

# DYNAMIC DIFFUSION NETWORK QUERI BULLETIN

*Newsletter of the DDN QUERI Program*



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**DYNAMIC  
DIFFUSION  
NETWORK**  
QUERI PROGRAM

## DDN QUERI PROGRAM: A GREAT YEAR

2022 has been a great year for the DDN QUERI Program! With the goal of expanding evidence-based practice in care among Veterans impacted by diabetes and moral injury, our work is aligned with and supports the implementation of effective strategies for patient empowerment and engagement in the delivery of care. The implementation phase of Moral Injury Groups (MIG) kicked off in the spring with participating facilities convening groups with Veterans. The Implementation Core led interviews with 18 mental health providers and chaplains conducting moral injury groups to understand their perceptions of moral injury, facility context, and experiences with participating in the program.

In the summer to follow, ACDC launched & gained the attention of several VA facilities interested in participating in the DDN QUERI to implement ACDC. Drs. Crowley, Cutrona and team are currently working to enhance and design tools to better support home telehealth nurses' delivery of ACDC among Veterans with diabetes. The group is looking forward to convening a kick-off meeting among DDN sites, spring 2023.

The program leadership and staff have participated in various talks, meetings and conferences to share the work of the DDN QUERI. All accomplishments date have been guided and supported by members of the program's Technical Expert Panel, Veterans, and Operational Partners, for which we express much gratitude & thanks. We look forward to 2023 with continued success and great partnerships!

# MORAL INJURY GROUP NEWS



Following the kick-off meeting in May 2022, Moral Injury Groups are in full swing across 9 VA sites participating in the Dynamic Diffusion Network QUERI Program!

Chaplains and mental health professionals are working together to co-facilitate group sessions with Veterans who have experienced morally injurious events during their military service. Sessions utilize 1 of 3 moral injury group curricula & group process therapies, as selected by the co-facilitators. To date, over 40 Veterans have been reached and are attending moral injury group sessions across the participating DDN QUERI sites. Chaplain/mental health provider teams receive support from a dedicated implementation facilitator. The nature and intensity of that support are based on the site's assigned condition for the project. Sample activities include individual and group-based consultation calls with the facilitator, which are offered regularly and/or ad-hoc basis depending on condition. An MS Teams group has also been created for teams to network and directly support each other.

A concluding conference is currently being planned for all participating sites, slated summer 2023!



## ACDC Bedford Project Management

How do you pack decades of experience and more skills than one person can learn into a single study role? Find two individuals that work together seamlessly! In this issue, we highlight Kathryn DeLaughter and Sarah McDannold. These two share a project management role in Bedford, MA, and use this opportunity to bring their unique talents and decades of experience to benefit studies, including the implementation of ACDC within the DDN QUERI Program.

Sarah has been working with multiple investigators on multi-site studies across the US for 12 years at the VA. She comments, "I don't think I've ever worked on only one project at a time. I love working closely with Kathryn, we're able to split the role so that we can be responsive to the needs of the project and can provide more expert work product than either of us could have alone." Sarah is a particular asset in data management and procurement. She maintains several databases to allow projects specialized recruitment practices, and more streamlined procedures for site staff. This comes in handy when studies need targeted outreach necessitating meshing data from many sources. She balances her analytic skills with graphic design and spends any free time chasing her three small children and hobby farm animals around rural New Hampshire. If you'd like a visual of whether recruitment is on track for your study or how to can apple pie filling, she's your first stop!

Kathryn is a project manager and has worked on numerous projects during her 13 years at CHOIR Bedford. She likes the many aspects of the role of project manager, including grant submissions, writing papers and reports and leading teams for clinical trials. Along with Sarah, she is usually engaged in several projects at once and has greatly enjoyed the experience of working with Sarah in a dual-management role. "It's been great to have a back-up and co-manager because we compliment each other well. I've also learned a lot from what Sarah brings to the team." Her strength is in her adaptability and experience dealing with multi-site projects. Her hobbies are reading, and anything outdoors. She has held many roles during her life including parole officer, medical assistant and mother, to name a few. She has travelled somewhat extensively (read Army Brat) and has been to all but one of the United States. In her 'outside of work time' she loves spending time with her husband and four children and extended family.

We welcome and are delighted to have Sarah and Kathryn as part of ACDC and the larger DDN QUERI Program!



Sarah McDannold, MPH  
Bedford VA/CHOIR



Kathryn DeLaughter, MA  
Bedford VA/CHOIR



# DDN QUERI SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Dr. James Craig!

DDN QUERI Technical Expert Panel Member  
U.S. Marine Corps Veteran



**Hometown:** Opheim, MT

**Favorite Food:** Carnitas street tacos

**Favorite vacation spot:** The world is my oyster. I travel a lot but love Africa and Italy.

**When I have 30-min. of free time:** I study history.

**One thing most people don't know about me:** When I want to relax and be centered, I make Tea. The art of Sado is very therapeutic.

**One life lesson I would share:** Think of all the people you meet in your lifetime. What if you recognized each of those encounters as once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and gave them your utmost presence and attention? Literally translated into ichi (one) go (time) ichi (one) e (meeting/encounter), ichi-go ichi-e is an old Japanese proverb that means one opportunity, one encounter. It can also be interpreted as for this time only, never again, and once in a lifetime. Rooted in Buddhist philosophy, the term ichigo means from one's birth to death.

In other words, ichi-go ichi-e embodies the philosophy that every moment spent in an encounter should be highly treasured, because it will never occur again. We often analogize the experience with that of a river. You can never see that exact same river again. The color will be different, the ripples not the same pattern, etc. Cherish THIS moment as you will never feel it again.

**Why I choose VA:** I feel understood at VA. I do not have to explain myself. I know my words or even my silence are understood.

# DDN QUERI SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Dr. Jason Nieuwsma!

**Multiple Principal Investigator  
DDN QUERI Program/Moral Injury Groups  
Associate Director  
VA Integrative Mental Health  
Durham VA Medical Center**



**Hometown:** Holland, MI

**Favorite Food:** Sushi, or pizza... just not sushi pizza

**Favorite vacation spot:** Outer Banks or Lake Michigan (preferably on a windy enough day to kiteboard)

**When I have 30-min. of free time:** I opt for a trail run, or four square with kids, or, let's be honest, Netflix

**One thing most people don't know about me:** I am the first person to have fully completed both the trail and paddle (water) portions of NC's 1,300-mile Mountains to Sea Trail... though I guess more people now know that about me.

**One life lesson I would share:** Talk to strangers. Other than that one, your parents were probably right.

**What I enjoy most about working with the VA:** Veterans - what a great population, for many reasons. Being able to do mission-driven work. Mixing research, education, and quality improvement work in ways that make real, tangible differences in care delivery. Gifted, caring colleagues. Fortunate to explore interesting and meaningful questions, like how to better address moral injury. But I think "most" implies one thing...alas.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

## HSRD/QUERI National Meeting: Advancing Health Equity through Research, Implementation Science, Diversity, and Inclusion

February 8 - 10, 2023

Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor

Baltimore, MD

## 15th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health

Theme: (Re)Building Better Systems: Being Proactive, Nimble, and Responsive

December 11 - 14, 2022

### Event Details

## National Wreaths Across America Day

December 17, 2022

### Details



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