



## **Minneapolis**

Center of Excellence

Director: Hanna E. Bloomfield, MD, MPH

### **Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2011**

The Minneapolis Center for Chronic Disease Outcomes Research (CCDOR) was established in April 1998. Its mission is to enhance, through research, education and dissemination activities, the delivery and accessibility of high-quality, cost-effective health care that will result in optimal clinical, psychosocial, and functional outcomes for veterans with chronic disease. The Center, which is affiliated with the University of Minnesota Schools of Medicine and Public Health, currently supports 62 funded projects or programs with an annual budget of over \$8.8 million.

As detailed in our 5 year strategic plan, CCDOR's primary focus is post-deployment health, with an emphasis on: 1. Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); 2. Polytrauma/Blast-related injuries and other unique health issues facing veterans of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF); and 3. Substance use disorders (including tobacco). We are actively developing or implementing projects in 4 specific areas:

1. Longitudinal studies of OEF/OIF veterans to identify those most at risk for poor mental health outcomes following deployment-related trauma.
2. Interventions that reduce barriers to obtaining and adhering to treatment for PTSD.
3. Optimizing care for the poly-traumatized veteran. Specifically, we are focusing on transitions between care venues; screening for highly prevalent, "invisible" problems such as hearing loss and traumatic brain injury; and facilitating the supportive care provided by family members.
4. Treatment strategies for substance users with co-morbid mental health problems.

Although post-deployment health is our primary growth area, a significant portion of our research portfolio continues to focus on our other areas of established strength. These include our internationally renowned clinical research programs in osteoporosis, prostate and urological disease, and abdominal aortic aneurysm; our leadership in intervention and implementation research in colorectal cancer screening; our strength in health disparities in disadvantaged populations; our cutting edge work on methods for reducing bias in observational studies; and our strong evidence synthesis program, that is funded by VA, AHRQ, and NIH.

Major plans for next year include: 1. Identifying a new Center Director, 2. Submitting a competitive CREATE (Collaborative Research to Enhance and Advance Transformation and Excellence) grant on implementing evidence based treatment for PTSD within VA, and 3. Preparing for a Center Of Innovation (COIN) submission in FY13.