

Tuesday 13 February 2024**Plenary Session 7:30am – 11am****Corridor/Room#: Woodrow Wilson Ballroom****Military Health System (MHS):****Walter Reed National Military Medical Center: A Case Study in Rebuilding Clinical Readiness in the Military Health System****8:15am – 9:45am**

- *Dr. Eric Elster, Dean, School of Medicine, USU*
- *CAPT Melissa Austin, United States Navy, Director, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center*
- *Dr. Benjamin “Kyle” Potter, Norman M. Rich Professor & Chair, USU; Department of Surgery, WRNMMC*
- *Col Heather Yun, USAF, Professor of Medicine, USU*
- *LT Ama Winland, USN, General Surgery Resident, USU*

Presentation: Discuss the conditions and capabilities driving clinical readiness in military medicine and the role of Military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs) in supporting national military objectives.

Panel Discussion: Examining Walter Reed National Military Medical Center as an example, discuss barriers preventing MTFs from optimally pursuing their military missions. Discussion will focus on issues in the areas of access to care, workforce, physical infrastructure, operations management, and leadership and communication. Highlight recent and current initiatives addressing these barriers and discuss what solution approaches may best sustain momentum in overcoming these barriers.

Discussion will focus on improving conditions for patients and staff, developing and implementing more effective capacity management tools, aligning MTF resourcing to MTF military requirements, and improving patients’ access to MTF-based care.

**Veterans Affairs/Veterans Health Administration (VA/VHA):
VA Health Care Priorities and 2023 Achievements****10:00am – 11:00am****Corridor/Room#: Woodrow Wilson Ballroom**

- *Dr Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, US Department of Veterans Affairs*

Dr. Elnahal will discuss VA’s achievements in 2023 and the ongoing efforts in support of the six VA health care priorities in 2024. Topics include hiring faster and more competitively, serving Veterans impacted by military environmental exposures, providing the soonest, best care, the journey to high reliability, whole health, and preventing Veteran suicide. Lastly, he will highlight cutting edge research and innovation happening at VA to improve care for Veterans.

Breakout Sessions 1pm – 2pm

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 1-2**

AI-Powered Healthcare: Addressing the Transformative Challenges of Today and Anticipating Tomorrow

- *Dr. Anita Samuel*
- *Justin Peacock*
- *Joshua R. Duncan*
- *Vincent F. Capaldi II*

This panel will explore the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and healthcare, delving into innovative solutions that are reshaping the landscape of healthcare delivery. With a focus on both present challenges and future possibilities, our expert panelists will discuss how AI-driven strategies are being harnessed to enhance healthcare and healthcare education. The panel will shed light on the multifaceted ways AI is breaking down barriers and fostering a new era of healthcare and education.

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 3-4**

Measuring and Moving the Dots in Health Equity (Health Net Federal Services)

- *Dr. Joyce Grissom, CMO, Health Net Federal Services*
- *Dr. Earnest Moy, Executive Director, Veterans Health Administration Office of Health Equity*
- *Dr. Paul R. Cordts, Deputy Assistant Director, Medical Affairs (DAD-MA)*
- *Dr. Bryan O. Buckley, Director of Health Equity Initiatives, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)*
- *Dr. Pooja Mittal, Vice President of Health Equity, Health Net of California*

Health Net Federal Services will moderate brief presentations followed by a panel discussion on Health Equity is pursued within (1) Federal Agencies including Department of Defense and VA (2) Health plans providing capitated services under Medicare and Medicaid and (3) by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. Panelists will address relationships between health equity, clinical quality, social determinants of health and beneficiary experience. They will describe provider and beneficiary strategies for reducing health disparities.

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 1-2**

DoD Global Health Engagements for Expeditionary Medical Platform Readiness and KSA Sustainment

- *CAPT Jason Longwell, USN*
- *COL Jennifer Gurney, USA*
- *Dr. Ricardo Aviles, MD*
- *CAPT Christine Sears, MC, USN (Ret.)*

Deployed medicine requires unique skill sets. These skills differ from those maintained at traditional U.S. civilian and military treatment facilities. Military-Civilian partnerships offer adequate clinical exposure, but they do not address logistics, austerity, and limited resources. Global health engagements offer all these mission essential tasks along with high acuity and volume. Between 2022 and 2023, two global health engagement programs were piloted with Joint Task Force Bravo. DoD teams completed missions at a level 1 trauma center in Central America with a trauma volume 50 times greater than most DoD treatment facilities and performed 1-2 months of KSAs in 1-2 weeks. When entire teams execute these missions, they support a truly ready medical force and prepare teams to provide damage control resuscitation and prolonged casualty care. These skills and the

partnerships built through subject matter expert exchanges cannot be met through simulation. Come learn from leaders across the MHS enterprise to include: KSA program developers, Joint Trauma System leaders, Joint Task Force liaison officers, and expeditionary medical platforms.

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 3-5**

Creating the Right Environment for Clinical Workforce to Thrive (McKinsey & Co)

- *Moderator: Kana Enomoto, McKinsey Partner and Director of Brain Health*
- *Corey Feist, Founder / CEO of Dr Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation*

(session description in development)

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 2**

The Importance of Data Quality in Transforming Medical Readiness (Accenture Federal Services)

- *Dr. George Goodwin Jr.*
- *Dr. Ron Moody, Accenture Federal Services*
- *Dr. Brian Lien, Assistant Director/Healthcare Administration, DHA*
- *MG Anthony McQueen, US Army*
- *Brig Gen (Dr.) John Andrus, Joint Chiefs of Staff*
- *Maj Gen (Dr.) JJ DeGoes, US Air Force*
- *RADM Rick Freedman, US Navy*
- *MG Jill K Faris, National Guard*

Increasing data volume, data accessibility, and collaborations have the potential to rapidly transform and modernize the medical readiness of the total force and our preparedness. Data quality and integrity are essential to leveraging data as a core asset as well as integration with AI and Virtual First initiatives. Each panelist will describe their perspective on how the increased focus on data, data quality, and its use impact their force.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 3**

Strategic Collaborations to Improve the Public Health of the Nation: Addressing Long COVID and Homelessness in the U.S.

- *CAPT Kent Forde, USPHS*

Homelessness is a pervasive public health challenge that has life or death implications. This presentation will describe current strategic collaborations the U.S. Public Health Service and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have taken both leadership and collaborative roles in addressing the critical issue of homelessness.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 10**

Global Health Engagement – Combatant Command and International Partner Perspectives

- *Moderator – CAPT Bitterman, Command Surgeon, USINDOPACOM*
- *Presenters*
 - *Australian Defence Force, Joint Health Command*
 - *Japanese Self-Defence Forces, Office of the Surgeon General*
 - *CAPT Danny Shiau Interim Director GHE, OASD Health Affairs (HRPO), Director USU-Center for Global Health Engagement (CGHE)*

This panel centers on global health engagement (GHE) activities. The moderator and each panelist will provide perspectives on their community's approach to global health engagement and describe the benefits they note from its proper use.

Corridor/Room#: **Woodrow Wilson Ballroom**

Defense Health Agency Innovations to Support Behavioral Health

- *CAPT Meghan Corso*
- *Dr. Casey Geaney*
- *Dr. Angie Escalona*
- *Mr. J.C. Sarver*

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) supports our nation by improving health and building readiness. Mental health is a fundamental aspect of health and readiness. DHA supports mental health through an integrated system of programs called the Behavioral Health System of Care. The Behavioral Health System of Care (BHSOC) leverages many tools and programs, depending on the local beneficiary needs. Two of these vital tools and programs are Telebehavioral health and Targeted Care.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 11**

The State of Federal Healthcare

- *Moderator - Erica Scavella, M.D., FACP, FACHE, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services*
- *Carolyn Clancy, M.D., MACP, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks (DEAN)*
- *Gerard Cox, M.D., MHA, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Quality and Patient Safety*
- *Susan Kirsh, M.D., MPH, Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for DEAN*

Hear and learn from VA's top healthcare executives as we discuss the current state of affairs in U.S. healthcare.

Breakout Sessions 2:10pm – 3:10pm

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 1-2**

Preparing for Catastrophe: The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Pilot Program

- *Clemia "CJ" Anderson III, CAPT, MSC, USN, DoD NDMS Pilot Program Dir. National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, USUHS*
- *Col Michael Higgins, USAF MC FS Command Surgeon, NORAD & USNORTHCOM (N&NC/SG)*
- *Joseph Lamana, Director, Office of International Operations Director, Office of International Operations Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, HHS*
- *Paul Brannigan, Associate Director, Operations, VHA Office of Emergency Management*

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) was established in 1984 to support large-scale movement of and medical care for U.S. combat casualties from an overseas military conflict. This Session highlights the Pilot's activities currently underway in four areas: (1) field projects focused on the roles of NDMS Federal Coordinating Centers at the Pilot sites; (2) partner projects focused on medical surge at the Pilot sites; (3) strategic initiatives across the NDMS; and (4) federal-level

programmatic strengthening within the NDMS. Panelists will discuss ongoing coordination and collaboration efforts between military and civilian partners at all levels of government and the non-governmental sector to enhance healthcare surge capability and capacity and military-civilian interoperability within the NDMS and the broader U.S. healthcare and public health systems.

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 3-4**

Air Force Medical Service (AFMS) Support to Great Power Competition

- *COL Tracy Allen, USAF*

As part of an ongoing effort to build high-end readiness for the future, the Air Force Medical Service has three primary focus areas. These are Force Presentation to support the Air Task Force, Homeland/Home station response, and support for the Integrated Continental United States Medical Operations Plan (ICMOP). First, we have been working to evolve our current Force Presentation model from the Expeditionary Air Base (XAB) to the new Air Task Force (ATF) model. The ATF model allows the Air & Space Force to more effectively present deployable, sustainable, integrated units through the Air Force's Force Generation (AFFORGEN) cycle. The first ATFs will enter the AFFORGEN cycle in Summer 2024 and will deploy starting FY 2026. Medical Airmen assigned to an ATF will integrate within multi-functional Force Elements to team, train, and deploy together through the 24-month AFFORGEN cycle. The ATF model represents the next step in adopting a more modular organization of teams, which generate through the AFFORGEN cycle together and then deploy as a unit

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 1-2**

The Myths of Menopause

- *Dr. Deb Friesen, MD, MBA, FACP/Kaiser Permanente*
 - o Updated information about Menopause
 - o Symptoms you might not associate to Menopause
 - o Modern treatment approaches to Menopause

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 3-5**

Health Equity and Outcomes in Cancer Care within the DoD

- *Moderator: Craig Shriver, MD*
- *Presenters: Patrick Krug, Veterans Community Network, Bristol Meyers Squibb*
- *Dr. Jie Lin*
- *Dr. Kangmin Zhu*
- *Dr. Albert Dobi*
- *Dr. Gyorgy Petrovics*
- *Dr. Yvonne Eaglehouse*

The distinguished panel from the Murtha Cancer Center Research Program (MCCRP) will discuss their research with a focus on diversity and access to care within DoD, and with better cancer-related outcomes compared to the general population.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 2**

VA's Commitment to Supporting the Whole Health of Veterans, Caregivers, Survivors, and Employees: Outcomes and Next Steps

- *Dr. Cynthia Gantt*
- *Dr. Benjamin Kligler*
- *Dr. Mark Saslo*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has successfully launched an organization-wide transformation to a Whole Health System of Care that ideally begins at the time of transition from military service through the end of a Veteran's life. VA defines Whole Health as an approach to health care that empowers and equips people to take charge of their health and well-being and to live their life to the fullest. VA's cultural transformation efforts have been recognized by the US Surgeon General and the National Academy of Medicine as a model for the nation. This panel presentation will be provided by senior Veterans Health Administration leaders, including the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer who are responsible for VA's current top Health Care Priority to Action: "Support Veterans' Whole Health, their caregivers, and survivors" initiative. Specifically, the presentation will provide an overview of VA's system-wide Whole Health approach to care and selected outcomes from formal evaluations for Veterans (e.g., reduction in opioid use, decrease in spinal procedures, improvements in perceptions of care, increased engagement, self-care, increased meaning and purpose in life and decreased levels of stress) and employees (e.g., decreased levels of burnout, stress, and turnover). The influence of the social and structural determinants of health will also be addressed and publicly available resources will be shared. Additionally, next steps related to implementation, sustainment, and evaluation efforts and an interactive Whole Health experience will be provided. Finally, synergies between the Military Health System's Total Force Fitness and VA's Whole Health approach in support of transitioning service members will be highlighted.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 3**

Data Modeling to Support Suicide Prevention: The DLH Atlas Project

- *Moderator: CAPT John Lamberton, MSC, USN (Ret)*
- *Dr. Vicki Hart, Lead Epidemiologist*
- *Mr. Juan Odenwood, Computer Scientist and Researcher*
- *Dr. Kris Peterson, MD, Colonel, USA (Ret), Clinical Advisor*

Suicide attempts are precipitated by complex combinations of interacting risk factors that may include behavioral, environmental, geographic, medical, and genetic histories. Through the Atlas project, DLH proposes to extend existing methods of suicide risk prediction by exploring combinations and interactions of risk and mitigating factors using AI and machine learning techniques. The resulting predictive model will provide proof of concept for a novel tool that may enhance suicide risk prediction, support clinical therapeutic decision making, and inform future policy recommendations.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 10**

Key Leader Perspectives from the International Military Medical Community

- Moderator – Col (ret) Jim Fike, Chairman, AMSUS International Committee
- BrigGen (MC) Dr Jürgen MEYER, Branch I-3 International Cooperation, Bundeswehr Medical Service Headquarters
- COL Sandrine Duron, Médecin en Chef, French Liaison Officer to the US Army Surgeon General, DHHQ
- Representative from the Royal Netherlands Armed Forces, Office of the Surgeon General

Each panelist will describe recent one or two major challenges they have face within their medical communities and the solutions that they developed to overcome those challenges.

Corridor/Room#: **Woodrow Wilson Ballroom**

Gender-Inclusive Health Care: Meeting the Needs of Female Service Members

- *Kimberly Lahm, Director, OASD HA*

- *Maj Kathleen Pombier/Ms. Theresa Hart, WICC/WHCMT, Dr. Holly Hoffmeyer, Program Manager, Sexual Assault Behavioral Health Clinical Intervention and Inclusive Behavioral Health PMO*
- *Dr. Lynette Hamlin, USU, Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs*

Ensuring Service women receive gender-sensitive health care that meets their individual needs, and promotes their health, overall well-being, and readiness is a priority for the Department of Defense. In this panel discussion, leaders from within the Military Health System will discuss current efforts, research, and mechanisms to promote quality gender-sensitive health care. Included in this discussion is an overview of the women's health structure within the Military Health System, policy updates, current women's health research initiatives and clinical implementation of gender-sensitive care. Panelists will specifically discuss key areas of women's health throughout the Service women's military lifecycle and the importance of gender-sensitive care on individual and mission readiness. Included in this discussion is reproductive health; contraception, pregnancy and postpartum care, menopause; musculoskeletal injuries, behavioral health, the impact of interpersonal violence on women's health and trauma-informed care.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 11**

Stabilizing the Core

- *Dr. Brian Lein, Assistant Director, Healthcare Administration, DHA*

At the end of this presentation, the audience will understand the priorities of effort to attempt to standardize the healthcare delivery approach across the Department of Defense. They will understand the reliance on the EHR as our platform for decision-making and the effort to transform our platform from a fee-for-service face-to-face to fully integrate all aspects of digital care into improving people's lives and health.

Breakout Sessions 3:20pm – 4:20pm

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 1-2**

DHS Total Workforce Protection: Protecting Those Who Protect the Nation

- *Moderator: Emily Gabriel*
- *Presenters: Dr. Sangeeta Kaushik, Assistant Director, Total Workforce Protection Directorate (TWPD), OHS, DHS*
- *Ingrid G. Hope, RN, Occupational Health Analyst, DHS*
- *Margarita Flynn; Derek Lambert*
- *Karl Anderson*

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) works around-the-clock to keep the Nation safe in the air, on land, at sea, and in cyberspace. Every day, the 260,000+ DHS workforce executes a complex and operationally diverse mission set domestically and internationally. To empower the DHS workforce and mission, the DHS Office of Health Security's Total Workforce Protection Directorate identifies, develops, and implements novel policies and resources for employees and their families to improve organizational wellness. These policies and resources extend beyond the physical wellbeing of the workforce and touch on the mental and psychological wellbeing as well. In this presentation, you will learn about key challenges in organizational wellness, successes at DHS, and ongoing intra-agency and interagency collaborations as the Total Workforce Protection Directorate drives transformation in the

federal government's approach to supporting employees and their families throughout their federal service lifecycle.

Corridor/Room#: **Annapolis 3-4**

Army Combat Paramedic Program

- *SGM Kathleen Hedges, Executive Officer to MEDCOM Command Sergeant Major Enlisted Medical Corps*

The Combat Paramedic Program is aimed at producing operationally focused paramedics capable of meeting the demands of Multi-Domain Operations with a goal of zero preventable deaths on the battlefield.

The Combat Paramedic Program is part of the Army's ongoing efforts to enhance the capabilities of the combat medic in support of Modernization. Combat Paramedics gain additional training in prolonged care and are better prepared to meet future battlefield requirements in support of Large Scale Combat Operations.

The Combat Paramedic Program is operationally focused to yield a better prepared paramedic. As Soldier survivability is increased, the Army's lethality increases.

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 1-2**

Work and Mental Wellbeing: Protecting our U.S. Uniformed Service and Civilian Workforce

- *LCDR Edward Amores, USPHS detailed to the USCG*
- *LTC Ngozi Mezu-Patel, Clinical Director, ICE Health Services Corps (IHSC)*
- *Adrienne I. Villarreal MSN, APRN, FNP-C*

This two-part presentation will explore the relationship between psychological stressors and somatic symptoms in vulnerable patient populations as well as in those who provide care to these patients and each other. And additionally discuss the COVID-19 pandemic which had a significant impact on the mental health of US service members in healthcare exposed to high levels of stress, anxiety, and fear and how the appropriate research and support can include access to mental health services, as well as creating a culture of resilience and support within the military and healthcare community.

Corridor/Room#: **Baltimore 3-5**

Race to Health Equity (Johnson & Johnson)

- Moderator: Tiffany Daugherty, JNJ Head, Military & Veterans Affairs
- Dr. Joe Carvahlo, MG, and CEO of Henry Jackson Foundation

(Session description in development)

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 2**

VA Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME): Updates on PACT Act and Other Military Environmental Exposures Research

- *Dr. Aaron Schneiderman, Director Epidemiology Program, VA*
- *William Joel Culpepper PhD, Deputy Director of Epidemiology, HOME*
- *Terra Vincent-Hall PhD, Director Exposure Studies Program, HOME*
- *Michael Falvo, PhD, Director, Airborne Hazards Center of Excellence, NJ WRIISC*

This session will introduce the area of military environmental exposures at the VA and also the PACT ACT passed in 2022 that provided an expansion of health care and other benefits for some Veterans. Recent screening data from the PACT ACT shows that more than 40% of Veterans feel they had a toxic exposure during their military service. The PACT ACT also expanded the presumed conditions for over two dozen diseases for benefits among those in some deployment groups and mandated a number of extensive research studies. Therefore, related to this Act, VA is undertaking a number of intensive efforts to conduct research in the area of military exposures. Our speakers will present on research related topics to include: 1. A brief overview of the PACT Act as it pertains to research for presumptions. 2. Work of the Airborne Hazards Center for Excellence – specifically the work on the Delphi process that uses AI. 3. Specific studies – on Fuels, Karshi-Khanabad (K2), and Title V's early findings

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 3**

Face the Fight: Raising Awareness and Support for Veteran Suicide Prevention (Humana Military)

- *Moderator: Mr. Alex Ware, Director, External affairs, Humana Military*
- *Dr. Katerine Dondanville, Professor UTSA and Face the Fight Chief Scientific Officer*
- *Ms. Babs Chase, Elizabeth Dole Foundation Coalition Director for Face the Fight*
- *Dr. Josh LaGrant, Humana Military Behavioral Health Medical Director, Army veteran, prior DHA Chief of Behavioral Health*

Join leaders from across the Military and Veterans health community for a panel discussion introducing Face the Fight, a new a coalition of corporations, foundations, nonprofit and veteran-focused organizations joining together to raise awareness and support for veteran suicide prevention. Learn how new partnerships, interventions, and technology are being applied to support holistic health, and leave with new ideas of how you and your organization can engage in suicide prevention efforts.

Corridor/Room#: **National Harbor 10**

The Joint Medical Environment in the Next Fight

- *Brig Gen John Andrus, Joint Staff Surgeon*

In a Joint Environment the challenges to provide medical care will be critical in the next global fight. Health Service Support (HSS) is essential to be nested into operational planning to ensure mission success.

Health Service Support (HSS) is under the joint function of sustainment and promotes, improves, conserves, or restores the behavioral and physical well-being of personnel. Joint health services are part of an interrelated health system that shares medical services, capabilities, and specialists among the Service components and partners with multiple agencies and nations to implement a seamless, unified health care effort in support of a joint force in all-domain operations. Use lessons learned from Ukrainian Crisis, COVID-19, and the Operation Allies Refuge to understand how we can improve HSS for the next global fight.

Corridor/Room#: **Woodrow Wilson Ballroom**

One Patient, Two Healthcare Systems: DoD and VA Collaboration

- *Ms. Catherine Simpson, Program Analyst, DHA*
- *Mr. Steve Jones, MPH Director, Force Readiness and Health Assurance Policy ODASD for Health Readiness Policy & Oversight (HRPO)*

- *Dr. Paul R. Cordts, Deputy Assistant Director, Medical Affairs (DAD-MA)*

The Military Health System (MHS) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) are two of America's largest and most complex health care institutions. Together, these two systems provide care to America's Service members during and after military service. While the missions of the two systems are unique, there are similarities between MHS and VHA patient populations. Consequently, collaborations between the MHS and VHA can enhance patient care, advance evidence-based care into practice, improve access to disability benefits, support innovative problem solving, and enhance the patient experience.

Collaboration between VA and DoD also occurs via the VA/DoD Joint Incentive Fund (JIF), which was created by Congress to encourage shared initiatives and approaches to problem solving that mutually benefit both Departments with the potential to support a variety of opportunities. Prospective JIF projects should be aware of program oversight, the annual funding cycle, project manager responsibilities, and key elements of successful proposals. These components support successful JIF projects that can lead into joint and sustainable programs, such as the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER).

This breakout session will include presentations on development of VA/DoD CPGs, the VA/DoD JIF with examples of past successful projects, the ILER and implementation of the PACT Act, and the lessons learned through the VACXi to highlight existing and potential opportunities for DoD and VA collaboration.