



October 15, 2011

Speaker Bios (In Order of Appearance)

National Summit: Arts in Healing for Warriors



NAJ WIKOFF is president and founder of Creative Healing Connections, which uses the arts to support the healing of women veterans, women living with cancer and other chronic conditions, military spouses, and returned servicemen and women and their caregivers. He is also a member of the community advisory board of Homeward Bound Adirondacks, a Saranac Lake, NY, initiative to create a center for Wounded Warriors, veterans, and active-duty military. A past president of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, he is the former director of the Art & Healing project of the C. Everett Koop Institute at the Dartmouth Medical School and director of Arts and Productions for the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Mr. Wikoff is a Fulbright Senior Specialist and leads arts programs for youth at risk.



JAMES KELLY, MD, MA, FAAN, is a neurologist who is one of America's top experts on treating concussions. Dr. Kelly serves as the director of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), a newly constructed component center of DCoE, dedicated to the care of warriors with traumatic brain injury and psychological health issues. While serving as NICoE's director, Dr. Kelly is on a leave of absence from his professorship at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He co-authored the sports concussion guidelines of the American Academy of Neurology and the Standardized Assessment of Concussion that is widely used in athletic and military settings. In addition, Dr. Kelly is a consulting neurologist to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. He was the first chairman of the Defense Health Board's Traumatic Brain Injury External Advisory Subcommittee for Military Clinical Care, Research and Education.



TOM DEGRABA, MD, FAHA, is the deputy director and chief of medical operations at NICoE. Dr. DeGraba has worked as a leader in the field of neurology, with a focus in traumatic brain injury and stroke, for over 20 years. Before working with the NICoE, he served as the head of the clinical stroke program at the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), where he was also a staff neurologist. As the deputy director of the NICoE, Dr. DeGraba helped to co-author the Concept of Operations for the center, which is designed to be a leader in delivery of patient- and family-centric care to warriors with complex, unremitting combat-related TBI and psychological health issues and to advance the standard of care through research. He is currently developing an interdisciplinary program with state-of-the-art evaluation techniques and treatment planning in a holistic environment designed for maximal provider-patient interaction and long-term follow-up and training.

Healing Continuum: Arts & Dept of Defense (DOD) Medical Centers



JUDY ROLLINS, PHD, RN, brings 30 years of arts and healthcare experience in research, consulting, program development, and education. She is a registered nurse with a BFA in the visual arts, an MS in child development and family studies, a PhD in health and community studies, and a Certificate in Evaluation Practice. Among the local arts programs she has developed are Allies in the Arts, for Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; ART is the heart, for children and families in hospice care; and Studio G, an artists-in-residence program in pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital. Author of over 100 publications, Dr. Rollins is regional editor for the Society for the Arts in Healthcare's Arts & Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice. She currently serves as an Ambassador of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and, in spring 2011, was among the first group to be recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the Society.



ERMYN KING, MA, is director of hospital and hospice programs for ArtStream, Inc., and serves as an artist and project leader for ArtStream's Allies in the Arts Artists-in-Residence Project at Walter Reed. Ms. King is a seasoned artist in healthcare, an arts educator (drama, puppetry, storytelling, and integrated arts specialist), and an arts administrator with expertise in universal access inclusive of individuals with disabilities. She directed Penn State's Arts and Health Outreach Initiative, co-founded Pennsylvania's first audio description service for persons who are blind, and works with VSA Pennsylvania to stimulate statewide arts/cultural accessibility. Ms. King consults nationally for the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, facilitates and integrates the arts into grief groups through Hospice Caring, Inc., and is pursuing registration as a drama therapist.



SHANTI NORRIS is co-founder and executive director of Smith Center for Healing and the Arts. She leads the Cancer Help Program weeklong retreats and initiated the hospital Artist-in-Residence program for cancer patients and the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery. Ms. Norris helps to conceive, implement, and oversee new initiatives, including the Faith-Based Community Navigation project and the National Patient Navigation Training program. In 2010, she initiated the Artist-in-Residence program for Wounded Warriors at National Naval Medical Center. She is a 2011 Distinguished Fellow of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and a former Society board member and annual conference chair. She is a member of ArtTable and a founding board member of both The Art Connection in the Capital Region and of Arts in Healthcare Advocates (AHA).

Healing Continuum: Arts & VA Health Care System (VAHCS)



GAY HANNA, PhD, MFA, joined the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) as executive director in 2007 when NCCA became affiliated with George Washington University in Washington, DC. She is an arts administrator with 30 years of management experience in the arts, education, and health-related program services. She previously directed the Society for the Arts in Healthcare; the Florida Center for Creative Aging at the University of South Florida; and VSA Arts of Florida, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Dr. Hanna holds a guest faculty appointment as an associate professor in the health science programs department at George Washington University. She has published numerous articles in publications, including Aging Today and Generations; Americans for the Arts Monograph Series; and Fundamentals of Arts Management. She is also a sculptor who keeps an active studio in Northern Virginia.



SANDY ROBERTSON, RN, MSN, PH-CNS (Public Health Clinical Nurse Specialist), is the patient- centered care/Planetree coordinator at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Previously the MOVE coordinator, she specializes in behavior change involving the mind/body connection and mindful eating. Ms. Robertson managed corporate wellness initiatives at the MetLife headquarters in New York City (8,000 employees); Sperry Corporation (before becoming Unisys); and NBC-TV headquarters, where she was responsible for launching the “Live for Life” program, developed by Johnson & Johnson. She has brought mind/body wellness strategies and education to corporations and hospitals nationwide, including VAGLA, where she has been since 2005. While at VAGLA her focus has been on launching “healing programs in healing spaces.”



FRANCIS B. HENDERSON, MS, RN, NEA-BC, has 30 years of progressive nursing experience in acute care, long-term care, education, risk management, and performance improvement. She is currently the associate chief nurse of geriatrics and extended care at the Washington VA Medical Center, where she is responsible for services for veterans in geriatric primary care and home-based and community care, as well as a 120-bed inpatient Community Living Center. Services are also provided in extended care for those active duty and Veteran Wounded Warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan in need of polytrauma services including TBI. Ms. Henderson has worked extensively in the field of veterans affairs, and has presented on related topics in healthcare multiple times.



ELIZABETH MACKEY, MT-BC(117), board-certified music therapist, graduated in 1982 with a BS in music therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She worked as a music therapist with patients at the St. Cloud VA Health Care Center (MN) from 1985 to 2001. In 1993, she served as the host site coordinator of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and was the chairperson of the visual arts division in 1994. Since 1995, she has served as the director of the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival. Through her experience as a creative arts therapist, she has developed a deep sense of commitment toward understanding the positive impact that the arts have in the treatment and rehabilitation process of our nation’s veterans.

Healing Continuum: Arts & Community Partnerships

NAJ WIKOFF (SEE ABOVE)



LISA ROSENTHAL, MA, is the founder of the Vet Art Project, a grassroots project that introduces various storytelling languages (e.g., playwriting, collage, poetry, drawing, dance/movement, music) to veterans and their family members to explore the stories of their lives. The project generates new personal awareness, enhances family ties, and offers occasional public performances and showings of art by veterans to reconnect them to the civilian population—while educating the latter on what service entails and how we all play a role in building stronger, more integrated communities. Ms. Rosenthal, a drama therapist, playwright, and writing coach, is growing the project across the United States.



MARILYN CORNELL, MS, LMFT, is the clinical director at Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD), a residential treatment facility for homeless veterans with substance abuse issues and mental health disorders. Treatment approaches include traditional therapy and alternative modalities such as equine-assisted therapy, pottery making, expressive arts, “Guitars for Vets,” voice lessons, a writing group, yoga, and EMDR. Ms. Cornell has been a licensed marriage and family therapist for 20 years, providing outpatient treatment to veterans and their families in the San Diego community. She serves as adjunct faculty at San Diego State University, teaching “Violence in Couple Relationships.” She has provided training in the San Diego community and nationwide for over 25 years and specializes in the area of trauma and relationship violence.



TIMOTHY PUETZ, PhD, is a civilian research contractor and a former Officer in the US Army. He began his career in the Medical Service Corps at the United States Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine before branch transferring into the Infantry and completing a combat tour in Afghanistan. He is currently running projects related to armed conflict and public health for The Carter Center, Mental Health Program Liberia, and The ArtReach Foundation, Project America. His previous education experience includes a BSED in physical education, an MS in exercise physiology from Pittsburg State University, and a PhD in biopsychology from the University of Georgia. He is currently pursuing a MPH at Emory University. Dr. Puetz's research expertise includes mental health, neuroscience, physiology, chronic disease, medical logistics systems, psychometrics, and advanced statistical analysis.

Practicum: Overcoming Obstacles



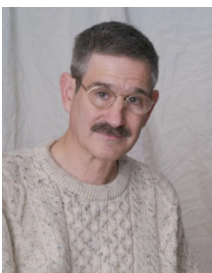
ANN PETRY, LCSW, is a healthcare consultant with Planetree. She works with healthcare systems to develop, implement, and spread innovative patient-centered care practices. She completed Smith College's post-master's certification in end-of-life care as well as professional training in mindfulness-based stress reduction practices and positive psychology. In the past 20 years of her professional experience, Ms. Petry has passionately pursued patient-centered care practice improvements for patients with advanced, life-limiting illnesses.



ELIZABETH L. COBBS, MD, is the chief of geriatrics, extended care, and palliative care at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. She is a clinician educator, is on the faculty of the George Washington University, and founded one of the area's first accredited Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowships. Dr. Cobbs serves as program director for the region's only Geriatric Medicine Fellowship. She is a co-principal investigator of the Washington DC Area Geriatric Education Center Consortium, integrating humanities into health professions education. In order to prepare physicians for the care systems of the future, she provides them with opportunities to work with interdisciplinary teams who are committed to improving the health of older persons through the application of evidence-based medicine while focusing on a person-centered approach to care planning and utilizing creative arts to optimize healing and wellness through all phases of life.



CHAPLAIN COLONEL ERIC W. OLSEN (State Chaplain NYARNG) is a graduate of Wagner College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. After five years in the church and reserves, Chaplain Olsen moved to active duty service in 1993. After September 11, 2001, he helped in the Ground Zero cleanup and recovery efforts, and spent time working for Homeland Security across New York State. In 2004, he deployed with the 2/108 to Iraq, returning to New York in 2005. After serving the 27th Brigade, Chaplain Olsen became the division chaplain for the 42nd ID and, in 2008, he was appointed Joint Forces HQ Chaplain for New York State. His work has been focused on helping soldiers and their families respond effectively to the stress of deployment through reintegration programs, individual and marriage counseling, and soldier advocacy at all levels of service.



FREDERICK FOOTE, MD, is project officer for the Epidaurus Project, an initiative bringing advanced holistic care elements to the Military Health System. He has been involved in developing the healing arts program at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for the past two years.

Discussion Groups

NAJ WIKOFF (SEE ABOVE)



ANNETTE RIDENOUR has created nationally recognized and award-winning healing environments, arts programs, wayfinding programs, interior design, and donor recognition systems for some of the largest and best-known healthcare, educational, and community-based organizations in the United States and Canada. She founded her design firm, Aesthetics, Inc., in 1980 and specializes in bringing a holistic approach to design of the built environment. Ms. Ridenour is a co-founder and president emeritus of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and, in 2006, she was awarded that organization's Janice Palmer Award for invaluable leadership and outstanding service. As a pioneer and proponent of evidence-based, patient-centered, and family-focused design principles, she is one of the country's leading experts on healing environment design.

JUDY ROLLINS (SEE ABOVE)

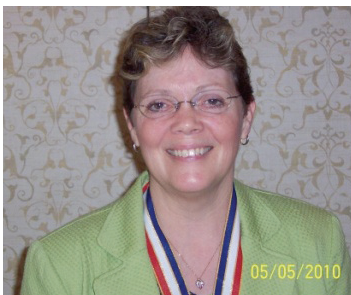


CHRISTI O'HARA, PhD, serves as ArtReach: Project America co-chair and training coordinator for The ArtReach Foundation in Atlanta, GA. She also serves as a Red Cross consulting psychologist to the Functional Recovery Program, TBI Clinic, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, GA. She is on the Georgia Paving the Way Home for Veterans Statewide Steering Committee and is a USO Georgia volunteer. Specialty areas include TBI, PTSD, trauma, empowerment, mind-body relationships, ethics, and military family needs/community integration. She is a Founding Member of ISTSS and a Life Member of the American Psychological Association. Dr. O'Hara's oldest son is in the US Army and has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

ERMYN KING (SEE ABOVE)

LISA ROSENTHAL (SEE ABOVE)

GAY HANNA (SEE ABOVE)



KATHLEEN A. BIXBY, MSN, RN, CHPN, is a palliative care nurse educator at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. She has 33 years of experience in clinical practice, including 9 years of active military service, US Army Nurse Corps, with further experience in thoracic, surgical, and medical intensive care; medical and surgical oncology in acute and ambulatory care settings; high-risk home care clinical direction; advanced illness home care; oncology; and hospice case management. Ms. Bixby's current duties include hospice and palliative care education, VA faculty for Palliative Care Leadership Training, spiritual care consulting for the VA National quality improvement initiative, and palliative care at the VAMC ALS Interdisciplinary Clinic. Her clinical focus includes communication, grief and bereavement, spiritual care, and patient-centered approaches that incorporate story, creative expression, healing arts, and the integration of complementary therapies to advance holistic care.

Arts & Caring for the Caregiver

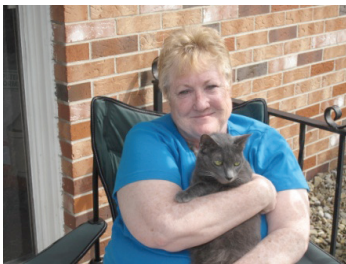


LT. COMMANDER BOBBI DITTRICH was commissioned an Ensign in June 1996, after receiving the Navy Nurse Candidate Program Scholarship. After completing Officer Indoctrination School, she was assigned to the National Naval Medical Center. During this tour, Lt. Commander Dittrich was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to work as a psychiatric nurse, and her passion for mental health began. Upon returning from deployment in 2008, Lt. Commander Dittrich was assigned as the department head for the Deployment Health Center in Twentynine Palms, CA. While stationed in California, Lt. Commander Dittrich deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a mental health nurse practitioner. She was recently selected for Commander, and is currently assigned as Service Chief, Resiliency and Psychological Health, Walter Reed National Medical Military Center, Bethesda, MD. She specializes in education, training, guidance, and therapy for service members, families, clinical staff, and leadership.

JUDY ROLLINS (SEE ABOVE)



JACKIE BATEMAN, MSN, CNS, RN, is currently the CNS for hospice and palliative care at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. She has been a nurse for over 20 years working in a variety of settings and roles. She completed her BSN at University of Maryland and her MSN at the University of California, San Francisco, with a focus in critical care. She has worked in civilian, private, university, and federal healthcare systems. Ms. Bateman completed eight years active duty in the US Navy Nurse Corps. She is also a CHPN (certified hospice and palliative care nurse), an ELNEC instructor, an HPNA-approved educator, and a trained mentor.



COLLEEN O'CONNOR joined the US Navy, Hospital Corpsman, EMT, 1974-1979, as Petty Officer Second Class. She lived in Florida for 20 years, during which time she attended the University of Florida, graduating in 1984 with a BS in therapeutic recreation. Ms. O'Connor worked as a recreation specialist from 1984 to 1994 with diverse populations in various settings, followed by a job with Child Services for the State of Florida, doing child support enforcement as well as foster care and adoption. She also worked for the New York State Department of Public Health as a vaccine specialist from 1995 to 2007. She is a host speaker at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Immunization Conference, and is active in veteran advocacy in identifying needs and solutions.

Closing Remarks

NAJ WIKOFF (SEE ABOVE)