



The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes Donates \$100,000 to The Harch Hyperbaric Research Fund to Support and Test 5 to 7 Injured Heroes

Project will test Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) in the Treatment of Blast-Induced TBI and PTSD service members

OSSINING, NY February 23, 2009- The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes donated \$100,000 to The Harch Hyperbaric Research Fund to conduct a research study on 5 to 7 service members who suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The principal investigator is Paul G. Harch, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine and director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, in New Orleans.

With the \$100,000 grant from CSAH, 5 to 7 service members will be fully treated, tested, and supported. The study was granted full approval by the LSU IRB in August 2008. For the first stage, approximately 25 Marines were preliminarily screened and arrived in New Orleans in November 2008 to complete the testing and treatment in the subsequent 35 days. It is an uncontrollable, open-label pilot trial of HBOT in 2 groups: 15 chronic mild TBI (post-concussion syndrome) subjects and 15 mild TBI/PTSD subjects. Outcome measurements will be psychometric testing, SPECT brain imaging, and quality of life measures.

"The preliminary results we are seeing after just one hyperbaric treatment in the study group have been remarkable and we look forward to how many veterans suffering with TBI and PTSD will benefit from this groundbreaking treatment," stated Thomas Palma, Executive Director of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes.

A total of thirty participants eventually will participate – half will have traumatic brain injury and half will have both traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder. The participants will undergo oral, written, and computers tests, as well as a MRI (if the participant has not had one since injury) and Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) brain imaging. Participants will have 40 hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatments and can request up to 40 more if not improved to his/her satisfaction. "There is no other therapy that has the potential that hyperbaric oxygen therapy does to treat TBI," according to Dr. Paul Harch.

Results are measured by brain blood flow imaging; written tests for memory and thinking, and questionnaires about quality of life and health. Some initial benefits already seen in participants in the study have included improvement in thinking ability, quality of life, and reduction of PTSD symptoms.

According to the Rand Report ("Invisible Wounds of War", April 2008) as many as 660,000 of the 1.5 million United States servicemen and women sent to Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001 have incurred and are now suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, or combinations of all three. The fact is that there is no effective treatment for TBI and partially effective treatment for PTSD contributes to the despair of these individuals, but also severely compromises recruitment efforts, the lifeblood of the military.

The complete results of the study should be available in the spring of 2009. Click on this [link](#) to see one of the success stories of HBOT. For more information, call Dr. Harch's office at 504-309-4948.

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes encourages all men and women of uniform who were severely wounded while serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and who are in need of assistance to call 888-44-SALUTE (888-477-2588) or e-mail info@saluteheroes.org. To learn more about CSAH, visit www.saluteheroes.org.

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About Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

Founded in 2004, The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (CSAH) is the leading nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to helping severely wounded troops from the War on Terror. The mission of the organization is to provide the assistance wounded and disabled veterans need to get their lives back on track. CSAH partners with corporate sponsors, individual contributors and volunteers to help severely wounded heroes and their families transition from the battlefield to the home front.

CSAH is the top nongovernmental association helping wounded troops from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and since its 2004 inception, has distributed over \$22 million to assist severely wounded troops and their families in more than 11,000 cases.

The annual all-expense-paid Road to Recovery Conference & Tribute provides seminars, career counseling, job fairs, evaluations, and inspirational success stories.