

THE INIM PRESENTS

THE GULF WAR DISPATCH



Gulf War Veterans,

It is the one year anniversary of our first issue of The Gulf War Dispatch! We want to thank you for your continued support in advancing knowledge and care for veterans with Gulf War illness.

Since our first issue, we have featured our most important study, the CMI/GWI Survey Study. In this study, we are working to get a better understanding of veterans' unexplained illnesses around the country as well as creating a registry for future contact. The survey asks participants if they would like to be contacted regarding future research opportunities and findings. The institute will reach out ONLY to those who agree to be contacted regarding information about studies that are available to them both locally and nationally, and invitations to online seminars/events in the participant's area.

CMI/GWI Survey Study link: http://bit.ly/2NXzrhl

CMI/GWI Survey Study Follow-Up link: https://bit.ly/2ZDSfWH

*You must complete the CMI/GWI Survey Study before participating in this follow-up study.

Please, continue to share not just this study, but all current and future research. Thank you for your service and continued support.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Gulf War Illness From Cells to Therapy

This is a systematic assessment and characterization of the therapeutic effects of drugs that impact a specific list of therapeutic targets which is based on prior research. This study is located at Miami VA Medical Center. We are recruiting Veterans with Gulf War illness and Gulf War era healthy controls.

For more information, please contact us at 305-575-7648 or email VHAMIAGWI@va.gov.

Women Vs. Men With Gulf War Illness: Differences In Computational Models And Therapeutic Target

In this study, we are using microarray, a technique which measures expression levels of large numbers of genes, to help better understand and identify the likely causes of Gulf War illness. This method allows researchers to study different genes that affect how the body reacts to rest and exercise and how these differences affect the immune system, endocrine system and brain. Location: Miami VA Medical Center & University of Miami. We are recruiting male and female Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans located in the Miami-Dade and Broward County areas.

For more information please contact us at 305-575-7648 or email VHAMIAGWI@va.gov.

Neutraceutical Study for Gulf War Illness: Curcumin & Glutathione

Two natural supplements (Curcumin and Glutathione) have been shown to quiet inflammation. In this study, researchers will test to see which supplements, if any, are beneficial in Gulf War illness. This study is located at the Miami VA Medical Center. We are recruiting ALL Veterans with Gulf War illness between 35-70 years of age.

For more information, please contact us at 305-575-7648 or email VHAMIAGWI@va.gov.

Ongoing Gulf War Illness Research



Gulf War Illness From Cells to Therapy



Women Vs. Men With Gulf War Illness: Differences In Computational Models And Therapeutic Target



Neutraceutical Study for Gulf War Illness: Curcumin & Glutathione

For more information on these studies, contact us at 305-575-7648 or VHAMIAGWI@va.gov, or visit our website: https://www.nova.edu/nim /researchstudies/research-

studies.html

EVENT RECAP

MOVING FORWARD - OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday, February 24, we hosted a free webinar, Moving Forward - Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm 30th Anniversary. The event celebrated the 30th anniversary of the end of Operation Desert Storm and allowed attendees to listen in on a researcher presentation about Gulf War Illness "What We've Done and Where We're Going."

Moderator:

Elizabeth Balbin Special Projects, INIM; Research Program Director, Miami VAMC

Speakers:

Nancy Klimas, MD Director, INIM; Director, Clinical Immunology Research, Miami VAMC

Amanpreet Cheema, PhD Program Director of GWICTIC Research Operations Assistant Professor, INIM, NSU

Fanny Collado, RN Clinical Operation Nurse Executive, INIM & Miami VAMC

Kimberly Sullivan, PhD Research Assistant Professor, Environmental Health, Boston University School of Public Health.

Peter Rumm, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director, Pre-911 Era Environmental Health Services in VA Post-Deployment Health Services.

Stephen Hunt, MD

National Director, VA Post-Deployment Integrated Care Initiative (PDICI), Clinical Professor of Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, University of Washington School of Medicine.





February 24, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

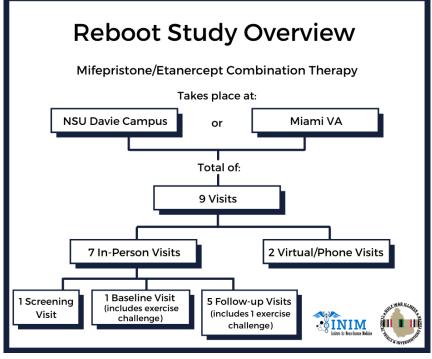
Join us to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and to listen in on a researcher presentation about Gulf War illness "What We've Done and Where We're Going."

Registration Link: https://bit.ly/INIMODS3

Missed the event or want to rewatch? Visit: <u>https://youtu.be/zQBe_gulGmg</u>

Special thanks to Bill Watts, Precious Leaks-Gutierrez & Sara Moeinian!

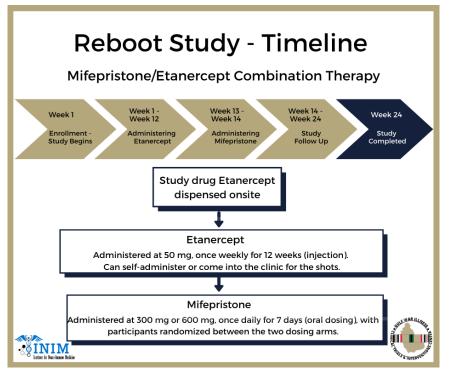
NEW - THE REBOOT STUDY!



The Gulf War Illness Clinical Trials and Interventions Center (GWICTIC) is excited to present their newest study, the Reboot Study. This study was designed with you in mind! This combination therapy study takes place over 24 weeks - 7 inperson visits and 2 virtual/phone visits - at either Nova Southeastern University's Davie Campus or the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. GWICTIC is currently enrolling male Gulf War Veterans with Gulf War Illness symptoms.

*Treatment time lasts for 14 weeks, with 10 weeks of follow ups, for a total of 24 weeks.

The Reboot Study lasts 24 weeks (14 weeks - treatment time & 10 weeks - follow ups) from enrollment to completion. When enrollment begins, volunteers will be given Etanercept once weekly for 12 weeks via injection. Participants can self-administer weekly shots after training or come into the clinic to receive the weekly injection. After 12 weeks, volunteers will be dispensed mifepristone, an oral medication. Mifepristone will be taken once daily for a period of one week at either 300 mg or 600 mg, with participants randomized between the two dosing arms.



[Etanercept is a tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blocker and is FDA-approved at approved doses. Mifepristone is a progesterone blocker and is FDA-approved at approved doses.]

To learn more visit: http://bit.ly/AboutReboot.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please email: gwictic@nova.edu or call: 954-262-2870.

NEW STUDY AT ROSKAMP INSTITUTE

The Roskamp Institute is conducting a clinical research study to determine the effects of oleoylethanolamide (OEA) on lipid metabolism and immune function in veterans with Gulf War Illness. OEA is a naturally occurring lipid that is currently sold as a dietary supplement. We would like to see if it can maintain healthy lipid profiles and improve general health of veterans with GWI.

The study involves 5 visits over 15 weeks and will include answering questionnaires and testing as well as provision of blood samples.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Megan Parks at (941) 256-8018 ext 3096.



Gulf War Illness Treatments Discovered. Will Veterans Affairs Officials Listen Now?



"The science is clear and treatments are available now. Everyone—advocates, researchers, and officials alike—say there's reason to expect even more progress, and more solutions, soon. But for decades, the Department of Veterans Affairs has focused on data collection that experts say will not increase health care outcomes and has ignored study after study as 250,000 veterans continue to suffer symptoms that make it impossible to lead healthy, pain-free lives." - The War Horse, Kelly Kennedy

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

Roger Graves Army 1974-76 121st Air Assault Group

Roger Graves served in the Army from 1974-76 at Ft. Benning, GA as an aircraft electrician with the 121st Air Assault Group. He says being a veteran helps him relate with his patients at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVH) in Tampa, Florida where he currently serves as an infusion nurse in the Specialty Clinics.

Mr. Graves admits that his nursing career started late, at age 50. JAHVA was his first nursing position after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He says



nursing gives him a keen connection, insight, and empathy to all Vets, particularly those serving in combat arenas.

Several years ago, through a connection made with a patient, Mr. Graves attended a Gulf War seminar at the Miami VA Medical Center. Many Gulf War illness experts were in attendance including Miami VAMC's Elizabeth Balbin, Research Program Director, and Precious Leaks-Gutierrez, Clinical Research Coordinator. After meeting Mr. Graves, they recruited him to help locate VA patients in the Tampa area interested in Gulf War Illness research conducted in the Miami and South Florida area. He went above and beyond that initial agreement. Years after that initial seminar at the Miami VA, he became the initiator and one of the principal organizers for hosting Tampa VA's first Gulf War illness seminar. Today, Mr. Graves continues to support the interest of all things related to Gulf War Illness.

Like himself, Mr. Graves says many are "blessed richly" and can make a difference for others' betterment with a little extra effort. In his case, he uses those blessings to "brighten the Gulf War Corner" of many veterans.

Follow the INIM on social to stay updated on new Gulf War illness research, upcoming Gulf War Veteranrelated events, and much more!

Don't forget to follow the Gulf War Illness Clinical Trials and Interventions Center (**GWICTIC**) on social!

