



**NAVAL MEDICAL**

**R&D**

**NEWS**

**October 2016**

**Volume VIII      Issue 10**

**Featured Story: JWARG**



## NMRC and WRAIR Team Up to Launch Joint West Africa Research Group in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria - Nigerians possess a great love of formality and ceremony. Cmdr. James Lawler, Clinical Research Department Head, Biological Defense Research Directorate, Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), was able to experience this first-hand when he participated in the official opening ceremony of the Joint West Africa Research Group (JWARG) in Nigeria, June 23, 2016.

The JWARG is a new collaboration between the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), and the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 Ghana Detachment. The mission is to support the Department of Defense's force health protection requirements for emerging infectious disease while building partnerships in West Africa to address lessons observed in the 2014-2015 outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD).

The JWARG opening ceremony was the culmination of the five-day Tropical/ Emerging Infectious Diseases Clinical Training program hosted in Lagos by the WRAIR Military HIV Research Program. This intensive didactic and laboratory practicum provided training to JWARG physician collaborators from Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia, and will support JWARG clinical research protocols as well as health system preparedness for emerging infectious disease emergencies...

[Full Article](#)



## NAMRU San Antonio Participates in First Local Bioscience Research Database Website



Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio (NAMRU-SA) is one of the 11 original participating research organizations included in the [San Antonio Bioscience Research Database](#), a first website dedicated to cataloguing bioscience research projects in San Antonio. The San Antonio Medical Foundation (SAMF) launched the new website Sept. 28 as a means to increase collaborative efforts among local research institutions and their national and international peers...

[Full Article](#)

## U.S. Army and Navy Forces Collaborate with African Partners in the Fight against Malaria

ACCRA, Ghana - The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), hosted a malaria diagnostics training course over the summer in support of the continuing East and West Africa Malaria Task Force (EWAMTF), efforts to assist African military partners in expanding their malaria programs.

The two-week course focused on improving the diagnostic capabilities involved in detecting malaria. The course was the result of the ongoing collaborative efforts of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), U.S. Army Medical Research Division- Kenya (USAMRD-K), U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3), EWAMTF, with the support and cooperation from the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), and the Ghana Armed Forces 37 Military Hospital.



Malaria microscopy continues to be considered the "gold standard" for detecting malaria. Thirty-nine military health professionals from Benin, Burkino Faso, Core D'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Ghana, participated in hands-on training that included clinical presentation of malaria, identification of low density infections, parasite detection and species formation, parasite counting techniques, and malaria rapid diagnostic tests...

[Full Article](#)



## Navy Surgeon General Conducts All Hands Call with Navy Research Unit in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt (NNS) -- Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, conducted an All Hands Call with U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit 3 (NAMRU-3) military and civilian employees, Sept. 26.

Faison applauded the unit's ongoing efforts and highlighted the connection between the unit's research and surveillance, and keeping our Sailors and Marines healthy, ready and on the job. Faison also discussed a variety of topics, providing the audience a brief overview of recent successes in military medicine, emphasizing the role played by Navy Medical Research.

"What you do here matters more than you realize and helps people you will never meet all over the world," Faison said. "You can't defend freedom and protect U.S. interests if you're sick," he said.

The All Hands Call gave military and civilian staff members the opportunity to ask questions and allowed Faison to show his gratitude for their achievements and hard work. "It was great to have him (Navy surgeon general), see some of the work we're doing and interacting with him directly provided a lot of insight into how what we do here fits on a larger scale," said Lt. Joe Santinoceto, Health Facility Planning and Project Officer...

[Full Article](#)

## R&D Chronicles: The Mosquito Fighters, Part VII

### The Inimitable Dr. Stitt and the Navy Medical School

By André B. Sobocinski, Historian, BUMED



In the first decades of the twentieth century, the U.S. Navy's armory against mosquito-borne and other tropical diseases was located in a former Observatory-turned schoolhouse in Washington, D.C., known as the Naval Medical School.



The Naval Medical School had existed in various incarnations throughout the nineteenth century with the underlying purpose of preparing newly commissioned medical officers for life on the high seas. Over the years the school's coursework evolved with the needs of the Navy; the early emphasis on clinical training and surgery gradually shifted towards the laboratory sciences and hygiene. When it was reestablished in Washington, D.C., in May 1902, the burgeoning fields of tropical medicine and laboratory technique became a chief focus of study.

During the school's 40 years in Washington, D.C. (1902-1942), no one was more responsible for the its new vision or its profound success than a slightly-built, bespectacled pharmacist-turned physician from the Carolinas named Edward Rhodes Stitt (1867-1948)...

[Full Article](#)

## NSMRL Hosts Young Scientists as Part of STEM Programs

GROTON, Ct. -- Dr. Michael Qin, Principal Investigator at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, had the opportunity to mentor young scientists participating in the Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) and the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP), sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. The STEM programs focus on developing young scientists. The 8-10 week paid internship programs are administered by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

NREIP interns are selected based on academic achievement, personal statements, and recommendations, and career and research interests...

[Full Article](#)



## Combat Artist Documents Navy Medicine Research and Development Activities at NAMRU-SA

Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio (NAMRU-SA), located on the San Antonio Military Medical Center campus, Joint Base Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is the subject of the Naval History and Heritage Command's (NHHC) artist, Morgan Wilbur, who visited the lab to document current biomedical research activities, Sept. 13-16.

NHHC manages the official history program of the United States Navy. Their mission is to collect, preserve, protect, present, and make relevant the artifacts, art, and documents that best capture the Navy's history and heritage...

[Full Article](#)



## Navy Medicine's Deputy Chief Readiness, Health, Visits NHRC

SAN DIEGO -- Rear Adm. Elaine Wagner, a senior flag officer in Navy Medicine, visited the Naval Health Research Center to discuss the impact of research on warfighter readiness and health, Sept. 9. Wagner, deputy chief, readiness and health, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, talked with NHRC staff about proposed initiatives for the funding and sustainment of Navy Medicine research laboratories, while emphasizing the importance of focusing on programmatic research that aligns with fleet requirements...

[Full Article](#)



NMR&D News is a publication of the Naval Medical Research Center, 503 Robert Grant Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. NMR&D E-News is published by the NMRC Public Affairs Office 301-319-9378.

Commanding Officer  
CAPT Jacqueline D. Rychnovsky

Executive Officer  
CAPT Eric R. Hall

Director for Administration  
Steven S. Legette

Public Affairs Officer  
Doris Ryan

