

Institute/Center: Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH); National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH); *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Other IC review: NINDS, NIMH, NICHD

Headline: NIH, DoD, and VA host two day conference on Trauma Spectrum Disorders: The Role of Gender, Race & Other Socioeconomic Factors, October 1-2, 2008

Driving event: DoD invited ORWH to participate in joint research activities regarding gender and trauma spectrum disorders

Rollout plan: electronically through ORWH and NIH listservs and contacts as well as similar mechanism of the DoD and VA.

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Other background/Important factors: the DCoE was established per Congressional mandate in November 2007. DCoE contacted ORWH that spring. This conference is the first of many outcomes of that initial conversation.

Relevant specific web links:

ORWH: <http://orwh.od.nih.gov> – Office of Research on Women's Health

NINDS <http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/tbi/tbi.htm> -- information on traumatic brain injury

NIMH: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd/index.shtml> information on post traumatic stress disorder

NICHD: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/nemrr/> information on the NICHD Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research

DCOE: <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/events.htm> information on the Defense Center of Excellence on Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury

VA: <http://www.va.gov/> information on the Department of Veteran's Affairs

Release

As we know from history, health innovations developed in the civilian and military contexts are synergistic; what is learned in each context has relevance to the other and contributes greatly to improved health of all citizens. The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is pleased to collaborate with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), and the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DoD/DCoE) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on a two day scientific conference

entitled “Trauma Spectrum Disorders: The Role of Gender, Race & Other Socioeconomic Factors.”

The conference will be held at the Natcher Conference Center on the NIH Campus on October 1-2, 2008 from 8am to 5pm each day. This event will address what is known and what needs to be learned about the role of gender, race, and other sociodemographic factors in the identification and treatment of gender and race factors in traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury-related adjustment conditions. Identifying and closing knowledge gaps in these areas is a shared goal of the sponsoring agencies as they relate directly to health and quality of life for civilian, military, and veteran populations as well as their family members. Selected speakers will include S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD; RADM Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., Acting United States Surgeon General; Brigadier General Loree S. Sutton, M.D., Director, DCoE; Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D., Deputy Director NIH; Vivian W. Pinn, M.D., Director, ORWH; the Honorable Margaret Gianinni, M.D., F.A.A.P., Director, HHS Office of Disability; Joel Kupersmith, M.D., Chief Research and Development Officer (CRADO), VA Office of Research and Development (ORD); and Lee Woodruff, Bob Woodruff Family Foundation.

Brigadier General Loree Sutton, M.D., Director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury noted “this conference is a tremendous opportunity to partner with other organizations to improve the lives of our Warriors and their Families. Partnerships and collaboration, especially in the areas of research and identifying best practices, will be vital to addressing the psychological health needs of our Warriors.”

Conference participants will review the best existing science on trauma spectrum disorders related to military deployment such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. In addition to exploring how research can lead to improved care, the conference will help in identifying evidence-based strategies to better assess and treat psychological health issues and traumatic brain injury. During the conference, invited speakers and guests will explore gender and other factors specific to: a) psychological health needs of populations exposed to high stress, traumatic events, and deployment; b) traumatic brain injury (TBI); and c) treatment outcomes.

Vivian W. Pinn, M.D., Director of the Office of Research on Women’s Health at the National Institutes of Health said “by bringing together the best in research the NIH, the DoD, and the VA have to offer, this trans-federal initiative will provide a forum for civilian and military researchers to share experiences from both the laboratory and field.” She further noted that these efforts will in turn “develop better research strategies to address how gender and race/ethnicity may affect the identification, prevention, treatment, and long term care issues related to trauma stress disorders. ORWH is pleased to work with its NIH IC colleagues as well as sister agencies in the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs on such an important and vital concern to all Americans.”

For registration and agenda information, please go to:
<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/events.htm>.

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<http://www.nih.gov/icd/od/index.htm>.

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH) serves as a focal point for women's health research at the NIH. For more information about NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, visit
<http://orwh.od.nih.gov/>.