

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Bringing New York State Psychiatrists Together



NYSPA's Veterans Mental Health – Primary Care Training Initiative CME Presentations Now Available Online

The New York State Psychiatric Association (NYSPA) is proud to announce two online training presentations, designed to enhance the capacity of primary care specialists, psychiatrists, and residents to recognize and treat combat-related mental health and substance use disorders. The presentations are part of the Veterans Mental Health-Primary Care Training Initiative (VMH-PCTI) and have been developed by leading experts in consultation with the Curriculum Faculty Advisory Committee. Participants will be awarded 1.0 CME credit upon successful completion of each program. The presentations, accessible through the NYSPA website (www.nyspsych.org), are entitled:

- **Invisible Wounds of War: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury & Combat-Related Mental Health Issues**
- **Recognition, Management and Prevention of Veteran Suicide**

The VMH-PCTI provides CME-accredited training on the signs, symptoms, diagnosis and best practices for treating mental health and substance use disorders of returning combat veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, suicide and suicide prevention. The presentations, originally designed as one hour in-person trainings, have been presented at teaching hospitals and other educational settings as well as off-campus venues with nearly 1,000 trained to date. While NYSPA will resume in-person trainings pursuant to federal and state guidelines, we hope to expand the reach of the VMH-PCTI by adding both recorded and live virtual presentations.

Later this year, NYSPA will expand the portfolio of presentations available through the VMH-PCTI with one hour presentations on issues related to women veterans and a comprehensive overview of military

culture. Both presentations will also be available online. Individuals who view the recorded webinars must complete a pre and post presentation evaluation in order to receive the CME credit.

“NYSPA has made tremendous effort through the VMH-PCTI to increase awareness of the mental health needs of returning combat veterans in primary care and mental health professionals in the community,” said Jeff Borenstein, M.D. President, NYS Psychiatric Association. "The inception of the VMH-PCTI came from a need to help health care professionals identify issues affecting veterans and NYSPA looks forward to continuing to address this need through the VMH-PCTI.”

The VMH-PCTI is made possible by funding from the NYS Legislature, administered through the NYS Office of Mental Health. For anyone interested in scheduling a presentation of the VMH-PCTI, please contact Donna Gajda at NYSPA Central Office at **(516) 542-0077**.

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