

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

April 2011- June 2011

www.sibcr.org

Feature



Charles W. Wilkinson, PhD, is a Research Physiologist in the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, and Research Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Dr. Wilkinson is a neuroendocrinologist whose work has focused on the regulation of stress responses mediated by the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and the sympathetic nervous system. He has investigated the interactions of these physiological stress responses with behavioral and neurochemical processes in aging, Alzheimer's disease, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, and diabetes. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Dr. Wilkinson's research emphasis has now shifted to the study of pituitary abnormalities after blast concussion traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Veterans who were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He is evaluating the frequency of hypopituitarism after blast exposure and investigating the negative consequences of pituitary dysfunction on behavior, cognition, mood, body composition, and quality of life. Identification of the contribution of hormonal deficiencies to abnormalities in these areas will inform appropriate treatment and facilitate recovery and rehabilitation.

Charles Wilkinson, PhD

Several studies have shown that the frequency of significant pituitary disorders after civilian TBI is 30-50%. Civilian hypopituitarism has been associated with sleep disorders, fatigue, muscular weakness, sexual dysfunction, social isolation, depression, deficits in learning and memory, altered cardiovascular function, and diminished quality of life. Although it has been estimated that more than 20% of Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans have suffered blast-induced TBI, the specific effects of blast concussion on pituitary function have not been investigated. Dr. Wilkinson's projects are designed to address this question by measuring blood hormone levels, lean muscle mass and body fat content, and cognitive and neuropsychological performance after blast concussion TBI.

Dr. Wilkinson is currently Principal Investigator on a research project administered by SIBCR and funded by the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program in Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury. He has also been approved for funding for a VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Merit Review award.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Please mark your calendars for:
June 23, 2011
10 AM
Bldg. 1 RM 240

Changes in IRB Meeting Schedule

Until the VAPSHCS Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) has additional staff, the IRB committees will be holding meetings once a month beginning June 2011. The IRB committees will continue to meet once monthly until further notice.

To avoid a lapse in IRB approval, it is imperative that researchers submit Continuing Review Questionnaires (CRQs) 8 – 10 weeks prior to each study's expiration of IRB approval. To allow time for a new submission (Initial Review Questionnaire [IRQ] or Project Revision / Amendment Form [PRAF]) to be vetted for meeting review, please submit the IRQ or PRAF at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting.

Please contact the IRB front desk at (206) 277-1715 with questions.

Planning to submit a multiple PI grant as a New or Early Stage Investigator?

Please be aware that a multiple Principal Investigator (PI) application will only be considered a New Investigator application when all PIs meet the NIH definition of New Investigator, and will only be considered an Early Stage Investigator application when all PIs meet the NIH definition of Early Stage Investigator. Additionally, if a New Investigator successfully competes as a PI on a multiple PI grant, she or he no longer qualifies as a New (or Early Stage) Investigator on a single PI application. For more information, please refer to NIH Notice Number: NOT-OD-07-017.

New Employees

Please welcome: Michelle Grienauer, Sarah Heniges, Clayton Jones, Tyler McKay, Louann Rizor, and Lonnesse Taylor.