

BIOGRAPHY

Marcia A. Valenstein, M.D., M.S.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry at U-M, and Research Scientist in the Department of Veterans Affairs Serious Mental Illness Treatment Research and Evaluation Center and VA Ann Arbor Health System Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence. Dr. Valenstein received her medical degree from the University of Illinois Medical School and her Masters in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis from the U-M School of Public Health. She has worked as a clinical psychiatrist in the VA for 20 years, has been principal investigator on multiple federally and foundation funded grants and has over 90 articles or book chapters either published or in press. Her funded projects have focused on the quality of care for patients with depression and schizophrenia, interventions to improve medication adherence, peer support for depression, suicide among veterans, and peer linkage to care for newly returning soldiers.

The Michigan BuddytoBuddy program, developed as part of collaborative effort between the Michigan Army National Guard, and faculty from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, is a peer outreach program for returning veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan. The goal of the BuddytoBuddy program is to increase connectedness within National Guard units, facilitate the timely identification of service members with reintegration or mental health issues, and connect those with need to care. This program is operated by the Michigan Army National Guard and may have the potential to reduce risk for suicide.