

Dear Vision Research Investigators,

The Call for Abstracts is now open for the 2019 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS). There are two vision-associated breakout sessions (described below) that may be of interest to you. Please consider submitting an abstract to one of these sessions for an oral presentation or poster, or forward this invitation to interested colleagues. The abstract submission deadline is 15 March 2019.

(1) How to Preserve and Restore Eyesight After Combat Trauma: This session will explore the preservation of vision after combat ocular trauma and the restorative therapies that may aid in the recovery of vision. Abstracts should address: 1) Epidemiology of military-related visual loss/dysfunction; 2) Preclinical & clinical research advancing vision trauma diagnostics in the battlefield setting; 3) Preclinical & clinical research advancing battlefield and en route care of vision trauma to preserve eyesight; 4) Preclinical & clinical research advancing vision trauma treatment feasible in operational environments at RoC1-3.

(2) Ocular Injuries Caused by Exposure to Blast Overpressure: This session will examine the evidence and possible mechanisms of unique ocular injuries caused by exposure to blast overpressure generated by explosive weapons, such as IEDs, and explore potential strategies to prevent these injuries. Abstracts will focus on (1) clinical evidence of primary-blast-induced injuries to the eye and visual system observed in Service members who were exposed to explosive weapons; (2) the application of computational modeling tools, such as finite element modeling, to elucidate the fundamental mechanisms of blast-induced ocular injuries; (3) studies using animal models to establish a link between blast overpressure exposure and ocular and vision injury, and to support the validation of computational models; and (4) proposed strategies to protect against blast-induced ocular injuries.

Abstract Submission Instructions:

- Submit abstracts through the MHSRS website (<https://mhsrs.amedd.army.mil/>). You may be required to re-register for an account on the MHSRS website due to new requirements instituted by the USAMRMC Web Team.
- MEDCOM and DHA CAC Users: Signing in with a CAC is the most secure/desirable method since it uses two-factor authentication. For these individuals, your DoD CAC should allow access and you therefore should not have to register for a member account. Please try to go directly to the portal here: <https://mhsrs.amedd.army.mil/conference/> (Choose -- AMED CAC --). IF you have trouble accessing with CAC, please register for a member account.
- All Others (non MEDCOM and DHA military and civilian) must register for a new member account: Go to <https://mhsrs.amedd.army.mil/SitePages/Register.aspx> for a username and password before they will be able to access the abstract submission site.

The location and date of the 2019 MHSRS are still to be determined. This information will be posted on the MHSRS website and communicated via a mass e-mail to those registered on the MHSRS website when it is available.

Best regards,

Vision Research Program
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs