

Investigator:	Kelly Skelton Phone: (404) 321-6111 ext. 3121 Email: kelly.skelton@va.gov
Primary Research Interest:	Psychiatry
Description of Research:	Studies of biological risk/resilience factors for PTSD following trauma exposure, including genotype variants and endocrine response to stress. Clinical trials of pharmacologic agents in the treatment of PTSD. Outcomes research assessing PTSD treatment on diagnosis, symptoms, function, and psychophysiological parameters, including endocrine reactivity and acoustic startle response.
Relevance to VA:	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been estimated to develop in up to 20% of combat-exposed veterans. Across traumatized populations, PTSD is highly comorbid with a number of physical, mental, and quality of life problems including, but not limited to: (1) substance abuse, (2) major depression, (3) suicide/suicide attempts, (4) work impairment, and (5) use of health care. It is therefore, very important to understand biological factors (such as genetics, endocrine response to stress, etc.) that may be associated with risk/resilience to PTSD following trauma, and to study the most effective treatments for this disorder.