

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Title: New Research Opportunity for Traumatic Brain Injuries

ROLLA, Mo. – America’s warriors, regardless of the uniform, are subjected to the potential for concussive injuries throughout their careers in the military. Exposure to head injuries begins in Basic Training.

During a typical year, as a result of training civilians into soldiers, at least 250 traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), more commonly known as concussions, are seen at Fort Leonard Wood, with possibly upwards of 800. Most go unreported.

If there is a potential opportunity to prevent, identify and better treat this group of Americans, why would decisive action not be taken? Further, if the U.S. Army allows for research on an installation, why not find a way to facilitate research universities in that effort?

That is where the Acute Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (AENC) comes into play.

The Army has extensive research on the care and treatment of chronic TBIs, but there is little information or research regarding acute TBIs (meaning the concussion just occurred).

The focus of the AENC research is on acute TBI prevention, identification, treatments and training. The AENC provides a powerful window of opportunity for medical clinicians and university researchers to conduct their research in a highly protected and predictable environment.

The AENC was formed as a result of a meeting held at Fort Leonard Wood in the spring of 2016.

Governance for TBI research was developed via a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) among the U.S. Army’s Medical Research and Materiel Command, the Leonard Wood Institute (LWI) and Phelps County Regional Medical Center (PCRMC).

PCRMC and LWI, along with several in-state major universities – University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Washington



University – are supporting the AENC to partner with Fort Leonard Wood on potential research of acute TBIs.

Interested university faculty can contact their sponsored programs department or contracts department for information on how to reach the AENC and submit proposals for consideration.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Pictured are Ed Clayton, CEO of PCRMC; Kent Thomas, executive director of LWI; Donald James, DO, senior vice president and chief medical officer of PCRMC; Casey Burton, PhD, research director for PCRMC; and Barry White, executive director of the AENC. Clayton and Thomas are signing the membership agreement that is the governance document which connects university researchers to the installation.

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