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Joining Forces: Caring for Veterans at the VA and in the Private Sector Mini-Elective Spring 2017

<u>Course Dates:</u>	March 17, April 7, 21, 28, May 5 Fridays, 1:30-3:30 PM
<u>Maximum Students:</u>	15
<u>Class Year:</u>	MS1
<u>Course Director:</u>	Jo-Anne Suffoletto, MD, MSc Associate Chief of Staff for Education and Innovative Learning VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Assistant Professor of Medicine, UPSOM Ron Poropatich, MD Executive Director, Center for Military Medicine Research UPSOM
<u>Contact Information:</u>	Jo-Anne Suffoletto, MD, MSc Joanne.suffoletto@va.gov
<u>Registration:</u>	Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:

This five-session mini-elective is designed to give medical students a fundamental understanding of the widespread impact of military medicine upon modern medicine from the unique treatment considerations of caring for individual veterans to the breadth of medical innovation and discovery born out of times of war. This course is interactive with varied session formats including: short lectures, panel discussions, problem-based learning, and mock interview practice.

Course Objectives:

- Practice asking a military history and explain its importance in a complete medical history.
- Describe the unique exposures different generations of veterans have encountered through various war and peace-time deployments.
- Identify ways in which military culture and experience may effect patients' health.
- Describe common symptom patterns and risk factors associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide.
- Identify ways in which war-time medical innovations have shaped various standard of care practices in modern medicine.

Requirements:

Active participation and attendance at 4 of the 5 sessions.

Pre-Requisites:

None

COURSE OUTLINE

Name of Course

Joining Forces: Caring for Veterans at the VA and in the Private Sector

Course Director(s):

Jo-Anne Suffoletto, MD, MSc

Associate Chief of Staff for Education and Innovative Learning

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Joanne.suffoletto@va.gov

Ron Poropatich, MD

Executive Director, Center for Military Medicine Research, Health Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Texts: none

Session 1: Who are our Veterans? - March 17th

Ron Poropatich, MD

Veteran Panel Discussion

Location: UPitt SOM—Scaife Rooms 426 A&B

With the U.S. veteran population numbering greater than 22 million, chances are good that medical students and professionals will encounter and treat former military members whether they practice at a VA or in the private sector. During this session, we will discuss the unique exposures different generations of veterans have faced during the 20th and 21st centuries and how these exposures have impacted their health. We will have an opportunity to meet with veterans from different eras to discuss their military experiences as well as their healthcare experiences either through VA or the private sector.

Week 2: Traumatic Brain Injury: The Signature Wound of Iraq/Afghanistan – April 7th

Dr. Anthony Kontos - UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program

Location: UPMC Center for Sports Medicine, South Side

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when a sudden head injury disrupts the function of the brain. Most reported TBI among Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans has been linked to head trauma secondary to improvised explosive devices (IEDs). This week we will cover screening, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation considerations of caring for veterans with TBI.

Week 3: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression and Suicide: Invisible Wounds of War – April 21st

Jennifer Fabrizio, PhD, Kate DeNardi, PhD, and Michael Boland, MEd, CTR

Location: UPitt SOM—Scaife Hall Rooms 426 A&B

With the increasing incidence of suicide and suicide attempts among returning veterans, we will explore the interplay and distinctions between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and suicide. During this session we will review common symptom patterns associated with PTSD and depression and we will discuss risk factors associated with suicide among veterans. We will learn and practice how to ask screening questions related to PTSD and depression. The second half of the session will be spent practicing these interview skills with a standardized patient.

Week 4: Deployment/Combat trauma/Echelons of Care - April 28th

Ron Poropatich, MD

Location: VA Pittsburgh, University Drive – Learning Exchange

During this session we will discuss what medicine in the combat arena currently looks like from point of injury and life-saving combat medic care to evacuation and definitive management.

Week 5: Why work in military medicine?- May 5th

Jo-Anne Suffoletto, MD, MSc and Ron Poropatich, MD

Physician Panel Discussion – Research, Education, and Clinical Faculty

Location: VA Pittsburgh, University Drive – Learning Exchange

Continued...

There is a long, rich history of medical innovations born out of necessity during times of war. This week students will investigate the origins of several military medicine innovations that are now considered the standard of care in civilian medicine. We will end the session, with a physician panel of research and clinical faculty from the medical school, UPMC, and the VA who have been or are currently involved in military medicine and how this experience has affected or shaped their careers.

Course Requirements: Active participation and attendance at 4 of the 5 sessions.