ABOUT US

Musculoskeletal Injury Rehabilitation Research for Operational Readiness (MIRROR) delivers high value research, education, training, and infrastructure for over 40 clinically relevant musculoskeletal injury (MSI) studies within the military health system (MHS). MIRROR supports a broad scope of projects, including epidemiological investigation, investigator initiated pilots, and prospective randomized multisite clinical trials. Areas of clinical evaluation comprise general MSI care process models and highly prevalent anatomically-specific (e.g. back, knee, shoulder pain, etc.) targeted interventions with protocols examining effective return-to-duty activities. Results of these studies generate evidence-based approaches for future clinical practice guidelines as well as educational opportunities for future military and civilian providers.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Year in Review

MIRROR Chief of Research & Operations Dr. Brad Isaacson and Senior Program Manager Mrs. Linzie Wagner were recently featured in a press release by The Geneva Foundation detailing our program’s recent accomplishments and contributions to the MSI research world over the past year.

New Research Initiatives

Through external funding mechanisms, the MIRROR team recently initiated a study involving the Emovi Knee Kinesiography “KneeKG” System. In collaboration with Emovi, the MIRROR team received a $700,000 grant for protocols using Emovi’s KneeKG device. Led by Principal Investigator Dr. Don Goss, objectives of the collaboration include:

- Validation of clinical applications targeting effective return-to-duty and injury prevention
- Development of evidence-based approaches for future clinical practice guidelines
- Educational opportunities for military and civilian providers

Recent Publications

MIRROR Investigator Dr. Dan Rhon recently published two articles, “Challenges with Engaging Military Stakeholders for Clinical Research at the Point of Care in the U.S. Military Health System,” and “Cost-effectiveness of Physical Therapy vs Intra-articular Glucocorticoid Injection for Knee Osteoarthritis: A Secondary Analysis From a Randomized Clinical Trial” in Military Medicine and JAMA Network Open, respectively.

Project Spotlight

MIRROR Project #25 – The Geneva and MIRROR teams recently produced and published a promotional video for this study entitled Randomized Control Trial of Combined Cryotherapy with Compression vs. Cryotherapy Alone After Orthopaedic Surgery. Click here to watch the video and learn more about how this study is using GameReady’s cryotherapy technology to investigate alternative post-operative pain management strategies to reduce drug consumption and improve patient outcomes.

Accomplishments and Accolades

Principal Investigator Dr. Dan Rhon’s manuscript entitled “Delayed Rehabilitation is Associated with Recurrence and Higher Medical Care Use after Ankle Sprain Injuries in the United States Military Health System,” published in the Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy in November 2021, was selected as the winner of the 2021 JOSPT Guy G. Simoneau Excellence in Research Award. The award recognizes the best article published in JOSPT during a calendar year within the category of non-clinical Research Reports. Congratulations to Dr. Rhon and his co-authors!
**New Team Members**

- Ashley Chin  
  Research Assistant, WRNMMC
- Jessica Curtin  
  Research Assistant, KACH
- Stephane Daphnis  
  Data Manager, Core
- Elizabeth Metzger  
  Project Manager, Core
- Layla Murray  
  Research Assistant, Remote
- May Phillips  
  Project Coordinator, Core

**Recent & Upcoming Events**

February 2022 – The [AMSUS (The Society of Federal Health Professionals) Annual Meeting](#) will take place virtually from February 22-25. Check out MIRROR's poster presentations online!

March 2022 – MIRROR Principal Investigator Dr. Gerry Malanga will be leading an episode of AR3T’s webinar series on Orthobiologics and Regenerative Medicine. Click [here](#) to register for the episode, airing on March 1st at 7:00pm.

August 2022 – [Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS)](#) is being planned as an in-person meeting in August 2022. MIRROR will be co-hosting a breakout session entitled “Treatment Strategies Following Musculoskeletal Injury.” The deadline for abstract submissions is February 16th. MIRROR investigators, please let us know if you plan to submit an abstract!

**Reminders**

**Regulatory Submissions**  
Please remember that all regulatory submissions (including protocol modifications) should be sent to Mrs. Whitley Lucio prior to submitting to your IRB.

**External Communications**  
All publications, press releases, abstracts, etc. that are supported by MIRROR require review and approval by our leadership. Please provide all external communications to Ms. Sydney West prior to externally releasing, even if they have already been approved by your local PAO.

*We want to hear from you!* Please use our tracker to share any project activities (abstracts, awards, accepted publications, book chapters, trainings/education, invited speaking engagements or presentations, etc.) with the MIRROR Core team. We are gathering this information in order to share on our website and with our stakeholders, and for dissemination to the USU community.

**Core Team Contact List**

Please feel free to reach out to any member of the MIRROR Core team with any program- or project-related questions:

- **Jenny Yuan**  
  Director
- **Brad Isaacson**  
  Chief of Research & Operations
- **Linzie Wagner**  
  Senior Program Manager
- **Maysha Phillips**  
  Project Coordinator
- **Sydney West**  
  Program Administrator
- **Cindy Kang**  
  Program Fiscal Analyst
- **Whitley Lucio**  
  Senior Regulatory Affairs & Data Manager
- **Rian Ory**  
  Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
- **Brittney Roberson**  
  Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
- **Stephane Daphnis**  
  Data Manager
- **Yessica Contreras**  
  Data Analyst