



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
59TH MEDICAL WING (AETC)
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND TEXAS

20 APR 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SGOZ

ATTN: CAPT MARY T PAWLAK

FROM: 59 MDW/SGVU

SUBJECT: Professional Presentation Approval

1. Your paper, entitled **Prevalence of Trypanosoma Cruzi Among U.S. Military Members Training in South Texas** presented at/published to **Disease in Nature, San Antonio, TX 25-27 May 2016; Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL 15-18 Aug 2016; American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Atlanta, GA 13-17 Nov 2016** with MDWI 41-108, and has been assigned local file #**16163**.
2. Pertinent biographic information (name of author(s), title, etc.) has been entered into our computer file. Please advise us (by phone or mail) that your presentation was given. At that time, we will need the date (month, day and year) along with the location of your presentation. It is important to update this information so that we can provide quality support for you, your department, and the Medical Center commander. This information is used to document the scholarly activities of our professional staff and students, which is an essential component of Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center (WHASC) internship and residency programs.
3. Please know that if you are a Graduate Health Sciences Education student and your department has told you they cannot fund your publication, the 59th Clinical Research Division may pay for your basic journal publishing charges (to include costs for tables and black and white photos). We cannot pay for reprints. If you are 59 MDW staff member, we can forward your request for funds to the designated wing POC.
4. Congratulations, and thank you for your efforts and time. Your contributions are vital to the medical mission. We look forward to assisting you in your future publication/presentation efforts.

Linda Steel-Goodwin

LINDA STEEL-GOODWIN, Col, USAF, BSC
Director, Clinical Investigations & Research Support

PROCESSING OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH/TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS			
1. TO: CLINICAL RESEARCH	2. FROM: (Author's Name, Rank, Grade, Office Symbol) Mary T. Pawlak, Capt, USAF, MC, 559 THLS/SGOZ	3. GME/GHSE STUDENT: ☐ YES ☒ NO	4. PROTOCOL NUMBER: FWH20140074H
5. PROTOCOL TITLE: (NOTE: For each new release of medical research or technical information as a publication/presentation, a new 59 MDW Form 3039 must be submitted for review and approval.) The Impact of Chagas Disease on Military Training in Texas			
6. TITLE OF MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED OR PRESENTED: Prevalence of Trypanosoma cruzi among U.S. Military Members Training in South Texas			
7. FUNDING RECEIVED FOR THIS STUDY? ☒ YES ☐ NO FUNDING SOURCE: Air Force Medical Services Agency			
8. DO YOU NEED FUNDING SUPPORT FOR PUBLICATION PURPOSES: ☐ YES ☒ NO			
9. IS THIS MATERIAL CLASSIFIED? ☐ YES ☒ NO			
10. IS THIS MATERIAL SUBJECT TO ANY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS FOR PUBLICATION OR PRESENTATION THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (CRADA), MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT (MTA), INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AGREEMENT ETC.? ☐ YES ☒ NO NOTE: If the answer is YES then attach a copy of the Agreement to the Publications/Presentations Request Form.			
11. MATERIAL IS FOR: ☒ DOMESTIC RELEASE ☐ FOREIGN RELEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX OR BOXES FOR APPROVAL WITH THIS REQUEST. ATTACH COPY OF MATERIAL TO BE PUBLISHED/PRESENTED.			
☐ 11a. PUBLICATION/JOURNAL (List intended publication/journal.)			
☐ 11b. PUBLISHED ABSTRACT (List intended journal.)			
☒ 11c. POSTER (To be demonstrated at meeting: name of meeting, city, state, and date of meeting.) Diseases in Nature, San Antonio, TX, 25-27 May 2016; Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL, 15-18 Aug 2016			
☐ 11d. PLATFORM PRESENTATION (At civilian institutions: name of meeting, state, and date of meeting.)			
☒ 11e. OTHER (Describe: name of meeting, city, state, and date of meeting.) Additional Poster presentation: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Atlanta, GA, 13-17 Nov 2016			
12. EXPECTED DATE WHEN YOU WILL NEED THE CRD TO SUBMIT YOUR CLEARED PRESENTATION/PUBLICATION TO DTIC NOTE: All publications/presentations are required to be placed in the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC).			
DATE May 02, 2016			
13. 59 MDW PRIMARY POINT OF CONTACT (Last Name, First Name, M.I., email) Pawlak, Mary, T. (mary.pawlak@us.af.mil)			14. DUTY PHONE/PAGER NUMBER 671-8235
15. AUTHORSHIP AND CO-AUTHOR(S) List in the order they will appear in the manuscript.			
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME AND M.I.	GRADE/RANK	SQUADRON/GROUP/OFFICE SYMBOL	INSTITUTION (If not 59 MDW)
a. Primary/Corresponding Author Pawlak, Mary T.	O-3	559 THLS/ 559 MDG/ SGOZ	
b. Hall, Sallie		59 MDW/ST	
c. Valtier, Sandra		59 MDW/ST	
d. Daniels, Candelaria C.			US Army Public Health Com
e. Cropper, Thomas L.		559 THLS/ 559 MDG/ SGOZ	
f. Webber, Bryant J.	O-3	559 THLS/ 559 MDG/ SGOZ	
I CERTIFY ANY HUMAN OR ANIMAL RESEARCH RELATED STUDIES WERE APPROVED AND PERFORMED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH 32 CFR 219, AFMAN 40-401_IP, AND 59 MDWI 41-108. I HAVE READ THE FINAL VERSION OF THE ATTACHED MATERIAL AND CERTIFY THAT IT IS AN ACCURATE MANUSCRIPT FOR PUBLICATION AND/OR PRESENTATION.			
16. AUTHOR'S PRINTED NAME, RANK, GRADE Mary Pawlak, Capt, O-3		17. AUTHOR'S SIGNATURE PAWLAK.MARY.T.1473946641 Digitally signed by PAWLAK.MARY.T.1473946641 DN: cn=PAWLAK.MARY.T.1473946641, o=USAF Date: 2016.04.08 14:50:43 -0500	18. DATE April 08, 2016
19. APPROVING AUTHORITY'S PRINTED NAME, RANK, TITLE Asha Mandhare, Maj, 559 THS Flight Commander		20. APPROVING AUTHORITY'S SIGNATURE MANDHARE ASHA K.1120419753 Digitally signed by MANDHARE ASHA K.1120419753 DN: cn=MANDHARE ASHA K.1120419753, o=USAF Date: 2016.04.08 14:50:43 -0500	21. DATE April 08, 2016

1st ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/SGVU Use Only)

22. DATE RECEIVED _____

23. ASSIGNED PROCESSING REQUEST FILE NUMBER
16163

24. DATE REVIEWED
12 April 2016

25. DATE FORWARDED TO 502 ISG/JAC

26. AUTHOR CONTACTED FOR RECOMMENDED OR NECESSARY CHANGES: ☐ NO ☐ YES If yes, give date. ☒ N/A

27. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

If the primary authors and presenters are residents, fellows or post-docs/individuals with a doctoral degree within five years of graduation from a terminal degree they may be eligible for the Young Investigator Competition and if accepted in the poster session should ensure the poster conforms to the MHRS poster competition requirements especially any way they expect the IRB Clearance and date to be annotated on the poster.

28. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER
COL LINDA STEEL-GOODWIN, USAF, BSC

29. REVIEWER SIGNATURE _____

STEEL
GOODWIN LINDA 1186463583

Digitally signed by STEEL, GOOOHNS LN(A 1186483563)
DN: cn=US, cn=U.S. Government, ou=DOD, ou=PC, ou=USAF, ou=STEEL,
GOOOHNS LN(A 1186483563)
Date: 2002.04.18 13:46:10 -0500

30 DATE

April 12, 2016

2nd ENDORSEMENT (502 ISG/JAC Use Only)

31. DATE RECEIVED _____

32. DATE FORWARDED TO 59 MDW/PA

33. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED (In compliance with security and policy review directives.) ☐ DISAPPROVED

34. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER

35. REVIEWER SIGNATURE

36. DATE

3rd ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/PA Use Only)

37. DATE RECEIVED _____

April 18, 2016

38. DATE FORWARDED TO 59 MDW/SGVU

April 19, 2016

39. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED (In compliance with security and policy review directives.) ☐ DISAPPROVED

40. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER
Kevin Inuma, SSgt/E5, 59MDW Public Affairs

41. REVIEWER SIGNATURE

IINUMA,KEVIN.MITSUGU.1296227
613

42. DATE

4th ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/SGVU Use Only)

43. DATE RECEIVED _____

44. SENIOR AUTHOR NOTIFIED BY PHONE OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL

☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ COULD NOT BE REACHED ☐ LEFT MESSAGE

45. COMMENTS ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED

46. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER

47. REVIEWER SIGNATURE

48. DATE

PROCESSING OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH/TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS			
1st ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/SGVU Use Only)			
TO: Clinical Research Division 59 MDW/CRD Contact 292-7141 for email instructions.	22. DATE RECEIVED	23. ASSIGNED PROCESSING REQUEST FILE NUMBER 16163	
24. DATE REVIEWED 12 April 2016	25. DATE FORWARDED TO 502 ISG/JAC		
26. AUTHOR CONTACTED FOR RECOMMENDED OR NECESSARY CHANGES: ☐ NO ☐ YES If yes, give date. ☒ N/A			
27. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED If the primary authors and presenters are residents, fellows or post-docs/individuals with a doctoral degree within five years of graduation from a terminal degree they may be eligible for the Young Investigator Competition and if accepted in the poster session should ensure the poster conforms to the MIIRS poster competition requirements especially any way they expect the IRB Clearance and date to be annotated on the poster.			
28. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER COL LINDA STEEL-GOODWIN, USAF, BSC	29. REVIEWER SIGNATURE STEEL GOODWIN LINDA. 1188483583 Digitally signed by STEEL, LINDA. 1188483583 DN: cn=STEEL, o=59 MDW, ou=USAF, email=STEEL.LINDA@USAF.MIL, c=US		30. DATE April 12, 2016
2nd ENDORSEMENT (502 ISG/JAC Use Only)			
31. DATE RECEIVED	32. DATE FORWARDED TO 59 MDW/PA		
33. COMMENTS ☒ APPROVED (In compliance with security and policy review directives.) ☐ DISAPPROVED <i>See memo</i>			
34. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER <i>Arlene Christilles GS-14 Chief, Clinical</i>	35. REVIEWER SIGNATURE <i>Arlene Christilles</i>		36. DATE 14 April 16.
3rd ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/PA Use Only)			
37. DATE RECEIVED	38. DATE FORWARDED TO 59 MDW/SGVU		
39. COMMENTS ☐ APPROVED (In compliance with security and policy review directives.) ☐ DISAPPROVED			
40. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER	41. REVIEWER SIGNATURE		42. DATE
4th ENDORSEMENT (59 MDW/SGVU Use Only)			
43. DATE RECEIVED	44. SENIOR AUTHOR NOTIFIED BY PHONE OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ COULD NOT BE REACHED ☐ LEFT MESSAGE		
45. COMMENTS ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED			
46. PRINTED NAME, RANK/GRADE, TITLE OF REVIEWER	47. REVIEWER SIGNATURE		48. DATE



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
59TH MEDICAL WING (AETC)
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND TEXAS

JUN 30 2014

FINAL IRB APPROVAL (FULL BOARD - MINIMAL RISK)

Approval Date: 27 May 2014

Principal Investigator: Capt Bryant Webber/SGOZ

IRB Reference Number: FWH20140074H (IRBNet 402055)

Assurance Number: FWA00001750, Expiration: 12 Aug 18 (Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center)
DOD Assurance #50007, Expiration: 8 Sep 16

Protocol Title: The Impact of Chagas Disease on Military Training in Texas

1. Your study, referenced above, is approved for one year as a MINIMAL RISK study by the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center's Institutional Review Board (WHASC IRB). This study was previously Conditionally Approved and this is notification that all stipulations have been met therefore the study may begin. Additional items reviewed and approved by the WHASC IRB include:

- ICD
- HIPAA Authorization
- Individual Investigator Agreement (Dr. Daniels)
- Letter of Support (341 Training Squadron)
- Letter of Support (343 Training Squadron)
- Letter of Support (59 MDW Laboratory Services)
- Letter of Support (737 Training Group)
- Letter of Support (FADL)
- CAMD SOP 23.3
- CAMD SOP 3.7
- Form A-1
- Form A-2
- Master Key and Enrollment Case Report Form
- Ombudsmen Appointment Letter
- CVs
- CITI Training certificates

2. The expiration date on your new study is **27 May 2015**. This is the date upon which the study is no longer approved, unless you submit a continuing review report, using the template provided by the Protocol Office which must be subsequently approved in no more than 365 days, as follows. The expiration date is based on this study's approval date. The IRB will use the expiration date as a fixed anniversary date. This means if next year's IRB approval occurs within 30 days of expiration, the expiration date will remain the same. The study will be reviewed in approximately 11 months for continuing review. Your first progress report, which is a request for continuation of the study, will be due to the Protocol Office no later than **14 April 2015**. A continuing review report will be due approximately every 11 months after each approval, in order for the WHASC/IRB to approve continuation of the study for another year. You must submit all publications and presentations for prior approval by the WHASC Public Affairs and Protocol Office. Upon completion of your study, you must submit a final closeout report to the WHASC Protocol Office.

3. IRB approved documents are in IRBNet and can be seen in Review Details. Following IRB review/approval, it is the PI's responsibility to contact the WHASC Protocol Office at 292-4012 (DSN 554), within 30 days of notification to schedule a "New Study" start-up meeting. You will be given a study binder, the final IRB study approval letter, original date-stamped ICD, and any other IRB-approved documents needed for the study. Failure to schedule a "New Study" start-up meeting within the 30 day suspense will result in the study being suspended. It is the PI's responsibility to maintain IRB approved documents in the new study binder.

4. Only investigators listed below are approved to participate in the study (e.g., obtain consent and to interact with and/or collect identifiable information on research subjects):

- **Capt Bryant Webber, PI**
- Sandra Valtier, PhD, AI
- Roger Bravo, RA/RC
- Lois Robinson, RA/RC
- Constance Kowat, RA/RC
- Michele Tavish, RA/RC

These are the only investigators identified by the WHASC IRB to have completed "IRB approved" investigator training. Any additions to this list must first be approved by the IRB by submitting an amendment, along with a copy of the investigator's training certificate.

5. Your MINIMAL RISK study will be forwarded to the Surgeon General's Research Compliance and Oversight Office (SGE-C) for information and concurrence.

6. The WHASC IRB must be notified immediately of any additional information, or changes to the approved protocol. All modifications to either the protocol or ICD must be reviewed and approved by the WHASC IRB prior to their inception.

7. You must comply with the information contained in the Certificate of Compliance.

8. If funds were requested for your study, you will be notified by the 59th Clinical Research Division Resource Manager (292-7924) concerning the status of the requested funds. YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO USE YOUR SECTION'S O&M FUNDS.

9. If you have any questions, the POC is Mrs. L. Elaine Turner at (210) 292-4012. Please include your project title and reference number in all correspondence or inquiries.


JOHN R. EKSTRAND, COL, USA, MC
WHASC Authorized Institutional Official



Prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* among U.S. Military Members Training in South Texas

Mary T. Pawlak, MD, MPH¹; Sallie Hall¹; Sandra Valtier, PhD¹; Candelaria C. Daniels, PhD²; Thomas L. Cropper, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM¹; Charla C. Tully, DO³; Bryant J. Webber, MD, MPH¹
¹59th Medical Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, USA; ²U.S. Army Public Health Command-Central, JBSA - Fort Sam Houston, Texas, USA; ³Defense Institute for Medical Operations, JBSA-Lackland, Texas, USA

Abstract

Vector-borne human Chagas disease is an emerging potential issue for personnel who work and live on Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Texas, where *Trypanosoma cruzi*-infected triatomine insects have been collected in abundance since 2013. This cross-sectional study, funded to enroll 3,000 subjects, seeks to determine the prevalence and seroprevalence of acute and chronic Chagas disease among sub-populations considered at highest risk for the disease. This includes U.S. Air Force students and military instructors who spend the majority of their time in the endemic field setting. After one year of enrollment (N=416 subjects), no positive cases have been identified. Current measures may be sufficient to prevent Chagas disease in this setting, although further enrollment is needed.



Trypanosomatid in the bloodstream (Public Health Image Library)

Background

At least 300,000 U.S. residents are thought to be infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the causative parasitic agent of Chagas disease.¹ Approximately 30% of infected individuals will experience Chagasic heart disease and/or digestive megasyndromes.² Although immigrants from Latin America comprise the majority of cases in the United States, the incidence of autochthonous disease may be increasing.³ Of 39 reported cases in Texas, USA, in 2013-14, 12 were deemed to be locally-acquired.⁴ Biosurveillance findings highlight the potential for vector-borne cases among personnel at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Texas: 8% of the installation's military working dogs tested positive for *T. cruzi* antibodies in 2007;⁵ 28% of 830 triatomine insects collected on the Medina Training Annex between 2013 and 2015 tested positive for *T. cruzi* parasites (personal communication, Walter Roachell, July 2015); and 33% of 131 insects from the area tested positive for human blood on blood meal analysis. This study was initiated to determine the prevalence and seroprevalence of Chagas disease among personnel who may be at increased risk due to field activities conducted in *T. cruzi*-endemic areas.

Methods

Study Design

Cross-sectional prevalence and seroprevalence study

Questionnaire

Participants were asked about their type and duration of field exposure, blood transfusion history, maternal living history, travel history, amount and type of outside exposure (camping, hunting), exposure to wildlife animals (raccoon, opossum, skunk, wood rats, deer, coyote, and feral hog), and history of bites by triatomines or unknown insects.

Laboratory Tests

- Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR): whole blood specimens were evaluated for presence of the *T. cruzi* parasite. Two multiplex TaqMan PCR assays were performed in parallel targeting highly conserved and repetitive *T. cruzi* genomic regions: nuclear mini-satellite (TCZ), kinetoplast or kDNA, and small subunit ribosomal RNA (18S rRNA gene). A sample was considered positive if all three targets were positive.

- Indirect immunofluorescent Antibody (IFA): specimen sera were evaluated for presence of human antibodies to *T. cruzi* antigens. Sera were serially diluted and placed on antigen-coated microscope slides, washed to remove unbound serum antibodies, stained with a fluorescent isothiocyanate-labeled anti-human IgG conjugate, and visualized through a fluorescence microscope. A sample was considered positive for titers at or greater than 1:128.

- Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA): the Chagatest recombinant v3.0 assay (Wiener Laboratories, Argentina) employs recombinant *T. cruzi* antigens to detect human IgG/IgM. Serum samples were incubated with the immobilized antigens, washed, incubated with goat anti-human IgG conjugated to horse radish peroxidase (HRP), and washed again. HRP substrates tetramethylbenzidine and hydrogen peroxide were then added. The reactions were stopped with 2 N sulfuric acid, which resulted in yellowish color. The colorimetric readings were taken at 450 nm in a plate reader (ref wavelength, 650 nm). Cut-off, equivocal, reactive, and nonreactive values were defined as directed.

Oversight and Funding

This study was approved by the 59th Medical Wing Institutional Review Board. Funding was provided by the Air Force Medical Services Agency, Falls Church, Virginia, USA.

Results

Enrollment and Surveillance Period

N=416; April 1 - November 19, 2015 (enrollment ongoing)

Populations

- USAF students graduating from security forces training at JBSA-Lackland and Camp Bullis
- USAF instructors working at Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training at JBSA-Lackland, Medina Training Annex
- Military working dog instructors at JBSA-Lackland

Table 1

Time in Triatomine-Endemic Environment	Exposure in Weeks (average)
Field environment	3,038 (7.3)
Living/traveling	113,661 (273.2)
Latin America or Southwest USA	6,189 (14.9)
Camping/hunting	8,513 (20.5)
Wildlife exposure	
Latin America or Southwest USA	

Table 2

Personal and Family History ^a	Negative	Positive
Received blood products in USA (N=314)	308	6
Received blood products outside USA (N=314)	312	2
Mother lived in Latin America before birth (N=314)	288	26
Known triatomine bite (N=416)	416	0

Table 3

Laboratory Test Results ^a	Negative	Positive
PCR (N=403)	403	0
ELISA (N=408)	408	0
IFA (N=408)	408	0

^aN=416 due to expanded questionnaire after initiation of study

^bN=416 due to difficulty obtaining adequate blood aliquots on all enrollees



Triatomine insect in a tent at Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training (courtesy of Walter Roachell, US Army Public Health Command-Central)

Conclusions

- Chagas disease does not appear to constitute a significant public health risk during military field exercises at JBSA-Lackland, Texas
- The lack of positive cases may demonstrate the effectiveness of current measures (e.g., use of bed nets and insect repellent) to prevent triatomine bites and/or the poor efficacy of stercorarian transmission of *T. cruzi*
- Since only 13.9% (n=416) of total participants have been enrolled, this research effort will continue to increase the statistical power of the results

References

- Bern C, Montgomery SP. An estimate of the burden of Chagas disease in the United States. *CID* 2009; 49:352-4.
- Rassi Jr A, et al. Chagas disease. *Lancet*. 2010; 375:1388-402.
- Kuehn BM. Putting Chagas disease on the US radar screen. *JAMA* 2015; 313(12):1185-7.
- McPhatter L, et al. Vector surveillance to determine species composition and occurrence of *T. cruzi* infection at three military installations in San Antonio, Texas. *US Army Med Dep J* 2012; 12:21.
- Human Chagas Cases in Texas. Available at <http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/cs/disease/chagas/data/>, accessed 7 Mar 16
- Nouvellet P, et al. The improbable transmission of *Trypanosoma cruzi* to human. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 2013; 7(11):e2505

Acknowledgements

We thank Manuel Caballero, Arinda Halli, David Hill, Samantha Hune, Constance Kowat, Jamie Myers, Richard McIntosh, Lois Robinson, and Michele Taweh at 59 MOW for their help drawing blood and conducting ELISA tests; Tyler Ito, Hilary Kamm, Angel Osuna, and Francisco Sanchez at USAPHC-Central for conducting IFA and PCR tests.

Disclaimer

The voluntary, fully informed consent of subjects used in this research was obtained as required by 32 CFR 216 and DoD 3216.02-AF 40-402. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official views or policy of the Department of Defense and its components.



Adult females of the two most common *Triatominae* species collected on Joint Base San Antonio: *gertschei* (left) and *sanguinaria* (right) (courtesy of Dr. Edward Wozniak, TX DSHS-Zoonosis Control)



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

13 April 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR 59 MDW

ATTN: CAPT MARY T. PAWLAK

FROM: 502 ISG/JA

SUBJECT: Ethics Review for Presentation Approval Request (Pawlak)

1. Capt Pawlak submitted a request for a legal review of a poster titled "Prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* among U.S. Military Members Training in South Texas." The author plans to present this research as a poster at the following meetings: Diseases in Nature on 25-27 May 2016 in San Antonio, TX; Military Health System Research Symposium on 15-18 August 2016, in Kissimmee, FL; and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene on 13-17 November 2016 in Atlanta, GA. This legal review is limited to the ethics issues regarding the presentation. The abstract contains the required disclaimer discussed below. The disclaimer must also be included on the poster. The abstract must also be submitted for Public Affairs approval. There are no conflict of interest issues with presenting this research at these events.

2. FACTS: Capt Pawlak plans to present her poster titled "Prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* among U.S. Military Members Training in South Texas" at the above listed events.

3. LAWS AND REGULATIONS: DoD 5500.07-R, Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), section 3-305 lays out rules governing "Teaching, Speaking and Writing." If the presentation will "deal in significant part with any ongoing or announced policy, program or operation" of the Air Force, the presenter is required to include a disclaimer that states the "views presented are those of the speaker or author and do not necessarily represent the views of DoD or its Components."

4. ANALYSIS: The presentation does not "deal in significant part with any ongoing or announced policy, program or operation" of the Air Force, however, the abstract does address research done as part of the author's military medical practice. Additionally, the presenter's affiliation with the military will be included as part of the presentation. The author has included the required disclaimer that the views presented are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of DoD or its Components on the slide presentation. The disclaimer must be included on the poster. There are no apparent conflicts of interest that would prohibit the presentation.

5. CONCLUSIONS: The abstract presented for review included the disclaimer required by the JER. The disclaimer must be included on the poster.

6. If you have any questions, please call me at 210-671-5771.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vernisha N. Foster'.

VERNISHA N. FOSTER, Captain, USAF
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

I concur.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arlene R. Christilles'.

ARLENE R. CHRISTILLES
Chief, Civil Law