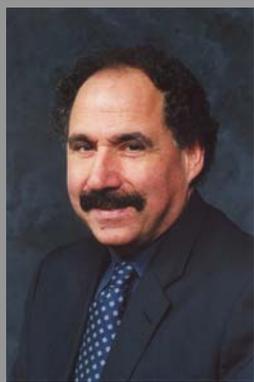




HELLO AND WELCOME to the first edition of "What's new at the WRIISC?". The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) is proud to present this newsletter, which will be sent to you quarterly to update you with current information on our program and topics related to veterans health. We were very happy to have you participate in our program and want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your involvement. You have our continuous support. If you would like additional information about anything mentioned in our newsletter, or have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. We are located on the 11th floor of the East Orange VA Medical Center. Our number is 1-800-248-8005.



A WORD FROM OUR HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, Mr. Kenneth Mizrach

"We are extremely fortunate to have the War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) as part of our health care team here in New Jersey. Responding to the health concerns of all veterans as well as appropriately diagnosing and assisting those whom have served our country are our priorities. The WRIISC provides a unique service for those veterans with the most difficult-to-treat illnesses. In addition, the WRIISC comprehensive diagnostic assessment is a very good tool, combined with our Primary Care approach, for those veterans whom have recently returned and have questions about their health."

CENTER WEBSITE

We have recently updated our center's website, www.wri.med.va.gov, which includes information for both veterans and providers on our center's clinical, education and research activities. There are also links to other websites where additional information on veteran's health can be obtained.

DEPLETED URANIUM

The WRIISC has recently developed fact sheets on Depleted Uranium (DU) exposure. Because of its density and low cost, Depleted Uranium (DU) is used by the U.S. to make armor on tanks and other supplies stronger. Exposure to DU and possible harmful health effects as a result of exposure is a concern for some military members and veterans.

The center's education department has developed two fact sheets on DU; one is for veterans and the other is for veterans' health care providers. The patient fact sheet explains when exposure to DU poses a risk to health. If you would like to obtain a copy you can access the fact sheet on our website or call our center and request to have a copy mailed to you.

FIRST PROVIDER WORKSHOP

Part of the mission of the education department of the WRIISC is to educate veteran health care providers about medically unexplained symptoms (MUS) and how to respond to and treat a patient with such complaints. When a provider is well informed about MUS, he or she will be able to more effectively treat and respond to patients with health problems and/or concerns related to MUS. The workshop focused on increasing the quality of care that a veteran patient receives with the ultimate goal of positively impacting their quality of life. The education department's first workshop for providers was held on November 8, 2004.

RESEARCH

Participating in research helps other veterans. We truly appreciate your continuing support of our mission to improve the health of veterans through research. We will include information about newly funded studies in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

★ MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Feedback indicates that veterans who attended our clinical program were satisfied with the services we provided. Veterans were specifically satisfied with the comprehensiveness of our clinical evaluation and the clinical team's communication skills. We have currently increased the number of veterans we see for both clinical and research purposes. We continue to work with veterans of all prior conflicts. We have also begun to see veterans from the current conflict. We can make a difference!

This edition of the WRIISC news letter is dedicated to Dr. Benjamin Natelson, who has recently retired from the VA and the position of WRIISC Center Director. Dr. Natelson has devoted many years to working at the VA and to working to make a difference in the lives of veterans. We thank him for his hard work and dedication and he will truly be missed in the position of WRIISC director. There is an ongoing nation wide search for a new center director.

If you'd like to make suggestions about topics to cover in this news letter in future editions, please contact us. If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please let us know.