TATRC’s mHIC Team Participates in Post-Traumatic Osteoarthritis (PTOA) Mobile Health Kick-Off Meeting

On June 8th, 2015, TATRC’s Mobile Health Innovation Center (mHIC) staff, Jeanette Little and Holly Pavliscak, participated in a kick-off meeting for a new project at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In attendance was Dr. Kenneth L. Cameron, Director of Orthopedic Research, Keller Army Community Hospital, West Point, NY and a team of subject matter experts from the Departments of Epidemiology and Orthopedics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC. This project, titled “Using a Telehealth Platform to Deliver Innovative Therapeutic Care for Military Service Members at High Risk for Post-Traumatic Osteoarthritis,” was funded by the TATRC managed AMEDD Advanced Medical Technology Initiative overseen by Mr. John Winston who serves as the Program Director.

The highly experienced team of experts from UNC included: Dr. Steve Marshall, Ms. Mary Alice Nocera, Dr. Kelly Allen, Dr. Yvonne Golightly, Dr. Amanda Nelson and Dr. Brian Pietrosimone.

The goal of this project is to facilitate ongoing follow-up care in military service members with a history of traumatic knee joint injury who are at risk for PTOA. This follow-up care will include clinical advice on modification of physical training activities, long term rehabilitation strategies and other key tools designed to delay or avoid the onset of PTOA, for cadets at West Point who experience knee injuries during their academic tour.

Using the mCare Application and the supporting Mobile Health Care Environment Research system developed by TATRC, the intent will be to create and evaluate a virtual knee joint health clinic that delivers innovative follow-up care to limit the progression to PTOA.

The proposed project has the potential to improve the access and quality of care among those at increased risk for PTOA, while also reducing the long-term costs of PTOA treatment and potentially, rates of disability discharge from PTOA. If successful, this project could efficiently implement an innovative model for the management of this chronic condition and alter the clinical trajectory of this progressive, degenerative joint disease in high risk military populations.

Jeanette Little, Laboratory Manager for mHIC said, “The TATRC mHIC team is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with others to address strategies on the long term joint health of active duty service-men and women through mobile health.”