

Scope of Work

Dr. Smith and the Veterans Administration (VA) component will have primary responsibility for recruiting veterans with mild traumatic brain injury due to blast exposure and veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder without a history of traumatic brain injury. These subjects will receive cognitive and psychiatric assessments at the VA and MRI studies at the University of Pittsburgh. It is anticipated that over the course of the next three years at least 50 subjects with mTBI and 25 subjects with PTSD fulfilling inclusion/exclusion criteria for MR studies will be recruited and studied. In addition to recruiting the subjects, the VA component will be responsible for administering a standardized battery of tests to assess cognitive function. The VA component will also be responsible for performing tests for PTSD, depression and anxiety. The de-identified results of these tests will be provided to Dr. Jones and his staff for correlation with the MRI data.

To facilitate the work, the scope of the work for the first year has been divided into 2 phase.

1. In the first phase Dr. Smith and her associates will:
 - a. Obtain IRB approval for studying Veterans under this protocol.
 - b. Establish the cognitive assessment protocols

2. In the second phase Dr. Smith and her group will begin
 - a. Recruitment of Veterans
 - b. Carry out the cognitive assessment battery developed in the first phase.