

# *South Central MIRECC Communiqué*

A publication of the Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

October 4, 2004

Vol 6, No. 10

Published monthly by the South Central (VISN 16) MIRECC Education Core

---

## *“Closing the efficacy-effectiveness gap”*

### **Director’s Desk:**

#### **THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Michael R. Kauth, Ph.D., Associate Director for Education

Seven months ago, Dr. Sullivan’s absence and my new duties seemed to stretch on as far as I could see. But, as usual, time moves quickly, and suddenly it’s over.

When Greer asked me to be Acting MIRECC Director while she took sabbatical, I imagined everything that could go wrong, and I still said yes! I appreciated Greer’s confidence in me, and I knew that I could count on many people to help keep the MIRECC functioning effectively. And help they did!

It is impossible to name everyone, but I want to take this opportunity to thank particular people whom I relied on repeatedly over the past 7 months. Thanks to Dr. Jennifer Vasterling for being an almost daily sounding board and giving good advice. Thanks to Debbie Hadsel for helping me understand the intricacies of the budget and keeping us fiscally responsible. Thanks to the South Central MIRECC leadership (Dr. Vasterling, Associate Director for Research; JoAnn Kirchner, Associate Director for Improving Clinical Care; Acting Co-Directors, Drs. Kathy Henderson and Rick Owen) for helping keep the organization on course and moving forward! Thanks to Melonie Shelton for being so adaptable and getting messages to Greer. Thanks to Dr. Rick Owen, Ralph Suarez, and Marty Curtis for assisting with personnel issues and managing the Little Rock office.

Thanks to Melonie Lymuel-Hartley and Tonya Welch for managing a greater volume of calls and workload in the New Orleans office. Thanks to Dr. Maga Jackson-Triche and Top Management at the New Orleans VAMC for being so supportive and helpful. I appreciate it.

Thanks to the MIRECC investigators who quickly responded to queries.

Thanks to the Network Office, Dr. Robert Lynch and Dr. Mark Enderle, as well as Ms. Joleen Clark in Human Resources.

Thanks to the MIRECC Directors for welcoming me to their group. It was a pleasure!

Finally, thanks to Mr. Jim Williams, Dr. Mark Shelhorse, and Dr. Larry Lehmann in Central Office and thanks to Dr. Tom Horvath in Houston for your support and respect. I am very grateful.

I have learned a great deal from this experience. In particular, I’m so glad to be working with such fine people in VA. I believe that this high level of professionalism and cooperation stems from your dedication to serving veterans and delivering the highest quality mental health care possible.



## Upcoming Educational Events

### Web Presentation on PTSD, Substance Abuse, and Violence

The MIRECC *Bringing Science to Practice* web-based series presents **Julie Schumacher, Ph.D.**, on “**PTSD and Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence in Substance Abuse Treatment Populations,**” **October 21, noon to 1:00 PM CT.** Dr. Schumacher is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Dr. Schumacher’s primary research interests are in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse and violent behavior. She recently received funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to develop and test a brief intervention for intimate partner violence in an alcohol treatment setting.

Dr. Schumacher’s PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded at <http://vaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm> beginning October 20 from a VA-networked computer. The live audioconference can be accessed at **1-800-767-1750, access code 45566#**. This presentation is not accredited. For additional information about this program, contact [Tonya.welch@med.va.gov](mailto:Tonya.welch@med.va.gov)

### Satellite Broadcast on Returning Soldiers

The VA Employee Education System, Washington Resource Center, in collaboration with Social Work Service is pleased to announce rebroadcast of a satellite program titled: ***Highlights of the USSW Conference in May to Understand***

***Problems of Soldiers Returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and to Utilize Interagency Efforts to Facilitate their Reintegration Back into Society.*** Benefits of viewing the broadcast include more effective planning of care and provision of social work services. For a full description of the program, handouts, and broadcast times and dates, please go to [http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/cu\\_detail.asp?id=18838](http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/cu_detail.asp?id=18838)

### ISTSS Conference on War as Trauma

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) will hold its 20th anniversary meeting **November 14-18, 2004**, in New Orleans, LA. In recognition of this important anniversary, the meeting will explore a theme of great international relevance: ***War as a Universal Trauma***. The scope of the meeting is broad in recognition of the diverse types of populations affected by war. Topics will range from basic science and epidemiology to treatment and prevention, as well as policy and other issues of social relevance.

The meeting will be held at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel. For registration and program information, please visit the ISTSS website at [www.istss.org](http://www.istss.org). **Register before October 12** to receive reduced rates. Don’t miss this opportunity to attend the premiere international conference on trauma and PTSD!

### *Looking for Clinical Tools for your Practice?*

Visit the South Central MIRECC web site ([www.va.gov/scmirecc/](http://www.va.gov/scmirecc/)), click on “Information for Providers.” Go to “Education,” then click on “Clinical Education Products.” To request a product, send an email to [Tonya.welch@med.va.gov](mailto:Tonya.welch@med.va.gov)

## New MIRECCs Funded for Suicidality and Post-Deployment Adjustment

On September 3, 2004, VA Central Office announced funding of new MIRECCs in VISN 6 and VISN 19. This announcement followed a competitive application process and review. The new MIRECCs address critical topics in veterans' health care. The VISN 6 MIRECC focuses on post-deployment mental illness and adjustment. Gregory McCarthy, Ph.D., is the Director and is located in Durham, NC. The VISN 19 MIRECC focuses on suicidality and suicide prevention. Lawrence Adler, M.D., is the Director and is located in Denver, CO. Watch the national MIRECC web site for more information ([www.mirecc.med.va.gov](http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov)).

## Funding Opportunities

The Alzheimer's Association Research Grants Program announces New Investigator Research Grants, formerly known as the Pilot Research Grant Program. The purpose of these grants is to provide new investigators with funding that will allow them to develop preliminary or pilot data, to test procedures, and to develop hypotheses. Grants are limited to \$100,000 for up to 2 years with any given year not to exceed \$60,000. LOI is due November 5, 2004; application deadline is December 1, 2004; award announcements will be July 2005. For more information, go to <http://www.alz.org/Research/RGP/overview.asp>

The Alzheimer's Association also announces Investigator-Initiated Research Grants of up to \$240,000 for up to 3 years with any given year not to exceed \$100,000. Travel, computer hardware and software, and construction costs are not allowed. To be considered, the research grant must address a question(s) relevant to the current year's areas of focus or a compelling issue in Alzheimer research pertinent to the applicant's special interest or expertise. LOI is due November 5, 2004; application deadline is December 1, 2004; award announcement will be July 2005. For more information, go to <http://www.alz.org/Research/RGP/Investigator.asp>

## October Conference Calls 1-800-767-1750

- 4—Education Core, 2:00 PM CT, *cancelled; reviewing grants*
- 4—Schizophrenia Team, 3:00 PM CT, access code 20061#
- 12—Directors Call, 3:00 PM CT, access code 19356#
- 13—Neuroimaging Group, 9:00 AM CT, access code 24394#
- 18—Disorder Team Leaders, 2:00 PM CT, access code 20143#
- 19—Substance Abuse Team, General, 1:00 PM CT, access code 23400#
- 20—Program Assistants, 2:00 PM CT, access code 43593#
- 25—PRECEP Call, 11:00 AM CT, access code 39004#
- 26—Directors Call, 3:00 PM CT, access code 19356#

The next issue of the *South Central MIRECC Communiqué* will be published November 1, 2004. Deadline for submission of items to the November newsletter is October 26. Urgent items may be submitted for publication in the *Communiqué Newsflash* at any time. Email items to the Editor, Michael R. Kauth, Ph.D., at [Michael.Kauth@med.va.gov](mailto:Michael.Kauth@med.va.gov) or FAX to (504) 585-2954.

South Central MIRECC Internet site: [www.va.gov/scmirecc/](http://www.va.gov/scmirecc/)

SC MIRECC intranet site: [vaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm](http://vaww.visn16.med.va.gov/mirecc.htm)

National MIRECC Internet site: [www.mirecc.med.va.gov](http://www.mirecc.med.va.gov)