



# CINDRR Circular

Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

VA Health Services Research & Development

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville FL  
James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital, Tampa FL

May 2014

## CINDRR Gainesville Research Day

An annual event at North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville, FL, Research Day 2014 took place on May 16, 2014 in connection with National Research Week, May 19-23. CINDRR leadership in Gainesville, William Mann, Charles Levy, and Diane Cowper Ripley presented an overview of the new COIN at NF/SGVHS: CINDRR.

Dr. Mann discussed CINDRR's mission, collaborative partners, organizational structure, and interest in the mentoring of junior investigators. Dr. Levy discussed each focus area and gave examples of ongoing CINDRR projects that exemplify the areas of Community Reintegration, Informatics, and Tech-

nology and Telehealth. Dr. Cowper Ripley discussed other research areas of interest to CINDRR and concluded the



*William Mann presenting at NF/SGVHS Research Day*

presentation with a summation of the impact that CINDRR has on "improving inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services that impact family members and Veterans of all ages."

Other presenters included Dr. Thomas Pearson, UF Health Executive Vice President for Research and Education, on UF Health and NF/SGVHS partnerships, Dr. Paul Okunieff, Director UF Health Cancer Center on HU Health Cancer Center and NF/SGVHS collaborations, Dr. Muna Canales on her CDA 2 nephrology/sleep apnea study, Dr. Stephen Borst, GRECC, on Testosterone Efficacy, and Dr. Floyd Thompson, BRCC, on his work on TBI. Dr. Stephen Nadeau, ACOS/Research was the master of ceremonies and welcomed VISA 8 Network Director, Joleen Clark, NF/SGVHS Director Thomas Wisnieski, and Alachua County Commissioner Susan Baird. U.S. Senator, Florida, Marco Rubio sent a representative from his office.

## VA Deputy Secretary Visits CINDRR Tampa

In May, the Deputy Secretary for the VA, Sloan D. Gibson, was in town for the opening of the new Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. He had the opportunity to visit CINDRR and to discuss research with investigators in the areas of community reintegration, technology, informatics and measurement. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Gibson served as President and CEO of the United Services Organizations (USO) which has been lifting the spirits of American Service members and their families for more than 73 years.



In his dedication, Mr. Gibson said, "We're here to celebrate completion of this incredible new facility and to say a special "Thank You" to everyone who played important parts in making it a reality. It is important that we do so. But I think there is a bigger cause for celebration —today and every day. And that's the many thousands of dedicated professionals all across VA who care deeply about our mission, and who work hard to deliver on our promise to Veterans and their families.

Thank you for the tremendous work you've done here; for what you do every day; and for what you'll continue to do in the future, all because you 'know who it's for.'"

Director: William Mann, OTR, PhD

Tampa Co-Directors: Gail Powell-Cope, PhD, ARNP, FAAN and Steven Scott, DO

Gainesville Co-Directors: Diane Cowper Ripley, PhD and Charles Levy, MD

Newsletter Editor: Virginia Hessels

## Meet the CINDRR Director: William C. Mann, OTR, PhD

William Mann, OTR, PhD, is Director of CINDRR and an RR&D Senior Research Career Scientist at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville, FL. He is a Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at the University of Florida (UF). Previously Dr. Mann was a professor at the University at Buffalo for 25 years.

Dr. Mann's current research focuses on home monitoring and communications technologies, older driver assessment and rehabilitation, and cognitive

impairment interventions. His current HSR&D study addresses the need to develop and test innovative non-pharmacologic approaches to manage neuropsychiatric symptoms in Veterans with dementia. Dr. Mann and his team are conducting a Phase III efficacy trial to test a transformative patient-centric intervention, Tailored Activity Program (TAP). It involves a systematic assessment to identify Veterans' preserved capabilities, deficit areas, previous roles, habits and interests from which to tailor activities versus telephone support. If randomized to the intervention, primary family caregivers are trained to incorporate activities

tailored to each Veteran into care routines. Veteran, caregiver well-being and cost outcomes will be analyzed in a randomized two-group parallel design.

Dr. Mann has authored more than 135 articles and book chapters on aging and independence in the past 20 years, authored/edited five books, and served as founder and co-editor of the journal *Technology and Disability* from 1990 to 2000.

Dr. Mann has served on the boards of the American Society on Aging and the Florida Council on Aging. He served on the Insti-



tute of Medicine's Committee on Long-Term Consequences of Blast Injuries that released its report earlier this year. His work includes projects and scientific committee assignments in Canada, Europe, Australia, and Brazil.

Facilitating early detection and treatment of pressure ulcers

## Research... In Progress

*Leveraging EHR Information to Measure Pressure Ulcer Risk in Veterans with SCI.*

In the area of healthcare informatics, Dr. Stephen Luther is using the VA electronic health record to identify factors that lead to the development of pressure ulcers in Vet-

erans with spinal cord injury (SCI). Researchers extract information from progress notes using natural language processing. That information is combined with data from administrative sources (such as ICD-9-CM) to develop statistical models that will be com-

pared to traditional risk assessment models. If the new models are better than existing risk assessment practices, they will be implemented nationally at VA SCI Centers to facilitate early detection and treatment of pressure ulcers in this high-risk population.

## Recent Publications

Haun, J. N., Lind, J. D., Shimada, S. L., Martin, T. L., Gosline, R. M., Antinori, N., Stewart, M., & Simon, S. R. (2014). Evaluating User Experiences of the Secure Messaging Tool on the Veterans Affairs' Patient Portals System. *J Med Internet Res*, 16(3):e75.

Kearns, W., Jasiewicz, J. M., Fozard, J. L., Webster, P., Scott, S., Craighead, J., Bowen, M. E. & McCarthy, J. (2014). Guest Editorial: Temporo-spatial Promoting for Persons with Cognitive Impairment Using Smart Wrist-worn Interface. *J Rehabil Res Dev*, 50(10), vii-xiv.

Ottomanelli, L., Barnett, S. D., & Goetz, L. L. (2014). Effectiveness of Supported Employment for Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury: 2-Year Results. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*, 95(4), 784-790.

Phipps M, Jia H, Chumblor NR, Li X, Castro J, Myers J, Williams L, Bravata D. Rural-Urban Differences in Inpatient Quality of Care in US Veterans with Ischemic Stroke. *Journal of Rural Health*, 2014;30(1):1-6.

Stineman MG, Kwong PL, Bates BE, Kurichi JE; Cowper Ripley D, Xie. Development and Validation of a Discharge Planning Index for Achieving Home Discharge after Hospitalization for Acute Stroke among Those who Received Rehabilitation Services. *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 2014; 93(3):217-230.

## Mentorship Highlight—Dr. Theresa Crocker

Dr. Theresa Crocker joined the Center of Innovation on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (CINDRR) as an HSR&D Fellow in July 2013.

Dr. Crocker is a medical anthropologist with a background in nutrition and cancer prevention research. Her research interests include implementation science and evaluation research, and the utilization of mixed methodologies to provide a more compre-

hensive and holistic understanding of the issues and challenges facing Veterans in this rapidly evolving healthcare environment.

She is currently conducting a secondary analysis of data from an Evaluation of the Polytrauma Brain Injury Rehabilitation Transitional Program at JAHVA and hopes in the near future to increase dissemination of the findings to a wider audience.

Additionally, Theresa is developing a program of research in community reintegration focusing on health promotion and risk reduction for Veterans with disabilities. She plans to submit a CDA application in December 2014 that will address a currently unmet need of a local vulnerable population - Veterans with SCI who are at high risk for obesity and the associated negative complications.



**Upcoming Publication:**  
**Toward a Veteran-Centric View on Community (Re) Integration** (Crocker, Powell-Cope, Brown, Besterman-Dahan)

## Recent Research Attempts to Identify Causes of Aggressive Driving in Combat Veterans

**Exploratory Pilot Study of Driving Perceptions among OIF/OEF Veterans with mTBI and PTSD, *JRRD*, February 2014,** Hannold EM, Classen S, Winter S, Lanford DN, Levy CE.

The authors explored the driving perceptions of five combat Veterans with mTBI and PTSD using grounded theory methods and found that combat Veterans from OEF/OIF may experience driving related challenges, including more at-fault crashes. The authors note that Veterans in the study were insightful about their driving, such as, environmental triggers for their anxious driving, speeding, road rage, and aggressive driving. Strategies to moderate inappropriate driving behaviors in this cohort were only somewhat successful.

## Recent Presentations

Martinez, K., Dillahunt-Aspillaga, C., Mann, K., Rugs, D., Wilks, Y., Scott, S., & Jasiewicz, J. (June, 2014). SmartHome for TBI: Implementation in Community Settings. *12<sup>th</sup> International Conf. on Smart Home and Health Telematics*. Denver.

Wilks, Y. & Jasiewicz, J. (April, 2014). Calonis: An Artificial Companion within a SmartHome for the Care of Cognitively-Impaired Patients. *The Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour (AISB). Machine Ethics in the Context of Medical and Care Agents (MEMCA)*. Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK. April 1-4. <http://doc.gold.ac.uk/aib50/AISB50-S17/AISB50-S17-Wilks-Paper.pdf>

Cowan, L., Korzendorfer, H. & DeCastro, S. (April, 2014). Research Grand Rounds – Critiquing Wound Research Posters. Oral Presentation at *Symposium for the Advancement of Wound Care (SAWC) Spring Conference*, April 25. Orlando, FL.

Cowan, L. (May, 2014). Preventing Hospital Acquired Conditions: HAPU – Successful Comprehensive Staff Education & Maximizing Documentation. *VA National Center for Patient Safety*, May 7. Teleconference.

## CENTER OF INNOVATION ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH (CINDRR)

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CINDRR is a multi-institutional research center at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (Gainesville, FL) and the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital and Clinics (Tampa, FL). Scientists at this Veterans Health Administration Center of Innovation conduct research to develop strategies to improve—for Veterans of all ages—inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services and long-term management of disability, including issues that impact family members.

[www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/cidrr8.cfm](http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/centers/cidrr8.cfm)



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### Tampa Administrative Team

Our Tampa administrative team is an essential part of CINDRR. Without this great team we would not be able to conduct the business of research. Coordinating human resources, finances, time keeping, building management, publication & presentation management, communications, conference planning, contracting, and grant support, this group makes sure that we have the resources we need to navigate daily life in the VA. Our hats are off to you. Thank you for all you do!

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In the next CINDRR Circular we will introduce you to the Gainesville administrative team.

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