

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

Volume 7, Issue 2 • January 23, 2012

www.usuhs.mil



2012 Packard Lecturer Named

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Sharon Willis

Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Production Editor

Christine Creenan-Jones

Contributing Writer

Anne Allnutt

Layout and Design

Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Pulse staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions

The Pulse will be published bi-weekly on Mondays. The deadline for submissions is at 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Submissions can be sent to usunewsletter@usuhs.mil or by calling 301-295-0895.



Courtesy photo.

Dr. Murray F. Brennan

Secretary of Defense, who also served as the second USU president from 1976 to 1981.

This year's lectureship will be a special two-day event, March 14 and 15, culminating in the University's David Packard Lecture. But this year is unique as it represents a partnership between the USU Faculty Senate and the recently established Comprehensive Cancer Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

Navy Rear Admiral (Dr.) Alton Stocks, Commander, WRNMMC, and Army Col. (Dr.) Craig Shriver, Interim Director of the WRNMMC Comprehensive Cancer Center, will host clinically-focused activities on the first day of the event at the medical center. These activities will highlight the new cancer center facility and its comprehensive cancer care capability.

The USU Faculty Senate will host the second day on campus, which will showcase cancer-related research within the USU School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing and conclude with the Packard lecture.

Clinically, he has created the world's largest database of sarcoma patients. This database includes important data on more than 8,000 patients, which led to the development of a computer program that is highly effective in predicting patients' chances of surviving soft tissue sarcoma for at least 12 years after their diagnosis.

This program, called a Nomogram, assists a doctor in designing treatment to ensure patients at greatest risk of recurrence can be treated more aggressively, while patients at low risk can avoid unnecessary additional treatments.

The 2012 David Packard Lecture will feature guest speaker, Dr. Murray F. Brennan from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York who will be speaking in Sanford Auditorium at 3 p.m. March 15.

Brennan is an internationally recognized surgical oncologist who has authored or co-authored more than 1,000 publications including a book on soft tissue sarcoma. He is an expert in basic science research and a clinical expert in the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas, endocrine tumors as well as pancreatic and stomach cancers.

He has been honored with a myriad of professional awards such as membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the American College of Surgeons' highest award, the Distinguished Service Award in 2000.

Brennan will be the 25th guest speaker to give the University's most prestigious lectureship. The annual lecture features a nationally renowned medical expert selected by the University president and Faculty Senate. The David Packard Lecture is named in honor of the former Deputy



Courtesy photo.

On the cover

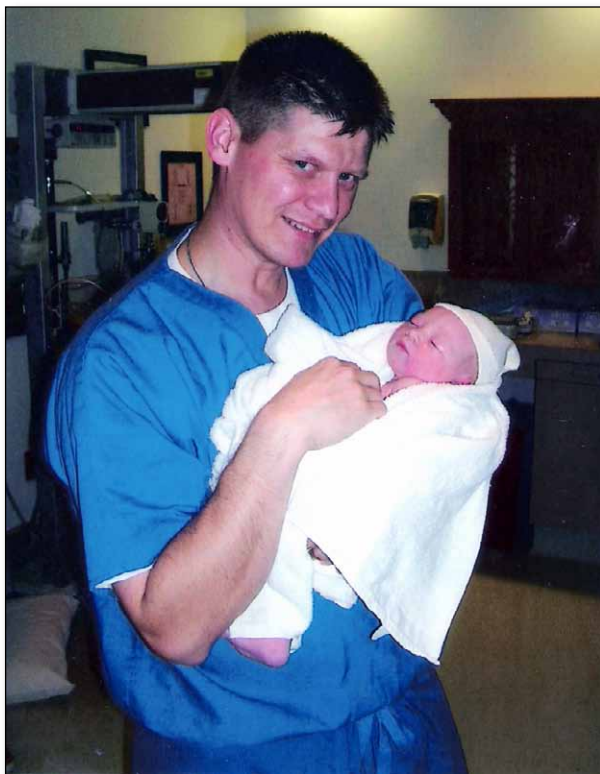
Dr. Patrick Sculley, executive dean of USU's Postgraduate Dental College (PGDC), recently paid a visit to the Army Dental Residency program site at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to finalize the addition of the program into USU's PGDC. Pictured: Lt. Col. William "Jay" Greenwood; Col. Dianne Pannes, program director, USU Comprehensive Dentistry Program, Schofield Barracks; Dr. Patrick Sculley; Col. Robert Manga, Dean, Army PGDS; BG Keith W. Gallagher; Dr. Debra Klinman, Middle States Commission on Higher Education; and Mr. Steve Henske, USU Asst. VP for Accreditation. (See page 4).



In a League of His Own

By Christine Creenan-Jones

Major Jarold “Tom” Johnston, a Graduate School of Nursing student in the PhD in Nursing Science program, is the Army’s only male midwife and lactation consultant. In these roles, he’s been the go-to guy for thousands of new mothers and fathers with questions about pregnancy, labor and baby care for the past six years.



Courtesy photo

Army Maj. Jarold “Tom” Johnston holds a newborn baby. Johnston, a GSN student in the PhD program, is the Army’s only male midwife and lactation consultant a mission he has full-filled for the past six years.

Still, Johnston – the lone man in a woman’s world – doesn’t consider himself unique or a pioneer. He’s just doing a job he loves and helping military families in the process.

“I didn’t originally seek out this career, but the Army Nurse Corps places great value on gender neutrality and thought I was a good candidate for midwifery school since I had a lot of nursing experience in maternity,” he said. “Midwifery wasn’t my first choice,

and I even considered turning the assignment down. But, I’m glad I didn’t, because I love my work.”

After completing a civilian midwifery program in Rhode Island, Johnston began providing full-spectrum primary care to women at military hospitals in North Carolina and New York. Like all midwives, his professional scope is broad, but Johnston focuses mostly on obstetrics – a field he is passionate about.

“Midwives are part of something really special,” he said. “We play an important role in helping couples grow into families, from before a woman becomes pregnant to well beyond the birth of her child.”

As a midwife, Johnston attends uncomplicated births and teaches new parents all sorts of useful skills, including proper breastfeeding techniques. Johnston admits several of his patients are surprised to learn he’s a board-certified lactation consultant, but it doesn’t take long for most women to look past his gender.

“It’s a perception thing more than anything else. There are plenty of male gynecologists, after all,

and their work is just as sensitive and personal as mine,” he said. “People accept them, no questions asked, because in the end, most people just want a competent, professional caregiver – woman or man.”

Like his female counterparts, Johnston provides expert advice – non-pharmacologic techniques for easing painful labor and effective breastfeeding techniques to avoid complications – but, he still has a special appeal. Johnston’s



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

Major Jarold “Tom” Johnston

gender – though not an issue for him or his patients – is still a hot topic among professionals in the field.

The father of eight has been invited to speak at several national conferences about his unique experiences in military nursing. Johnston has taken these opportunities to focus on meaningful topics, like the vital role fathers play in creating happy, healthy families.

“My work is interesting to a lot of people, and I enjoy sharing my experiences with other professionals,” Johnston said. “But, I always talk about midwifery fields in general, not who’s in them. I’m just not that interested in gender roles.”

Whether intentional or not, Johnston has moved nursing boundaries for the Army by integrating a field as old as time. Now, he’s hoping to move ground in a new discipline. At USU, Johnston is combining his love for midwifery and human lactation with cell biology – likely topics for the research he’ll conduct as part of his doctoral education in the Graduate School of Nursing.

“If you understand how cells work, you understand how life works,” he said.

For Johnston, this means understanding his own midwifery career better, which has been full of life.

Alum Returns to Campus as MEM Vice Chair

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

The Military and Emergency Medicine department (MEM) recently welcomed a new addition as its deputy department chair.

Air Force Col. Dr. Tom Clarke, a USU alumnus, returned to campus in September 2011 to take the position as vice chair. He also serves as the director, Aerospace Medicine Education.

"I am excited about my role here at USU," he said. "I look forward to contributing and growing the already superb department of Military and Emergency Medicine."

The 1992 USU valedictorian came to MEM from the Air Force Medical Support Agency where he served as the division chief for Aerospace Medicine Policy and Operations.

Now here at USU, he has big plans to help ensure MEM is on the cutting edge of educational operations.

"I really want to make sure that this department and the educational operations be something significant," Clarke said. "The number one thing we must do is prepare our graduating students to excel in the operational medical environment. And hopefully, we can also inspire them."

To help accomplish this dedicated mission, the former NASA flight surgeon is restoring the Operational Emergency Skills course.

"This course was developed here at USU and I would like to bring that course back to be a real anchor here in

the department. It would be an asset that we could export in the DoD and international communities. As part of the department's plans, the OEMS course is slated to replace the current Operation Kerkesner this coming year.

"These first four months have really extolled the co-operation here between the Brigade, the School of Medicine, the departments, etc. Everybody has been very supportive," Clarke said.

"This very cooperative and supportive environment will minimize the challenges to making this a success."

And, it is this goal of success for the future of Operational Military Medicine that helps drive the senior officer's vision.

"All the way back in '92 when I graduated, I loved the University," he said. "I have always felt that this is the best medical education I could have ever received. And, I want every student who graduates here to feel that way."

Since his humble beginnings as a flight surgeon at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., to his current position at USU, Col. Clarke has taken and instructed dozens of military courses from Centrifuge training to Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape, or SERE, training.

He has also earned many honors and recognitions such as Lange Medical Publications Award for outstanding achievement as a medical student in 1992, the Howard Unger Award for best primary research by a flight sur-



Courtesy photo

Air Force Col. Dr. Tom Clarke poses for a photo during a recent deployment. Clarke, the new deputy chairman for the USU Military and Emergency Medicine Department is also the director of Aerospace Medicine Education and a USU graduate.

geon in 2002 and the Julian E. Ward Memorial Award in 2004 for the top resident in Aerospace Medicine.

Clarke has also honorably served multiple medical deployments around the world to places such as Kenya, Somalia, Jordan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Cambodia, Lithuania, Afghanistan, Iraq, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina, Haiti and even New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. His most recent deployment was to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Army Postgraduate Dental School Joins USU College



Courtesy photo.

On January 10, the Vice President of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Debra Klinman, Ph.D., visited the U.S. Army Dental residency site at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, to finalize the addition of the Army Postgraduate Dental School to USU's Postgraduate Dental College. Pictured (left to right): Lt.Col. Jay Greenwood, assistant program director; Col. Dianne Pannes, program director; Dr. Klinman; Mr. Steve Henske, USU's Assistant VP for Accreditation; Col. Robert Manga, Dean, Army Postgraduate Dental School; and Dr. Patrick Scully, Executive Dean, USU Postgraduate Dental College.

Levine to Serve as Acting VPR

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

With the recent departure of USU's Vice President for Research, Dr. Steven Kaminsky, President Charles L. Rice, M.D., turned to a familiar face on campus to temporarily fill the role — Assistant Vice President for Research Dr. Richard Levine.

"I would like to thank Dr. Levine for his willingness to serve in this capacity until a new Vice President for Research is appointed," said USU President Dr. Rice. "He has been a valuable asset to the University for many years."

In addition to his position as assistant VP for Research, Dr. Levine also works as USU's director for Research, USU's director of Research Compliance as well as the University's director of Research Programs.

Dr. Levine has also been a valuable member and consultant to various Dept. of Defense Institutional Review Boards. He also played an integral part in creating a human subjects protections policy for the DoD.

Dr. Levine retired from Army active duty after 21 years of dedicated service.

During those years, the former officer served in a full spectrum of research assignments. Most notably he served as a member of the Army's Directed Energy Medical Research Program, as Chief of the AMEDD Center and School's Individual Training Director (Directorate of Training and Doctrine), Chief of the AMEDD C&S's Analysis and Technical Support Branch (Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization), and as a senior staff officer and Deputy Program Director in the Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Dr. Levine also served for many years in the Army's Aeromedical research community, and is the author of numerous scientific reports and papers on warfare visual performance and on visual performance with electro-optical devices and other visual aids in aviation.

He is the recipient of the Army's "A" proficiency designator, and the DoD's Defense Superior Service Medal. Dr. Levine received his doctorate in Neurobiology from the City University of New York.

Campus Reaches Campaign Goal

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

The generosity of the USU family came through for people in need as the campus exceeded its 2011 Combined Federal Campaign goal.

Overall, the University raised more than \$173,310 for the charitable campaign, which ended Jan. 13. The University's original goal was \$165,000.

"I do really want to thank everyone who contributed to this success," said Army Capt. Malvis Tarney, the Graduate School of Nursing company commander and 2011 CFC campaign manager. "We couldn't have done it without everyone's hard work and dedication."

This year's CFC drive, led by Tarney, encompassed more than 40 volunteers — two officers, 14 enlisted and 27 civilians. These volunteers assisted and worked a full-spectrum of fund-raising events from an M&M candy counting contest to a CFC bake sale and Holiday gift wrapping.

All of their efforts were in support of the CFC and its many charities. The CFC assists more than 4,000 charities combined. These charities cover local, regional, national and international organizations and impact millions of people annually.

After the last donation had been made, USU had provided more than 240 pledges. These pledges include the more than \$22,000 in paperless e-pledges that were submitted.



AFRRI Symposium to Highlight US Response to Japan Disaster

By MC1 Chad Hallford

The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, AFRRI, at the Uniformed Services University, USU will host a symposium sponsored by AFRRI's Military Medical Operations department,

The symposium will be held IN Sanford Auditorium March 27-29, 2012 and topics will span the scope of the U.S. response to the Fukushima Daiichi incident following the devastating earthquake and tsunami last year in Japan.

To attend, register online at <http://www.usuhs.mil/afrianniversary/events/mmo/index.html>.

Contact the symposium chair Air Force Capt. Brian E. Livingston via email livingston@afri.usuhs.mil or by phone, 301-295-1069; or Julie Harless at harless@afri.usuhs.mil, 301-295-2950, with questions about the symposium.

Officer Lights Path for Innovations in Anesthesiology

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

The USU campus is filled with many diverse and unique experts.

Many of those experts go about their work with quiet dignity, seeking reward only in a job well done. And, Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Eric Holt is one of them.

“We have a lot of exciting things going on in the USU Anesthesiology department that are contributing to the future of operational medicine,” he said.

A member of the USU Department of Anesthesiology, he wears many hats. He is a staff anesthesiologist at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, assistant professor and Vice Chair of the USU Department of Anesthesiology, as well as being an operational anesthesiology instructor and Special Operations Command Pain Task Force representative.

In these critical roles he mentors residents at WRNMMC who are participating in the military’s only Tri-Service active duty anesthesiology residency program. He also provides expert instruction to USU students at the Anesthesia Simulation Center during their surgical and anesthesiology clinical rotations.

But Holt’s work doesn’t end there. He works with organizations such as the Henry Jackson Foundation, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), and the Special Forces Medical Sergeants Course at Ft. Bragg with efforts to implement new and augment existing technology, tactics, techniques, and procedures for medical use in combat, unconventional, and austere environments. This work requires that he coordinate with multiple Federal and civilian agencies in the National Capital Region as well as U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Holt helps tackle issues ranging from DoD/VA Pain Task Force initiatives for special operations forces personnel and capturing medical “lessons learned” from current military operations to future operational pain and critical care



Courtesy photo.

Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Eric Holt (left) in Afghanistan shortly before sustaining injuries from an IED. Currently, Holt serves as vice chair of the USU Department of Anesthesiology as an operational anesthesiology instructor. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Air Combat Action medal during his last deployment.

capabilities for both U.S. and host nation medical care.

As such, in the past he has given several operational medical presentations to groups such as Air Force Special Operations Command, USSOCOM, the Special Operations Medical Association, the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, the Society of Air Force Clinical Surgeons, and the Texas Health Research and Education Institute.

While serving as a critical care physician and anesthesiology attending with the 96th Medical Group at Eglin AFB, Holt helped manage expeditionary support for surgical, obstetrical, and physical medical services for more than 16,000 active duty servicemen and women. He also organized and staffed the first-ever osteopathic medicine clinic at Hurlburt Field.

But the Harvard-educated anesthesiologist is much more than a stateside clinician and has real world experience to temper his academic education. Since 2005, Holt has supported world-

wide missions for both AFSOC and USSOCOM both as a special operations surgical team and critical care evacuation team member. He has served repeatedly in joint special combat operations and medevacs for critically wounded military and host nation casualties while coordinating multiple large-scale medical civil action programs (MEDCAPS) that helped establish and improve host nation medical capability.

During his most recent deployment, the 1991 West Point graduate was severely injured when an improvised explosive device detonated under the vehicle he was riding in. Holt sustained a moderate TBI with severe skull, facial, cervical and thoracic fractures requiring multiple surgeries and over a year of TBI therapy at Walter Reed and the Tampa VA Medical Center.

“I am extremely thankful for the incredible medical care and staff support I received from the point of injury to the present day. Being a physician

(Continues on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

traveling through our military trauma and medical system as a casualty was a priceless learning experience,” Holt said. “Even today, the anesthesiology staff at WRNMMC and USU have been incredibly supportive with the recuperation process while allowing me the opportunity to work on various operational projects.”

It is the combination of this valuable experience and staff support that helps the Purple Heart and Air Combat Action recipient dissect and address the operational needs for tomorrow’s medical experts both inside and outside of the class room.

Inside the classroom, Holt has students utilize “operational” equipment to perform their medical duties, like using night vision goggles and helmets

while carrying replica M-4 rifles and M-9 handguns with slings and holsters to help more accurately portray field conditions and prepare the students for the operational environment.

It is this unique vision that helps Holt work to modify anesthesia and airway devices and techniques for use in far forward and low-light conditions.

“There is a very real need for things like this,” he said. “In the not-too-distant future, our residents may be in scenarios requiring noise and light discipline where they can’t just turn on a flashlight and shout ‘call for help.’ They are ‘the help’ and will be tasked to perform damage control resuscitation tactically, in total darkness, as part of a team that must shoot, move and communicate effectively for survival.”

Holt’s creation may have come out of his personal experiences but are not for his benefit.

“Everything we do here is for the benefit of those people going into the operational environment. Period,” he said. “The training and expertise our students and residents receive now will one day help care for our nation’s warriors in the fight — those in harm’s way.”

Along with his extensive workload, Holt spends as much time as he can with his family. He and his wife, Nashwa, recently celebrated the birth of twin sons, Will and Luke, born at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center this past October.

“My family means everything to me,” he said. “They are what truly inspire me.”

TSB Serves USU’s Tech Needs

The workforce of USU’s Technical Services Branch, Logistics Division, is a hybrid mix of military, government civilians and Henry M. Jackson Foundation personnel. Several have served at USU for more than 20 years and know how to get things fixed quickly. Armed with years of experience and outstanding training credentials, these professionals, led by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chris Murray, routinely provide on-site and in-lab repairs.

Their support includes repairs, calibrations, routine maintenance and assistance with new equipment as well as in-service training for some equipment.

For problems that transcend their in-house capabilities, the TSB routinely leverages yearly contracts to overcome those challenges. The warranty management of equipment through the Technical Services workforce looks to save its customers money by fixing responsibility with vendors for those repairs covered by the original purchase agreement.

“We are very proud of this group, especially during this period of transition,” said Logistics Director Greg Kuhn. “We lost our three most



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

The USU Technical Services Branch, from left to right: (Standing) Tim Taylor, Thorell Penny Jordan, Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Lee, Army Sgt. Matthew Gomez, Anna Nguy, Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Kampen, Army Sgt. Alfred Zamora, David Little. (Seated) Russell Shettle, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christopher Murray, Air Force Staff Sgt. Erik Papp and John Pirrone.

senior civilians to retirement, but due to Tech Sgt. Murray’s leadership, the hard work of our remaining members, and the ability to obtain short-term staff through our partnership with the Foundation, we have been able to maintain a solid level of service.”

The CPDR Marks 20th Anniversary

The Center for Prostate Disease Research, or CPDR — a Department of Defense Center of Excellence — is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in the fall of 2012.

This milestone marks two decades of service and research to benefit all military health care beneficiaries diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The CPDR is a multi-disciplinary program focused on developing the latest research and treatment modalities while providing state-of-the-art health care for patients with prostate cancer and disease. The Center utilizes the equal access DoD health care system. In addition, the CPDR utilizes its three principal programs, Basic Science, Clinical Research, and the Multicenter National Database, to accomplish its mission.

The Center also contributes to the fully accredited urology resident training program at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

From its beginning as a small program in 1992 within the USU Department of Surgery and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Urology Program, the CPDR is presently recognized worldwide as a premier prostate patient care and research center. Since its inception, the Clinical Research Program has offered patients access to multiple clinical trials. Currently, there are 12 ongoing clinical trials that address various treatment options, disease prevention and quality-of-life outcomes.

In addition, the CPDR has collected and securely stored more than 100,000 various types of de-identified specimens. The biospecimen repository serves as the underpinning for ground-breaking basic science research, which focuses on new diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

The efforts of the Basic Science Research team led to many ground-breaking research findings including more than 350 research publications and meeting presentations, 18 peer-reviewed

grant awards from the NIH and DOD, 12 pending patent applications, three issued patents, numerous Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, or CRADAs — the latter with numerous academic collaborations and leading industry leaders.

One of the most significant CPDR discoveries is one which the ETS related gene (ERG) defect is found in two-thirds of all prostate cancer cases. Combined with discoveries from other laboratories, it is now established that ERG alterations are one of the most prevalent oncogenic defects found so far in prostate cancer in the United States.

“This discovery has the potential to create a paradigm shift in prostate cancer diagnosis, stratification and management,” said the CPDR Co-Director, Shiv Srivastava, Ph.D.

On another front, the CPDR Multicenter National Database represents a unique database of more than 25,000 patients with prostate cancer who are consented and enrolled in the DoD health care system.

This database is under the auspices of USU’s Institutional Review Board and enables unparalleled research opportunities to study the impact of racial disparity, PSA screening, novel biomarkers and traditional/new treatments for the most commonly diagnosed cancer among U.S. men. And, CPDR scientists and urologists continue to strive in developing new strategies for improving diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer researchers from around the United States and several foreign countries will meet later this year to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of CPDR.

This meeting will celebrate the vision of the Center’s founders who instituted the intent of the Congress. Along with the steadfast support of the leadership from USU, WRNMMC, the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical, the Joint Pathology Center (formerly the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology), the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, and other collaborating DoD and civilian medical research institutions.

The Center’s Director, retired-Army Col. David G. McLeod, M.D., J.D., said, “At the present time CPDR is a world class endeavor. Indeed, without the support afforded us from the Department of Clinical Research at WRAMC we would have been unable to

achieve our successes. Hopefully we can sustain this support at WRNMMC.”

There will be a day-long symposium later this year. The symposium will serve to recognize the dedication and selfless support from its current and past staff who made the CPDR a model multi-disciplinary cancer program, not

only in the DOD, but in the United States. This symposium will provide the CPDR the opportunity to recognize the military patients who are the foundation of the CPDR and who continue to inspire the Center’s mission.

Over the past 20 years, the key CPDR goal remains the same — to enhance the quality of life of military patients and their beneficiaries along the continuum of cancer care. The CPDR is closely aligned with the forward-looking initiative to establish a Comprehensive Care Center at WRNMMC.

