

An Invitation from the Program Director to the 2014 C.A.R.E. Summit

As we approach the end of 2014 and combat operations in Afghanistan, it is fitting that we come together to reflect on past achievements and collaborate on future advances to benefit our service members for the decades to come. The **Naval Medical Center San Diego** will be hosting the fifth annual **2014 C.A.R.E. (Comprehensive Advanced Restorative Effort) Training Summit** to advance the care of wounded warriors **December 3-6, 2014**. Importantly, **the event is a BUMED-approved training activity, waived from DoD conference requirements**. It offers up to **24 CME credits**, and there is **no cost** to register. The only thing we ask for is your commitment to benefit from the entire program and your collaboration to help ensure the best possible care for our wounded warriors and other traumatically injured patients.

It has been said that medicine is the only victor in war. Unprecedented survival on the battlefield has mandated unprecedented restorative and rehabilitative efforts for our injured service members and their families. Key advances are clearly not limited to any single specialty, institution, or service branch and occur in both the military and civilian realms. For these reasons we have attempted to bring together top talent from numerous disciplines in a wide variety of military and civilian centers from around the country. A quick glance at the agenda will make it clear that if not unprecedented, this is certainly an unusually broad and impressive group of professionals at the top of their respective fields.

A wide variety of disciplines are represented in the agenda including *Plastics, Dermatology, Otolaryngology, Orthopedics, Oromaxillofacial Surgery, Neurosurgery, General/Trauma Surgery, Neurology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Vascular Surgery, Mental Health, Case Management, Social Work, and others*. An equally broad swath of providers are invited to register for the event. Multiple faculty have been featured in general media reaching a national audience such as *60 Minutes, Time Magazine*, and even the *Late Show with David Letterman*. I predict that some of the best ideas and connections coming out of the Summit in one arena will come from audience members working in a totally different arena. For this reason, the agenda has been constructed with ample discussion time and without breakout sessions. In other words, the audience is a part of the faculty.

From the opportunity to hear directly from patients to one-on-one discussion with the experts in the lab, I hope you find this a unique and professionally rewarding event. Most importantly, I hope this Summit helps to ensure our injured service members continue to receive the best care available. The registration link can be found below. We look forward to seeing you in December.

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcscd/Staff/Pages/ProjectCARESummit.aspx>

Sincerely,

CDR Peter R. Shumaker, M.D.
Program Director, 2014 C.A.R.E Training Summit
Chairman, Department of Dermatology
Naval Medical Center San Diego