

**For Immediate Release**

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## MRN WORKS TO HELP AMERICA'S COMBAT VETS!

( **ALBUQUERQUE**)---The Pentagon reports mental health disorders resulted in more hospital stays for US troops last year than any other cause. Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) depression, substance abuse and anxiety are common after a nine year period of combat. ([www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/05/gns\\_mental](http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2010/05/gns_mental))

The Mind Research Network (MRN) works to attack these issues with studies on better ways to diagnose and treat individuals with PTSD as well as TBI. In addition, MRN's "Neuroscience for National Security" project explores neuroscience tools that can help our soldiers deal with combat stress and decision making . These issues were discussed in depth at the recent Domenici Neuroscience Symposium in Washington DC. (program attached)

Pilar Sanjuan, Ph.D., heads MRN research to better understand individuals who experience PTSD as well as substance abuse disorders. Dr. Sanjuan focuses on a group of recent combat veterans. Her work also focuses on possible genetic factors that might make a patient more susceptible to developing these brain problems.

There are approximately 1 million documented mild TBI cases every year in the United States. Two-thirds of our returning veterans suffer from brain injury or mental health problems, and TBI is the most common diagnosis. Traditional neurological tools have not been effective for treatment and recovery. MRN's Dr. Andrew Mayer uses advanced neuroimaging techniques that show great promise for finding ways to bring relief to patients suffering TBI.

The problems facing our veterans are challenging in that symptoms and conditions often overlap. MRN studies are aimed at finding more objective methods of diagnosis, treatment leading to recovery...and these discoveries should help clinicians treat all individuals, not just veterans, who suffer from these brain disorders and injuries.

### **ABOUT MRN**

The Mind Research Network was established in 1998 by then U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (Rep.- N.M.) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. MRN is dedicated to the discovery and advancement of clinical solutions for the prevention diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and other brain disorders. Learn more about the progress of the women and men of MRN at [www.mrn.org](http://www.mrn.org) and [www.mrnfoundation.org](http://www.mrnfoundation.org) .

