

Exploring Justice

Coming Home Injured: Care and Advocacy for America's Veterans

Friday, October 29, 2010

Pike Conference
Boston University School of Law
Room 1270



BU School of Law

BU School of Public Health

8:45 a.m.

Welcoming Remarks

Deans of School of Law and School of Public Health

9:00 a.m.

Conference Overview

Care of Veterans in US since World War II

Veterans of the First Gulf War

9:10-10:00 a.m.

Gulf War Illness:

Documenting Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War

Professor Roberta F. White *Boston University School of Public Health*

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Commentary and Audience Discussion

Professor Wendy K. Mariner *Boston University School of Public Health and School of Law*

10:30-10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Advocacy for Gulf War Veterans:

Getting Them the Care they Need (and Deserve)

Anthony Hardie *Member, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illness*

Paul Sullivan *Executive Director, Veterans for Common Sense*

12:00 p.m.

Presentation of the Pike Prize to S. Ward Casscells, M.D.

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan (Post-9/11)

1:30-2:15 p.m.

**Diagnosing and Treating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
and Traumatic Brain Injury**

Professor Michael A. Grodin *Boston University School of Public Health*

2:15-2:45 p.m.

**Research (and Prevention) of Suicide in the Military
(and after Discharge)**

Professor George J. Annas *Boston University School of Public Health and School of Law*

2:45-3:30 p.m.

Commentary and Audience Discussion

Professor Leonard H. Glantz *Boston University School of Public Health and School of Law*

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Advocacy for Post-9/11 Veterans: Where do we go from here?

4:30 p.m.

Conference Wrap Up, Conclusions and Evaluation

Distinguished Speakers

George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H., is the William Fairfield Warren Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at BU School of Public Health. He is also a professor at BU Schools of Law and Medicine. Annas is the author or editor of 18 books, most recently, *Worst Case Bioethics: Death, Disaster, and Public Health* (Oxford, 2010). He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies. He gave a presentation on his topic last year to the ethics committee of the Defense Health Board (US Department of Defense).

Leonard H. Glantz, J.D., is a professor in the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at the School of Public Health, where he had served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for 30 years. He is also a professor at BU Schools of Law and Medicine. He is the author or editor of three books including *Children as Research Subjects: Science, Ethics & Law* (with Dr. Michael Grodin) and numerous articles, reports and appellate briefs on a wide array of health law issues. He is the chairman of the Board of Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research and a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Pediatric Ethics Subcommittee.

Michael A. Grodin, M.D., is a professor in the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at the School of Public Health, and a professor of Family Medicine and Psychiatry at BU School of Medicine. He is a practicing physician and an international expert on the Holocaust and on the Psychological Care of Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma. He is also co-editor of the books *Health and Human Rights: A Reader and Perspectives on Health and Human Rights*.

Anthony Hardie is a Gulf War and Somalia veteran who has been active on Gulf War health and other veterans' policy issues for most of the 17 years since his military service. While service-disabled, he serves on several federal and state government advisory panels including three related to Gulf War Illness research; authors *9/10outcomes.com*, a Gulf War health and news website; has provided testimony and behind the scenes assistance to Congress and many other government bodies; has been a public speaker on GWI issues; and has helped develop two national veterans organizations. He

is the former Executive Assistant for Legislative, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, a former Congressional aide, and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Wendy K. Mariner, J.D., LL.M., M.P.H., is the Edward R. Utley Professor in the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at the School of Public Health. She is also a professor at BU Schools of Law and Medicine and co-director of Regulatory Knowledge and Research Ethics at the BU Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She directs the BU Health Law Program with Professor Otterson.

Paul Sullivan is a Gulf War veteran and the executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a non-profit providing government relations and public relations advocacy for fellow veterans. Paul has testified before Congress more than a dozen times and appeared in hundreds of news articles about veterans. Paul worked at VA headquarters in Washington, DC, and as executive director of the National Gulf War Resource Center, where he helped lead the fight to pass laws expanding VA care and benefits for veterans.

Roberta F. White, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist who chairs the Department of Environmental Health at Boston University School of Public Health. For the past 30 years, she has carried out research focused on the effects of industrial chemicals on brain function in adults and children. This work has used behavioral and brain imaging outcomes to document nervous system changes associated with such exposures. She is best known for her work on metals and solvent exposures in adulthood, methylmercury and PCB effects following prenatal and childhood exposures, and the effects of exposures to chemicals in theater on Gulf War veterans. She has taught neuropsychology at BU to graduate, medical and public health students and has mentored many graduate students and post doctoral fellows. For many years she held joint positions at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health as well as the VA Boston Healthcare System, where she directed a research center focused on Gulf War veterans' health and saw many veterans as clinical patients.

About the Pike Conference

"In war, there are no unwounded soldiers."

- Jose Narosky

Gulf War Illness has been debated and researched for almost two decades since the end of the 1990-91 Gulf War. There is general agreement that at least one-fourth of the 700,000 veterans of that war suffer from Gulf War Illness, a complex of multiple concurrent symptoms which typically include persistent memory and concentration problems, chronic headaches, widespread pain, gastrointestinal problems and other chronic abnormalities. No effective treatments have been identified. The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses concluded in 2008 that evidence supported the hypothesis that two Gulf War neurotoxic exposures are causally associated with Gulf War illness: pyridostigmine bromide pills (used to protect the troops from nerve agents), and pesticide use during deployment. The VA has recently agreed to re-examine the disability claims of veterans from that war.

PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury have been sources of disability controversies in the ongoing wars in Iraq (combat role recently ended) and Afghanistan. In addition, the suicide rate in the military is at an all-time high, and research is on-going to identify the causes and suggest ways to prevent suicides.

What all of these cases have in common are American soldiers injured during war, who are injured further by an inadequate and seemingly uninformed system of caring for wounded veterans. At this one-day workshop, we will explore the post-Gulf War experience of veterans seeking medical help, and the problems they have encountered, with the goal of suggesting concrete advocacy steps that can be taken to improve the quality of care. Scientific, medical and legal experts will contribute to framing the issues, but the primary emphasis will be on the experience and suggestions for action of veterans themselves.



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