

Keynote Presenter:



Terri Tanielian is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. Tanielian is a nationally recognized expert in military and veteran's health policy. Her research interests include access to and quality of care for service-connected health problems, particularly mental health problems; military and veteran suicide; military sexual assault; military families; veteran caregivers; and psychological and behavioral effects of combat, terrorism, and disasters. She employs both quantitative and qualitative research methods and analyses in her work, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and analysis of administrative data; as well as environmental scans of existing policies, programs and services.

Tanielian served as the inaugural RAND Congressional Fellow with the House Veterans Affairs Committee where she focused on informing a legislative opportunities designed to support comprehensive suicide prevention strategy. She also has served RAND liaison to the Department of Veterans Affairs and as a Senior Fellow in the Military Service Initiative for the George W Bush Institute. She formerly directed RAND's Center for Military Health Policy Research, overseeing RAND's diverse military health research portfolio. In this role, she was interacted regularly with senior military health officials to identify and develop policy relevant studies and advise on the use of findings to improve decisionmaking.

Tanielian was co-study director for RAND's seminal study *Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery*, the first non-governmental assessment of the psychological, emotional, and cognitive consequences of deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. She won the AcademyHealth Impact Award for this work in 2011. She was also the principal investigator for RAND's comprehensive study of military and veteran caregivers titled *Hidden Heroes: America's Military Caregivers*.

She led the first ever prospective longitudinal study of military families across the deployment cycle, the *Deployment Life Study*. She has conducted several needs assessments examining the challenges and issues facing veterans living in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, Massachusetts and in New York State. Her studies have also examined the readiness of private sector health providers to deliver high quality care to veterans. She also led a study examining community based models for expanding mental health care for returning veterans and their families under the Welcome Back Veterans Initiative, as well as a consensus building effort to design a Blueprint for Future Research on Veteran Caregiving.

Tanielian has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She has served on many advisory committees and expert panels related to veteran mental health policy, public health preparedness, and homeland security. Tanielian has a M.A. in psychology from the American University.

Panel Discussion:

Moderator:



Caitlin Thompson, PhD

As Vice President of Community Partnerships at Cohen Veterans Network, Dr. Caitlin Thompson is responsible for establishing and maintaining critical national and local collaborations between CVN and public-private partners.

A licensed clinical psychologist, she was most recently Executive Director of the VA's Office of Suicide Prevention, leading VA's integrated public health approach to suicide prevention. Prior to her work in the VA Suicide Prevention Office, she spent five years as the clinical care coordinator for the Veterans Crisis Line.

Thompson has a BA in music from Brown University and an MEd and PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Virginia.

Panelists:

Kawanna Ward, DCC, LCSW, CSAC, CSOTP, RPT-S

Dr. Ward is a Doctor of Christian Counseling, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor, Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider, and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor. Since 1997, Dr. Ward has been committed to providing effective clinical mental health and substance abuse treatment services to underserved populations.

Dr. Ward is the founder of Blakey Weaver Counseling Center, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit outpatient practice that provides mental health and substance abuse treatment services to veterans and other underserved adults in the Western Tidewater area Virginia, regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Ward is a proud member of the Suffolk Rotary, Suffolk Business Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a board member of the Suffolk YMCA, and the Board Treasurer of The Genieve Shelter. She is also the CEO/Senior Clinical Director of Providence Psychological Services, Inc, and an Adjunct Professor at Indiana Wesleyan University.





MARY C. VANCE, MD, MSC
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
Uniformed Services University
Scientist, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

Mary C. Vance, MD, MSc is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University and Scientist at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress.

She completed her MD at the State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Following this, she completed residency at the MGH McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program, where she served as an investigator for the MGH Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders and as a clinician for the MGH Home Base Program for post-9/11 veterans. She then completed a health services research fellowship with the National Clinician Scholars Program (the former Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program) at the University of Michigan/VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, where she earned her MSc in Health and Health Care Research from the University of Michigan's Rackham School of Graduate Studies and worked at the VA Ann Arbor's PTSD and primary care mental health integration clinics.

Dr. Vance's research focuses broadly on improving mental health care services and delivery for trauma- and stressor-related disorders, particularly in the military/veteran and health care professional populations.

Dr. Vance completed a Public Psychiatry Fellowship with the American Psychiatric Association as well as the American Psychoanalytic Association's Fellowship Program. She has served in multiple capacities within the American Psychiatric Association, including as a current member and past Vice-Chair of the Committee on Well-Being and Burnout, current member of the Committee on Psychiatric Dimensions of Disasters, past member of the Council on Advocacy and Government Relations, and past fellowship representative to the Board of Trustees.

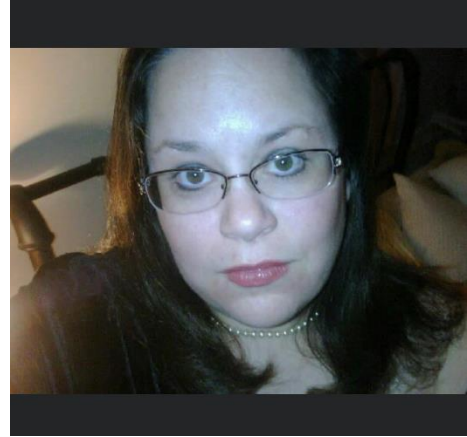
John Howard
U.S. Army Veteran

John is a United States Army Disabled Veteran. He served 8 years in the military. He is a Veteran Peer Support Specialist with the Western Tidewater Community Services Board. He is one of the original members on the first Orders Home team in the nation to work in the community serving transitioning service members under the Clay Hunt Act of 2015. John is a dedicated veteran than seeks pride in encouraging all veterans to be the best they can be and to live in a community of their choice.



Joann “Michelle” Bradford, LCSW, MAC, CSAC

Michelle is the Drug Abuse Program Coordinator to the Veterans Affairs largest residential drug abuse program. She holds a national and state certification for treatment to Substance Use Disorders. She has been working with Veterans, most whom have co-occurring diagnosis. She has been committed to serve, “those whom have born the battle”.



Michelle works with men and women to not only address their substance use, but underlying issues to include grief and loss, emotion regulation issues, military trauma and sexual traumas. Michelle has worked in residential care at the Hampton VAMC for the last eight years. Prior to this, she also worked for a local hospice company, inpatient psychiatric unit and nursing home.

As a Navy Veteran herself, she is a staunch advocate for Woman Veterans, helping them to explore all treatment options as well as benefits afforded them. She has her undergraduate degree from Virginia Wesleyan College, and he Masters in Social Work from Norfolk State University.



Iman Williams Christians, PhD

“Dr. Iman” serves as the clinic director for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at The Up Center. A clinical psychologist with over 12 years of experience, she earned her PhD from Jackson State University. Dr. Iman completed a postdoctoral fellowship with STRONG STAR, the world’s largest research consortium for the detection, prevention and treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to military combat trauma. She is certified in Prolonged Exposure (PE) and is currently completing the Prolonged Exposure Consultant Program with Emory University.

She joined the Cohen Clinic at The Up Center from within the Cohen Veterans Network nationwide system of mental health clinics. Previously, Dr. Iman served as the clinic director for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors in Killeen, Texas and as a clinician at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors in San Antonio, Texas.

Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Iman was drawn to Virginia Beach for the opportunity to bring quality mental health services to one of the country’s largest populations of veterans and military families. She is passionate about treating PTSD and facilitating the change that occurs when clients regain meaning and joy in their life.

Beyond the Cohen Clinic at The Up Center, Dr. Iman enjoys hiking, mindful gardening, and caring for her flock of chickens.