

Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

Agenda

Date	September 21-22, 2022
On-site Location	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Washington, D.C. Sonny Montgomery Room (room 230) 810 Vermont Ave NW, Washington DC 20420
Join online – Day 1 September 21	Webex url: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m7441b2e0482296d1a2d611ed22560028 Meeting number (access code): 2762 768 4678 Meeting password: 9v3PtpWi8t@ Join by phone: 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free
Join online – Day 2 September 22	Webex url: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m8d7771d1c15919193c3087618ddfff8a Meeting number (access code): 2761 228 0209 Meeting password: TtZUK3fa\$68 Join by phone: 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free
Purpose of Meeting	The purpose of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (RACGWVI) is to advise the Secretary VA on research, plans and strategies related to understanding and treating the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the 1990 - 1991 Gulf War.
Focus of Current Meeting	1990-91 Military Exposures, 4-yr committee accomplishments, future directions
Committee Chairman	Dr. Lawrence Steinman
Designated Federal Officer (DFO)	Dr. Karen Block
Alternate DFO	Marsha Turner
Members	Dr. James Baraniuk, Brent Casey, Col. Richard Gaard, Dr. Drew Helmer, Dr. Carey Pope, Barbara Ward, Jane Wasvick, William Watts, Dr. James Woody
New Members	Ronald Brown, Thomas Mathers, Delphine Metcalf-Foster, Sonya Smith, Dr. Elaine Symanski
Special Guests	Dr. Cheryl Walker, Dr. Kenneth Ramos

DAY 1 OF 2 Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:00am – 4:00pm Eastern Time		
9:00am	Business	
9:00–9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Lawrence Steinman Committee Chair
9:30–9:40	Video Message from VA Secretary Denis McDonough	VA Senior Leadership
9:40-9:55	HOME Updates and the PACT Act and Gulf War Topics	Peter D. Rumm, MD, MPH, FACPM Director of Policy Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME), VHA, VA
9:55-10:15	RACGWVI 2022 Recommendations, VA Gulf War Research Program Updates	Karen Block, PhD RACGWVI Designated Federal Officer Senior Program Manager Gulf War Research VHA Office of Research & Development (ORD)
10:15-10:35	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, Toxic Exposures Research Program Overview	Melissa (Missy) Tursiella, PhD Program Manager, Toxic Exposure Research Program, CDMRP
10:35-10:50	Break (15 minutes)	
10:50-11:20	Keynote Address: The Lived Experience of a Black American Gulf War Veteran	Raymond Christian, PhD 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
11:20-11:40	Overview of the 1990-91 Gulf War Environment	James Woody, MD, PhD CAPT MC USN (Ret), Former Commanding Officer, Navy Medical Research and Development Command
11:40-12:10	Evaluation of a Gene–Environment Interaction of PON1 and Low-Level Nerve Agent Exposure with Gulf War Illness: A Prevalence Case–Control Study Drawn from the U.S. Military Health Survey’s National Population Sample	Robert W. Haley, MD Division of Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, Texas
12:10-12:30	Gulf War Illness (GWI): Causation Considerations, Pathobiology versus Pathophysiology, Genes, Chemicals, Infectious Agents	J. Wesson Ashford, MD, PhD Director, VA Palo Alto War Related Illness and Injury Study Center, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (affiliated), Stanford University
12:30-1:30	Lunch (60 minutes)	
1:30-2:00	Post exertion malaise in GWI-Brain autonomic and behavioral interactions	Dane Cook, PhD Health Science Specialist/Research Physiologist, William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison WI
2:00-2:30	COVID-19 and the Nervous System	Avindra Nath, MD Clinical Director, Division of Intramural Research, Senior Investigator, Section of Infections of the Nervous System; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Bethesda MD
2:30-3:10	Fireside Chat	Committee and Invited Speakers
3:10-3:20	Break (10 minutes)	
3:20-3:30	VHA ORD Research Volunteer Registry	David A. Thompson, D.B.A. Director, VHA ORD Research Volunteer Program
3:30-4:00	Public Comment	Visitors and Invited Guests
4:00pm	Adjourn	DFO/Committee Chair

DAY 2 OF 2 Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:30am – Noon Eastern Time		
8:30am	Business	
8:30-8:40	Welcome/Opening Remarks	Lawrence Steinman, MD
8:40-8:50	Veteran Engagement Subcommittee Report	RACGWVI Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Larry Steinman ▪ Col. Richard Gaard ▪ Dr. Drew Helmer ▪ Ms. Barbara Ward ▪ Mrs. Jane Wasvick ▪ Mr. William Watts
8:50-9:00	Frustrations from a Gulf War Discarded Vet	Mr. Jason Johnson 1990-91 Gulf War Veteran
9:00-9:35	Insights into Gulf War Illness by Analogy to ME/CFS	W. Ian Lipkin, MD Director, Center of Infection and Immunity Mailman School of Public Health Columbia University, NY
9:35-10:00	<i>Gulf War Veteran Topic of Interest:</i> Clinical Guidelines for Chronic Multi-Symptom Illness	Stephen Hunt, MD Director, VA Post-Deployment Integrated Care Initiative
10:00 – 10:15	Break (15 minutes)	
10:15-10:25	Gulf War-Military Exposure Research Innovation Center (MERIC): Model for Implementing Evidence Based Practices: Overview	Lisa McAndrew, PhD Director of Research, Acting Director of Education NJ War Related Illness and Injury Center (WRIISC)
10:25-10:35	GW-MERIC Project 1 Enhancing Quality of Care for Gulf War Illness through Clinician Awareness and Support	Shannon Nugent, PhD Core Investigator, VA Portland Healthcare System Assistant Professor, Oregon Health & Science Univ
10:35-10:45	GW-MERIC Project 2 Evaluation of VET-HOME	April Mohanty, MPH, PhD Research Health Scientist, VA Salt Lake City IDEAS Ctr; Assistant Professor, Dept of Internal Medicine, University of Utah
10:45-10:55	GW-MERIC Project 3 Concordant Care and Problem-Solving Therapy for Gulf War Illness	Autumn Gallegos, PhD Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Ctr, Rochester NY
10:55-11:05	GW-MERIC Project 4 Optimization of a web-based approach for treatment of GWI	Katharine Bloeser, MSW, PhD Research Scientist, NJ WRIISC; Assistant Professor, City University of New York – Hunter College;
11:05-11:10	Committee Business	Karen Block, PhD Designated Federal Officer
11:10-11:30	RACGWVI Insights, Closing Remarks and Introduction of New Chair/Vice-Chair	Larry Steinman, MD Zimmerman Chair of Pediatrics, Neurology and Neurological Sciences, Beckman Center for Molecular Medicine, Stanford University
11:30-Noon	Public Comment	Visitors and Invited Guests
Noon	Adjourn	DFO/Committee Chair