

MISSION

The mission of the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center (RORC) is to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves the health, function, and community reintegration of Veterans challenged by disability and limited access to health related services.

The RORC, located at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville, FL, is the only Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) supported by core funding from both Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) and Rehabilitation Research and Development (RR&D) Services.

The coalescence of expertise and talent among neuroscientists, interdisciplinary rehabilitation researchers, health service researchers, clinicians, and social scientists at the RORC, the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center (BRRC), the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), the Stroke and Polytrauma Quality Enhancement Research Initiatives (QUERIs), and the University of Florida provide access to unusually strong and innovative research programs aimed at improving VA rehabilitation care.

Using the depth and breadth of expertise available in the community, the RORC is uniquely positioned to strengthen existing outcome evaluation methods and measures in rehabilitation outcomes research. RORC-REAP investigators are active in VA's Rural Health Initiative as a member of the Rural Health Resource Center - Eastern Region. This role has increased our national network of investigators and strengthened our ties to the VISN 8 Network Office.

Through our local and regional collaborations, as well as national collaborations with the Office of Rural Health, QUERI, the National Rehabilitation Program Office for Clinical Care and participation and leadership in non-VA organizations, the RORC continues to improve the quality of rehabilitation programs for Veterans with disability and influence future health and rehabilitation policy.



RESEARCH FOCUS

The RORC strives to improve the access, design, administration, management, and cost of care by using state of the science methodologies to develop new and more precise measures across the continuum of care and by evaluating innovative systems and processes of care through the continuum, including the psychosocial aspects of recovery, informal caregiving, and community reintegration.

Our primary research focus is to evaluate rehabilitation programs and interventions that result in optimal patient outcomes. Research is organized thematically around three key areas of inquiry:

- (1) Access
- (2) Innovations and Technology
- (3) Outcomes

ACCESS: To improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and distribution of health care services for Veterans challenged by disability and limited access to health related services.

INNOVATIONS and TECHNOLOGY: To improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and distribution of health care services for Veterans by developing innovative programs and conducting research on smart technology and tele-health approaches.

OUTCOMES: To improve Veteran and caregiver outcomes by advancing measurement through the development of efficient, precise, and integrated measures; integrating Veterans' families into their care; and enhancing community/family reintegration post-deployment.

William C. Mann, OTR, PhD is the RORC Director.



He is a Distinguished Professor and the Chair of Occupational Therapy, and Director of the Ph.D. Program in Rehabilitation Science at the University of Florida (UF). Dr. Mann also directs the UF Center for Telehealth and Healthcare Communications, and served as the Principal Investigator for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC)

on Aging from 1991 to 2007.

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CURRENT RORC PROJECTS

RORC investigators participate in a number of exciting and innovative research projects. Examples of currently funded research projects include:

- *Identifying Potential Demand for VA Rehabilitation Services for OEF/OIF Veterans*
- *Racial/Ethnic Variations in Family Functioning Post-deployment*
- *Development and Validation of a Self-Efficacy Item Bank*
- *Rural Veterans Tele-Rehabilitation Initiative (RVTRI)*
- *Nonpharmacologic Management of Challenging Behaviors in Veterans with Dementia*



Findings from RORC projects will be used to improve the quality of care and quality of life for Veterans receiving rehabilitation services through the VA.

**VISIT US
ON THE WEB:**

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