



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 Veterans' Hospital, Tampa FL

October 2016

CINDRR in the News

Lisa Ottomanelli, PhD, Receives Excellence Award from the Paralyzed Veterans of America



On August 30, 2016, at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Summit 2016 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld Hotel in Orlando, FL, PVA leadership presented Lisa Ottomanelli with the PVA 2016 Clinical Excellence Award.

This award recognizes clinicians who have achieved national recognition and leadership, as well as, demonstrated exceptional professional achievement, contributions, and advocacy for spinal cord injury/disease (SCI) and multiple sclerosis healthcare. For more than 15 years, Dr. Ottomanelli has worked to improve employment access for Veterans with SCI and her continued efforts have resulted in numerous job placements for Veterans. She has served as the Principal Investigator for a multi-center VA project evaluating employment interventions and is the author of numerous publications on supported employment for Veterans.

Dr. Ottomanelli's article, Effectiveness of Supported Employment for Veterans with Spinal Cord Injuries: Results from a Randomized Multisite Study is available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22541306>

USF Health's Dr. Sandy Quillen Appointed to National Veterans Affairs Committee

William S. Quillen, PT, DPT, PhD, FACS, senior associate dean for University of South Florida (USF Health and director of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, has been appointed to serve on the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs. Dr. Quillen was appointed by Robert A. McDonald, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve through September 2019.



"The Committee is an important body that advises me on VA prosthetics and special-disabilities programs," Secretary McDonald said in his letter informing Dr. Quillen of his new position. "VA is committed to enhancing services and programs available to disabled Veterans, and I appreciate your willingness to assist us in those efforts."

Dr. Quillen joined USF Health in 2004 and has helped lead the USF Health School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences as the first Florida state university authorized to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. Dr. Quillen has also been a member of the CINDRR Steering Committee since its inception in 2014.

A retired commander in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Quillen has held a variety of academic positions before joining USF

Health. Previous positions have included assistant professor, US Army-Baylor University Physical Therapy Program;

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Projects in Progress, CINDRR Gainesville

TeleOstomy Clinical Demonstration Project, Project Director, Linda Cowan, PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, CWS

The goals of the TeleOstomy Clinical Demonstration Project, *Improving Access to Care for Rural Veterans with Ostomies*, are to improve evidence-based ostomy care/follow-up for rural Veterans by improving the use of telehealth for access to ostomy specialist consultations and provide basic ostomy care education via webinars to VISN 8 Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) providers and clinical staff. Educational components include familiarity with and proper use of ostomy appliances and common treatments for peri-stomal complications. All eight participating rural clinics (Gainesville, Lake City, The Villages, Jacksonville, Marianna, Valdosta, Lecanto, and St. Augustine) received carts which are stocked with basic ostomy supplies. They have also received ostomy patient and staff educational resources including a copy of the book "Fecal & Urinary Diversions: Management Principles," 1st edition (2004). In an expansion to the project, five tablets, pre-loaded with educational resources will be loaned to Veterans who have undergone surgery, including the creation of an ostomy, for use at their homes during the first four weeks after their surgery.

Project feedback from Veterans, CBOC clinicians, and ostomy specialists has been very positive. By communicating with the ostomy specialist at their nearest participating CBOC, rural Veterans were able to save a total of 6,094 miles and more than 91 hours travel time. Building on the success of this project and hoping to enlarge the scope, Dr. Cowan will submit a Merit application in December 2016.

Career Development

New HSR&D Post-Doctoral Fellow, Vanessa Panaite, PhD

Dr. Vanessa Panaite received her BA in Psychology in 2006 from Case Western Reserve University where she was initially introduced to research focused on depression in youth and adults. After graduation, she continued as a project manager in the Family Medicine – Research Division at the Case School of Medicine where she conducted behavioral research and continued to develop her interest in depression as a research assistant in the Mood Disorders Program at the University Hospitals, Case Medical Center. In 2009, she joined the Mood and Emotion Laboratory at the University of South Florida where she continued to study depression over the course of her doctoral training.

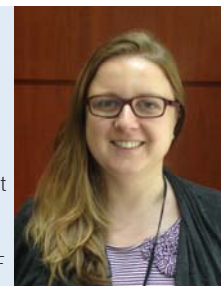
During graduate school, Dr. Panaite developed an interest in emotional and behavioral reactivity (how people experience and express emotion) as risks for depression in youth and as biomarkers of depression and depression course in adults using psychophysiological measures of emotional reactivity under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Rottenberg. For her dissertation, she combined an experimental laboratory design with Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) to identify explanatory characteristics for noted discrepancies in emotional reactivity and regulation in Major Depressive Disorder in prior lab and daily life studies of depression. She investigated the benefits of acceptance of negative emotions on emotional experience during sad stimuli and subsequent recovery of negative affect during positive stimuli. Individual's responses in the laboratory were used to predict and understand

emotional experiences in daily life which were monitored with the EMA methodology that was used to collect assessments of emotional experiences throughout the individual's day.

Dr. Panaite's research for her dissertation was supported by various awards and graduate student grants such as the USF Dean's Award for Excellence, Professor Charles D. and Carol Spielberg Endowed Fund Award for research in emotion, USF Clinical Psychology Summer Research Fellowship, Psi Chi Graduate Assistantship Grant, and the USF Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

In her new role as a CINDRR Research Fellow, she is committed to extending her prior work to understand how emotional functioning in depression is connected to treatment initiation and retention of depressed young Veterans and its impact on their mental health outcomes. She plans to develop these ideas into a Career Development Award aimed at helping young Veterans suffering from depression and other mental health diagnoses.

She recently moved back to Tampa after completing a yearlong clinical psychology internship in Chicago, Illinois. She is excited to spend time at the beach again and go on excursions along the coasts of Florida.



Career Development Research, Tampa

Michelle Henry Visits the Office of Policy and Planning, Washington, DC

As Michelle Henry, CINDRR NIDILRR Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training Program (ARRTP) fellow, researched information that could contribute to her research interest, Veteran reintegration and well-being, she identified one of the goals of the Office of Policy and Planning (OPP): *Empowering Veterans to Improve Their Well-being*. She contacted a representative at the OPP to explore opportunities to collaborate with them and was invited to participate in a policy research engagement. At a policy research engagement, researchers and policymakers are invited to present their findings related to Veterans' issues and work together to develop policy that is related to a particular topic. The Office of Policy and Planning focuses on strategic enterprise-wide initiatives and innovations that align policy and practice throughout the VA.

While at the OPP, Dr. Henry discussed her research on the well-being and access to care of Veterans with disabilities as they transition from military to civilian life. She was concerned after reviewing the literature that well-being for Veterans with disabilities during transition was undefined, no common domains were established, and there were few measurements that looked at the well-being of Veterans with disabilities or suspected disabilities as they transition from military to civilian life. She presented her research to the policy research engagement attendees and discovered that although each may use different terms or domains, there were striking similarities in the domains of well-being. She also met with Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning.

From her literature searches, Dr. Henry was able to determine the domains of well-being based on the assessments utilized and a conceptual framework for understanding. Within the context of this research, well-being looks at the quality of life of the Veteran, subjective issues (Veteran's feelings regarding their own well-being) and objective issues (the feedback of others regarding the well-being of the Veteran), accomplishments, and purpose and meaning. It also looks at the extent to which a Veteran accepts his or her disability status and adjusts to his or her new condition. The five domains of well-being for Veterans with disabilities as they transition from military to civilian life are a combination of emotional, psychological, social, physical, and financial. Dr. Henry hopes to look at creating exemplar measurements for these Veteran domains and to expand existing measurements to use with Veteran populations.



Dr. Michelle Henry and Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz.

CINDRR Tampa Hosts Train the Trainer Workshop, September 13-15, 2016

Dr. Gail Powell-Cope and the Office of Nursing Service (ONS)/ QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center, Nursing Innovation Center for Evaluation (NICE), hosted the ONS Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Curriculum Train-the-Trainer Workshop on September 13-15, 2016.

Five experts (pictured to the right) in EBP presented the new curriculum to seventeen VA nurses from around the country, who will then take this training and disseminate it to nurses at their facilities. The EBP Curriculum emphasizes the integration of EBP into practice using the best available evidence, clinical expertise, and patient preferences.

The NICE Team will evaluate the reactions to the training by the attendees and the ONS faculty, as well as, the extent to which the attendees use the curriculum in training postgraduate nurses at their facilities. The NICE Team will later evaluate the reactions of the postgraduate nurses to the EBP curriculum training they received at their facilities. The goal is to assist ONS in improving the EBP curriculum and its integration into VA nursing practice.



Front Row Left to Right: Mary Thomas, RN, CNS, AOCN, Palo Alto VAMC, Palo Alto, CA, Co-Chair, VA ONS' Advanced Practice RN Field Advisory Committee (APRN FAC), Beverly Priefer, PhD, RN - ONS WOC Consultant, VACO, Washington, D.C. , Melissa Taylor, PhD, RN, Associate Chief Nurse for Research, Pittsburgh, PA EBP; Chair, VA ONS National Nurse Executive Council's (NNEC) Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Program

Back Row left: Sandra Shaw, MSN, RN, Nursing Excellence/Evidence Based Practice Coordinator, VA Providence, RI and Melissa Hutchinson, Melissa Hutchinson, MN, RN, CCNS, CCRN Clinical Nurse Specialist, VAPSHCS – Seattle, WA, VA Nursing Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Resource Center

Research in Progress, Tampa

Measuring Quality of Life in Veterans with Deployment-related PTSD, Stephen Luther, PI

The ability of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide high quality of care to Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is critically important, and sound outcome measures are required to evaluate quality of care. In this study, the team employs state-of-the-art psychometric techniques based on Item Response Theory to improve the measurement of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) for Veterans with deployment-related PTSD, building on the conceptual and methodological logic from the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS). These techniques provide the information needed to develop computer adaptive testing protocols which can measure outcomes with less burden on the Veteran.

Investigators at CINDRR, led by PI Stephen Luther, PhD, MA, are conducting a three-year prospective study employing mixed-methods research design in three phases. In Phase I, focus groups of patients and providers were asked to identify potential HRQOL domains/constructs related to deployment-related PTSD. Qualitative analysis of the focus group data was used to compile a codebook that accurately reflects the domains/constructs identified in the focus groups. Results of the qualitative data guided selection/development of item pools designed to measure constructs. Subsequently, Veterans completed cognitive interviews of the new item pools providing feedback on conceptual definitions and questionnaire items regarding the language, comprehensibility, ambiguity, and relevance of each item. In Phase II, the new item pools and selected items from existing item banks were field tested in a large sample of Veterans (n >500) with deployment-related PTSD.

Currently, in Phase III, psychometric analyses employing Item Response Theory (IRT) is ongoing on data collected in Phase II. Based on this analysis, calibrated item banks and short forms of the domains/constructs will be created and tested for validity and reliability.

The proposed study will fill a significant void by developing a valid and reliable outcome measure of HRQOL for individuals with deployment-related PTSD. Such a tool will advance our knowledge of this field in clinical treatment, research, and surveillance, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of PTSD research designed to evaluate treatment approaches or track outcomes over time. This work will compliment recently completed work on HRQOL measures for Veterans with TBI.

CENTER OF INNOVATION ON DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH (CINDRR)

Director: William Mann, OTR, PhD
Tampa Associate Directors: Gail Powell-Cope, PhD, ARNP, FAAN and Steven Scott, DO
Tampa Assistant Director: Stephen Luther, PhD
Gainesville Associate Directors: Diane Cowper Ripley, PhD and Charles Levy, MD
Gainesville Assistant Director: Sergio Romero, PhD

Newsletter Editor: Virginia Hessels
Visual Information Specialist: Valerie Kelleher

CINDRR is a multi-institutional research center at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville, FL and the James A. Haley Veterans' 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.



<http://www.cindrr.research.va.gov>



Upcoming Conference... **2017 Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Conference**

with special emphasis on falls, fall injury, and pressure ulcer prevention. **When:** April 10-14, 2017 **Where:** Renaissance Hotel, Glendale AZ.

Who: Nurses, Physical/Occupational/Kinesio-therapists, Risk Managers, & Physicians † Contact Valerie.Kelleher@va.gov for information

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Assistant professor, School of Physical Therapy, Texas Women's University; associate professor and chairman, Department of Physical Therapy, College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, OH; and most recently, associate professor and chairman, Department of Physical Therapy, Indiana University.

Recent CINDRR Presentations at the VA State of the Art Conference in Rural Health

The Rural Veterans TeleRehabilitation Initiative Creative Arts Therapy program (RVTRI CAT), Authors: Levy CE, Myers KJ, Sonke J, Baxley-Lee J, Spooner H, Snow E Abstracts available at http://www.charleston.va.gov/heroic/HEROIC_Abstacts.asp (#9)

An Internet and Telephone Support Intervention for Stroke Caregivers Living in Rural and Urban Areas, Authors: Uphold CR, LeLaurin JH, Schmitzberger MK, Eliazar-Macke ND, Schember TO, Fehlberg EA, Hugon RP, Rogers J, Jordan M, Freytes IM Abstracts available at http://www.charleston.va.gov/heroic/HEROIC_Abstacts.asp (#12)

Feasibility of Using a Tele-Presence Robot to Conduct Home Safety Evaluations, Authors: Romero S, Lee MJ, Poulin ER Abstracts available at http://www.charleston.va.gov/heroic/HEROIC_Abstacts.asp (#27)

Using Video Telerehabilitation to Deliver Vocational Services to Rural Veterans with Disabilities, Authors: Ottomanelli L, Cotner BA, Njoh E, O'Connor DR, Jones VA, Levy C Abstracts available at http://www.charleston.va.gov/heroic/HEROIC_Abstacts.asp (#35)

Creating a Rural Veterans Health Care Atlas

Authors: Ahern JK, Litt ER, Wilson LK, Cowper Ripley DC Abstracts available at http://www.charleston.va.gov/heroic/HEROIC_Abstacts.asp (#59)

Bridget Cotner, PhD, Receives USF 2016 Anthropology Department's Distinguished Alumni Award



In August, 2016, Bridget Cotner, PhD, CINDRR Research Health Science Specialist and Qualitative Researcher, received the University of South Florida (USF) Anthropology Department's 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her research at CINDRR and her work with students and alumni. Dr. Cotner joined USF in 2006 and CINDRR in 2011.

Dr. Cotner taught, among other classes, Research Design and Measurement and in addition to teaching, Dr. Cotner has been instrumental in mentoring students and helping prepare them for a research career.

Dr. Cotner also assisted Margeaux Chavez, CINDRR Qualitative Data Manager, to obtain an academic research position at the Alliance for Applied Research in Education and Anthropology. As her mentor, she encouraged her to take on leadership roles and become a meticulous and conscientious qualitative researcher and helped guide her on her current career path.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented by the Committee on Anthropological Connections with Alumni and Friends. They are charged with recommending potential Alumni Honorees, who may be B.A., M.A. or Ph.D. graduates of the department. Awardees have distinguished themselves: (1) in a career in anthropology or a related discipline, (2) in the practice of anthropology, or (3) in service to anthropology, or the public, or USF.

The award will be presented to Dr. Cotner at a ceremony on October 14th.