

Investigator:	Suzanne Penna Phone: (404) 712-9187 Email: spenna@emory.edu
Primary Research Interest:	Psychology
Description of Research:	I am creating a database with cognitive and emotional assessment data of veterans who have had a neuropsychological evaluation through the TBI and MCI programs at the Atlanta VA. Additionally, I am Co-I on a longitudinal, multi-site study of multiple sclerosis. My role in that study is to assess cognitive functioning in patients with MS over time. I will soon assume the role of clinical educator for the new Cognitive Disorders COE.
Relevance to VA:	My research is in the cognitive and emotional functioning of veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). There are a myriad of difficulties associated with the diagnosis and treatment of mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). Despite high recovery rates and a tendency to fare well in sustained cognitive and functional outcomes as compared to moderate and severe TBI patients, patients with mTBI often report greater injury severity, poorer cognitive recovery, and rate their brain injury as affecting more areas of their life when compared to patients with moderate to severe TBIs. An additional focus of research is on cognition in aging populations, particularly understanding the early presentation of neurodegenerative disorders in order to develop targeted interventions for delaying onset.