Veterans With TBI: Engaging the Health Care Community to Improve Outcomes

FACULTY

Roxana Delgado, PhD, is an epidemiologist, assistant professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, School of Medicine, General and Hospital Medicine Division. She is one of the investigators at the VA Elizabeth Dole Center of Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research and a co-investigator in the Campaign for Inclusive Care. Delgado has more than 10 years of experience in the area of military medicine and developed the “Military and Veteran Caregiver Portfolio,” a platform that addresses the long-term health-related outcomes of caregivers of wounded, ill, and injured service members and veterans. Her research focuses on predictors of health in military caregivers. Delgado’s professional experience was inspired by her firsthand caregiving experience. She is an avid advocate for traumatic brain injury and caregiving, serving on various advisory boards and is a 2015–2016 Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow representing the State of Texas. Delgado is the co-author of The Caregivers Companion book and, along with her husband, the co-founder of the TBI Warrior® Foundation. She is passionate about what she does and continues to dedicate her life and profession to helping wounded, ill, and injured veterans and their caregivers discover ways to thrive.

Financial Disclosures:

- Financial compensation from ASHA for this presentation

Nonfinancial Disclosures:

- No nonfinancial relationships to disclose

U.S. Army Sgt. First Class (Retired) Victor Medina, MRC, CRC, is a Purple Heart Recipient and a National Traumatic Brain Injury Advocate. In June 2009, while serving his third tour in Iraq, Medina was wounded when an explosive-formed projectile impacted his vehicle. He was medically evacuated and was diagnosed with moderate traumatic brain injury among other injuries. Medina received 3 years of rehabilitation. During this time, he noticed gaps and challenges in the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of TBI. While receiving medical care he developed a blog (www.tbiwarriors.blogspot.com) describing his healing journey, a project that subsequently was featured by the Department of Defense, and became a blog contributor for the Military Health System. In 2014, Medina became a certified rehabilitation counselor and has been actively involved with national leaders to improve the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of TBI. Medina is a public speaker and serves as adviser to organizations advocating for veterans and their families.

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