

Atlanta VAHCS Research & Development Service  
*Research Quarterly*

**SPECIAL RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**



**ATLANTA**

Emory University and its local partners, including the Atlanta VA Health Care System, are leading the Atlanta hub for a nationwide study to identify why some people have prolonged symptoms (long COVID) or develop new or returning symptoms after an acute bout of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The RECOVER research team will identify the risk factors that contribute to long COVID – medically known as post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC) – which can affect multiple organs. The investigators will also look at characterizing the incidence, prevalence, and long-term outcomes of long COVID and examine mechanisms and causal effects of COVID-19 that may help inform approaches for treatment and prevention.

Some of the key questions researchers will address include:

- What does recovery from SARS-CoV-2 infection look like among different groups?
- How many people continue to have symptoms and how many develop new symptoms after acute infection?
- What causes these health effects?
- Why do some develop these health effects while others do not?
- Does COVID-19 trigger changes in the body that increase the risk of other conditions?

If you or someone in your family has had COVID, or are feeling the long-term effects of COVID, you might be able to help us understand more about it and treat it. Even if you have not had COVID, you might be able to help. Learn more about how you can be part of a study near you.

Follow us for updates  
@RECOVERAtlanta



Scan code for  
more information



**WELCOME NEW RESEARCH OFFICE STAFF**

Reginald Harden



Reginald Harden serves as our new Research Purchasing Agent. Before Reginald’s appointment with the Research Department, he served 20 years in the United States Air Force (USAF), completing three tours abroad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. Reginald retired from the USAF May 2020. Shortly after retirement, Reginald served in the position of Field Service Coordinator for Datapath, Incorporated (INC) where he was responsible for onboarding and transition oversight of newly hired personnel. Reginald earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Management from Saint Leo University.

## FEATURED VA RESEARCH STAFF

Ursula Kelly, PhD, RN



Dr. Ursula Kelly is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and nurse scientist at the Atlanta VA Health Care System. She also is an associate professor of nursing at Emory University in Atlanta. Throughout her career, she has worked to understand the issues facing survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual trauma. Additionally, she was recently appointed to VA/DOD PTSD Clinical Practice Guidelines Work Group as the national representative for VA Nursing.

Kelly is the principal investigator for a five-year clinical trial that sought to exam the effectiveness of a specialized form of trauma-sensitive yoga to treat women Veterans who developed PTSD in relation to MT. The trial compared the effectiveness of Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TCTSY) to cognitive processing therapy (CPT) – one of several gold-standard psychotherapies used to treat PTSD.

The interim [results](#), published in the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, showed that TCTSY was equivalent to CPT in relieving PTSD symptom severity in this group of women Veterans. (You can view the team's cyber-seminar presentation [here](#).) In addition, the research team found that those in the TCTSY intervention showed an earlier reduction in PTSD symptom severity than CPT, which could help to combat a high drop-out rate for trauma-focused PTSD therapy.

For more information, click [here](#).

Juton Winston



Juton is a Manager of Research projects. Her professional work in research includes Cardiology, Hematology and Oncology now focusing on Infectious Diseases over 10+ years collectively. She is afforded the opportunity to work alongside some amazing physicians who have contributed to groundbreaking research. She is extremely passionate about research as it provides an important long run perspective on the issues that they face on a day-to-day basis. She is currently the Program Manager for the RECOVER study, which was highlighted above.

She is the happiest with her son enjoying sports in their hometown Atlanta, GA.

## CONGRATULATIONS – NEW RESEARCH AWARDS!

Dr. Camille Vaughan: Improving Primary Care Understanding of Resources and Screening for Urinary Incontinence to Enhance Treatment (PURSUIT)

Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green: Safety Assessment of Laser Activated NanoTherapy (LANT) as a Potential Treatment for Veterans with Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinomas

Dr. Shayna Brathwaite: Enhancing the Efficiency of Data Collection for Surgical Quality Improvement

Dr. Joseph Roberts: The contribution of the intestinal microbiota to fracture-induced pain

## WHAT'S NEW WITH THE CVNR?

The Atlanta VA Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation is pleased to recognize the one-year anniversary of the Community Advisory Panel, or CAP which was founded in April, 2021. Over this past year, Veterans and strategic partners from the community have teamed up with the CVNR Connectivity Core to provide feedback on CVNR products, such as the Newsletter, helping to promote research and center initiatives. The upcoming year the CAP plans to work to share information about the CVNR through expanding community contacts, participating in community events, and inviting researchers to discuss upcoming projects.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FOUNDATION FOR ATLANTA VETERANS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (FAVER)?

### Did you Know?

Did you know that FAVER displays a collection of featured research projects on its website? On a biannual basis, FAVER updates the featured projects displayed on its website to promote some of the high-quality investigators and their programs at the Atlanta VA. Please visit <https://faver.foundation> or <https://faver.foundation/latest-news/featured-projects/> to view some of the exciting work conducted by your colleagues at our VA. FAVER also maintains an archive of previous versions of the featured projects. To view the Previously Featured Projects, please visit <https://faver.foundation/latest-news/previously-featured-projects/>.

### Greetings to New Faces

FAVER welcomed the following new employees:

Name	PI
Alexis Lawrence	Abeer Moanna, MD
Charlotte Masterson	Krton Mavromatis, MD / Larry Phillips, MD

### Employee Appreciation

Thank you to all FAVER employees for your contributions and dedication to the VA/FAVER research and education missions. And congratulations to the following employees celebrating anniversaries:

Years	Name
10-15	Andrew Revis (12 Years) Jennifer Whelan (12 Years)
5-10	Emily Fawcett (5 Years) Ngoc-Anh Le (8 Years) Nikki Leslie (7 Years)
1-5	Taelor Moran (1 Year) Chelsea Murphy (1 year) Nina Patel (1 year) Annabel Patterson (1 Year) Tehquin Tanner (1 Year)

## FEATURED PROJECTS

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## EXTRAMURAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FAVER has added a new resource for PIs on its website, Extramural Funding Opportunities (<https://faver.foundation/pi-resources/funding-opportunities/>). This page provides links to non-VA funded grant opportunities.

If you are interested in submitting an application/proposal through FAVER, please contact Marcia Weese, [marcia.weese@va.gov](mailto:marcia.weese@va.gov) or 404.321.6111 ext. 127897.

If you want to learn more about FAVER, visit [www.faver.foundation](http://www.faver.foundation) or contact Leslie Hughes, [lhughes@faver.foundation](mailto:lhughes@faver.foundation) or 404.321.6111 ext. 122535.

## CENTRAL OFFICE DEADLINES

Research Service	Deadline
BLRD Eligibility – For any PhD scientists who would like to submit a BLRD Merit application for the Fall 22 cycle and have not done so previously, or have not had BLRD funding in 3+ years must apply for eligibility. Please contact Kallie Medbery ( <a href="mailto:Mary.Medbery@va.gov">Mary.Medbery@va.gov</a> ) for details by May 15 <sup>th</sup> if you would like to apply for eligibility.	June 1 <sup>st</sup>

## R&D DEADLINES

Month	IRBNet R&D Package Submission Deadline	R&D Meeting Date
May (Grant Review)	N/A	05.18.2022
June	06.01.2022	05.18.2022
July	06.22.2022	07.06.2022

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bajema KL, Dahl RM, Evener SL, et al. Comparative Effectiveness and Antibody Responses to Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines among Hospitalized Veterans – Five Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, United States, February 1–September 30, 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:1700–1705. DOI: <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7049a2">http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7049a2</a>
Kelly, Ursula A. (Invited HSRD Article). Evidence for Trauma Sensitive Yoga as a Treatment for PTSD Related to Military Sexual Trauma in Women Veterans: Findings from a 5-year RCT. <a href="#">Article Link</a>

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Job Title	Location
FAVER Positions	<a href="#">FAVER Job Announcements</a>
IACUC Coordinator (Research Office)	Announcement Pending
Research Nurse (CSP 2002)	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Research Assistant (CSP 2002)	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Research Data Analyst	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Health Science Specialist, CSP NODES	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Post-Doc (BLRD)	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Biological Lab Tech	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Research Nurse	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>
Research Coordinator	If interested, please contact <a href="mailto:Ashley.Scales@va.gov">Ashley.Scales@va.gov</a>