Review of Department of Veterans Affairs Monograph on Potential Therapeutic Effects of Service and Emotional Support Dogs on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Committee

David B. Allison

Chair

David Allison is a Dean and Distinguished Professor in the School of Public Health at Indiana University-Bloomington. He received his Ph.D. from Hofstra University in 1990. He then completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a second post-doctoral fellowship at the NIH-funded New York Obesity Research Center at St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center. He was a research scientist at the NY Obesity Research Center and Associate Professor of Medical Psychology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons until 2001. He became Dean and Provost Professor at the Indiana University-Bloomington School of Public Health in 2017, where he works currently. Prior he was Distinguished Professor, Quetelet Endowed Professor, and Director of the NIH-funded Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Allison currently holds a membership with NAM.

Mary Burch

Member

Mary Burch is one of less than 50 Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists in the United States who routinely answers questions about problems related to a dog's behavior. Dr. Burch is the Director of the AKC Family Dog program at the American Kennel Club, and in this capacity, she designs and oversees programs that are implemented on a national scale for pet dog owners and dog trainers. Examples of these programs are the AKC Community Canine and Urban Canine Good Citizen programs that were designed and implemented by Dr. Burch, and AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy (a widely utilized puppy training program). The development of each of these programs has required knowledge and expertise in animal behavior, training, and canine development. Other programs developed and implemented nationwide by Dr. Burch include AKC Trick Dog, AKC Therapy Dog, AKC FIT DOG, and the AKC Temperament Test. She also participates in interviews about training and behavior. Dr. Burch is a member of the ASDAC (American Service Dog Access Coalition) committee that is working with airlines to decrease fraud with regard to self-trained service dogs. As a part of an ASDAC project, she reviewed the tests for 24 service dog organizations and developed a test that could be used for testing self-trained dogs (whose owners will take them to an evaluator for testing).

Jalpa Doshi

Member

Jalpa Doshi is Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. She is also Director of Value Based Insurance Design Initiatives at the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics and Director of the Economic Evaluations Unit of the Center for Evidence-based Practice at Penn. In addition to her research and administrative roles, she teaches in the Masters in Health Policy Research Program at Penn and also enjoys teaching international audiences in India, China, Taiwan, and Singapore. In recognition of her research, Dr. Doshi has received several awards and honors from national and international organizations such as the American Geriatrics Society, American Heart Association, AcademyHealth, Drug Information Association, and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. She currently serves as Co-Editor of the Value in Health journal and the American Journal of Managed Care. Dr. Doshi received her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research from the University of Maryland, Baltimore in 2003.

Cheryl Giscombe

Member

Cheryl Giscombe is currently the Levine Family Professor of Quality of Life, Health Promotion and Wellness, at UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Giscombe is an expert in psychiatry and clinical psychology, specifically relevant to the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD and mental, social and psychosocial functions and health. She has extensive experience working with veterans with mental health disorders, and offers a unique and necessary nursing prospective. Her research incorporates sociohistorical and biopsychosocial perspectives to investigate how stress and coping strategies contribute to stress-related psychological and physical health outcomes. Dr. Giscombe is dually trained in nursing and psychology. She completed a BA in psychology from North Carolina Central University and a BSN from Stony Brook University in New York. She earned MA and Ph.D. degrees in social and health psychology from Stony Brook University and an MSN from the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Erinn Hade

Member

Erinn Hade is a Professor for the Center of Biostatistics and Department of Biomedical Informatics at The Ohio State University. Dr. Hade is a biostatistician expert, with experience in population studies and multi-center trials. Dr. Hade received her Ph.D. in Public Health/Biostatistics from The Ohio State University. During her academic career, she has developed both a strong collaborative record as a biostatistician, and maintained a line of primary research that compliments the methodologic challenges in these collaborations. Dr. Hade has also expanded her research interests and expertise to include work in design and inference of randomized and non-randomized population based trials. She has experience in the design of pragmatic trials, expertise in developing and applying statistical methods in adaptive trials and in the use of causal inference methods for non-randomized trials. This methods work has been funded by several NIH grants including R01CA097375 Luteal Adjuvant Oophorectomy in Asian Breast Cancer, and The Ohio State University Clinical and Translational Science Award. As a Ph.D. student, she was involved with a small team of epidemiologists and biostatisticians working to improve methods in group-randomized trials. These experiences formed her future Ph.D. work in developing causal inference and propensity score methods. While the majority of her previous research investigated methodologies applied to cancer patient populations, these techniques and methodologies have been applicable to numerous research areas.

Stewart Hilliard

Member

Stewart Hilliard is an expert on behavioral testing, character, temperament, and behavior to be effective working dogs. Dr. Hilliard is the author of a number of scientific papers in reputable psychological journals. In 1983, Stewart Hilliard received his B.A. in psychology, and in 1997 he received his Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Hilliard has worked in various research & development, and operational capacities for the Department of Defense Military Working Dog program since 1997. Including, Chief of the Military Working Dog Course at the 341st Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. In this role, he managed the basic training of most of the patrol and substance detector dogs supplied to all branches of the U.S. armed forces. Dr. Hilliard also served as Chief of Military Working Dog Logistics and Procurement at the 341st. He directed the testing and procurement of all the dogs purchased for the Military Working Dog Course and the Specialized Search Dog Course. Dr. Hilliard is currently Chief of the Military Working Dog Breeding Program at the 341st Training Squadron.

Evan Mayo-Wilson

Member

Evan Mayo-Wilson investigates methods for conducting, reporting, and synthesizing health and social intervention research. His primary area of interest is in ways to increase transparency and reproducibility, such as trial registration and data sharing. Dr. Mayo-Wilson received his BA from Columbia University in Psychology; his MS from University of Oxford, Department of Social Policy and intervention; his MPA from the University of Pennsylvania; and his DPHIL (Ph.D.) in philosophy from the University of Oxford, Department of Social Policy and Intervention. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the School of Public Health at Indiana University-Bloomington. Prior to his teaching career, Dr. Mayo-Wilson worked as an associate scientist in the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Lori Zoellner

Member

Lori Zoellner is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Washington. Dr. Zoellner has a long track record in psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy clinical trials and considerable experience in treating PTSD and training others in its treatment. An important part of these clinical trials is the understanding of underlying therapeutic process mechanisms and the examination of biopsychosocial factors, phenotypic markers of PTSD, and treatment response. Dr. Zoellner's work throughout her career has included the integration across animal to human models of understanding stress, anxiety, and fear. Her current work is characterized by examining memory processing, fear conditioning, fear generalization, avoidance, reward learning, and extinction learning and how these processes map onto prevention and treatment, especially using cognitive behavioral therapy for PTSD. Prior to her clinical research, Dr. Zoellner received her BA in psychology and sociology from Rice University; MA and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from UCLA.