



# MCGUIRE VA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM





# VA AT PROGRAMS

- 2008- Legislation funded the establishment of 4 AT Labs
- 2009 - University of Pittsburgh Center of Assistive Technology
- 4 AT Programs
  - Minneapolis
  - Palo Alto
  - Richmond
  - Tampa



## AT MISSION:

- To enhance the ability of Veterans and Active Duty members with disabilities to fulfill life goals through the coordination and provision of appropriate interdisciplinary assistive technology services.
- To serve as an expert resource to support the application of assistive technology within the VA health care system.

# MCGUIRE VAMC AT CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE LABS

- PTRP and planned PM&R renovated space
  - Electronic cognitive aides, AAC, EADLS and computer access lab
    - PTRP - OPEN
    - PM&R late 2012???
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
  - Wheeled Mobility Lab
    - Done but not open - end of Spring 2012
- SCI Home Environmental Training Unit (HETU)
  - Smart Home Apartment
    - December 2011
- Community Living Center -
  - Wheeled mobility area
  - Wellness Center
  - Simulated Apartment training area
    - OPEN



# AT PROGRAM TEAM

## Interdisciplinary Team including...

- ❖ Assistive Technology Program Coordinator -
  - ❖ Melissa Oliver
- ❖ Rehabilitation Engineer -
  - ❖ Brian Burkhardt
- ❖ Rehabilitation Technician -
  - ❖ Ben Salatin
- ❖ AT Team Leaders
  - ❖ Physical Therapists
  - ❖ Occupational Therapists
  - ❖ Speech Therapists
  - ❖ Recreational Therapist
  - ❖ Kinesiotherapist, Driving Rehab Specialist





# MCGUIRE VA AT PROGRAM

## Services

- Evaluation
- Training
- Education
- Consultation

## Areas of AT

- Adaptive Computer Access
- Adaptive Driving
- Adaptive Sports
- Augmentative & Alternative Communication
- Electronic Aids to Daily Living
- Electronic Cognitive Devices
- Powered Mobility



# AT CLINICAL EVALUATION ...INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

- Veterans/AD Goals
- Veteran/AD Background
- Previous/Existing AT Devices
- Body Systems & Structures
- Activity
- Environment
- Trials/Simulation
- Outcome Measures
- Patient Education
- Impression/ Recommendations
- Plan



# FACTORS FOR SELECTION OF AT DEVICES

- ❖ Patient and Caregiver Goals
- ❖ Least invasive device available
- ❖ Physical, mental, and cognitive strengths and challenges
- ❖ Setting device will be used
- ❖ Veteran and/or Active Duty Member's current knowledge & usage of devices
- ❖ Pros versus Cons of the AT device
- ❖ PSAS' Clinical Practice Recommendations (CPRs)
- ❖ Training time and Follow through

# VETERANS' STORY



**How has your assistive  
technology device affected  
your quality of life?**

# AT STAFF EDUCATION

- In-services about the AT Program
- Specific AT device training
- Staff Meeting incorporating Case Study reviews
- AT Open House
- 7 week Lunch Education Series





# AT PROGRAM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◉ Rehab Engineering Team
- ◉ Implemented an Adaptive Sports Clinic
- ◉ Provide more effective evaluations for specific AT devices/needs
- ◉ Device specific in-services
- ◉ Education to hospital services
- ◉ Set-up AT TeleHealth Opportunity

# CONTACT INFORMATION:

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