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## **Psychiatric Annals to Publish Next Article in Novel Treatments for Military-related Psychological Disorders Series**

*Thorofare, NJ* – PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS, a SLACK Incorporated publication, will publish a paper discussing the implementation of virtual reality platforms in addressing psychological wounds of war in its March 2013 issue. In print for over 40 years, PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS is relied upon by over 36,000 psychiatric professionals to provide timely research, review articles and continuing medical education.

PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS is the most widely read journal for continuing education in psychiatry. Delivered monthly to psychiatrists, every issue provides a thorough, multi-authored look at a single topic relevant to today's specialists. Topics are carefully selected from an Editorial Board composed of experts and world-renowned leaders from foremost medical and teaching institutions.

In its March 2013 issue, PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS will include a feature article on how virtual reality applications are being designed and implemented across various points in the military deployment cycle to prevent, identify and treat combat-related psychological disorders in service members and veterans. These applications are particularly promising, as many of today's military personnel already have a high level of comfort with the use of virtual technologies. Additionally, the use of these treatments on portable mobile devices allows psycho-therapeutic care to be delivered to active warzones so that soldiers can establish healthy coping mechanisms prior to returning home. The promise of these methods makes their emergence one of the most exciting and intriguing developments in the field in decades.

"PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS prides itself on reporting the latest developments being made within the psychological field and the use of virtual reality is in keeping with standard," said **Jan Fawcett, MD, PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS Medical Editor**. "Virtual therapies raise entirely new issues regarding types of therapies which show the promise of increasing the availability of effective treatments. This means that clinicians will have to develop an understanding of the principles underlying these approaches so they can interface with them in a manner that will enhance their effectiveness."

"The thoughtful use of new technologies to deliver clinical care may best be viewed as 'tools' that extend the skills of a well-trained clinician," said **Albert "Skip" Rizzo, PhD**, University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies and lead author of the paper. "Whether by clinician design or

implementation, these tools are now providing opportunities to deliver evidence-based care in formats that may have a wide appeal to members of a society who are increasing viewing technology not simply as a luxury, but as a natural part of everyday existence.”

“‘Virtual Reality Applications to Address the Wounds of War’ is a really nice summary of how virtual reality applications are being implemented across various points in the military deployment cycle to help prevent and treat PTSD in war veterans,” said **Colonel Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, MD, MPH**, guest editor and Chief Medical Officer, District of Columbia, Department of Mental Health. “As our world becomes more and more digital, expanding our techniques to mobile applications expands our potential reach as therapists. Written by the world’s expert in the field, Dr. Albert ‘Skip’ Rizzo, this article will be a great utility to clinicians interested in exploring new frontiers with their patients.”

This feature series began in January 2013, with the most recent article on complementary and alternative treatments for PTSD, guest edited by Dr. Ritchie, published in the February 2013 issue of *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS*. It focused on the use of the stellate ganglion block (SGB) technique for treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This technology has been shown in a series of case reports to deaden unconscious emotional memories before they reach the right amygdala and trigger unwanted symptoms in military patients with PTSD. Additional papers in this valuable series can be found at [Healio.com/Psychiatry](http://Healio.com/Psychiatry).

Every issue of *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS* focuses on a specific topic in psychiatry and contains multiple CME articles related to that topic. In addition to providing accurate coverage of relevant topics in the field, each issue of *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS* also contains a CME quiz that allows physicians to earn up to 3 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. The ability to earn continuing education credits while receiving updates on new psychiatric developments is why *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS* has remained a preeminent publication for the discipline.

SLACK Incorporated, publisher of *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS*, is a leading provider of information to targeted health care specialties. SLACK produces 42 publications in print and online; publishes more than 250 medical and allied health books; creates custom print and Internet-related projects; and produces convention daily newspapers and meeting supplements for a growing number of health care meetings. SLACK Incorporated also maintains a variety of websites related to each of its specialty publications, including [Healio.com/Psychiatry](http://Healio.com/Psychiatry). This resource provides daily news, videos, online education, meeting coverage and more for psychiatric professionals.

For more information about *PSYCHIATRIC ANNALS*, visit [Healio.com/Psychiatry](http://Healio.com/Psychiatry), or contact Lee Gaymon, Senior Director, Audience Development & Marketing, at [lgaymon@slackinc.com](mailto:lgaymon@slackinc.com), 856.848.1000 ext. 356.

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