



14 November 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Invitation to Defense Center of Excellence Consensus Conference on  
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury

On December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the consensus conference on Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) will be held at the Holiday Inn in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. On behalf of the Department of the Navy, it is my pleasure to invite you to this conference which may have a long-standing effect on the care of our wounded warriors.

In mid-August the Surgeon General of the Navy hosted a discussion on the potential merits of HBOT as an adjunctive or complementary treatment for TBI. That provocative discussion generated significant interest and enthusiasm for investigating a possible role for this modality in treating the signature disease of the current conflict.

As a result of that meeting, the Surgeon General directed a number of initiatives. One of these was for a consensus conference to be convened under the auspices of the Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and TBI. Based on their analysis of current state of the art HBOT, taking into account existing studies in progress, the conference participants will collaborate to craft the elements, clinical criteria and requirements for study protocols to assess the safety and effectiveness of HBOT in TBI. The goal is to move forward quickly in obtaining valid scientific support to safely establish clinical practice guidelines for the use HBOT in the total treatment regimen for our wounded warriors suffering from TBI.

I am particularly interested in the success of this consensus conference because it addresses the foremost imperative of military medicine. As evidence of my personal support for this initiative, I will give the opening remarks to the conferees. The point of contact for the event is CAPT Michael J. Krentz, Executive Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General, [Michael.Krentz@med.navy.mil](mailto:Michael.Krentz@med.navy.mil), (202)762-3715.

I hope that you will honor our wounded warriors by your active participation in this conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. C. Winter", is positioned above the printed name.

Donald C. Winter