



**William S. Middleton Memorial  
Veterans Hospital  
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
Great Lakes Health Care System  
2500 Overlook Terrace  
Madison, WI 53705-2286**

Dear Gulf War Veteran,

We would like to tell you about the research being done at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in conjunction with The University of Wisconsin - Madison and invite you to participate. This research is aimed at understanding certain aspects of the illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf Veterans and helping to work towards treatments for these illnesses. This work is supported by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

**We will compensate you \$150 for your time, effort and travel and there will be no additional out of pocket expenses.**

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Generalized pain is one of the top three symptoms suffered by many veterans following service during the Gulf war. Therefore, this research is aimed at understanding the pain suffered by many veterans. To gain a better understanding of why some veterans become sick, we need to study both healthy gulf veterans and sick gulf veterans.

The study will require two nonconsecutive days, and approximately 2.5 hours per day. On the first day, you will be asked to fill out a few questionnaires, and you will be tested for pain sensitivity to different temperatures ranging from warm to hot. In addition, you will be introduced to and have a chance to practice a simple mental task.

On the second day, you will be asked to fill out questionnaires and you will again be tested for pain sensitivity while performing the mental task as you undergo brain imaging by a technique called functional magnetic resonance imaging or fMRI. This is the same as a regular MRI except that it allows the researcher to view how the brain works.

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. YOU CAN DECLINE AT ANY TIME SHOULD YOU DECIDE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT.**

If you are interested in participating **or** would like more information about the study, please call us at (608) 262-2457 and mention "veterans health study on pain". If there is no answer, please leave a message with your name and a phone number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

***Thank you for your help in our effort to understand Gulf veteran's Illnesses.***

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan J. Bridges".

Alan J. Bridges, M.D.  
Chief of Staff  
Madison VA Hospital