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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Perl to discuss first-ever study of combat-related traumatic brain injuries**

Bethesda, MD - Combat-related traumatic brain injury (TBI) will be the focus of two lectures given by Daniel Perl, M.D., professor of Pathology and Director, Neuropathology Core, Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), at the McLaughlin Research Institute in Great Falls on Monday, August 15.

Dr. Perl will deliver two talks during the MRI's National Development Council annual meeting -- "From the NFL to the Battlefield: What do we know about Traumatic Brain Injury?" and "Traumatic Brain Injury: Environmental Initiation of Prion-like, Tauopathic Neurodegeneration" that will focus on his plans to study the acute and long-term effects of traumatic brain injury as a result of combat, the first-ever undertaking of its kind.

The Military Brain Injury Studies, or MILBIS, program at USU, established by Dr. Perl, was recently awarded more than \$2 million from the U.S. Army to study combat-related TBI. The study will focus on the acute and long-term effects of TBIs, which has also recently become a topic of intense interest in relation to contact sports, including football. For many years, the long-term effects of repeated TBI were believed to be almost exclusively encountered among former boxers and were referred to as dementia pugilistica, or chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). CTE has a distinct and recognizable microscopic appearance when properly examined by a brain pathologist. Recently, pathology studies on the brains of former NFL players who have died have shown that these athletes can also develop CTE. Perl has been involved in these studies, and now wants to apply that information to look for cases of CTE among service members who have experienced TBIs in association with their combat experience, which he hopes will lead to better protection and treatment approaches.

Dr. Perl received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and completed his medical training at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. He did his residency and fellowship training in Anatomic Pathology and Neuropathology, respectively, at Yale University, following which he served for two years as a pathologist at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. In subsequent years, he served on the faculty of the Brown University Medical School and then the University of Vermont College of Medicine. It was at Vermont that he began working on Alzheimer's disease and other age-related neurodegenerative disorders. In 1986, Dr. Perl was recruited to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York where, for 24 years, he served as Director of the Neuropathology Division and was Professor of Pathology, Psychiatry and Neurosciences. In September, 2010, he left Mount Sinai to join the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

With more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters authored, Dr. Perl also is co-author of the 3rd edition of Oppenheimer's Diagnostic Neuropathology, one of the leading textbooks in his field. He is highly regarded for his work on various aspects of the neuropathology of age-

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related neurodegenerative disorders, especially the role of environmental factors in their induction. He is the leading authority on the complex of neurodegenerative disorders occurring among the native population living on Guam and has been actively involved in the investigation into the long-term effects of repeated head trauma in athletes in collaboration with the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center, Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy and the Sports Legacy Institute.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is the nation's federal health sciences university. USU students are primarily active-duty uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service who are being educated to deal with wartime casualties, emerging infectious diseases, disasters, and other public health emergencies. The vast majority of the university's more than 4,500 physician and 500 advanced practice nursing alumni are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. For more information, visit [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil).

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