



GULF WAR RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

VHA OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT / Victor Kalasinsky

June 18, 2013



Gulf War Research Strategic Plan (2013-2017)

- **VA Approval – February, 2013**
 - Distributed to RACGWVI
 - Posted on VA website
- **Conduct annual reviews of the Strategic Plan**

Gulf War Research – Requests for Applications (RFAs)

October 2012 Review Panel:

15 applications received; 4 recommended for funding

February 2013 Review Panel:

17 applications received; 3 recommended for funding

July 2013 Review Panel:

22 applications received

Next Deadline for Receipt of Applications:

September, 2013

Gulf War Research Projects

Active:

- **Bacterial Overgrowth Associated with Chronic Multi-Symptom Illness Complex**
- **Bacterial Host Defense Mechanisms in Polyaromatic Hydrocarbon Carcinogenesis**
- **Somatic hypersensitivity in Veterans with IBS**
- **Lipoic Acid Therapy for Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis**
- **Multiple Antigenic Peptides to Alter the Course of Autoimmune Disease**
- **Immunoregulation of Myelin Specific T Lymphocytes**
- **Central Mechanisms Modulating Visceral Sensitivity**
- **Neuroprotection and Myelin Repair Mechanisms in Multiple Sclerosis**
- **Sleep Neurobiology and Circuitry**
- **Prevention of Hippocampal Neurodegeneration Due to Age and Apnea**

Gulf War Research Projects

Active:

- **Epigenetic Mechanisms Relevant to the Pathogenesis of ALS**
- **Impact of exercise training on pain and brain function in Gulf War Veterans**
- **Nanoparticle Coupled Antioxidants for Respiratory Illness in Veterans**
- **Understanding Pain of Gastrointestinal Origin in Women that Serve in OEF/OIF**
- **Memory and Mood Enhancing Therapies for Gulf War Illness**
- **MEG Synchronous Neural Interactions (SNI) in Gulf War Veterans**
- **rTMS for the Treatment of Chronic Pain in GW1 Veterans**
- **Vascular and Skeletal Muscle Function in Gulf War Veterans Illness**
- **Diagnostic Utility of mtDNA Content and Exercise Challenge in Veterans with GWI**
- **Transcranial, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Therapy to Improve Cognition in GWVI**

Gulf War Research Projects

- **Gulf War Research Topics Selected for Funding**
 - Identification of Plasma Biomarkers in Ill Gulf War Veterans
 - Fatigue in Gulf War Veterans using fMRI
 - Steroid Treatment for Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
 - Drug Trial for the Treatment of Ill Gulf War Veterans
 - Gulf War Veterans with Suspected Sarin Exposure

Gulf War Research Portfolio Criteria

- **Gulf War Research Portfolio – Criteria for Inclusion (2005)**
 - Studies of chronic multisymptom illnesses (CMI) affecting GW Veterans, including case definitions for CMI in GW Veterans and the general population.
 - Conditions and/or symptoms occurring with higher prevalence in GW Veterans
 - Long-term health effects of potentially hazardous substances, alone and in combination, to which GW Veterans may have been exposed to during deployment.
 - Other topics from the 19 Topics forming the framework for the *Annual Report to Congress on Federally Sponsored Research on GW Veterans' Illnesses*.

Gulf War Research Funding – DoD, HHS, VA

10-Year (FY 2003-2012) Funding Trends for GW Research in Millions of Dollars

Department	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Total Costs FY '03-'12
DoD	\$ 16.4	\$ 11.1	\$ 10.1	\$ 10.1	\$ 3.4	\$ 11.7	\$ 10.4	\$ 10.4	\$ 10.3	\$ 3.7	\$ 97.6
HHS	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.5	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 3.2
VA	\$ 5.7	\$ 7.6	\$ 9.5	\$ 13.0	\$ 22.1	\$ 21.9	\$ 16.6	\$ 13.9	\$ 5.6	\$ 6.7	\$ 122.6
TOTAL	\$ 23.1	\$ 19.2	\$ 20.1	\$ 23.5	\$ 25.9	\$ 34.0	\$ 27.0	\$ 24.3	\$ 15.9	\$ 10.4	\$ 223.4

(DoD estimate for FY 2012 does not include CDMRP funds.)

Case Definition of Chronic Multisymptom Illness in 1990-1991 Gulf War Veterans

- **Case Definition of Chronic Multisymptom Illness
in Gulf War Veterans**
 - Contract with the Institute of Medicine
 - May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014
 - IOM Committee selected (posted on IOM website)
 - Open Meeting – June 26, 2013 (1:00-5:45pm)

Gulf War Research Biorepositories

- **CSP #585 Gulf War Era Cohort and Biorepository**
 - Kick-Off meeting – August 29-30, 2013
- **Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Biorepository**
 - Began operations, Jul 2012

Gulf War Research – Other Activities

- **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs**
 - Planning Joint VA/DoD Gulf War Program Review
- **Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force (GWVI-TF)**
- **Annual Report to Congress**

Gulf War Research – Requests for Applications (RFAs)

Biomedical Laboratory Research & Development (BLR&D):

BX-13-011

Award for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)

BX-13-012

Pilot Projects for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)

Clinical Science Research & Development (CSR&D):

CX-13-011

Award for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)

CX-13-012

Pilot Projects for Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI)

CX-13-013

Award for Research on Treatments for Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI) –
(clinical trial)