The National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) and VA Audiology: Collaboration, Mentoring and Education

Stephen Fausti Ph.D.
Gabrielle Saunders Ph.D.
NCRAR, Portland Oregon
Mission

“to benefit veterans by alleviating the communicative, economic and social problems resulting from auditory system dysfunction”
National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research

Dedicated to the discovery of effective solutions for auditory disabilities, and the translation of evidence-based research findings into practice throughout the VA healthcare system and the nation.
Performance Expectations for VA RR&D Centers

“Facilitate effective information dissemination for a broad spectrum of audiences”

“Support the growth and enhancement of a vigorous and creative learning environment”
Components

➢ RESEARCH

• Prevention of Hearing Loss, and Hearing Conservation
• Diagnosis and Assessment
• Rehabilitation Strategies, Devices and Techniques
Anechoic Chamber
Components

COLLABORATION

- VA Clinicians
- VA Researchers
- DoD
- Universities
- Industry
NCRAR Collaborating Sites

VA Research Centers
COE for Aging Veterans with Vision Loss, MS COE West, HSR&D Polytrauma and Blast Injury QUERIs Palo Alto & Minneapolis, COE on Restoration of Function in Spinal Cord Injury & MS

VA Medical Centers

Portland VAMC
Audiology and Speech Pathology, Otolaryngology, Education, Neurology, Internal Medicine, Psychology, Oncology, HSR&D Division

OHSU
OHRC, Dept. Med., Public Health & Preventative Medicine, SOSE, Behav. Neuroscience, Neurology, Advanced Imaging Research Center, School of Nursing, Oncology, Otolaryngology

Universities
Maryland, South Florida, Western Oregon, Pittsburg, Wisconsin, Emory, Indiana, Connecticut, Southern Illinois, Oregon, Washington, Regensburg Germany

Institutes & Agencies
Components

• The next generation of auditory scientists’ (post-doctoral fellows, career development candidates, career scientists, visiting scientists)

• VA clinicians who have a desire to participate in conducting research

• Au.D. students

MENTORING
Components

EDUCATION

- Professionals
- Students
- Veterans
- Community
Education

- Seminar series through 10/07
- In process of planning live V-Tel broadcasts

Upcoming speakers:
George Frye      Chris Stecker
Bill Noble      Terry Chisolm
Arthur Boothroyd Joshua Miele
Education

➢ NCRAR Biennial Conferences:
   Hearing Therapies for the Future
   September 27th & 28th 2007

➢ Pre-conference workshop:
   Best practices in hearing loss prevention” Theresa Schultz Ph.D., Kyle Dennis Ph.D. & David Chandler Ph.D.
Education

Au.D. students

- 4th year externships: a research-based clinical experience
- NIH-sponsored summer research internship experiences: four students/year over the next 5 years
Education

 Veterans and the Community

NCRAR Community Lecture Series:

“Treatment for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus: State of the Art” presented by Jim Henry Ph.D. & Dave Lilly Ph.D.

May 17th at Portland VAMC
Educational Materials

- Brochures (available at: www.ncrar.research.va.gov)
  - *Why Can’t I Understand Speech?* by Vaughan N.
  - *Tips for Improving Your Listening Experience* by Lewis MS & Saunders GH.
  - *Ototoxicity* by Konrad-Martin D & Fausti SA
  - *Tools to Help with Hearing* by NCRAR and Portland VAMC Audiology & Speech Pathology Service
  - *Questions and Answers About Tinnitus* by Henry JA. Posted on the VA Audiology and Speech Pathology website: www.vawww1.va.gov/audiospeech
Educational Materials

- **Video/DVD/multimedia**

  “Ringing in the Ears - what can I do about it?”

  by VA Audiology Patient Education Workgroup
  Tinnitus Planning Committee, VISN 8 Employee Education Service, NCRAR, Audiology and Speech Pathology Service Program Office.

  Has been disseminated to VA Audiology clinics
  (NCRAR has extra copies available)
Educational Materials

➢ Training Programs/ workshops

- Ototoxicity workshops at NCRAR and national meetings
- Tinnitus Training at VA Medical Centers and national meetings

NCRAR welcomes opportunities to put on other workshops as requested
Educational Materials

➢ Web-based Programs

• Online training for VA audiologists to learn tinnitus management techniques by Jim Henry & Paula Myers


• Hearing Loss Prevention Program multimedia presentation for veterans by Gaby Saunders & Susan Griest. Components: education, video, interactive, automated hearing test
Research Mentoring

- Pilot funding available

Will be for new VA clinician researchers to conduct mentored collaborative studies with NCRAR investigators
Future Research Directions

- Rehabilitation of blast-related and noise-induced auditory injuries
- Rehabilitation strategies based on neural plasticity of the central auditory system
- Rehabilitation of dual-sensory impairment
- Telehealth and web-based audiological services and programs
- Translational Hearing Research Initiatives
- Veterans Hearing Loss Prevention Program
NCRAR and VA Audiology

- Support pilot studies
- Facilitate generation of research protocols with other VAs
- Mentor new VA researchers
- Continue biennial international conference series
- Expand NCRAR seminar series
- Continue to develop professional education materials and tools
NCRAR and AVAA

- Input from AVAA to
  - identify directions for future NCRAR research and development
  - maximize benefit NCRAR can provide for VA Audiology Program
Contact Information

Deputy Director for Education, Outreach and Dissemination:
Gabrielle.saunders@va.gov

PHONE: 503 220 8262, X 55568/54525

WEBSITE: www.ncrar.research.va.gov
Questions and Answers