On May 8th, 2008, the Department of Clinical Investigation had the honor of conducting the William Beaumont Army Medical Center Annual Research Day. COL Bruce Adams, Chief of DCI, had the honor of introducing Guest Speaker COL Stephen Twitty. COL Twitty is Commander of 4th BCT, 1st AD. Speaking on the subject of “Combat Casualty Care”, COL Twitty stressed the importance of Graduate Medical Research and its impact on Soldiers downrange.

Ten podium presentations followed. Topics ranged from nerve transfer feasibility studies to smoking cessation to colon cancer. Fifteen posters presentations comprised the afternoon session.

Acting Commander COL Karen Gausman and judges from WBAMC, UTEP, Texas Tech, and the Alamogordo Primate Facility awarded several prizes. (right inset)

WBAMC Earns $220,000 TATRC Grant to Study Combat Online Medical Direction

Direct medical oversight is the real time provision of medical authority and recommendations by a physician to the paramedic in the field by radio, telephone or other device. This is what occurs if a victim is shot on the streets of El Paso. The paramedic is able to talk directly to a trauma center such as WBAMC to receive expert trauma guidance. Unfortunately, this system does not regularly occur in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Under a $220,000 grant from the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, WBAMC researchers will investigate the feasibility and outcomes of utilizing real time communications from the battlefield to the trauma center. WBAMC is collaborating with Ft Gordon’s Battle Command Battle Lab.
TATRC (cont. from page 1)

Paso Medical school to conduct this study. This working group met this week at DCI to coordinate planning for the upcoming year. This project promises to have immediate benefit on our nation's battlefields in care of fallen warriors.

For more information on TATRC go to www.tatrc.org

Meet Dr. Paul Cameau

Dr. Cameau is a first generation Haitian-American, born and raised in Queens, New York. He attended the State University of New York at Farmingdale where he received his A.A.S and Veterinary Technician license. He continued on at Stony Brook University of New York to attain his Bachelors in Sciences in Biology. He attended Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and completed his clinic rotations at University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine.

While at Ross University, Dr. Cameau was appointed to the Disciplinary board, which reviews complaints of ethics violations and the AVMA accreditation committee. Although a life long New Yorker, Dr. Cameau is a resident of Miami, Florida where he met his wife. They have two beautiful dogs, Gris a retired Greyhound, and Zam their beloved boxer.

Dr. Cameau is a valuable addition to the Department and we look forward to his expertise on the many upcoming veterinary protocols.

Meet Ms. Sunny Jo Ortega

Ms. Ortega was born and raised in Benson, AZ. She served two years on Active Duty at Ft. Bliss. She was previously employed at Fort Huachuca where she worked in the Logistics Division for Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Care Center.

Ms. Sunny Jo Ortega has two beautiful children; Emma, 4, Brendan, 2, and one on the way. Her husband, SSG Michael Ortega is stationed on Ft. Bliss at the NCO Academy.
Some Current and Upcoming Protocols of Interest

We at DCI are very fortunate to have a person of her skills as a member of our Protocol Department.

- Cognitive and Linguistic Profile of Active Duty Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Chronic Daily Headaches
- The in vitro Antibacterial Effect of a Colloidal Silver Antimicrobial Agent on Multidrug Resistant Acinetobacter
- Efficacy of Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol at WBAMC for Clostridium difficile Health Care Associated Infection Control
- Effect of Race on Thyroid Cancer Care in the Department of defense Health Care System
- Effectiveness of a Combination of Directed Tissue Mobilization Exercise and Splinting vs. Splinting Alone in the Treatment of Lateral Humeral Epicondylitis
- Investigation of Natural Products and Natural Product Extracts for Antimicrobial Activity Against Acinetobacter baumanii and Staphylococcus aureus

Selected Publications by DCI and GME Staff


Broden, C, Acute Renal Failure and Mechanical Ventilation: Reality or Myth? Critical Care Nurse (accepted March2008)


The DCI Mission Statement

Promote enthusiasm and support for research
Promote Graduate Medical Education
Recognize exceptional scope of scholarly activities at WBAMC
Foster collaborative research efforts

How to get started with your research...

1. Pre-protocol laboratory contact stage
Potential investigators may contact a DCI staff member if their research interests and/or background experience involve possible laboratory methodologies. Our website lists our capabilities.

2. Developmental laboratory methodology stage
Investigators interested in developing a protocol involving a laboratory procedure can contact the DCI chief or the Assistant DCI chief. Laboratory personnel can assist the investigator in literature searches for state-of-the-art methodologies that will result in the most accurate and meaningful measurements. Experimental design and cost effectiveness of the project will be discussed. Suggestions and changes are made at this stage and usually involve several follow-up meetings.

3. Implementation/data collection stage
Timely implementation of the protocol and all experimental results will be monitored by the Assistant DCI chief. The investigators will have access to all lab results at any time. The staff will work with the investigator for aid in interpretation and presentation of data.

4. Results/conclusions stage
Investigators may consult the DCI staff for help with preparation of a journal article or poster presentation. Resources will be available to send the investigator to relevant meetings.

POC’S for Questions:
- COL Bruce Adams, MD, FACEP
  Chief, DCI
  569-1208
- CPT Todd Furbacher, Ph.D.
  Asst. Chief, DCI
  569-1064