

## MEDIA ADVISORY:

### Fighting the “Hidden Epidemic” of Brain Injuries in Vets, the Homeless, Addicts: Get a Briefing Monday on a Promising New Drug-Free Treatment Undergoing a Nationwide Study

The Centers for Disease Control estimates more than 5 million people have a mental or physical disability from a head injury – injuries that can lead to homelessness, addiction or depression. Head injuries are the most common wound in the war in Iraq; as many as a third of veterans may have one, the RAND Corp. estimates.

New studies already show that using hyperbaric oxygen therapy – saturating patients with pure oxygen in a chamber, now used to treat divers with decompression sickness and heal non-healing wounds like diabetic foot wounds and radiation necrosis – can help wounded veterans recover. The statistics in the new study that has just been completed at Louisiana State University on blast injured veterans and has just been announced.

The International Hyperbaric Medical Foundation is now launching a nationwide multicenter study to follow up on the Louisiana State University study and earlier studies published in peer-reviewed medical journals.

Join a telephone briefing and Q&A on this new study with Dr. Paul Harch, the Louisiana State University researcher who is heading the study; Dr. James Wright, a retired Air Force colonel who was in charge of research on hyperbarics at the Air Force; and Army Brig. Gen. Patt Maney, wounded in Afghanistan in 2005 and treated for brain injury with hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Among the states where doctors will be researching the therapy are Florida, California, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Washington.

WHEN: 1 p.m. EST Monday, March 15

WHERE: Call 877-317-0671; the ID number is 60427424

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Michael Flagg, 202 253-4164, [mikeflagg53@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeflagg53@hotmail.com)