

**Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RACGWVI)  
Subcommittee on Veteran Engagement**

**April 23, 2024**

**4:00 – 6:30pm Mountain Time**

**Time Zones:** 7:00-9:30pm ET / 6:00-8:30pm CT / 4:00-6:30pm PT

**Location:** Hilton Phoenix Resort at The Peak, 7677 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020  
Phoenix Conference Room #2 (free parking and handicap accessible)

**Join Online:** <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m54c8a7bb2e8e7818f679b345377a22e1>

    Password: GWVET1991! (case sensitive)

**Join by Phone:** (Toll-free) 1-833-558-0712, Access code is 2826 178 2537

**Agenda**

4:00 - 4:15	Welcome and Gulf War Research in Phoenix	<b>Dr. Samuel Aguayo</b> Associate Chief of Staff for Research Phoenix VA Health Care System
4:15 - 4:25	Welcome / Committee Introductions / Overview	<b>Mr. Thomas Mathers</b> RACGWVI Subcommittee Chair 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
4:25 - 4:35	VA Research: Importance of Participation	<b>Dr. Karen Block</b> RACGWVI Designated Federal Officer
4:35 – 5:15	Gulf War Veteran Health Concerns - What we have heard and what is missing	<b>Dr. Drew Helmer</b> VA Deputy Director/Clinician/Researcher Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
BREAK: 15 min		
5:30 – 6:00	Health Care Delivery or Access - What we have heard and what is missing	<b>Ms. Sonya Smith</b> 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
6:00 - 6:30	PACT Act for Gulf War Veterans Benefits and Claims - What we have heard and what is missing	<b>Mr. Ronald Brown</b> 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
Adjourn		

**Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RACGWVI)  
Subcommittee on Veteran Engagement**

**April 24, 2024**

**8:00 – 10:30am Mountain Time**

**Time Zones:** 11:00am-1:30pm ET / 10:00am-12:30pm CT / 8:00-10:30am PT

**Location:** Phoenix 32nd St. VA Clinic, 7677 North 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020  
Conference Rooms 5C107/5C108 (free parking and handicap accessible)

**Join Online:** <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=md762d96d33c51c5e03bfa7fd56e29d>  
Password: GWVETS1991! (case sensitive)

**Join by Phone:** (Toll-free) 1-833-558-0712, Access code is 2824 521 1053

**Agenda**

8:00 - 8:15	Welcome and Gulf War Research in Phoenix	<b>Dr. Jonathan Lifshitz</b> Chair, Phoenix VA Research & Development Committee
8:15 - 8:25	Welcome / Committee Introductions / Overview	<b>Mr. Thomas Mathers</b> RACGWVI Subcommittee Chair 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
8:25 - 8:35	VA Research: Importance of Participation	<b>Dr. Karen Block</b> RACGWVI Designated Federal Officer
8:35 – 9:15	Overview of health concerns from past VES sessions - What we have heard and what is missing?	<b>Dr. Drew Helmer</b> VA Deputy Director/Clinician/Researcher Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
BREAK: 15 min		
9:30-10:00	Health Care Delivery or Access - What we have heard and what is missing?	<b>Ms. Sonya Smith</b> 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
10:00-10:30	PACT Act for Gulf War Veterans - What we have heard and what is missing?	<b>Mr. Ronald Brown</b> 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
Adjourn		

**RACGWVI Subcommittee Members**

**Mr. Thomas Mathers**  
RACGWVI Subcommittee Chair  
1990-91 Gulf War Veteran

**Mr. Ronald Brown**  
RACGWVI Member  
1990-91 Gulf War Veteran

**Drew Helmer, MD, MS**  
RACGWVI Member  
Deputy Director, Center for Innovations in  
Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuEst)  
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

**Sonya Smith, MHA**  
RACGWVI Member  
1990-91 Gulf War Veteran

**RACGWVI Staff**

**Karen Block, PhD**  
Designated Federal Officer  
Director of Gulf War, VA Office of Research  
& Development

**Stanley Corpus**  
Program Coordinator  
1990-91 Gulf War Veteran

**Daniel Sloper**  
Technical Writer-Editor  
1990-91 Gulf War Veteran

**Marsha Turner, MEd**  
Managing Director  
Alternated Designated Federal Officer

**Invited Guests**

**Lisa Breun-Moreland (VBA)**  
Qualitative Analysis and Studies Officer  
Compensation Services  
Veterans Benefits Administration

**Peter Rumm, MD, MPH (VHA)**  
Director of Policy  
Health Outcomes Military Exposures  
Veterans Health Administration

**Invited Guests – Phoenix**

**Samuel Aguayo, MD**  
Associate Chief of Staff for Research  
Medical Director, Lung Screening and  
Surveillance Program  
Phoenix VA Health Care System

**Serge Hagopian**  
Policy Research Analyst  
Veterans Benefits Administration

**Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD**  
Chair, VA Research and Development Committee  
Phoenix VA Health Care System