



Press Release

DoD Brain Injury Rescue & Rehabilitation Project

To Interview Paul Harch, M.D., Call (504) 309-4948
POC: William A. Duncan, Ph.D. VP Gov't Affairs
(703) 505-7530

Effective Treatment is Available NOW for our Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Tulsa, OK (December 1, 2008): A single loss of consciousness results in organic brain injury and, untreated, is the most expensive medical condition in the state of Oklahoma. In our untreated combat veterans, this leads to shattered lives through personality changes, aberrant violent behavior, divorces, substance abuse, jail time, disability, homelessness, and far too often, domestic violence or suicide. Point Man International Ministries of Tulsa and the IHMA are working to change this.

For our thousands of returning veterans from the war, this is their reality. The RAND report in April of this year reported at least 28% of our veterans have traumatic brain injury or post traumatic stress disorder. The real number appears to be much higher. North Dakota National Guard has found 50% of their veterans with these organic injuries, and their Guard is largely transportation. Among combat arms veterans, like the 45th Infantry, we can expect nearly all to have had at least one concussive event or blast injury. Many have more. Five to seven is common among Marine combat units, and some have reported as many as 17 concussive blasts.

Before these veterans responded to our nation's call, they were productive citizens, devoted family members, and loyal citizens. Many were high school football stars, Eagle Scouts, and "Voted Most Likely To Succeed." The resulting personality changes are most often attributed to PTSD, but in reality, concussive PTSD is just one symptom of an organic brain injury, coupled with the high emotional charge of events at the time of the injury. It is not mental weakness or a personality disorder. These men and women were injured defending us!

Untreated brain injury is why Oklahomans are seeing such a high new rate of homelessness, disability, and police blotter reports caused by current veterans. Domestic violence has skyrocketed, which all too often leads to serious injury or death. According to Department of Justice statistics, 66% of Vietnam era veterans in jail for violent crimes harmed someone they knew. Unless we take action now, history will repeat itself.

Fortunately, medical science has discovered how to rebuild brains in 120 days with 80 HBOT 1.5 treatments. This treatment is available right now here in Oklahoma. It is ethical, legal, and less expensive than the "standard" therapies. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy at 1.5 atmospheres (HBOT 1.5) has caused 100% of the veterans treated to date to have significant recovery within the first 30 days of treatment. Eighty percent of them have returned to work. Many of them no longer have PTSD, and all had PTSD symptoms improve. Headaches, photophobia, sleeplessness and depression have all either resolved or been greatly improved. Cognitive function, energy and the ability to reengage in family life have returned. This has worked for US Army generals, military officers, commissioned warrant officers, NCOs and enlisted persons; whether Army, Navy, Marine, or Air Force. Visit <http://www.hyperbaricmedicalfoundation.org/Science> to look at their results. These are not "anecdotes," but scientific evidence from an IRB-registered study.

“There is no other medical treatment for traumatic brain injury available to a physician that has hyperbaric oxygen therapy’s level of scientific evidence including peer-reviewed studies, clinical success or experience behind it,” said Dr. Paul Harch, Director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship at Louisiana State University’s School of Medicine. Dr. Harch has used the therapy for over 17 years on hundreds of patients and has taught the technique to hundreds of doctors. There are 85 clinics in 30 states experienced at treating brain injury ready to treat our veterans. In October 2007, using this same human protocol, Dr. Harch published the first ever improvement of chronic brain injury in animals.

Said Dr. Ted Fogarty, Chairman of Radiology at the University of North Dakota’s School of Medicine: "Functional neuroimaging shows HBOT 1.5 revitalizes brain tissues and restores normal brain metabolism in vastly different areas of the brain in ways that other existing treatments cannot. To leave these injured neurons in our brave veterans to wither on the vine seems criminal when HBOT 1.5 is available and works."



Fortunately, HBOT 1.5 is available at many places in Oklahoma, including Tulsa, Edmond and Lawton, and throughout the nation at 85 locations. HBOT 2.4 is used at 946 national locations to treat patients 10,000 times each day for 13 FDA approved indications proving hyperbaric’s safety. HBOT 1.5 has been proven to be the ideal pressure for brain injury. Oklahoma State Medicaid is considering making HBOT 1.5 treatment available now for our veterans. Currently, the Medicare reimbursement rate in Oklahoma for a one hour treatment is \$194. State Medicaid rates would be \$164.90. Thus, with the 68% Federal share, it

would cost the State \$4,221 to rebuild a veteran’s brain. That amount could in turn be charged to TRICARE or VA based upon the principle, “you broke them, we fixed them, you pay.” Recently members of congress introduced HR 7299 to help veterans receive this treatment.

Oklahoma State University Medical School owns a 12 person multi-place chamber in Tulsa that could deliver 120 treatments per day, five days a week, in a 16 hour day. That single facility could help 120 veterans regain their lives every six weeks. Many of the 45th Infantry, who have been concussed and are scheduled to return to combat soon, could be treated and gain greater ability to defend our nation. Combat readiness would be greatly improved. Edmond Hyperbarics and Dr. Reina, the Neurologist in Lawton serving Ft. Sill have treatment capability and expertise as well.

Oklahoma’s own Vance Trimble, a Pulitzer Prize recipient from Wewoka, Oklahoma wrote, *Hyperbaric Oxygen, the Uncertain Miracle* in 1972. Today his predictions about this therapy are coming true. Download a copy at www.HyperbaricMedicalFoundation.org/Science .

Today, Point Man International Ministries of Tulsa, a 501(c) 3 charity, is taking donations in Oklahoma to help our veterans receive this treatment and other important services. Franklin L. Kiker, Jr. a volunteer Veterans Service Officer and Vietnam Era veteran, says “Point Man Ministries is working with veterans every day. Far too many veterans are homeless, are getting divorces, and cannot work because of their TBI or PTSD. We are helping them right now. Contact us at 918-286-4957 or 918-402-6629 to help veterans in our state receive treatment and other needed services.” www.pmim.org

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