

CIMVHR Newsletter

Date: May 21, 2013

Issue # 5

Over the past few months CIMVHR has been busy coordinating the next planning stages for our 4th Annual Military and Veteran Health Research (MVHR) Forum that will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, November 25-27, 2013. Our abstract submission deadline recently ended and we're pleased to announce that we've received over 150 submissions that will be sent to our College of Peer Reviewers for selection. In other Forum news we are thrilled to announce that we have a stimulating full day of international presenters.

In this issue we will provide you with an exciting announcement that will have a long term impact on the research conducted in the field of military personnel, Veterans, and their families; information about an exciting new app that will benefit individuals who are suffering from PTSD; and an overview of a successful workshop that took place at one of our partner universities.

Alice B. Aiken, CD, PhD, Director and Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger, PhD, Associate Director

Wounded Warriors Canada Pledges \$400,000 to CIMVHR for Doctoral Scholarships

This past Wednesday Captain Wayne Johnston, founder of Wounded Warriors Canada, presented CIMVHR with a \$400,000 donation for doctoral scholarships. The **Wounded Warriors Doctoral Scholarship** will fund a two year scholarship for a full-time PhD student enrolled in any eligible graduate program in a CIMVHR partner university. The candidate will be supervised by a CIMVHR researcher and they must be in the final two years of their PhD, have completed their comprehensive exams and be working on research relevant to military personnel, Veterans or their families. Preference for this scholarship fund will be given to reservists, in terms of the research being done or if the candidate is a serving reservist themselves. Most importantly, the

student recipient will be connected with injured Veterans, through Wounded Warriors Canada, to fully understand the implications of their research.

The announcement took place at HMCS Cata-raqui, a Naval Reserve Unit, where support was shown from the academic communities of Queen's and RMCC; BGen J-R Bernier, Canadian Forces Surgeon General; Dr. David Pedlar, Director of the Research Directorate at Veterans Affairs Canada; and Veterans, serving members, and their families.

CIMVHR would like to extend its gratitude and thanks to Wounded Warriors Canada for this decade long commitment that will enable CIMVHR to sustain quality research for mili-

tary personnel, Veterans, and their families for years to come, and that will help to build the next generation of researchers in this important area. For more information on the scholarship requirements and application process please visit the CIMVHR website; <http://www.cimvhr.ca/content/cimvhr-funding-opportunities>.



CIMVHR
Canadian Institute for Military
and Veteran Health Research

ICRSMV
L'Institut canadien de recherche sur
la santé des militaires et des vétérans

Did you know...

Applications for The Wounded Warriors Doctoral Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health Research are due August 15th, 2013. For more information please click on the link below:

<http://www.cimvhr.ca/content/cimvhr-funding-opportunities>



BEYOND THE LINE

Military and Veteran Health Research

Edited by Alice B. Aiken and Stéphanie A.H. Bélanger

CIMVHR's 3rd book BEYOND THE LINE will be launched at MVHR Forum 2013, November 25-27, Edmonton, Alberta: www.cimvhr.ca/forum



In the image to the left: Captain Wayne Johnston, founder of Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC); Dr Stéphanie Bélanger, Associate Director, CIMVHR; Mr. Scott Maxwell, Executive Director, WWC; Dr. Alice Aiken, Director, CIMVHR; Mr. Philip Ralph, Secretary and Program Chair, WWC; and Mr. Derrick Gleed, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, WWC.

Research Connections

On January 17, 2013 Dr. Alice Aiken visited Western University to lead a workshop designed to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration in military medicine at Western. Clinicians and researchers from various backgrounds, including psychology, psychiatry, nursing, anatomy & cell biology, philosophy, and business as well as collaborators from Defense Research and Development Canada and McMaster University attended this exciting conference. In addition, it was an honor to have Colonel Rakesh Jetly and Lieutenant Colonel Annette Snow represent the Department of National Defense. The meeting was instrumental in increasing awareness of the various disciplines interested and involved in military medicine and fostered collaborations between

various disciplines at Western. For example, links between the Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Clinic and the Department of Philosophy were established in order to further elucidate the nature of moral injury in returning soldiers. Moreover, ties between members from the OSI clinic and other PTSD researchers at Western were strengthened in order to increase research capacity for the examination of biological markers in PTSD. Attendees left the workshop with concrete plans for ongoing dialogue and future partnerships. It was an all around success!

By Dr. Ruth Lanius, MD, PhD, Western University

Veterans Transition Network Helps to Launch New PTSD Coach Canada App

For nearly fifteen years, the Veterans Transition Program (VTP) has been using the power of Veterans helping Veterans to provide a strength-based group approach to help 'drop the baggage' of their invisible wounds and reintegrate fully into civilian lives. Combining therapeutic enactment with skills training and career development components, this program has been developed and refined at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the University of Victoria by Drs. Marv Westwood, David Kuhl, and Tim Black.

Initially funded by the BC Chapter of the Royal Canadian Legion, significant recent contribu-

tions from RCL's Dominion Command, True Patriot Love, Wounded Warriors and Veterans Affairs Canada have enabled the VTP to be delivered across Canada under the umbrella of a new non-profit organization, the Veterans Transition Network (VTN).

VTN remains committed to maintaining and improving their standards of care. From providing participants with self-care tools such as the recently launched app PTSD Coach Canada to further research into healthy sleep and employment avenues, the VTN has much work for the future as they continue to expand. For more information and to download

the app search PTSD Coach Canada in your App Store search engine.

By Tim Laidler,
Executive Director,
Veterans' Transition
Program



MVHR 2013 FORUM

Edmonton Alberta
25 - 27 November

Early registration for the 4th Annual Military and Veteran Health Research Forum ends September 16th, 2013. To register please click on the link below.

<http://www.cimvhr.ca/forum/registration.php>



On Monday, February 25, 2013 Minister Blaney announced the launch of the new Smartphone App PTSD Coach Canada. The App is designed to help individuals monitor their systems and learn more information about PTSD.

In the image to the left: Mr. Tim Laidler, Executive Director, Veterans' Transition Program; The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada; and Dr. Alice Aiken, Director, CIMVHR.