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Naval Medical Research Center Wins Awards

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented its Regional Laboratory Award to the Naval Medical Research Center. Noted for their key contributions were CAPT Richard B. Oberst, Charles Schlagel, Joseph K. Hemby, Jr., Phil Ketner and Adam McKee.

The Regional Laboratory Award was granted in recognition of extraordinary efforts, which exceeded legislated requirements, in the furtherance of national and regional technology transfer activities. It was made on September 16 at the region's annual meeting.

The Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Maryland executes an exemplary Technology Transfer Program on behalf of naval biomedical research laboratories and medical centers located around the globe.

CAPT Richard Oberst serves as the Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Research Center - the Navy's largest biomedical research laboratory. He directs over 500 personnel worldwide, with reporting laboratories in the United States, Indonesia, Cambodia, Egypt, Ghana, and Peru. These laboratories are involved in the conduct of research, development, tests, evaluations and disease surveillance to enhance the health, safety, performance and medical readiness of Navy and Marine Corps personnel deployed throughout the world.

CAPT Oberst and his predecessors have expanded the Intellectual Property/technology transfer offices and created an Intellectual Property Committee to evaluate each invention submitted by the ten biomedical research labs and the three major medical centers.

Through Dr. McKee's active leadership and innovations, the NRMC technology transfer team has been responsible for a dramatic increase in technology transfer partnerships with industry. Use of one CRADA has resulted in an increase from a cumulative total of two non-reimbursable CRADAs prior to 2003 to 28 signed Clinical Trial CRADAs generating over \$750,000 for the medical centers.

Mr. Hemby and Mr. Ketner's case-load is extensive, with 67 issued patents as well as another 95 pending patent applications. In the past three years, the NMRC technology transfer team has been directly involved in the establishment of over 250 CRADAs, which have generated more than \$5,000,000 for the medical laboratories and in the negotiation and monitoring of more than 20 patent license agreements.

The Naval Medical Research Center is a commendable example of a federal laboratory that both captures and provides enormous benefits through technology transfer. The vision for collaboration was established by CAPT Richard B. Oberst, led by Dr. Adam McKee, implemented by the ORTA, Dr. Charles Schlagel and Patent Counsels Joseph K. Hemby and Phil Ketner, and practiced by nearly every member of the research staff.

In addition, Dr. Charles Schlagel from the Naval Medical Research Center received the 2004 DOD George Linsteadt Technology Transfer Achievement Award. Dr. Schlagel was selected for his innovative, proactive approach in licensing the technology for The Hearing Pill (TM) to American BioHealth Group. The Hearing Pill can prevent or reverse noise induced hearing loss. It is available for commercial purchase at <http://www.thehearingpill.com> and has been provided to our front-line forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.