San Antonio Military Health System and Universities Research Forum (SURF) 
Chief Scientist Vision: Be the Premier DHA Clinical Research & Training Site 
Author: Dr. Victor Sylvia, 59 MDW/ST

The 8th annual San Antonio Military Health System and Universities Research Forum (SURF) was held on June 16, 2022, at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The full day event included podium presentations, panel discussion and poster session high-lighting the latest research and discoveries of trainees, faculty, staff and students work-ing to improve health outcomes and readiness.

Opening remarks by the leadership were given by Col Kristen Beals, M.D., Vice Com-mander, 59th Medical Wing; COL Sean Joseph Hipp, M.D., M.S., Chief Medical Of-ficer, Brooke Army Medical Center; Bernard Arulanandam, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Knowledge Enterprise, The University of Texas at San Antonio; and Byron C. Hepburn, M.D., Maj Gen, USAF (Ret), Associate Vice President & Director, Military Health Institute, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

The Keynote Address, entitled "What we are still missing in the COVID response - les-sons from battling pandemics around the globe", was given by Ambassador Deborah Birx, M.D., COL, USA (Ret), former White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, currently Senior Fellow of the George W. Bush Institute. The first plenary address, entitled "Collaborating with a Non-profit to Advance Military Medical Research", was given by Elise Huszar, M.B.A., President & CEO of The Geneva Foundation. The sec-ond plenary address, entitled "Past, Present and Future of Blood Resuscitation in Trau-ma" was given by COL Andrew P. Cap, M.D., Ph.D., Director of Research at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research.

A panel session entitled "Innovation for Commercialization of Military Health Products" was presented by Christine Burke, Ph.D., Director, Commercialization & Technology Transfer, The University of Texas at San Antonio; John Fritz, Associate Director of Technology Commercialization, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; Lyle Hood, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Mike Stimson, Senior Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP; and Scott Walter, Ph.D., PE, Director of Technology Transition/Transfer, 59th Medical Wing.

The San Antonio Medical Foundation sponsored the poster session and the top 3 posters were: 1st Place: "Utility Of Follow-Up Blood Cultures In Patient’s Receiving Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation" - Dr. Stone Frankford; Ana Markelz; Michal Sobieszczyk; Joseph Marcus, San Antonio Unified Services Health Education Consortium; 2nd Place: "Fast-Track Radioactive Iodine Ablation Therapy for Graves’ Disease Patients" - Dr. Kyle Stevens; Dr. Courtney Clutter; Dr. Justin Peacock, San Antonio Unified Services Health Education Consortium; 3rd Place: "Transition of REBOA from Zone 3 To Zone 1 to Treat Cardiovascular Collapse During Continued Hemorrhage in Swine" - Dr. Jason Rall; Kimberly Baker; Melo-dy Sandoval; Nola Shepard, 59th Medical Wing.

More information about SURF 2022 and a copy of the digital program is available at https://research.utsa.edu/communicate/events/surf.html.
SAUSHEC Graduation Ceremony Honors Accomplishments of 232 Residents and Fellows

By Lori Newman / Published June 21, 2022
SAN ANTONIO, Texas

The San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium held a graduation ceremony June 10 at the Lila Cockrell Theatre in downtown San Antonio. The ceremony honored 232 residents and fellows from about 60 physician and allied health specialty programs.

"It’s been a long road," said Dr. Mark True, SAUSHEC dean. "If you count all the way back to kindergarten, your training years total up to 24 to 28 years of education to this point in your lives."

True reminded the graduates that they are ready for independent practice. "You are now the authority for the care you provide to your patients," he said. "With this authority comes great responsibility, and we know you will rise excellently to this occasion. Our patients deserve the best … we are proud to present them our best – that’s you!"

The dean assured them that their program directors and faculty remain committed to helping them as they move forward in their careers. "Dial-a-mentor is a real thing, and I encourage all of you to stay connected," True said. He also encouraged them to "never stop learning."

SAUSHEC is the organization responsible for military graduate medical education and graduate allied health education in San Antonio with two major training sites at Brooke Army Medical Center and the 59th Medical Wing.
The keynote speaker for the event was U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Scott Dingle, the Army Surgeon General and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command. Dingle congratulated the graduates on their accomplishment and thanked the San Antonio community for always being a tremendous supporter of military medicine. He also thanked the faculty for their mentorship, leadership and instruction.

“I believe that this is the epicenter of military medicine,” he said. “As we have the world’s best consortium of military and civilian partnerships.” The Army Surgeon General addressed the graduates saying, “You are a member of the world’s best team.”

“There is nothing like the system that you are getting ready to go back into – the Military Health System,” Dingle said. “You have been trained. You have been prepared. You have been educated to build and lead teams in order to save lives.” He said, “It’s not about the rank on your shoulders or the title that you have, it’s about the service and the lives that you touch.”

He also outlined a series of “dares” for them.

“I dare you to be your best, and maximize the training and education that was poured into you over these last months,” he said. “I dare you to be the best darn doctor, nurse, medical professional that you can be. I double dare you to give your all every day that you put on the uniform and go in there and provide healthcare and readiness.”

“I dare you to be a difference maker in the lives of everyone who comes across your path,” he added. “I dare you to be better than me. I dare you to save lives.”

The ceremony was extra special for U.S. Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Amy Moore, Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery graduate. Her father, retired U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Christopher C. Medley and her grandfather, retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas Prioleau Ball Jr., were both in attendance to cheer her accomplishment. Ball is a former 59th Medical Wing/Wilford Hall Medical Center commander (1986-1987). He also was Joint Medical Military Command commander. “It was certainly special for me to have him there,” Moore said.

This was also an exciting time for graduations in the Garcia family. Along with mom, U.S. Air Force Capt. Anna Garcia graduating, their daughter graduated college and two of their sons finished high school this past week. The mother of seven had her seventh child when she was a fourth-year medical student. “He was about two weeks old when I graduated, so he’s grown up with me through my residency,” she said.

“Originally, I was torn between general surgery and obstetrics,” Garcia said. “I took it as a sign from the heavens that I needed to do OB/GYN because having your seventh baby during your fourth year of medical school, I was like, alright, I can take a hint here,” she laughed.

Along with the graduation certificates, five Commander's Awards for Research, two Housestaff Hall of Fame awards, and eight merit awards were presented during the ceremony.

“Congratulations on this very historical day as you go back out into the military health care system,” Dingle said. “I double dare you to be your best.”
BAMC Makes History Welcoming New Commanding General

By Robert Whetstone / Published July 12, 2022

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

The first active duty Medical Specialist Corps general officer in the Army, Brig. Gen Deydre Teyhen, took command of Brooke Army Medical Center after an assumption of command ceremony in the Carolyn D. Putnam Auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston July 11. Teyhen was promoted to brigadier general July 8, 2022.

“I could not be more excited, I could not be more proud to take command of this stellar, world-renowned organization” Teyhen said. She reflected on the call she received to inform her which organization she would be commanding. “I almost fell out of my chair to be returning to San Antonio, to Military City U.S.A. They don’t give you a chance to do an OML (order of merit list), but if I would have done an OML, this (BAMC) would have been my first choice.”

In addition to commanding BAMC, Teyhen will serve as the deputy market director for the San Antonio Market, and the 20th Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps.

“It’s an honor to officially welcome Brig. Gen. Deydre Teyhen to the Regional Health Command-Central team and to the flagship of military medicine, here at Brooke Army Medical Center,” said Brig. Gen. E. Darren Cox, RHC-C commanding general, and deputy director, Small Market and Stand-Alone Military Treatment Facilities Organization. Cox was the reviewing officer for the assumption of command ceremony.

Prior to taking command of BAMC, Teyhen, a physical therapist by trade, served as the deputy chief of staff (Support, G-1/4/6) at the Office of the Surgeon General, Falls Church, Virginia. During the pandemic, she served as the Department of Defense Lead of Therapeutics for Operation Warp Speed at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as the commander for Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, the Department of Defense’s largest biomedical research facility.

In his remarks, Cox lauded Teyhen for having spent her career positively affecting readiness one patient, one student, one research paper, and one policy at a time. “The leadership Brig. Gen. Teyhen will provide is vital to the ongoing successful modernization of the Army, Army Medicine and the Military Health System,” he added.

Teyhen made special notice of how extremely busy BAMC has been in the last two years. “I am in awe of the professionalism, agility and expertise demonstrated during extraordinary challenges,” she stated.

BAMC continues to partner with the San Antonio medical community during the ongoing COVID pandemic, retained its Level I Trauma designation after a rigorous Joint Commission inspection, and implemented the new electronic health record system, MHS GENESIS.

“I couldn’t be more impressed,” the general said. “Truly, you deliver excellence on a daily basis.”

When Teyhen had the opportunity to address the guests during the assumption of command ceremony, she emphasized the importance of the people in the organization.

“I believe in putting people first,” she explained. “I am committed to having BAMC remain a great environment for both personal and professional growth for everyone within the organization. I want BAMC to continue to be the premier military treatment facility within the DoD, and I want you to be proud every day to say, ‘I am Team BAMC!’”

Maintaining readiness was also an important theme of Teyhen’s remarks to the audience. “As military medical professionals, we exist so we can maintain a healthy, medically ready force to fight and win our nation’s wars,” Teyhen said. “This requires a ready medical force to support them. It is our responsibility to be lifelong learners and expand our ability to be ready to deploy wherever our nation calls.”

Because of the overall medical training mission at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Teyhen is no stranger to the community, its importance and impact. “I’m incredibly excited to be back in Military City USA, working alongside our community partners in San Antonio and the region,” she said.

“Partners such as the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council, University Health System, UT Health, the VA and too many others to name,” Teyhen noted. “Together, we pioneer research and develop innovative practices to improve the lives of service members, retirees and their family members, both here in San Antonio and around the world.”
Medical Education and Training Campus Welcomes New Commandant
By Lisa Braun / Published Aug. 4, 2022
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

During a low-key ceremony held July 21 at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Air Force Col. David Walmsley became the sixth METC commandant after relieving Navy Capt. Thomas Herzig, who will retire later this month.

The ceremony took place immediately following the quarterly METC Board of Directors meeting chaired by Dr. Barclay Butler, Assistant Director for Support, Defense Health Agency, and attended by representatives from several Department of Defense medical organizations, including the command teams of the Army, Navy, and Air Force’s medical components: the Army Medical Center of Excellence; the Naval Medical Forces Support Command; and the 59th Medical Wing.

In his remarks, Barclay congratulated Herzig for his exemplary leadership as METC commandant. “You have set the highest standards for the military education that we provide our Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen during your tenure as the commandant of the METC,” Barclay said. “Thanks to your leadership we graduate nearly 17,000 professionals every year from the METC. Those professionals go on to provide care for our armed forces and our beneficiaries.

“These professionals are able to make a difference in people’s lives every single day because of what they have learned under your leadership with the faculty and staff at the METC,” Barclay added.

Barclay went on to praise Herzig for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing METC’s ability to keep the training pipeline open “and not miss a single beat in meeting our graduation requirements and servicing the requirements of the Combatant Commanders.”

Before officially relinquishing the role of commandant, Herzig expressed his thanks to the METC Board of Directors for their support to METC, noting the tremendous progress that was made placing METC on a path for continued success while meeting the requirements of the services. He also acknowledged the staff and leadership of the DHA J-7 Directorate and Assistant Director for Support, the Navy Bureau of Medicine, Air Force Education and Training Command, and Army Medical Command; and the Uniformed Services University College of Health Sciences for the support they have all provided.

To METC staff and instructors, he said, “Your dedication and perseverance are unmatched, allowing METC to achieve its mission and deliver well-trained, enlisted medical professionals to the operational forces and for the MTFs (Medical Treatment Facilities).”

“We’ve had a number of issues or setbacks over the past three years,” he continued. “Many units would have folded or buckled under the pressure. But METC, with our service colleagues, have worked together, collaborated, helped each other, and ensured that we graduated well-trained professionals.”

To the METC staff, Herzig said, “We cannot deliver on our mission without Operations, Logistics, Facilities, IT, or the Resource Management Teams. Sometimes we ask for the impossible and they still deliver. Your determination and advocacy for the programs is invaluable. Strategic Planning, another division that always delivers, makes sure that our partnerships with academic institutions across the country are strong and that our students are getting what they deserve.

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“Academic Support drives, reviews and updates the curriculum as well as runs our Registrar’s office. METC cannot train without them. Standards and Evaluation, whether it's course surveys, reports to accrediting bodies or data analysis, METC cannot be an accredited body without their hard work.

“Academic Delivery - they are the programs. The instructors are amazing, delivering our trained professionals. Outside organizations are in awe of what we accomplish in the time that we’ve been given. In many cases, we deliver in 16 weeks in what it takes them to do in two or three years.

“To the Dean, Support Services, and the front office staff, you welcomed me warmly, you continued to provide guidance and historical knowledge, and helped me in ways that I cannot thank you enough. It has been my honor and pleasure to work and serve with you. I hope that through high leadership here at METC we’ve made it a better institution and that we’re on track to continue to push METC in the direction that we want it to go and that we know it needs to go. It will be in good hands with Col. Walmsley, of that I’m sure. “Good luck. I’ll be watching from the sidelines.”

Walmsley, a pharmacist, previously served as the commander of the 59th Training Group, located on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

Herzig, who served as METC commandant beginning in August 2019, will retire after 26 years of military service.

NAMRU San Antonio Researcher Earns Award
By Burrell Parme / Published June 13, 2022
SAN ANTONIO, Texas

U.S. Navy Lt. Rachel Robeck, a medical researcher assigned to Combat Casualty Care and Operational Medicine, Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio, was awarded first place in the Commanders’ Awards for Original Medical Research and Quality Improvement (Allied Health Category) during the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium’s 2022 Graduation Ceremony held at the Lila Cockrell Theatre June 10, 2022.

Robeck’s authored work was titled "The Relationship of Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D at Admission and Severity of Illness in COVID-19 Patients."

"I feel truly honored to receive this award in recognition of the research I completed while pursuing my doctorate,” said Robeck whose work will be published in the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence’s "The Medical Journal" in July.

According to Robeck, her work was completed in affiliation with Brooke Army Medical Center and the University of Baylor.

NAMRU San Antonio’s mission is to conduct gap-driven combat casualty care, craniofacial, and directed energy research to improve survival, operational readiness, and safety of Department of Defense personnel engaged in routine and expeditious operations.

It is one of the leading research and development laboratories for the U.S. Navy under the DOD and is one of eight subordinate research commands in the global network of laboratories operating under the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Maryland.
USAISR Welcomes New Commander
By Dr. Steven Galvan / Published July 11, 2022

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas

Col. (Dr.) J. Brian Lanier assumed command of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, or USAISR, when Col. (Dr.) Mark E. Stackle relinquished command during a change of command ceremony July 7 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Brig. Gen. Tony McQueen, Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and Fort Detrick, Maryland, hosted the time-honored Army ritual.

During his remarks, McQueen applauded the Stackle family for their support and love. “Leaders are shaped by their experiences, and also by the teams that surround them,” McQueen said. “I’d like to take this moment to thank Mark’s family for being the team who has supported his Army career throughout the years. Mark, thank you for your extraordinary leadership. It’s been a true pleasure to work with you.”

“My departure comes with many mixed emotions, but I’m extremely grateful to know that the ISR is gaining a great leader in Col. Brian Lanier,” Stackle said during his remarks. “I have known Brian for nearly 20 years and know for certain that his fresh ideas and enthusiasm will propel this institute to new heights.”

Stackle is transferring to the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston where he will be assigned as the Medical Corps Specific Branch Proponent Officer.

“While relinquishing command is bittersweet, I do so knowing that I am leaving the ISR team in capable and caring hands,” Stackle added.

Lanier joins the USAISR after completing an assignment with the Defense Health Agency as the Chief of Credentialing and Privileging where he was responsible for policy, oversight, and the governance of all military treatment facilities in the Military Health System.

“As their first program lead, Brian helped to ensure that providers with the right education, training and experience were in the right place to deliver safe, high-quality healthcare,” McQueen said. McQueen added that Lanier brings a wealth of relevant experience to the ISR from nearly 20 years of service. Lanier has served in critical leadership roles in diverse environments including clinical and operational medicine and a battalion command.

“Throughout this time, Brian demonstrated a passion for both taking care of Soldiers and for medical research,” McQueen said.

“Brig. Gen. McQueen, thank you for the opportunity to command this remarkable organization,” said Lanier during his initial remarks to the command. “I am truly humbled and in awe of the work of the team here at ISR. Whether performing the impactful and cutting-edge research for which the ISR is internationally known, providing world-class medical care in the prestigious burn center, or providing the needed support services to our researchers and clinicians, this team is a team of heroes.”

While concluding his remarks, Lanier added that change of command represents a time of transition for the organization, saying “even in the time of transition, the important work of the ISR that you do each and every day continues.”

Meledeo Presents at Prominent Conference
By Dr. Steven Galvan, USAISR Public Affairs Officer / August 10, 2022

A blood researcher at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was invited to present his research at a prominent conference. Adam Meledeo, PhD, a research scientist on the USAISR Blood and Shock Resuscitation Combat Casualty Care Research Team, presented at the 63rd American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 11-14. More than 20,000 hematologists and other health care professionals from all 50 states and more than 100 countries around the world attended this year’s conference.

"The American Society of Hematology annual meeting is the premier meeting for hematology, and this meeting covers everything from coagulation disorders to hematologic malignancies," said Meledeo, who presented virtually at the conference. "It is a rare opportunity for trauma and casualty care research to be invited for presentation at this meeting, and this is a unique chance to share what we are doing in service of our combat wounded to a much broader audience."

According to James Bynum, PhD, chief of Blood and Shock Resuscitation, the acceptance rate for an oral presentation at ASH is low and extremely competitive. "Dr. Meledeo's selection to present at this meeting highlights the importance of his work and the implications of the findings to the broader community," said Bynum.
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Meledeo’s presentation focused on a study that was predicated on what he considers one of our most precious resources—”plasma samples collected from wounded Warriors in Afghanistan.

"We were able to look over the first 24 hours after injury and observe how changes in the different proteins reflected the injury conditions of each patient," Meledeo said. "The results are foundationally informative as we prepare for the next innovation in damage control resuscitation which is already underway in our engineered plasma and engineered whole blood lines of effort."

Meledeo added that the long term goal for these projects is to drastically increase the availability of blood products at every step including up to the point of injury in order to maximize the ability of combat surgeons and medics to provide life-saving resuscitation to those who need it most desperately. He believes that presenting at a prominent meeting like ASH will benefit his team's research.

Bynum agreed and said, "Presenting military-relevant research at national and international meetings such ASH allows both civilian and military researchers the opportunity to leverage their efforts towards creating novel strategies for treating combat casualties, which often translates to future civilian care."

Meledeo was proud to present his research at this conference and admits he was nervous when he learned that he was invited to present. "When I was informed that I would be presenting, it was initially very nerve-wracking as I will possibly be speaking to a very large and very well-educated audience," he said. "But being invited to present at the American Society of Hematology is truly an honor, and I was and am extremely grateful to the team here who contributed to the work that will be shared."

Military Health System Research Symposium Draws Thousands of Researchers from Across the Globe
By Sarah Marshall, September 15, 2022

Thousands of scientists and scholars from around the world, including more than 150 researchers and leaders from the Uniformed Services University (USU) and countless USU graduates, represented the many innovative minds who attended this year’s 2022 Military Health System Research Symposium.

The annual event, which fostered collaborative conversations and novel ideas to advance research and optimize readiness, took place Sept. 11-15 in Orlando. It is the nation’s only scientific meeting completely focused on the unique health-related needs of the warfighter.

Kicking off the symposium as part of an MHS leadership plenary session panel, USU President Dr. Jonathan Woodson expressed his enthusiasm for the valuable collaboration with colleagues throughout the MHS.

"We have a critical mission and together, through partnerships, we can meet the challenges to ensure the MHS cares for the 9.6 million beneficiaries, extending from the newborn and other family members to the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine … to our retirees and veterans,” Woodson said. “I look forward to that partnership and, most importantly, to ensuring we meet the needs of the warfighter now and into the future.”

Woodson explained that, using the knowledge gained through military medical research, he envisions four critical needs for the MHS to consider: integration, adaptation, education, and collaboration.

“During the opening ceremony. (Photo credit: Sarah Marshall)

Woodson said. This includes seamless transition from the frontline medic, integrating the latest technologies to ensure a knowledgeable handoff of wounded service members as they move through the different echelons, such that the continuum of care really is continuous.

Care providers must also be able to adapt and be armed with the latest technology to provide optimal care, including predictive and decision support tools, Woodson told attendees, saying that the next generation of providers need to be agile and adaptable by leveraging digital learning platforms.

Finally, there must be collaboration – the heavy lifting cannot be done alone in the Department of Defense. “There must be partnership within the military and other federal entities, as well as with the civilian sector and other academic organizations,” Woodson said. The underlying theme for these four readiness needs is “digital,” he said. “Our future is digital.”

“USU researchers are dedicated to health solutions, partnering with sister military labs, academia and industry, to reach the key goals I have outlined here,” Woodson said. “As the USU President, I see my role as ensuring we develop the future leaders of the MHS … who start their medical careers in a joint environment and are comfortable working within multidisciplinary teams, such that it is built into their DNA. I also see USU as a critical translational lab for the MHS and greatly value the work we do with our colleagues in the military medical treatment facilities.”

This is the first year the symposium has been held in person since the start of the pandemic. More than 4,000 people registered for the meeting, including military representatives from allied nations such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. Over the course of four days, more than 450 presentations covering roughly 60 topic areas relevant to military health and warfighter readiness were delivered. In addition to breakout sessions and podium presentations, the symposium also included two poster sessions highlighting an array of innovative research. Although its research work was displayed throughout the exhibit hall area during the three poster sessions, USU’s scientific presence was heavily emphasized in the Tuesday afternoon session by four solid rows of posters, arranged side by side, from the University’s Murtha Cancer Center Research Program (MCCRP), and the Surgical Critical Care Initiative (SC2i), which combined had more than 40 posters.

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“MCCRP is proud to have a record-setting 33 scientific communications being presented at this year’s MHSRS, including nine oral presentations,” said Dr. Craig Shriver, MCCRP director. “This unprecedented acceptance and opportunity to present our work to Military Health System leaders at this forum once again demonstrates that cancer is a readiness issue for the U.S. military.”

USU researchers also presented on an array of topics, such as COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, wound infection treatment, Acute Radiation Syndrome treatment, musculoskeletal injury, and traumatic brain injury. There were also presentations on combat casualty care, developments in pain management, mitigating bloodborne infections, expeditionary eye care, behavioral health interventions, warfighter nutrition, and health systems research.

Three recent USU alumni were selected to present their work during the MHSRS 2022 Young Investigator Competition on Tuesday afternoon. Army Capt. (Dr.) Haana McMurray (SOM 2021), Army Capt. (Dr.) Andrea Moon (SOM 2019), and Army Maj. Jonathan Yost (PhD 2022) were among a dozen scientists who delivered talks on their research efforts. Yost, whose work was on “Ketamine Metabolit (2R, 6R)-HNK Provides Pain Reduction with an AMPA Receptor-dependent Mechanism and Alters AMPA Receptor Expression in the vIPAG,” won the competition and was selected to receive the 2022 MHSRS Young Investigator Award. In addition, several members of USU’s Department of Surgery earned the Best Poster, “Transcriptomic Profiles Associated with the Development of Heterotopic Ossification in Combat Extremity Wounds.”

Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bradley Dengler, director of USU’s Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, who presented on blood-based biomarkers and other key lessons from the battlefield, was pleased with the research forum. “This year’s MHSRS has been particularly meaningful. It’s the first time many of us have been together since the last MHSRS in 2019, and it’s powerful to see the work that’s been done since,” Dengler said. “USU’s cutting-edge research is well highlighted.”

Research Symposium Recognizes 2022 Award Winners

By: Rebecca Hill, MHS Communications, 9/15/2022

The 2022 Military Health System Research Symposium highlighted and honored innovative researchers dedicated to help the warfighter on and off the battlefield. Seileen Mullen, the acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, bestowed awards to winning individuals and teams. Their research spans diverse topics, such as combat casualty care, hearing loss and protection, operational medicine, and stress and adjustment disorders. Their findings will assist the warfighter in remaining mission ready.

Individual Distinguished Service Award Winners. Two researchers in the military medical community received individual awards for their work in studying warfighter health. Mullen posthumously awarded Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dario Rodriguez, Jr. for his research work, “Increasing Effectiveness of En Route Combat Casualty Care.” His wife, Christine, and son, Steve, accepted the award. Throughout his career, Rodriguez was supporting the warfighter, demonstrating outstanding leadership and providing groundbreaking research. He was a driving force behind potential lifesaving interventions for combat casualties. The award recognizes the impact of his work on warfighter health, as his legacy continues.

Frederick Brozoski was recognized for his work in investigating warfighter injuries and risks due to combat helmet back face deformation, blast events, and aviation and ground vehicle mishaps. He has dedicated his career to research and the implementation of test methods.

Team Awards in Outstanding Research Accomplishment. Mullen honored four teams with awards for their work, which provide insights into many areas warfighters are confronted with on the battlefield and at home. Their research continues to promote progress in the military medical community.

Dr. Jeremy Federman and his team at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory in Groton, Connecticut, were awarded for research into treatment strategies to protect the hearing of our warfighters. Their work hopes to reduce tinnitus and hearing loss among service members.

Dr. Henry James and his team, from San Antonio, Tx., were honored for their research in the “Noise Outcomes in Service Members Epidemiology” study, jointly funded by the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. The study aims to enable DOD to access, sustain, and advance hearing health, maintaining a ready force.

Dr. Alan Peterson and his team were recognized for their research, through the STRONG STAR Consortium, or the South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience. Their research is in stress, adjustment disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, suicide, chronic pain, substance abuse, sleep disorders, tinnitus, and violence and aggression in service members. Publishing more than 50 scientific manuscripts, they continue to advance and share their results.

Saumil Shah and his Rapid Opioid Countermeasure System Rapid Opioid Countermeasure System team were honored for their research into reducing the opioid threat to our warfighters, keeping them mission-ready and reducing operational risks. This research benefits the military health community immensely and has a significant impact on service members and unit health.
SAMMRL Membership

59th Medical Wing, Office of the Chief Scientist
U.S. Army, Institute of Surgical Research
Naval Medical Research Unit-San Antonio
711th Human Performance Wing-Air Force Research Laboratory
San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium
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