin has served as the Clinical Associate Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence-East (MSCoE) since

2006. In this role, he has overseen the creation of the MS Directive for policy and care within VA and the national MS Surveillance Registry. He is active in clinical care and teaching medical students and residents. Dr. Wallin holds academic appointments as Associate Professor of Neurology at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is a consultant to the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the North American Neurocysticercosis Consortium. He received the 2010 Wolcott National Award for VA Clinical Leadership. His research interests include multiple sclerosis neuroepidemiology, global health, and neurological infections. Dr. Wallin is widely published and has several active research grants and serves on many national committees.

Robert Wilkie, Secretary VA. The Honorable Robert Wilkie was nominated by President Trump to serve as the tenth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 23, 2018, and sworn in on July 30, 2018. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the acting Secretary of VA from March 28 to May 29, 2018. Before confirmation as VA Secretary, Mr. Wilkie served Secretary James Mattis as his Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness—the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families. The son of an Army artillery commander, Mr. Wilkie spent his youth at Fort Bragg. Today, he is an officer in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Before joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, and the Office of Naval Intelligence. Mr. Wilkie has more than 20 years of federal service at the national and international levels. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005–2009, and he was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Mr. Wilkie was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice. He also has extensive experience in the United States Congress, including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis and service as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS), and he was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Croker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge. Mr. Wilkie was Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL, one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms, where for five years he held program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S). Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University, a Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. A graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, Air Command and Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College, Mr. Wilkie has published articles in the Naval War College Review, Parameters, Armed Forces Journal International, Air and Space Power Journal, and Proceedings. He holds personal and unit decorations, as well as the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest non-career civilian award of the Department.