

## 2. SPECIFIC AIMS

We propose a randomized controlled trial to evaluate an integrated exposure-based treatment (Integrated Prolonged Exposure therapy; I-PE) for concurrent alcohol disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder (AD/PTSD). We will assess how well this evidence based treatment creates initial and sustained improvements in alcohol use and PTSD symptoms in 148 alcohol dependent adults with PTSD. I-PE integrates two evidence based treatments, Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD (PE<sup>1</sup>), and Integrated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for alcohol use disorders (ICBT<sup>2,3</sup>). I-PE will be compared to Seeking Safety (SS<sup>4</sup>), a widely used present focused psychotherapy for AD/PTSD that does not include exposure.

AD and PTSD frequently co-occur.<sup>5</sup> Individuals with AD/PTSD have worse AD treatment outcomes when they do not receive PTSD focused treatment.<sup>6-8</sup> Treating AD and PTSD in an integrated fashion is recommended.<sup>9,10</sup> Treatment guidelines for PTSD support exposure therapy as a first line treatment.<sup>11,12</sup> However, individuals with AD are generally not offered exposure therapy because of beliefs that exposure would lead to greater alcohol use and other dangerous behaviors (e.g.,<sup>13</sup>). Research has not supported such beliefs. In fact, a growing body of evidence, including data collected by this team of investigators, suggests that individuals with AD are able to tolerate and benefit from exposure therapy.<sup>14-17</sup> Coping skills therapies such as SS are the most widely disseminated treatments for AD/PTSD. However, in RCT's such treatments have neither shown sustained reductions in PTSD symptoms or alcohol use nor outperformed non-PTSD treatments (e.g.,<sup>8,18,19</sup>). The proposed trial would be the first to compare an integrated exposure-based psychotherapy to an integrated present-focused coping skills based psychotherapy for the treatment of AD/PTSD. In addition, mechanisms of change in both treatments, including sleep problems which are highly prevalent in both AD and PTSD, will be explored.

This project addresses a critical barrier in the field – the widely held belief that individuals with AD and PTSD cannot tolerate exposure therapy, although it is the best practice treatment for PTSD. If completed, this project will help change the practices that drive treatment for this highly prevalent and highly distressed Veteran population. The fundamental rationale for this study is to improve the evidence base that informs how patients with AD/PTSD can attain sustained recovery from these disorders.

The **primary aim** will be to evaluate the effects on alcohol use and PTSD symptoms of an exposure-based integrated AD and PTSD intervention when compared to a present-focused coping skills intervention in male and female Veterans with comorbid AD and PTSD. Hypotheses for the primary aim are:

- At post-treatment, both groups will show reductions in alcohol use, but I-PE will demonstrate greater reduction in PTSD symptoms than SS.
- At 5- and 8-month follow-up, I-PE will have significantly fewer percent drinking days than SS.
- At 5- and 8-month follow-up, I-PE will continue to have lower PTSD symptom scores.

The **secondary aims** will be to assess:

- The impact of the interventions on depression symptoms and quality of life at post-treatment and 5- and 8-month follow-up.
- Participant satisfaction with the interventions.

The **exploratory aim** of this study is to evaluate therapy process variables, affect-related, and sleep-related mechanisms of treatment outcomes for AD/PTSD patients. Specific hypotheses are:

- Reductions in negative post-traumatic cognitions will be a mediator of change in I-PE.
- Greater use of positive coping skills will be a mediator of change in SS.
- Therapy process variables (e.g., attendance) will be related to treatment outcome in both conditions.
- Changes in negative affect will be related to treatment outcomes for both conditions.
- Worse sleep latency and efficiency will be associated with worse PTSD outcomes in the PE condition.
- Worse sleep latency and efficiency, as well as increased %REM sleep, will be associated with greater risk of relapse in both conditions.

### 3. SIGNIFICANCE

#### 3.A. Veterans Are at High Risk for AD and PTSD

Rates of alcohol use disorders (AD) are high among combat Veterans. Current AD is estimated at 16% in recently deployed Veterans seeking VA care.<sup>20</sup> AD is approximately four times as common among combat Veterans than in the general population (3.8% in the general population<sup>5</sup>). Moreover, prevalence of AD has increased more than two fold among Veterans seeking VA services since the start of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>21</sup>

Rates of PTSD are also high among combat Veterans. A recent reanalysis of the National Vietnam Veterans Research Study (NVVRS) data, using military records and data from clinical examinations found that 19% met lifetime criteria for the disorder and 9% currently met criteria for PTSD.<sup>22</sup> These rates suggest that PTSD is at least twice as common in combat Veterans as in the general population (3.5-7.8% general population).<sup>5</sup> Estimates of PTSD among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans suggest that nearly 17% of active duty and over 24% of reserve service members screen positive for PTSD approximately 6 months after their return.<sup>23</sup>

**3.B. Co-Occurrence of AD and PTSD Associated with Poor Treatment Course.** Comorbidity of AD and PTSD is high both in the general population and among Veterans exposed to combat.<sup>5,24</sup> Prevalence of AD among those with PTSD has been shown to be up to 28% for women and 52% for men.<sup>5,25</sup> Rates of PTSD among patients with AD are 30-59% (e.g.,<sup>26</sup>). In a national sample of OEF/OIF Veterans using VA care, 62% of those with AD had a diagnosis of PTSD. Alcohol or substance use disorder was associated with a four-fold increase in likelihood of having a PTSD diagnosis.<sup>27</sup>

Individuals with AD/PTSD typically fare worse than those with either disorder alone.<sup>28</sup> Specifically, those with AD/PTSD have worse treatment outcomes and more psychiatric, medical, legal, and social problems than those with either disorder alone.<sup>29,30</sup> In addition, both VA and community clinicians report significant challenges in treating these individuals.<sup>31</sup> AD patients who receive PTSD treatment are less likely to relapse<sup>10</sup> and more likely to reduce alcohol use<sup>32</sup> than patients who do not receive PTSD treatment.

**3.C. Why do Individuals Who Have Experienced Trauma Drink?** Multiple pathways have been proposed for AD/PTSD. Avoidance of unpleasant PTSD-related affective states may take the form of alcohol use.<sup>33,34</sup> Alcohol use may begin during prolonged traumatic exposures (e.g., combat if alcohol is available, domestic violence) where individuals may drink to cope with ongoing trauma.<sup>35</sup> If AD precedes PTSD, individuals using alcohol may be more likely to find themselves in dangerous situations.<sup>35</sup> Alcohol use may interfere with natural recovery after trauma increasing the likelihood of PTSD development.<sup>36</sup> In addition, AD and PTSD share genetic and environmental vulnerabilities.<sup>37</sup> Regardless of the order of onset, the relationship between AD and PTSD can form a vicious cycle in which PTSD symptoms elicit drinking and drinking perpetuates and intensifies PTSD (e.g.,<sup>38</sup>). Unprocessed distressing trauma-related emotions and efforts to avoid such distress (e.g., avoiding trauma memories and reminders) can underlie both PTSD<sup>1</sup> and alcohol use in the context of PTSD.<sup>34</sup> In other words, unprocessed emotion drives PTSD symptoms (e.g., avoidance, intrusive memories) and drinking can be a method to facilitate avoidance and to cope with painful unprocessed emotions. Based on this model, two divergent treatment modalities for AD/PTSD have been proposed: exposure therapy to process trauma-related emotion, and coping skills therapy to learn alternative ways to cope with distressing emotion.

**3.C.1. Exposure Therapy to Process Trauma-Related Emotion.** Exposure therapy, in particular Prolonged Exposure (PE<sup>1</sup>; 3.C.), posits that emotional processing is necessary for recovery from PTSD and associated AD. In this model, exposure works through habituation/extinction and cognitive emotional processing changes occurring in tandem. When applying emotional processing theory to PTSD, Foa and Riggs<sup>36</sup> proposed two dysfunctional cognitions that are related to the development and maintenance of PTSD: 1) The world is completely dangerous, and 2) I am incompetent (e.g., my symptoms mean I am crazy). Through the process of repeated prolonged confrontation to trauma related stimuli, habituation of emotional responses associated with the trauma occurs. As trauma-related stimuli are repeatedly confronted without the occurrence of feared consequences (e.g., going crazy) and with lessening emotional activation, the patient experiences repeated evidence that disconfirms dysfunctional cognitions. A stronger sense of self-competence and control over negative affect and stimuli emerges which may allow patients to reduce trauma-related avoidance, leading to even more spontaneous exposure and continued reduction of PTSD symptoms. Treatment associated

111 reductions in negative thoughts about the self and the world have been associated with symptom  
112 improvement.<sup>39</sup> Early data from an RCT of PE with AD/PTSD show that PE was associated with both PTSD  
113 symptom reduction and reduction in alcohol cravings,<sup>16</sup> supporting emotional processing through PE as a  
114 method by which to treat AD/PTSD.

115 **3.C.2. Learning Alternative Ways to Cope with Distressing Emotion.** This modality posits that in order to  
116 alleviate PTSD symptoms and alcohol use, individuals must learn alternative “healthy” coping skills in place of  
117 avoidance and drinking. Positive coping skills including cognitive restructuring, behavioral skills (e.g., self-care,  
118 choosing safe alternatives to drinking), and interpersonal skills (e.g., getting others to support recovery, asking  
119 for help) are seen as the process by which PTSD symptoms and drinking are reduced. In support of this  
120 theory, several studies have found that coping motives for drinking were associated with problem drinking in  
121 individuals with PTSD.<sup>40</sup> Among coping skills therapies, Seeking Safety (SS<sup>4</sup>) for treatment of AD/PTSD has  
122 received the most attention. **The proposed study is designed to evaluate both emotional processing  
123 through PE and improved coping through SS as mechanisms of change for alcohol use and PTSD  
124 symptoms, with the hypothesis that emotional processing will be more effective in helping individuals  
125 make sustained improvements in PTSD symptoms and alcohol use.**

### 126 **3.D. PE is the Best Practice Treatment for PTSD, Yet AD/PTSD Treatment Rarely Includes Exposure.**

127 Treatment guidelines for PTSD, including those put forth by the Institute of Medicine<sup>12</sup>, support exposure  
128 therapy as a first line treatment.<sup>12,41</sup> Prolonged exposure therapy (PE<sup>39</sup>) includes psychoeducation, breathing  
129 retraining, repeated imaginal exposure to the trauma memory, and gradual in vivo exposure to trauma  
130 reminders. It is delivered in 9 to 12 90-minute sessions administered once or twice weekly. The efficacy of PE  
131 has been examined in seven studies and a variety of traumatized populations (e.g.,<sup>11,42</sup>) including Veterans  
132 (e.g.,<sup>43</sup>). **In six of the studies, the PE manual was adapted for the study, as will be the case in the  
133 proposed study.**

135 Although exposure therapy has been identified as the frontline PTSD treatment, integrated treatments for  
136 AD/PTSD rarely include exposure. AD/PTSD patients traditionally receive sequential treatment, first for  
137 addiction and then for PTSD.<sup>13,16</sup> This was based in part on the idea that individuals with AD could not tolerate  
138 trauma focused treatment and that such treatment would lead to an exacerbation of alcohol use or other  
139 unsafe coping. However, no research support for such clinical beliefs exist.<sup>44</sup> In fact, a recent temporal study of  
140 patients with AD/PTSD found that improvements in PTSD had a greater association with improvements in  
141 alcohol use than vice versa.<sup>44</sup> Consensus is mounting in favor of treatments that address both disorders in an  
142 integrated manner (e.g.,<sup>45</sup>). Most now advocate integrated or concurrent interventions (e.g.,<sup>45</sup>). In addition, both  
143 clinicians and patients have reported a preference for integrated treatment.<sup>31,46</sup> Existing studies of integrated  
144 SUD/PTSD treatments will be reviewed briefly here.

146 **3.D.1. Pharmacological Treatment for Comorbid PTSD and Alcohol Use Disorders.** In a study of 96  
147 patients randomized to Sertraline or placebo, there were no differences in drinking outcomes between the two  
148 groups at post-treatment or follow-up. There was a trend toward decrease in PTSD symptoms in the Sertraline  
149 group.<sup>47</sup> Several other preliminary studies have been conducted as well; however, as of yet little can be  
150 concluded about effective pharmacotherapy for concurrent AD and PTSD.<sup>48</sup>

151 **3.D.2. Non-exposure based integrated treatment for alcohol/substance use and PTSD.** The psychosocial  
152 intervention for alcohol/substance use and PTSD that has been most widely disseminated is Seeking Safety  
153 (SS<sup>4</sup>). This 24 session treatment focuses primarily on three topics: improving safety, reducing PTSD, and  
154 abstinence. A theoretical basis of the therapy is that if participants are able to learn skills to maintain their  
155 safety, they will be better able to address their PTSD and substance use and better able to manage the  
156 triggers of each disorder. The therapy is integrated in that it focuses on the way the two disorders interact and  
157 maintain each other. The intervention is skills based and does not include exposure. For AD, the therapy draws  
158 most directly on cognitive behavioral coping skills therapy, relapse prevention and motivational enhancement.  
159 For PTSD, the therapy is based on cognitive behavioral principles.

160  
161 Hien and colleagues<sup>18,19</sup> have conducted two RCT's of SS, one with 107 low-income urban women comparing  
162 SS, relapse prevention, or treatment as usual and the second comparing SS to health education in 353  
163 women. Neither study showed much difference between SS and the comparison intervention in PTSD or SUD

164 symptoms and differences found were not sustained at follow-up. **Lack of SS effectiveness across the two**  
165 **completed RCT's is concerning given that SS is widely disseminated in VA and community settings.**

166 **3.D.3. Evidence is Building that Integrated Exposure Treatments Help both AD and PTSD.** There is one  
167 completed exposure-based psychotherapy RCT focusing specifically on AD and PTSD. Patients received PE  
168 for PTSD and a combination of naltrexone and psychosocial treatment for AD. The treatment was concurrent in  
169 that the patient met with a psychologist for PE and a nurse for pharmacotherapy and AD treatment. Exposure  
170 therapy was initiated by the second session as is standard PE protocol. Patients were asked to be abstinent  
171 through the course of treatment but were not terminated if relapse occurred. Preliminary results for the PE  
172 group were extremely promising, indicating overall significant reductions in alcohol intake, cravings, and PTSD  
173 severity using intent to treat (ITT) analyses. Importantly, patients who were treated with PE immediately after  
174 agreeing to abstain from alcohol benefited from the treatment and, contrary to clinical lore, did not show any  
175 exacerbation of alcohol use or cravings. In fact, patients who completed PE not only reported greater  
176 reductions in PTSD symptoms, but also greater reductions in alcohol cravings than other groups. **The**  
177 **proposed study will extend this research to comparing the efficacy of PE to a coping skills therapy**  
178 **(SS).**

179  
180 Brady and colleagues<sup>14,15</sup> used PE to treat 39 individuals with PTSD and cocaine addiction. Their 16-session  
181 twice weekly therapy combined prolonged exposure with coping skills training. Relapse was not a cause for  
182 study discontinuation. Among study completers, cocaine use was reduced by 60% and scores on the Addiction  
183 Severity Index reduced by more than 50%. Clinician ratings of PTSD showed impressive reductions of 66%,  
184 70%, and 47% on intrusion, avoidance, and arousal symptoms respectively.<sup>14</sup> Improvements were maintained  
185 through 6-month follow-up. It is important to note that most patients who dropped out did so prior to the  
186 initiation of treatment or exposure, suggesting that exposure was not the cause of drop-out.

### 187 **3.E. Significance Summary for Primary and Secondary Aims: Relevance to the VA.**

188 The findings from these studies coupled with our preliminary data (4.C.) provide evidence that exposure  
189 therapy is tolerated by individuals with AD/PTSD and can be used safely and effectively. The clinical notion  
190 that exposure would be deleterious to AD/PTSD patients has not been supported. In fact, not only did  
191 exposure not worsen patients' symptoms but significant improvements were seen in PTSD and  
192 alcohol/substance use.<sup>16,44</sup> Conversely, individuals with PTSD who complete coping skills therapies did not do  
193 better than those who receive no PTSD treatment and did not maintain their gains in alcohol use or PTSD at  
194 follow-up.<sup>18,45,49</sup> The simplicity of the PE protocol including just three therapeutic components  
195 (psychoeducation, in vivo and imaginal exposure) makes it amenable to dissemination and modification for AD  
196 treatment settings. Thus, if we can demonstrate that PE is better than coping skills for AD/PTSD treatment, it is  
197 more likely to be disseminated than other more complex therapies. **An essential next step is to test the best**  
198 **practice PTSD treatment, PE, against the best disseminated treatment, SS, to demonstrate that**  
199 **exposure therapy is more effective in treating AD/PTSD. The proposed study is designed to**  
200 **accomplish exactly this. The significance of this study will be to improve the evidence base that**  
201 **informs how Veterans and all patients with AD/PTSD can be treated effectively and which treatments**  
202 **should be considered for dissemination.**

### 203 **3.F. Exploring Mechanisms of Change in integrated AD/PTSD Treatment**

204 **3.F.1.** Understanding mechanisms of change in integrated AD/PTSD treatment will allow for the further  
205 refinement of treatment and will provide information to drive future research. This RCT will give us the  
206 opportunity to examine the mechanisms proposed for both PE and SS as well as additional mechanisms that  
207 may help or hinder treatment for this complex and challenging comorbidity. For PE, as trauma-related stimuli  
208 are repeatedly confronted without the occurrence of feared consequences and with lessening emotional  
209 activation, the patient experiences repeated evidence that disconfirms dysfunctional cognitions, and these  
210 dysfunctional cognitions are proposed to be replaced with more functional beliefs about the world and the self.  
211 In SS, individuals are expected to learn positive coping skills that they then use in place of alcohol or PTSD  
212 related behaviors (e.g., isolating, avoiding). In addition, certain factors such as therapy process variables (e.g.,  
213 attendance, homework/commitment completion) and changes in negative affect have been shown to mediate  
214 psychotherapy treatment outcomes across psychiatric disorders (e.g.,<sup>50</sup>). **Thus, we hypothesize that**  
215 **changes in dysfunctional cognitions will mediate outcomes in the I-PE condition, that increased**

216 **positive coping will mediate changes in the SS condition, and that therapy process variables and**  
217 **changes in negative affect will predict treatment outcomes for both conditions.**

218 **3.F.2. An important predictor of treatment outcomes for both AD and PTSD is sleep disturbance;**  
219 **however, sleep disturbance has received little attention in AD/PTSD treatment outcomes research.**

220 Sleep disturbance is a problem common to both AD and PTSD. Insomnia occurs in 36-72% of alcoholic  
221 patients.<sup>51</sup> Self-medication of sleep problems with alcohol is a leading hypothesis regarding why AD and sleep  
222 problems frequently co-occur. In addition, alcohol use, withdrawal, and chronic dependence are all associated  
223 with further sleep disruption.<sup>52</sup> Numerous studies examining biological predictors of relapse and/or treatment  
224 outcomes, including work from our research group (e.g.,<sup>53</sup>), have documented both subjective and objective  
225 sleep disturbance as a risk factor for relapse among individuals with AD and other substance dependence  
226 (e.g., for a review see<sup>51,54</sup>). Correlates of subsequent relapse among AD patients include prolonged sleep  
227 latency, decreased sleep efficiency and total sleep time, increased rapid eye movement sleep, and decreased  
228 slow wave sleep.<sup>51</sup> Anxiety and depressive symptoms place AD patients further at risk for sleep disturbance,<sup>51</sup>  
229 suggesting individuals with AD and PTSD are especially at risk for sleep problems and therefore likelihood of  
230 relapse. Sleep disturbance also increases the likelihood of mood changes, thus potentially worsening PTSD  
231 symptoms and placing AD patients further still at risk for relapse (e.g.,<sup>51</sup>).

232  
233 There is a bidirectional relationship between sleep and PTSD. Among individuals with PTSD, 66-100% report  
234 significant sleep difficulties that correlate positively with PTSD symptom severity.<sup>55,56</sup> Among returning  
235 Veterans with PTSD seeking VA treatment, PTSD, depression, and AD all increased the risk of sleep  
236 disruption. In the other direction, recent studies suggest sleep may be mechanistically linked to the  
237 development and maintenance of PTSD (e.g.,<sup>57</sup>). Sleep disturbances within a month of trauma exposure  
238 predict development of and/or symptom severity in PTSD 6-12 months later.<sup>58</sup> Sleep may interact with  
239 treatment differently than other PTSD symptoms, as well. For example, sleep related symptoms of PTSD (e.g.,  
240 nightmares, insomnia) are less likely to respond to evidence based PTSD treatment such as PE than are “day  
241 time” symptoms of the disorder (e.g., our preliminary data, 4.D.). Moreover, the fact that sleep deprivation  
242 (which can result from chronic insomnia and nightmares) impairs consolidation of extinction memory implies  
243 the sleep symptoms of PTSD could potentially interfere with both natural extinction (thus maintaining PTSD)  
244 and treatment-induced extinction (thus reducing the effects of PE) of PTSD-related fear.<sup>59</sup>

245  
246 Although few studies to date have examined AD/PTSD comorbidity in relation to sleep, literature on sleep  
247 problems in regard to each disorder would suggest that individuals with AD/PTSD would be highly likely to  
248 have sleep disturbance and that they would be at high risk of relapse because of the sleep disruption and  
249 mood symptoms associated with both disorders. **We will collect validated sleep measures pre- and post-**  
250 **treatment in this RCT to explore the function of sleep disruption as a mediator of treatment outcome**  
251 **for AD/PTSD treatment.**

252  
253 **3.G. Significance Summary for Exploratory Aims: Relevance to the VA.**

254 Understanding mechanisms of AD/PTSD treatment will allow for the refinement and development of effective  
255 treatments for this challenging and complex population. As of yet, sleep as a predictor of treatment outcome  
256 has received little attention for AD/PTSD patients, yet given its high prevalence in these disorders among  
257 Veterans and given its negative relationship to treatment outcomes, exploring the role of sleep problems is  
258 timely and important.

259 **4. PRELIMINARY STUDIES**

260  
261 The diversity of clinical and research experiences of our team of investigators is reflected in several preliminary  
262 studies. The first set of studies (4.A.) reflects our experience with integrated cognitive behavioral therapy for  
263 AD and Axis I disorders (depression and PTSD). The second set of studies (4.B.) reflects our research on  
264 treatment issues related to integrated AD/PTSD. Section 4.C. reviews our work with exposure based therapy  
265 both with concurrent AD/PTSD. The final section (4.D.) reviews our work documenting the importance of  
266 understanding the role of sleep problems in Veterans with PTSD.

268 **4.A. Integrated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Alcohol/Substance Use Disorder (A/SUD) and**  
269 **Depression.**  
270

271 The results reported in the first studies below are findings from an integrated intervention study for co-occurring  
272 A/SUD and depressive disorders that has been conducted over an 11 year period (initial funding and renewal;  
273 PI: Sandra Brown; Co-I's Sonya Norman [on latest renewal] and Susan Tate; current PI: Susan Tate). Dr.  
274 Norman has led the work examining the impact of PTSD on ICBT treatment outcomes. Inclusion criteria were:  
275 (1) presence of a current DSM-IV diagnosis of alcohol, cannabis, and/or stimulant dependence, (2) DSM-IV  
276 depression diagnosis (major depressive disorder, dysthymia) with at least one episode independent of  
277 alcohol/substance use, and (3) recent alcohol and/or substance use and elevated depressive symptoms.

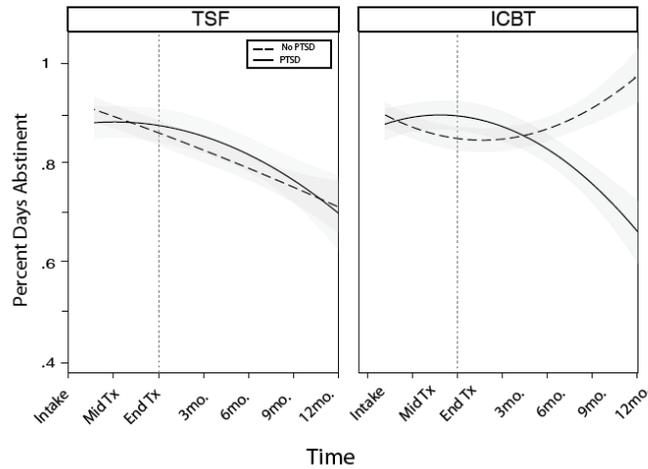
278 **Although alcohol use disorder was not a requirement of the study, 85% of participants met criteria for**  
279 **an AUD.** The study was a randomized two-treatment group design. Integrated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy  
280 (ICBT) was developed for this study by integrating two well-validated cognitive therapies for addiction<sup>60</sup> and  
281 depression.<sup>61</sup> Both study interventions (ICBT and Twelve-Step Facilitation; TSF) were accompanied by  
282 monthly pharmacotherapy for depression and had two consecutive 12-week phases of treatment. Phase I  
283 involved twice weekly one-hour group sessions and the Phase II consisted of once weekly one-hour group  
284 sessions. Research assessments regarding alcohol and substance use and depression symptoms were  
285 conducted at intake, end of Phase I (12 weeks), end of Phase II (24 weeks), and quarterly thereafter until 18  
286 months following treatment entry.  
287

288 **4.A.1. Integrated treatment for depression and substance use disorders: Outcomes of a randomized**  
289 **clinical trial (Lydecker et al., 2010).**<sup>3</sup> These analyses compared longitudinal primary treatment outcomes  
290 (depression symptoms: Hamilton Depression Rating Scale: HDRS; substance use: percentage days abstinent:  
291 PDA) for 204 participants. All participants who completed the intake assessment and attended at least one  
292 session of the intervention were included in analyses. Primary outcome trajectories were created using linear  
293 mixed effects models. Predictor variables included treatment (ICBT versus TSF), time, number of sessions  
294 attended, early levels of depression and substance use, and interaction terms. Participants in both treatment  
295 conditions showed decreases in depression and substance use from intake. ICBT participants maintained  
296 improvements in substance involvement over time whereas TSF participant substance use increased more  
297 rapidly following treatment as evidenced by a significant interaction between time and treatment ( $p = .004$ ). A  
298 marginally significant second order time by treatment interaction ( $p = .057$ ) suggests that HDRS trajectories  
299 curved differently for the two treatment groups, with TSF showing more pronounced dips in the six months  
300 posttreatment although end points were similar. Although both treatments were associated with improvements  
301 in alcohol/substance use and depression, **ICBT led to more stable alcohol/substance use reductions**  
302 **compared to TSF, providing support for the efficacy of our newly developed ICBT manualized**  
303 **intervention. ICBT will be used in the current proposal integrated with PE for treatment of concurrent**  
304 **AUD and PTSD.**  
305

306 **4.A.2. Impact of PTSD on Treatment Outcomes for depression and alcohol/substance use disorders**  
307 **(Norman, Tate, et al., 2010).**<sup>62</sup> The goal of this study was to explore the impact of PTSD on the treatment  
308 outcomes described above ( $N = 178$ ). We included individuals with current PTSD ( $n = 68$ ; 38%) at intake, and  
309 excluded individuals who met lifetime, but not current, criteria for PTSD ( $n = 11$ ). Using linear mixed effects  
310 models, we created trajectories for primary outcomes (PDA and HDRS) for 18 months following intake.  
311 Predictors in the model were time, treatment type, PTSD diagnosis, and covariates for early treatment  
312 response PDA (first 90 days of intervention) and intake depression. PTSD was included with time and type of  
313 treatment in two and three-way interactions. Results indicated that PDA was similar across conditions during  
314 treatment. By contrast, in the year following end of treatment, a mixed effects model showed that a three way  
315 interaction of PTSD by time by treatment was significant (coefficient =  $-.064$ ,  $p = .016$ ). Participants in ICBT  
316 without PTSD had better PDA ( $M = 91\%$  days abstinent) than those without PTSD in the TSF group ( $M = 76\%$ )  
317 and those with PTSD in either group (ICBT  $M = 77\%$ ; TSF  $M = 75\%$ ). Participants with PTSD had higher  
318 depression levels across time points than those without PTSD, but benefited similarly to those without PTSD  
319 from both interventions (significant main effect,  $p < .004$ ). Reductions in average HDRS were seen at 18  
320 months in both those with PTSD (TSF = 29% decrease; ICBT = 23% decrease) and without PTSD (TSF = 17%  
321 decrease, ICBT = 21% decrease). In summary, despite reductions in alcohol/substance use during treatment,  
322 **poorer posttreatment abstinence trajectories were observed for individuals with PTSD compared to**  
323 **individuals in ICBT without PTSD.** Depressed, alcohol/substance dependent participants with PTSD had

324 higher levels of depression across time, but evidenced similar reductions in depression symptoms to  
 325 participants without PTSD. **These findings highlight the need for research focused on preventing**  
 326 **deterioration of treatment gains for those with comorbid A/SUD and PTSD and suggest that present-**  
 327 **focused coping skills therapy alone is not enough for those with PTSD to sustain alcohol**  
 328 **improvements.**

329 **Figure 1.** Substance treatment outcomes (PDA) for Veterans with PTSD (solid line) and without PTSD (dotted  
 330 line).  
 331



332 **4.A.3. Preliminary Findings on Individuals with PTSD Receiving ICBT: Treatment Utilization and PTSD**  
 333 **symptoms.** We examined predictors of ancillary healthcare services utilization in the year following end of  
 334 treatment in our integrated intervention study, including inpatient services and outpatient mental health  
 335 services (N = 236). There was a time by treatment group interaction trend for inpatient services: ICBT  
 336 participants had decreases over the treatment and follow-up period while TSF had fewer days at the initial 6-  
 337 months after treatment and follow-up period while TSF had fewer days at the initial 6-  
 338 months after treatment but more days in the following 6-months (6–12 months following end of treatment;  
 339  $F(2,231) = 2.93, p = .055$ ). These findings again support the longer term benefits of ICBT. Also relevant to the  
 340 current proposal, lifetime PTSD diagnosis was the most significant predictor of alcohol and drug treatment  
 341 outpatient visits during the year after treatment: participants with A/SUD, depression, and PTSD attended  
 342 fewer alcohol and drug treatment sessions in the year after study treatment ended relative to participants with  
 343 A/SUD and depression but without PTSD. PTSD diagnosis was also the strongest predictor of attending PTSD  
 344 outpatient sessions during the posttreatment year. Thus, **some individuals with PTSD are likely to access**  
 345 **treatment for PTSD, but are less likely to access treatment for alcohol related problems. Without**  
 346 **accessing this continued care when needed, individuals with PTSD may be at greater risk of relapse,**  
 347 **again supporting the need for the availability of integrated treatment where alcohol related problems**  
 348 **and PTSD are both addressed.**

349 **4.A.4. ICBT Reduces PTSD Symptoms.** The ICBT intervention study was designed to evaluate depression  
 350 and alcohol/substance use outcomes, and was not designed to evaluate changes in PTSD symptoms over  
 351 time. Thus, we do not have data on PTSD symptoms at each quarter. We report pilot data supporting a  
 352 reduction in PTSD symptoms among a subset of participants receiving ICBT based on the Composite  
 353 International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) diagnostic assessment completed at intake, 12-, and 18-months.  
 354 Nineteen individuals met DSM-IV criterion A for PTSD at intake (exposed to a traumatic event, and response  
 355 involved intense fear, helplessness, or horror) and continued to endorse criterion A at the 12- and 18- month  
 356 assessments. We examined whether these participants continued to endorse other PTSD criteria at later  
 357 assessments. Of these 19, 13 met diagnostic criteria for PTSD at intake, which reduced over time as shown in  
 358 the Table.  
 359

360 **Table 1.**

# Positive at:	Intake	12 months	18 months
A (trauma & response)	19	19	19

364	PTSD diagnosis	13 (68%)	8 (42%)	7 (37%)
365	B (re-experiencing)	18 (95%)	16 (84%)	14 (74%)
366	C (avoidance, numbing)	14 (74%)	12 (63%)	9 (47%)
367	D (arousal)	17 (90%)	13 (68%)	12 (63%)

368

369 Reductions in all three PTSD symptom clusters were observed in ICBT participants at the 12 month  
370 assessment and were maintained with additional slight reductions at 18 months. As noted previously, we also  
371 assessed healthcare services utilization in our study and thus were able to examine whether the participants  
372 with reductions in PTSD symptoms between intake and 12 months received PTSD treatment at the VA  
373 following completion of ICBT. Of the 19 participants meeting PTSD criterion A, only 4 participants attended  
374 more than a single outpatient visit for PTSD treatment following ICBT, receiving an average of 20 sessions. Of  
375 these 4 participants, 1 no longer met criteria for PTSD at the 12 month assessment and 2 no longer met  
376 criteria at the 18 month assessment. Both of these individuals continued to endorse symptoms meeting criteria  
377 for clusters B, C, and D above, but no longer endorsed criterion F: “The disturbance causes clinically  
378 significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.” Of note, 4  
379 participants no longer met criteria for PTSD after the ICBT intervention without receiving PTSD treatment at the  
380 VA. This very preliminary finding suggests some benefit of the ICBT intervention in reducing severity of PTSD  
381 symptoms. It is important to note that dropout rates did not differ between PTSD participants and other  
382 participants, suggesting the intervention is acceptable to individuals with PTSD.

383

384 **Based on our results indicating that ICBT is acceptable and helpful to individuals with PTSD, and given**  
385 **ICBT’s focus on relapse prevention skills particularly in the context of experiencing negative affect, we**  
386 **have included ICBT as the AD treatment component of our integrated AD/PTSD psychotherapy.**

387

388 **4.B. Need for Integrated Care for AD/PTSD.** We have also conducted several studies that support the need  
389 for evidence based integrated care for AD/PTSD.

390

391 **4.B.1. Relapse Contexts Among Alcohol/Substance Dependent Veterans With and Without Trauma**  
392 **Histories.**<sup>63</sup> Exposure to traumatic events is common among individuals with alcohol and substance use  
393 disorders (A/SUD), although not all go on to develop PTSD. We compared A/SUD treatment outcomes and  
394 relapse features in 3 groups of male Veterans receiving A/SUD treatment: 1) those without trauma exposure  
395 (A/SUD-only; n = 68), 2) those with PTSD (SUD-PTSD; n = 32), and 3) those with trauma exposure but no  
396 PTSD (A/SUD-trauma; n = 34). Participants were assessed regarding psychiatric symptoms, alcohol and  
397 substance use, and relapse features quarterly for 1 year. The groups did not differ on length of abstinence,  
398 relapse prevalence or severity. A/SUD-trauma participants reported more depression, anxiety, PTSD, and total  
399 psychiatric symptoms prior to relapse than A/SUD only. A/SUD-trauma participants also endorsed more PTSD  
400 and total symptoms following relapse than A/SUD-only. **PTSD symptoms were associated with greater risk**  
401 **of relapse in intrapersonal and negative physiological contexts, suggesting there may be expectancies**  
402 **that alcohol would be helpful in coping with such situations among individuals with PTSD.**

403 Understanding relapse contexts for those experiencing PTSD symptoms can help us to understand one  
404 mechanism whereby those with both A/SUD and PTSD have a poorer clinical course. Additionally, this study  
405 highlights the risks associated with trauma exposure, even for those not meeting diagnostic criteria for PTSD.

406

407 **4.B.2. Measuring PTSD-Specific Alcohol Expectancies (P-AEQ).**<sup>34</sup> The P-AEQ differentiated alcohol  
408 dependent from non-alcohol dependent populations in a male Veteran sample consisting of Veterans who  
409 were alcohol dependent without PTSD, alcohol dependent with PTSD, diagnosed with PTSD without current  
410 alcohol dependence, and medical patients with no psychiatric diagnosis. **This newly developed assessment**  
411 **provides support for one mechanism connecting PTSD and alcohol use: expectations of symptom**  
412 **relief. Thus, interventions targeting PTSD-specific alcohol expectancies are included in I-PE.** We  
413 conducted a pilot study of Seeking Safety with combat Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>49</sup> Most  
414 participants in this present-focused treatment continued to score above the clinical cut-off on a PTSD symptom  
415 measure at the end of treatment.

416

417 **4.B.3. Seeking Safety with Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan (Norman, Wilkins, Lang,**  
418 **Tapert, & Najavits, 2010).**<sup>49</sup> This pilot study with fourteen male OEF/OIF Veterans (9 treatment completers)  
419 suggests that SS may help to reduce alcohol use, PTSD, and depression in some participants at clinically  
420 significant levels, even when providing only ten sessions. However, most participants in this present-focused

treatment that did not include an exposure component continued to score above the clinical cut-off of 50 on the PTSD symptom measure (the PCL-M).<sup>64</sup>

**Table 2. Study Completers Pre- and Post-Treatment Data**

Participant	PCL-M Total			Drinking Frequency			#Drinks/Episode		
	Pre	Mid	Post	Pre	Mid	Post	Pre	Mid	Post
1	42	43	48	4+/week	2-3/week	2-3/week	7-9	5-6	5-6
2 <sup>a</sup>	62	40	23	≤Monthly	≤Monthly	≤Monthly	5-6	5-6	5-6
3	73	64	72	4+/week	4+/week	4+/week	10+	10+	10+
4	77	61	67	2-4/month	Never	Never	1-2	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>
5	44	30	30	2-4/month	Never	≤Monthly	1-2	<sup>b</sup>	1-2
6 <sup>a</sup>	46	42	41	≤Monthly	≤Monthly	≤Monthly	1-2	1-2	1-2
7	72	71	66	2-3/week	2-3/week	Never	1-2	5-6	<sup>b</sup>
8	60	40	56	4+/week	2-3/week	2-4/month	3-4	7-9	3-4
9	59	56	47	4+/week	Never	4+/week	10+	<sup>b</sup>	7-9
Mean	59.4	49.7	50	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note: Dashes where means were not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>=Marijuana use disorder. <sup>b</sup>=Past month sobriety endorsed.

#### 4.C. Trauma-focused treatment is Acceptable to Individuals with AD/PTSD.

**4.C.1.** Exposure to traumatic memories was found acceptable to a pilot group of 18 women with AD/PTSD. The clinical trial (final data analyses in progress) for the PI's K-award compares SS, integrated with one session of exposure to a traumatic memory, to supportive counseling. 15 of the women either dropped or maintained their amount of drinks per day. Percent days abstinent improved from 72% to 90%. Among those who completed, CAPS scores dropped an average of 18 points (a drop of 5 or more points is a clinically significant drop in PTSD symptoms). **Ratings for the exposure session were the highest (best) score on each satisfaction item** (how much did you learn from this session, how helpful was this information, how likely are you to use this information, and how satisfied are you with this session).

**4.C.2. Veterans with AD/PTSD are willing to engage in evidence based PTSD treatment.** In our current ICBT study (Tate, PI; Norman, Co-investigator), Veterans with AD, depression, and PTSD who completes 16 weeks of group ICBT treatment are randomized to CBT or cognitive processing therapy (CPT). **Our recruitment rate, using the same methods that will be employed for this proposed study (see 6.D.), has been 5-6 Veterans per month.** To date, 47 Veterans have been enrolled in the study and 23 participants have been randomized to the CPT condition. Our drop-out rate from this 28 week intervention study has been 30% from treatment (15% if counting only those who are no longer available for assessment). In the proposed study, Veterans will attend only 16 sessions over eight weeks. We believe this shorter length of intervention will improve retention. Drop-out rates have not differed between the CBT and CPT conditions, suggesting trauma focused treatment has not been a reason for drop-out.

**4.C.3.** Dr. Norman has piloted one patient through I-PE with more in progress. A slightly modified version of the I-PE protocol proposed here was completed with a 34 year old Iraqi Army Veteran with AD/PTSD. At intake the Veteran reported drinking 25 ounces (1 bottle) of wine per day. His PCL-S was 64 and his BDI was 16. The Veteran agreed to abstinence during treatment. Following 12 weekly sessions of I-PE, his PCL-S dropped to 40 and BDI to 11. He maintained his abstinence through treatment. **This case documents our experience with the I-PE protocol as well as its tolerability to a potential target participant.**

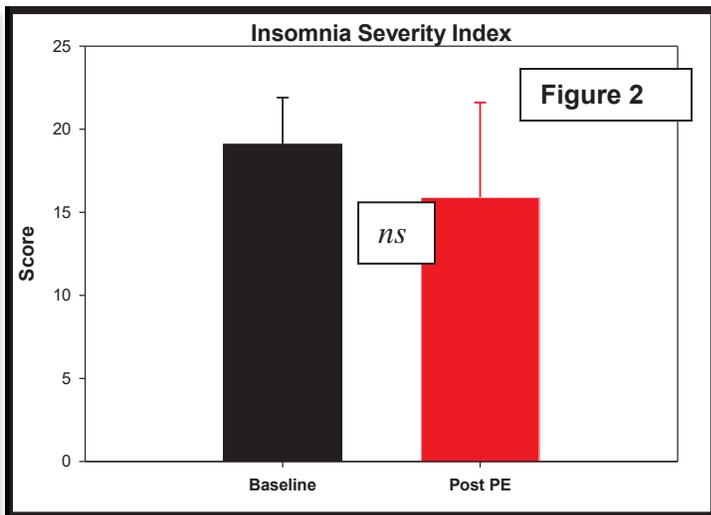
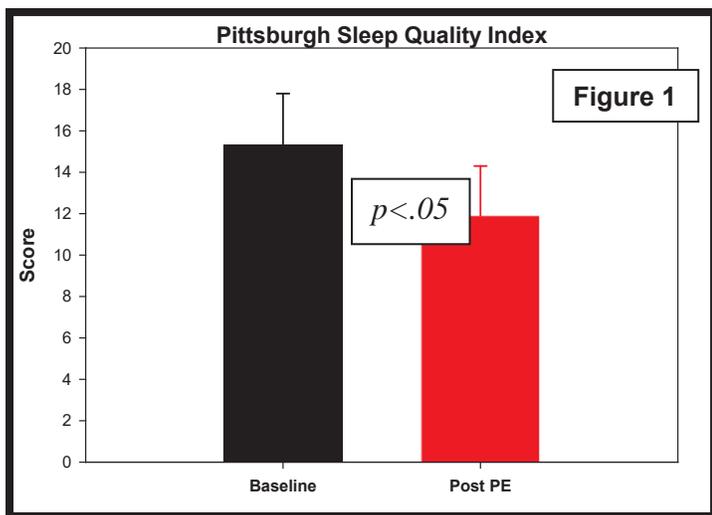
#### 4.D. Sleep Disruption in PTSD.

In our ongoing NIH-funded clinical trial (RC1 NR011728-01), Project NITES, we are documenting the high prevalence of sleep problems among combat Veterans seeking PTSD treatment. We are also finding that sleep symptoms do not respond as well to PE as daytime symptoms. Briefly, Project NITES is a randomized clinical trial (RCT) designed to determine the efficacy of sequential PE and sleep-focused behavioral interventions (in that order; total treatment time = 18 weeks) upon PTSD symptoms, sleep, and quality of life. To be included in NITES, Veterans must: 1) have had at least one deployment as part of OEF/OIF/OND, 2) be diagnosed with PTSD related to a military event, 3) be experiencing clinically significant levels of insomnia and report at least 2 trauma-related dreams/week, 4) be free of an alcohol or other substance use disorder, hypnotic sleep medications and prazosin, and 5) be willing to participate in 18 weeks of psychotherapy.

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#### 4.D.1. Refractory Sleep Disturbance Following Prolonged Exposure: Preliminary Data from Project NITES.

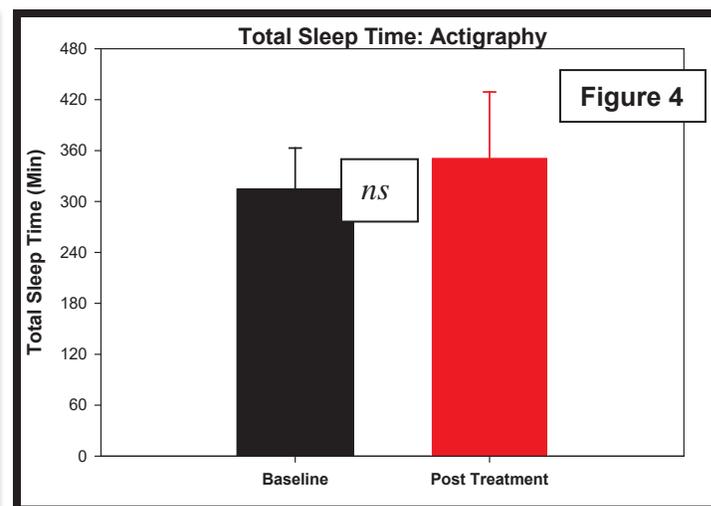
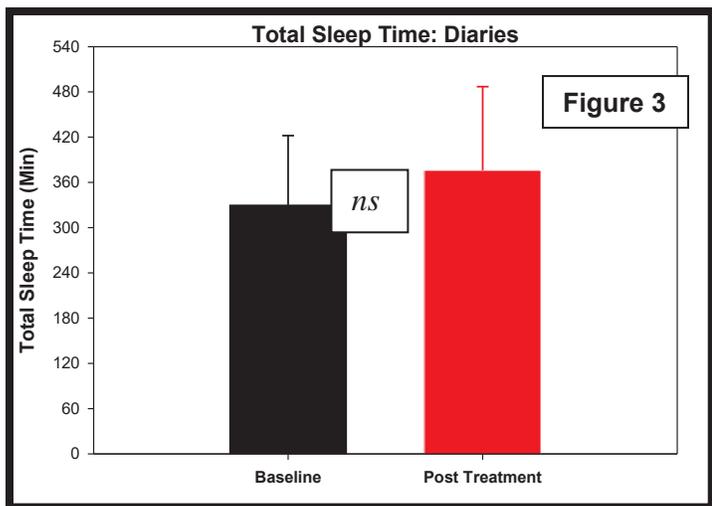
Data from the first 15 OEF/OIF Veterans who completed the PE segment of the trial shows that despite clinically significant and reliable decreases in overall symptoms of PTSD measured by the CAPS (mean pre-post change = 18.9,  $p < .01$ ) and PTSD Checklist (PCL-S; mean pre-post change = 20.6,  $p < .01$ ), Veterans remained in the clinically significant range of impairment on objective and subjective measures of sleep disruption. For example, on the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) and Insomnia Severity Index (ISI), Veterans reported mean post-treatment scores of 11.9 ( $SD = 2.4$ ) and 15.6 ( $SD = 5.7$ ), respectively (see Figures 1 and 2). To put this in context, patients scoring 5 or greater on the PSQI are categorized as “poor sleepers” and scores of 15 or higher on the ISI are indicative of moderately severe insomnia.



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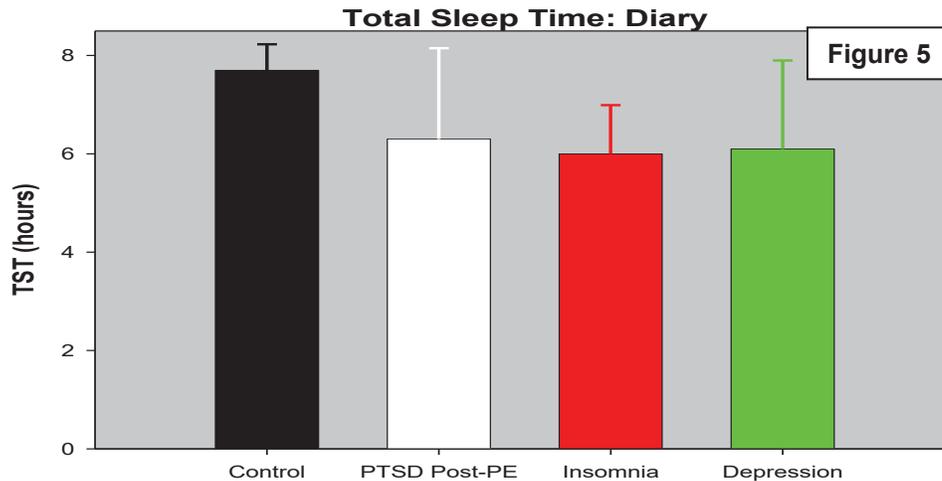
Findings from subjective and objective prospective sleep measures (daily diaries and actigraphy, respectively)



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were similar. For example, on Total Sleep Time (TST; the total quantity of time spent sleeping at night), Veterans demonstrated no significant improvements from pre to post PE (see Figures 3 and 4).

Post-PE TST means assessed subjectively (daily diary;  $M = 6.3$  hours) and objectively (actigraphy;  $M = 5.8$  hours) remained comparable to patients with Primary Insomnia and Major Depression and significantly impaired relative to healthy control subjects similar in age (See Figure 5).



Finally, with regard to trauma-related dreams, daily diary data from Project NITES revealed no significant decrease in the number of distressing dreams or the mean level of distress associated with those dreams after PE. See Table 1.

Table 1. Weekly Values from Daily Sleep Diaries; n=15	Pre PE M(SD)	Post PE M(SD)	p
Total # of Distressing Dreams (weekly)	6.8(4.4)	5.5(5.1)	.19
Associated Distress (0-10 scale)	5.8(1.5)	5.8(1.9)	.92

In sum, these data show that even when overall PTSD symptoms decrease after PE, the nighttime PTSD symptoms remain in the clinically significant range. This underscores the importance of understanding the role of sleep problems in PTSD treatment, as we propose to do in our exploratory aims with our AD/PTSD sample.

**4.E. Conclusions and considerations from our preliminary work.** Several conclusions can be drawn from our preliminary work. First, as seen in extant literature as well, PTSD impacts AD course and treatment outcome. Second, interventions that include exposure to a traumatic memory are an effective way to intervene on PTSD symptoms and we found such an intervention to be acceptable to pilot participants with AD/PTSD. Third, those with AD/PTSD appear to have PTSD-specific alcohol expectancies that can differentiate them from non-PTSD samples. As presented in the background section, the next theoretical step in AD/PTSD treatment research is to understand whether integrated exposure therapy is more effective than integrated present-focused coping skills therapy in reducing alcohol use and PTSD symptoms. **Our research team is ideally suited to carry out this work based on our clinical and research experience. Many decisions regarding the design of this proposed R01 were informed by our experience in conducting the PI's K23 research and our other RCT's of AD and/or PTSD. Our preliminary work supports that we have the theoretical and logistical experience to carry out the proposed work.**

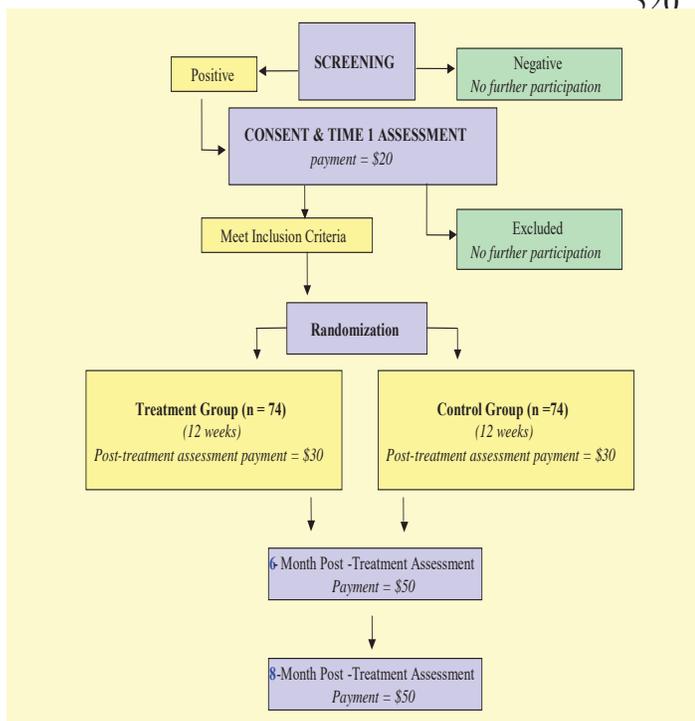
## 5. INNOVATION

This application challenges and seeks to shift current clinical practice paradigms (from coping skills therapy to treat AD/PTSD to integrated treatment that includes best practice PTSD treatment). We propose a refinement to exposure therapy and new application of exposure to AD in order to promote this paradigm shift away from a well disseminated form of treatment that has little empirical support for its effectiveness (coping skills for AD/PTSD) toward an evidence based practice that is far more promising in its potential for sustained recovery (integrated exposure therapy). The proposed trial would be the first to compare an integrated exposure

psychotherapy to an integrated coping skills psychotherapy for the treatment of AD/PTSD. In addition, we would explore the underlying mechanisms of AD/PTSD treatment to inform future treatment development and research.

## 5. APPROACH

Year	1				2				3				4				5							
Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
Activity	Startup				Clinical Trial																Dissemination			
Final procedures																								
Hire and train staff																								
Recruit/Enroll																								
Collect Data																								
Clinical Trial																								
Data Analysis																								
Dissemination																								



**6.A. Design.** The proposed study will be a randomized controlled trial comparing Integrated Prolonged Exposure Therapy (I-PE) to Seeking Safety (SS) for the treatment of male and female Veterans with AD/PTSD. 148 participants will be enrolled through the San Diego VA and randomized at the individual level. Measures will occur at baseline, post-treatment, 5- and 8-month post-baseline follow-up.

**6.B. Timeline.** We propose a study lasting 5 years including:

**Phase I Formative Research & Intervention Refinement (6 months):** Start-up activities will include hiring and training of the research staff and therapists providing the study interventions, and setting up of data entry and management procedures with the statistician. Patient recruitment protocols will be developed, tested, and revised. Measurement will be largely the same as in Dr. Norman's NIAAA funded K-

23 award and Dr. Tate's VA Merit.

**Phase II RCT (42 months):** Participant recruitment and enrollment will occur. Methods and procedures are consistent with CONSORT guidelines for conducting and reporting RCT's.<sup>66</sup> We will aim to recruit 3-4 participants a month for this study. We have recruited 4-6 participants per month in our prior ICBT studies that have had similar inclusion and exclusion criteria, thus a minimum of 3-4 participants per month is feasible. Data entry and management will begin in the following quarter with preliminary statistical analyses in the second year and continuing through the end of the study.

**Phase III Dissemination (9 months):** Assessments, data analyses, manuscript writing, and presentations to the scientific and clinical community will be completed.

**6.C. Participants, Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria, and Rationale.** Inclusion Criteria. Eligible participants will be Veterans who were victims of psychological trauma that occurred in childhood or adulthood; at least one month

554 post-trauma; age 18 or older; meet DSM-IV<sup>67</sup> criteria for current alcohol dependence and PTSD; literate in  
555 English; intend to stay in San Diego during study participation; willing to attend psychotherapy and  
556 measurement sessions; willing to stay abstinent during treatment. We are asking participants to be abstinent  
557 during the study period to be consistent with other studies on concurrent AD or SUD and PTSD treatment  
558 (e.g.,<sup>16,17</sup>). Also consistent with these other studies, relapse during treatment will not be a cause for study  
559 termination, but rather will be addressed in therapy (6.E.4). The study has relatively broad eligibility criteria for  
560 participation to capture the many types of manifestations of AD/PTSD among Veterans.

561  
562 Exclusion criteria: Moderate or severe cognitive impairment on the Brief Neuropsychological (NP) Assessment  
563 Battery<sup>68</sup> as this may interfere with ability to benefit from treatment. Individuals with suicidal ideation will be  
564 included because it is important to explore how these patients respond to treatment; however, acutely suicidal  
565 individuals (assessed using the suicide items from the depression measures described below) will be referred  
566 for more appropriate treatment (see human participants section). Histories of psychosis or mania independent  
567 of substance use will be excluded because the presence of these disorders can impede therapy progress.  
568 Individuals who use intravenous drugs will be excluded. Participants who do not have adequate memory of the  
569 trauma (as assessed by the evaluator and confirmed by the PI during the first part of the CAPS which involves  
570 asking for a brief description of the traumas the individual has experienced) will be excluded because such  
571 memory is necessary for exposure. As long as the individual remembers at least the basic outline of what  
572 happened the memory is generally considered adequate. The evaluator will check with the PI and Dr. Thorp  
573 (both consultants on the VA PE roll-out and have ongoing research involving PE) if questions arise regarding  
574 whether the trauma memory of a particular individual is adequate. Only Veterans residing within 50 miles of  
575 the site will be included. Those with life threatening or unstable medical illness, documented neurological  
576 disorder, or inability to read will be excluded.

577  
578 Who will not be excluded: Individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) other than IV drug use will not be  
579 excluded because of high comorbidity with ADs and PTSD.<sup>7,32</sup> Mild cognitive impairment will be included. Other  
580 anxiety and depressive disorders will not be excluded because of their high comorbidity with PTSD and AD.

581  
582 Standard Pharmacotherapy. Participants will be asked to complete an initial medication evaluation and attend  
583 monthly follow-up appointments. Participants will receive psychiatric care in the Substance Abuse Mental  
584 Illness (SAMI) program at the VA San Diego Healthcare System under the oversight of Co-investigator and  
585 medical director of the SAMI program, Dr. Shannon Robinson. The pharmacological treatment will be provided  
586 at no cost to the proposed project. Medications will be prescribed in an open-label format. Standard VA  
587 pharmacology protocol for treatment of PTSD will be used with dosage determined by the psychiatrist (within  
588 protocol range) and altered as appropriate to meet the patient's needs at any given time according to the  
589 psychiatrist's judgment of good clinical care. The VA uses treatment guidelines that require standardized  
590 patterns of prescription for individuals with PTSD and suggests SSRIs as the preferred treatment. Based on  
591 these guidelines, we believe that this pattern of prescription will apply to at least 85% of participants and be  
592 comparable across treatment groups. To ensure that we are adequately accounting for medication, we will  
593 collect self-report information and receive permission from participants to track their medication prescription in  
594 CPRS. We considered recruiting participants who were not on medication or asking participants to be  
595 medication stable prior to study entry. However, psychotropic medications have well documented effectiveness  
596 for the treatment of anxiety and depression and withholding such medication would be inappropriate for this  
597 high-risk population. We recognize that prescription and changes in medications will be an uncontrolled source  
598 of variance but expect that any changes will be similar in the two groups and thus balanced by randomization.  
599 We will not include individuals who are taking benzodiazepines past the acute withdrawal phase (which would  
600 be prior to entering the study). However, we will include individuals if they otherwise meet criteria if they  
601 terminate the benzodiazepines under their psychiatrists' care prior to study initiation. The prescribing  
602 psychiatrist will not be blind to group assignment. Although this would be preferable from a scientific  
603 standpoint, our past experience has shown that attempting to maintain blind status is difficult. The SAMI  
604 psychiatrist views electronic patient records documenting study participation, type of treatment provided, and  
605 Veteran response to treatment. Although we could design a means of maintaining blinding, we decided it was  
606 best for the psychiatrist to be thoroughly informed of each Veteran's status and this safety concern took  
607 precedence over scientific design considerations.

### 609 **6.C.1. Treatment Setting**

610 All work will be carried out at the SAMI outpatient program of the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program of the  
611 VASDHS. The SAMI program was established in 1991, with > 4500 outpatient visits per year. Referrals to  
612 SAMI come from ADTP (15,000 outpatient visits per year, and a 28 bed, 28 day inpatient program with > 360  
613 inpatients annually), inpatient Psychiatric Unit (> 800 admissions/year), outpatient Mood Disorder Clinic (>  
614 16,500 visits/year), and Primary Care (>12,000 Veterans/year). Services in the SAMI clinic have grown in  
615 recent years with a 33% increase in the number of Veterans receiving care. The staff includes a psychiatrist,  
616 clinical psychologist, social worker, program assistant, and trainees (psychiatry residents, psychology interns  
617 and postdoctoral fellows, social work interns).

618  
619 **6.D. Recruitment.** Eligible participants will contact our study in response to 1) flyers posted in VA mental  
620 health, primary care, and alcohol and substance use treatment programs; 2) from advertisements in print and  
621 web-based media; and 3) by VA primary care, SAMI, PTSD, and other psychiatry clinics. Following oral  
622 consent, potential participants will undergo a telephone screening that takes approximately 30 minutes to  
623 complete. The screening, used in the PI's K-23 award and Dr. Tate's merit, is intended to detect clinically  
624 significant AD and PTSD symptoms. It consists of screening items from the SCID<sup>69</sup> and the Posttraumatic  
625 Stress Disorder Checklist-Specific Version (PCL-S<sup>64</sup>) for disorders that are part of the inclusion and exclusion  
626 criteria. Those who meet study criteria will attend an in-person interview where they will sign informed consent  
627 documents and take part in a baseline assessment (see measures in 6.F.). Following baseline assessment,  
628 participants will be randomized to the intervention or control condition. Random permuted blocks will be used  
629 which ensure exactly equal treatment numbers at certain equally spaced points in the sequence of patient  
630 assignment. A computer-generated randomization sequence will be provided by our statistical expert, Dr. Ryan  
631 Trim, and held by a colleague not otherwise involved with the study. Randomization will be stratified by gender  
632 to ensure a balanced number of males and females are in each treatment group. It is expected that  
633 randomization will balance out by PTSD and alcohol use severity. Dr. Allard, the Project Coordinator, and the  
634 therapists will know each patient's assignment; the PI and the rater will not have access to this information.  
635 The success of the blinding procedure will be evaluated by having the rater guess the patient's assigned  
636 treatment condition after each assessment. If indicated, participants will be asked to go through detoxification  
637 prior to beginning the study. Detoxification programs are available on inpatient and outpatient bases through  
638 programs funded by the San Diego VA. We will expect that participants will be 2-4 weeks post-alcohol use at  
639 the start of the study given that prior research has shown that it takes approximately this amount of time for  
640 cognitive skills to recover following cessation of alcohol use and given that participants will be expected to  
641 undergo detoxification prior to study entry if needed.

642 Study participants will be drawn from Veterans 18 years of age and older referred to the SAMI program or one  
643 of the PTSD treatment programs at the San Diego VA (e.g., OEF/OIF/OND PTSD clinic, PTSD Clinical Team,  
644 Military Sexual Trauma clinic). All Veterans referred to SAMI and the PTSD Clinical Team first attend an  
645 Orientation Group that meets once weekly where the services provided in the program are explained, and if the  
646 Veteran wants to receive services, consent for treatment in the clinic is completed. Following consent, an  
647 appointment is made for an in-depth clinical diagnostic intake. The Project Coordinator will attend the SAMI  
648 and PTSD Clinical Team Orientation Groups and briefly present information about the research study and  
649 provide a "Consent to Contact" form that gives research staff permission to contact the Veteran to describe the  
650 study and details of study participation to potential participants and to determine if the Veteran meets study  
651 criteria. Based on intake diagnostic interview and staff consensus, Veterans are assigned to appropriate  
652 treatment within the programs. As with our prior Merit studies, the interventions will be delivered within the  
653 SAMI program. Following clinical evaluation, Veterans determined to be appropriate for SAMI or PTSD Clinical  
654 Team interventions focused on PTSD and alcohol dependence will be approached individually, have the  
655 project explained by the Project Coordinator, and complete an informed consent. Of patients referred to SAMI,  
656 approximately 30% have been diagnosed with a PTSD. Veterans referred to the OEF/OIF/OND or MST  
657 services at the San Diego VA are scheduled immediately for an intake appointment. The study will be  
658 described during intake when discussing treatment options and interested Veterans will have the opportunity to  
659 meet with the study coordinator, the PI (who is the director of the OEF/OIF/OND clinic) or a Co-investigator  
660 (who are directors of MST, PTSD Clinical Team, and SAMI teams) to discuss study participation. Of patients  
661 referred to the PTSD clinics, about 15-20% have a current alcohol use disorder.

662 **6.D.1. Feasibility.** We will aim to recruit 3-4 participants per month for this study. It is important to note that for  
663 our current merit for AD/PTSD (PI: Dr. Tate), **we are enrolling an average of 4-6 Veterans per month.** The  
664 VASDHS has a very high consent to participate rate even when projects involve extensive FU (e.g., our study  
665 of dually diagnosed=90%). The proposed study would begin enrollment just as the current one phases out  
666 enrollment. In addition, please see letters of support from key VA clinic directors who will aid with recruitment.  
667 We will have access to eligible participants based on the following: 1) Relationships and approvals we have  
668 already secured as part of Dr. Norman's K-23 award and Dr. Tate's Merit award; 2) Drs. Norman and Thorp  
669 are Program Directors of two combat PTSD clinics at the San Diego VA, Dr. Allard is Program Director of the  
670 Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Clinic, and Dr. Trim is the program director of SAMI; Dr. Robinson is the medical  
671 director of SAMI; 3) The VA San Diego combat PTSD, MST, and SAMI clinics combined see over 3,000  
672 patients annually. **Given our current recruitment successes with this target population and given the  
673 support we will have from relevant VA clinics, recruitment of 3-4 Veterans per month is feasible.**

674 **6.D.2. Patient Retention Methods.** The investigators have extensive experience in maintaining study cohorts  
675 over substantial periods of time. From Dr. Norman's K-23 award pilot, 100% women who began pilot treatment  
676 completed the treatment; 80% completed follow-up assessments to 9 months. In our ICBT research, the  
677 dropout rate was less than 28% (20% during treatment, 10% post treatment to 18 months). Based on other  
678 AD/PTSD studies,<sup>16</sup> we have estimated our dropout rate at 35%. The following steps will be taken to insure  
679 high retention: (1) At all assessment points, participants will be asked to provide contact information for at least  
680 two close friends or relatives and permission to contact them. (2) A database accessible only to study staff will  
681 be maintained as a participant tracking system. (3) Computer public search engines (e.g., Accurant) will be  
682 used to locate those lost to follow-up. (4) During treatment, if a participant misses two consecutive sessions,  
683 we will conduct a brief motivational interviewing (MI) intervention by telephone. MI has been shown to enhance  
684 retention in longitudinal alcohol research (i.e.,<sup>3</sup>). Riggs and colleagues<sup>28</sup> compared patients with concurrent AD  
685 and PTSD to AD or PTSD only. A greater percentage of the comorbid sample was unemployed, low income,  
686 and living alone. Such patients may be more likely to drop out of treatment because they are unable to find  
687 transportation or childcare, because of an opportunity to earn money, or because they use the time to seek  
688 social services. We address these barriers by offering therapy at a centrally located site that is accessible by  
689 public transportation and offers free parking, by offering transportation reimbursement, and by offering therapy  
690 in individual format during daytime and early evening hours. We will encourage all participants to have a case  
691 manager through the VA so that case management issues are addressed in both treatment modalities.

### 692 **6.D.3. Women and Minorities**

693 Women comprise 11% (e.g., SAMI clinic) to 60% (Military Sexual Trauma clinic) of the Veterans seen in the  
694 clinics from which we will be recruiting and approximately 24% of Veterans in the program are minorities.  
695 Consistent with SAMI demographics as a whole, 11% of participants in our integrated intervention study over  
696 the past 8 years were women. We have been able to obtain 9% Hispanic, 16% African American, and 4%  
697 other ethnic groups, for a total of 29% from minority groups. Given that this study will include recruitment from  
698 the Military Sexual Trauma Clinic, the increasing numbers of women in the military, and increasing Hispanic  
699 proportion of the population in southern California, we will continue attempts to oversample these groups to  
700 obtain adequate recruitment of females and minorities to examine effect sizes for these groups relative to male  
701 and Caucasian counterparts. The inclusion of these groups is important to the current study given the  
702 disproportionately higher prevalence of PTSD diagnosis among women (56% of women; 40% of men) and  
703 minorities (38% of whites; 52% of minorities) observed in our previous studies.

704 **6.D.4. Compensation.** Participants will be compensated up to \$150 for their time and effort for completing  
705 assessments: \$20 baseline, \$30 post-treatment, and \$50 each for the 5- and 8-month post-baseline follow-ups.

706 **6.E. Interventions.** The experimental intervention augments PE with ICBT to enhance attention to alcohol use.  
707 The control condition will be SS. Below we describe the key features of each intervention, how PE and ICBT  
708 are integrated, and why these interventions were chosen.

709 **6.E.1. Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE).**<sup>1</sup> PE is an exposure based therapy for PTSD (described in 3C.).

710 **6.E.1.a. Why PE?** Although several treatments have been found effective in treating PTSD, we have selected  
711 PE based on its particularly strong empirical record and its appropriateness given study aims. The evidence for  
712 PE efficacy is greater than that for any other PTSD intervention and treatment effects are generally maintained  
713 during follow-up. Six of the 20 RCTs of variants of exposure therapy utilized the PE manual that will be used in

714 this study. Thus, the safety and tolerability of PE is well documented and, because of their experience  
 715 administering and disseminating PE, the study team is exceptionally well-prepared to utilize this intervention.  
 716 The PI and Dr. Tate have preliminary data that trauma processing is acceptable and helpful to individuals with  
 717 AD and PTSD (section 4C). Most importantly for the goals of this study, PE is among the purest of the  
 718 exposure therapies in that others tend to include more cognitive or coping interventions (e.g., cognitive  
 719 processing therapy) which would have more overlap with SS.

720 **6.E.2. Integrated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.** ICBT includes interventions considered important to  
 721 recovery from substance dependence including a learning theory based explanation of substance dependence,  
 722 cravings awareness and management, etc.<sup>60</sup> ICBT is not a new treatment model, rather it consists of evidence  
 723 based interventions for AD from Cognitive-Behavioral Coping Skills Training of Addiction combined with CBT  
 724 for depression.<sup>60</sup> The thoughts module focuses on identifying maladaptive cognitions, generating alternative  
 725 cognitions, and rehearsing thought challenging techniques in situations that could potentially lead to relapse.  
 726 The activities module involves identifying, scheduling, and assessing effectiveness of activities for increasing  
 727 positive affect and managing pressure to relapse. The social module consists of assertiveness and  
 728 communication training to increase positive social interactions and efficacy in resisting pressure to use. We  
 729 have strong data to suggest this intervention is acceptable and helpful to Veterans with AD and PTSD (see  
 730 4A).

731 **6.E.2.a. Why ICBT?** We considered using Cognitive Behavioral Coping Skills Training of Addiction<sup>60</sup> without  
 732 the integrated cognitive behavioral therapy for mood. However, in light of literature suggesting individuals with  
 733 PTSD use substances when they are experiencing negative affect, and because we did not want overlap with  
 734 our coping skills based control condition, we chose ICBT to focus specifically on teaching coping skills for AD  
 735 in the context of negative emotional states. PE and CBT have been combined and evaluated in previous  
 736 RCT's.<sup>41</sup> Thus, we are using a combination of treatments (PE and cognitive behavioral skills) that has already  
 737 been rigorously evaluated and found effective. The activities and social modules of ICBT are also consistent  
 738 with PE in-vivo assignments. Finally, we chose ICBT because of our I-PE pilot data, our research team's many  
 739 years of experience with it, and our positive outcomes in our VA research.<sup>3</sup>

740 **6.E.2.b. Augmentation of PE with ICBT.** The intervention will be delivered over 8 weeks in twice weekly  
 741 sessions (16 sessions). From ICBT, managing cognitions is integrated into the first third of treatment,  
 742 increasing healthy activities is integrated into the second third, and building social networks into the last third.  
 743 These topics dovetail easily into PE where the first sessions focus on psycho-education about PTSD and PE,  
 744 and in-vivo exposure is included in the remainder of treatment. In-vivo exposure includes both avoided items  
 745 and behavioral activation items to increase pleasant activities and build healthy relationship. ICBT topics are  
 746 integrated into each week with a focus on how to use these skills for addiction. As such, we are able to use  
 747 both manuals with extremely minimal modification. We considered writing a developmental grant to augment  
 748 PE with ICBT but our pilot data where successfully integrated the two treatments, our familiarity with these  
 749 interventions, the fact that both are evidence based, that CBT and PE have been previously integrated and  
 750 found effective, that the topics align such that integration is straight forward, and that we have several experts  
 751 of both therapies involved in this study (PE: Thorp, VA trainer and consultant, Norman and Allard, VA  
 752 consultants, ongoing research experience with PE; ICBT: Brown developer, Norman and Tate: co-I's or PI's of  
 753 studies with ICBT) has allowed us to integrate these therapies easily. The I-PE outline is below:

Week*	Content
1	Establish rapport, motivational enhancement for AD and PTSD treatment, identify main trauma, introduce alcohol expectancies, overview of treatment
2	Learning theory-based model for PTSD and substance dependence, thought challenging techniques for situations that could potentially lead to alcohol use or PTSD symptoms, breath retraining, in-vivo exposure begins
3	Imaginal exposure begins, identifying and managing cravings; in-vivo exposure including pleasant activity scheduling continues
4	Imaginal & in-vivo exposure continued; focus in in-vivo on both reducing avoidance and increasing pleasant activities
5	Continued in-vivo and imaginal exposure; focus in in-vivo on both reducing avoidance and increasing pleasant activities
6	Continued in-vivo and imaginal exposure ; focus in in-vivo on both reducing avoidance and

	increasing healthy interactions
7	Continued in-vivo and imaginal exposure; focus in in-vivo on both reducing avoidance and increasing healthy interactions
8	Final imaginal exposure; review of progress; relapse prevention

\*Each week is two sessions

**6.E.3. Comparison Group.** Seeking Safety (SS) is a present-focused integrated therapy that centers around several main ideas: 1) Establishing safety is often times one of the most important clinical needs of patients struggling with difficulties related to both trauma and alcohol use; 2) Integrating treatment for PTSD and alcohol/substance use; and 3) The utilization of cognitive, behavioral, interpersonal, and case management techniques. Seeking Safety consists of up to 24 modules that can be conducted in any order.<sup>4</sup> Each module includes safe coping skills pertaining to both AD and PTSD. The trauma is not addressed and exposure is not included in therapy. Although we will have 16 sessions we will include all 24 modules. In our preliminary work, we found that some sessions were shorter in length and overlap in content such that we were able to successfully cover two sessions in an individual 90-minute format.<sup>49</sup>

**6.E.3.a. Why SS?** SS is widely disseminated in community and VA settings and is the most researched integrated AD/PTSD treatment to date;<sup>70</sup> however, efficacy data on this intervention is still limited. SS is based on the model that patients must first achieve safety by learning coping skills to handle PTSD related distress and substance use before any form of trauma processing or exposure can be introduced. Thus, the therapy purposefully excludes any form of exposure. Because SS is widely used and specifically does not include exposure, it is ideally suited as a comparison condition for this study to allow us to examine whether exposure improves PTSD outcomes at post-treatment and AD and PTSD outcomes at follow-up.

**6.E.4. If Participants Relapse During Treatment.** Participants will not be discontinued, but rather a motivational interviewing protocol will be employed after any alcohol or substance use to help participants avoid further relapse. If a therapist or assessor identifies worsening substance use, the study investigators will evaluate whether best clinical care indicates a need for more intensive SUD treatment. Both ICBT and SS include asking about recent substance use. Therapists will be trained to contact the PI if a participant reports three or more days per week of alcohol use with more than four standard drinks or three or more days of illicit drug use in a week. If more intensive treatment is appropriate, we will assist the participant in establishing appropriate treatment, then discontinue study participation following a final evaluation.

**6.E.5. Training for Intervention Delivery.** We will follow the intervention training and integrity procedures established in our ICBT and NITES studies. Each study therapist will be trained to criteria by a certified trainer (Thorp and Tate for I-PE; Norman and Allard for SS), and will receive weekly supervision (Thorp and Tate for I-PE; Allard or Norman for SS). Therapists will deliver both treatments under conditions of careful ongoing supervision and fidelity assessment in order to avoid therapist effects. Audio recordings of sessions will be reviewed to ensure treatment integrity. In addition to review of audiotapes by clinical supervisors for clinical purposes, a random sample of audiotapes will be independently evaluated by research staff and rated for treatment fidelity and discriminability.

Therapists will be senior clinicians and post-doctoral psychology trainees in the PTSD and addictions programs at the VASDHS. All therapists complete detailed training in both interventions delivered. Therapists receive individual and group supervision and attend a weekly Biobehavioral Addictions Seminar led by Dr. Sandra Brown and other experts in addictions and a PTSD seminar led by Dr. Norman and other experts in PTSD treatment. Each study therapist receives weekly supervision by a senior investigator with expertise in the particular intervention. Drs. Susan Tate or Dr. Ryan Trim, Co-Investigators, will provide weekly supervision for the ICBT intervention. Dr. Tate and Dr. Trim have both served a therapists and supervisors for the ICBT intervention in our prior study. Dr. Thorp, VA PE trainer and consultant, and Dr. Allard, VA PE consultant will provide PE supervision. Drs. Allard and Norman (trained by Dr. Najavits, author of SS, and both with prior SS clinical and research experience) will provide SS supervision. Trainee rotations typically continue for 1-2 years. We will record changes in therapists to evaluate possible therapist effects. Participants will complete a brief questionnaire once monthly to assess therapeutic alliance and treatment satisfaction.

**6.E.6. Other Personnel.** We will hire, train, and supervise a study coordinator and research associate (RA) in reliable administration of clinical rating scales and outcome measures. The RA will have no connection to the

803 treatment to keep the person blind. An experienced statistician, Ryan Trim, will provide statistical support  
804 including data organization structure and reliability procedures that have been well established in Dr. Brown's  
805 prior studies. The study will pay for a portion of a research technician's time who is experienced in sleep  
806 assessment who will conduct all of the sleep laboratory-based and actigraphic assessments and data scoring.  
807 Funding for sleep measurement will be supplemented by the VA Center of Excellence and by a recent sleep  
808 equipment grant to Dr. Sean Drummond (co-investigator on this proposal), thus the sleep data will be collected  
809 at very low cost to this proposal relative to what it would normally cost.

## 810 **6.F. Research Assessments**

811  
812 Dr. Norman and Dr. Allard will train the RA using video recordings, role plays, and jointly conducted interviews  
813 and will hold weekly ongoing supervision. A random sample of audio recordings will be independently  
814 evaluated by research staff and rated for treatment fidelity and discriminability. Dr. Norman will also view  
815 randomly selected audiotapes of assessment sessions to provide feedback and ensure interrater reliability.  
816 During each assessment, the RA will assess for any major changes in health (e.g., overnight hospitalizations),  
817 possible adverse events, suicidal ideation, and general well-being. Therapists will also assess for clinically  
818 significant worsening during therapy sessions. Any exacerbation of symptoms or alcohol/substance use will be  
819 reported and discussed with the supervising investigator so that appropriate action can be taken if necessary.  
820 Data collection staff and intervention staff will be strictly separate. We will have the support of Drs. Brown's and  
821 Stein's laboratories, each having over twenty years of experience in training and testing raters. All interviewers  
822 complete standardized training to criterion (instructions, training, manual, 5 videotapes) for the CAPS, NP, and  
823 TLFB assessments. The interviewer (RA) will observe a minimum of two assessments for each measure and  
824 then be observed for a minimum of two assessments. Additionally, the interviewer will be tested for reliability  
825 (once every six months), and participate in weekly staff meetings to address questions. Training is also  
826 provided on common issues associated with self-report measures. These training procedures are all in place  
827 and have been on-going for 11 years during the ICBT study; Dr. Norman, Dr. Tate and Dr. Brown have  
828 supervised this training and monitoring and Drs. Norman, Allard, and Tate will continue to do so.

829  
830 As previously noted, intake diagnostics are completed by a trained research assistant within 1 week of entry  
831 into the SAMI or PTSD treatment program. In addition, a brief neuropsychological battery (approximately 30  
832 minutes) will be completed at intake to allow evaluation of whether cognitive functioning is related to treatment  
833 response. Actigraphy data will be collected for one week pre- and post-intervention on all participants and  
834 polysomnography data will be collected for one night pre- and post-intervention (with a practice night included)  
835 for a randomly selected subset of 16 participants per year.

837 **6.F.1. Measures.** The primary outcome of interest will be reduction in PTSD symptoms and alcohol use at  
838 post-treatment and follow-up. We will examine percent days abstinent (PDA) and number of drinks consumed  
839 on drinking days. Other outcomes include depression symptoms and quality of life ratings, and mediators and  
840 predictors of outcomes such as process variables, affect, and sleep.

### 842 **6.F.1.a. Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders Measures.**

843  
844 The Timeline Follow-back Procedure (TLFB<sup>71</sup>) will be employed at all assessment points to evaluate drinking  
845 and all drug use during the 30 days preceding each interview. The Quantity-Frequency Index<sup>72</sup> and maximal  
846 consumption will be calculated for alcohol use. Drug use indices will be similarly derived for stimulants,  
847 marijuana, and other drugs. The TLFB will be used at each follow-up to establish: percentage days abstinent,  
848 length of initial abstinence, length of use episodes, severity of relapse and current alcohol/drug use pattern.  
849 Using suggested theoretical guidelines, relapse severity will be classified as minor (lapse  $\leq$  4 days use and no  
850 major life problems followed by abstinence) or major (protracted episode, multiple episodes, continuous use).  
851 This system, developed in Dr. Sandra Brown's lab, has proven useful in previous alcohol and substance  
852 treatment research and is predictive of clinical course.

853  
854 A self-report Substance Use Inventory<sup>73</sup> will be administered weekly at treatment sessions. The inventory  
855 asked patients on which of the preceding seven days they had used alcohol or any of seven major types of  
856 drugs. Participants will complete an initial toxicology screen at baseline and random screens will be conducted  
857 during 25% of the quarterly assessment.

858  
859 Relapses will be classified using the Modified Contextual Cue<sup>74</sup> (MCC) system for precursors using transcribed  
860 verbatim reports of relapse episodes, and using Shiffman and Wills' framework of temptation, stress, or other.<sup>75</sup>  
861 Participants will be administered the AD and SUD sections of the Structured Interview for DSM-IV (SCID)<sup>69</sup>.  
862

### 863 **6.F.1.b. PTSD and Other Axis I.**

864  
865 The Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS)<sup>76,77</sup> is a standard semi-structured interview used to assess  
866 PTSD severity. As part of the CAPS, a list of potentially traumatic events is given to respondents. Using the  
867 list as a prompt, respondents select up to three of the most traumatic events they have experienced, and those  
868 events are used as the basis of assessing PTSD. The CAPS assesses each of the 17 items from the DSM-IV  
869 criteria B, C, and D, and it has demonstrated high levels of internal consistency, good interrater reliability, and  
870 excellent convergent validity. Importantly, the scale was not designed exclusively for use with combat  
871 Veterans.<sup>78</sup> The CAPS can be administered in 30-60 minutes, and it has the advantages of categorical  
872 (diagnostic) or dimensional scoring of PTSD plus items for assessing social and occupational functioning,  
873 dissociation, and the validity of the items. The F1-I2 method of scoring will be used in the current study.<sup>79</sup> A  
874 total severity score of 40 or higher indicates full threshold PTSD and a 15-point change in CAPS total severity  
875 score represents clinically significant change.<sup>79</sup>  
876

877 The PTSD Checklist – Specific Version (PCL-S)<sup>64</sup> is a brief self-report instrument to measure the degree of  
878 PTSD symptoms related to a variety of traumatic experiences. It was chosen because it is so widely used. It  
879 consists of 17 items, scored on a 1-point (not at all) to 5-point (extremely) scale, that correspond to the DSM-IV  
880 symptoms of PTSD. The specific version was chosen to ensure that participants would answer the items in  
881 regard to their index trauma rather than in regard to general distress. Initial psychometric data include test-  
882 retest reliability (0.96) and validity, as indicated by a kappa of 0.64 for a diagnosis of PTSD from SCID. Alpha  
883 coefficients for internal consistency reliability have ranged from 0.89 to 0.92.  
884

885 The Beck Depression Inventory II<sup>80</sup> is a 21-item self-report scale listing common symptoms of depression that.  
886 It is the most widely used self-report depression measure in clinical populations, again facilitating comparison  
887 between this investigation and others. Stem questions from the SCID are used during screening for initial  
888 screening of study inclusion and exclusion criteria.  
889

### 890 **6.F.1.c. Functioning.**

891  
892 The Brief Neuropsychological (NP) Assessment Battery targets neurocognitive skills previously associated with  
893 substance abuse treatment outcomes (e.g.,<sup>68</sup>) and is limited in length (30 minutes) to facilitate compliance. We  
894 included this brief evaluation of neuropsychological functioning at treatment entry as these neurocognitive skills  
895 have previously been associated with SUD treatment outcomes<sup>68</sup> and to understand potential impact on  
896 outcomes of mild levels of impairment related to traumatic brain injury. All NP measures will be administered  
897 by trained psychometrists in a standardized fashion designed to minimize fatigue and possible carryover  
898 effects (i.e., if a participant performed poorly on any one task). The NP battery will be initially administered  
899 approximately 3 weeks after the last date of alcohol or other drug use (i.e., no withdrawal symptoms are  
900 present). We will also take precautions to avoid possible contamination of NP performance by medications by  
901 insuring that patients are on stable doses of medications for at least two weeks at the time of NP testing. The  
902 measures, grouped by cognitive domain, include: 1) General Intelligence: American National Adult Reading  
903 Test (ANART); 2) Executive Functioning/Problem Solving: Wisconsin Card Sort; 3) Attention: WAIS-III Digit  
904 Symbol. 4) Verbal Learning and Memory: Hopkins Verbal Learning Test (HVLT). Each raw test score will be  
905 transformed into a T-score (M=50, and SD=10) based on the degree of deviation from the normative age-  
906 referenced mean score. Then, domain T-scores will be calculated for each subject by averaging T-scores  
907 within that domain. This brief battery takes approximately 30 minutes and is a shortened version of the  
908 assessment utilized in our ICBT studies.  
909

910 The Medical Outcomes Study 36-item short form self-report health survey (SF-36)<sup>81,82</sup> will be used to assess  
911 health-related quality of life. It has been validated in large, mixed-age medical and psychiatric samples.<sup>81,82</sup>  
912 With eight subscales, it provides a multidimensional assessment of quality of life related to both mental and  
913 physical health.

914  
915 **6.F.1.d. Measures of Mechanism and Mediation.**  
916

917 The Posttraumatic Cognitions Inventory (PTCI<sup>83</sup>) is a 36-item assessment of negative thoughts about the self,  
918 negative thoughts about the world, and self-blame that significantly distinguishes trauma survivors with PTSD  
919 from those without PTSD. The scale has good psychometrics and change in these thoughts has been related  
920 to change in PTSD symptoms with treatment.<sup>39</sup>  
921

922 The Revised Ways of Coping Questionnaire (WOC<sup>84</sup>) is a well-validated measure that provides a variety of  
923 coping strategies and appraisal characteristics. WOC has been used in diverse populations and provides  
924 estimates of problem solving and emotion focused skills as well as several factor analytically derived subscales  
925 relevant to PTSD,<sup>74</sup> depression, and drinking/drug use situations (e.g. avoidance). At intake, participants  
926 respond to a standard high-risk drinking/drug use situations based on prior relapse studies, and at our two  
927 follow-up time points, participants generate one personal high-risk situation. Group differences in coping  
928 responses to the same situation and person consistency in coping with different stressors can be assessed.  
929 Patient generated situations will be grouped by conceptual areas,<sup>74</sup> and appraisal features (e.g. importance,  
930 controllability), will be used for further clarification. Situations will be categorized as changeable, having to be  
931 accepted, or requiring information. These characteristics have been found to produce different coping  
932 patterns. Coping response characteristics will be examined via cluster analysis to establish composite scores  
933 used in analyses.  
934

935 The Expectancy of Therapeutic Outcome (ETO), a 5-item self-report scale to evaluate treatment credibility, will  
936 be administered by the therapist in Session 1 after the therapist has provided the overall rationale for the  
937 treatment program. Questions are rated on a 0 to 8 Likert-type scale, with total scores from 0 to 32.  
938

939 The Additional Treatment Inventory (ATI) assesses additional treatment sought after the completion of study  
940 treatment. It asks about both psychiatric medications and psychotherapy.  
941

942 The Client Satisfaction Questionnaire<sup>85</sup> is an 8-item self-report scale measuring satisfaction with treatment. It  
943 has excellent internal consistency and correlates with therapists' estimates of client satisfaction. This  
944 instrument will be used to measure participants' satisfaction with the interventions. Participants will also  
945 complete SS and I-CTT content specific questionnaires at the end of each session.  
946

947 Participants will also complete SS (SS Content Form) and I-PE (Utility of Techniques Inventory) content  
948 specific questionnaires at the end of each session. Process measures including number of sessions attended,  
949 homework compliance, and lateness will be collected.  
950

951 The Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS<sup>50</sup>) will be used to evaluate negative affect.  
952

953 **6.F.1.e. Home and Self-Report Sleep Assessment**  
954

955 All participants will have their sleep assessed for one week at home with sleep diaries and actigraphy both pre-  
956 and post-treatment.  
957

958 Sleep Diaries. While the use of sleep diaries is ubiquitous in studies involving sleep, there is no universally  
959 accepted standard. Our particular form is briefly described here. The sleep diary is a 1-page form assessing  
960 seven days which includes measures of sleep continuity (sleep latency, number of awakenings, wake after  
961 sleep onset, total sleep time, and sleep efficiency). The sleep diary requires approximately five minutes per day  
962 to complete and participants will be asked to complete it in the morning.  
963

964 Actigraphy. To obtain an objective measure of sleep, participants will wear an Actiwatch (Phillips) for one week  
965 before and after the intervention. The Actiwatch is a wrist-worn device that measures body movements and  
966 light. It is lightweight (17.5 g) and worn like a wristwatch. Data are downloaded onto a computer and  
967 customized software scores the data dichotomously as awake or asleep in 30 second increments. The  
968 methodology is commonly used to record sleep/wake patterns over several days and has reasonable

agreement with polysomnography in validation studies.<sup>86</sup> These data will provide standard sleep parameters: total sleep time, sleep efficiency, number of nocturnal awakenings, and length of awakenings.

The Insomnia Severity Index (ISI<sup>87</sup>) is a widely used measure of insomnia with well-established reliability and validity. The ISI consists of seven items, three of which assess severity of insomnia (i.e., degree of difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, and waking too early). The remaining questions tap satisfaction with sleep pattern, effect of sleep on daytime and social functioning, and concern about current sleep difficulties.

The Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI<sup>88</sup>) is a 19-item self-report measure intended to measure sleep quality and disturbances, and will be administered pre- and post- treatment. The PSQI has shown good validity and reliability, and is widely used as tool to measure sleep quality.

### 6.F.1.f. Laboratory Sleep Assessment

Sixteen randomly selected participants per year (eight in each condition) will be studied using polysomnographically (PSG) for two consecutive nights pre- and post-treatment. The first night will be used to acclimate participants to sleep laboratory environment and to rule out intrinsic sleep disorders other than insomnia, such as sleep disordered breathing. Participants will go to bed and be woken up at their habitual bed and wake times based on their sleep diaries. The recording montage will consist of a minimum 10 electrophysiologic signals. The basic montage includes 2 EOGs referenced to a single mastoid, 6 EEGs referenced to linked mastoids [F3, F4, C3, C4, O1 and O2], a bipolar mentalis EMG, and an ECG. The expanded EEG montage, although not required for sleep staging, allows for more precise identification of arousals or transient wakefulness. Several measures, in addition to our core montage, will be obtained. These include: 1 channel of nasal/oral airflow (obtained with pressure transducer monitors) and 2 channels of leg-related motor activity (right & left tibial EMGs). The airflow and tibial data are used to detect sleep apnea (OSA) and periodic limb movements (PLMs), respectively. While these additional clinical measures are insufficient to fully profile OSA or PLMs, they will provide a clinical screen for the presence of these disorders. In the morning following the PSG, participants will be free to leave and will return the next night for the second PSG. The record will be scored during the day so that participants who are found to have occult sleep disorders (apnea-hypopnea index  $\geq 10$ /hour and/or PLM index  $\geq 15$ /hour) will have their second night cancelled. These subjects will be replaced to maintain our sample size for this part of the protocol. The second PSG night will be used to characterize participants' sleep. The montage will be the same as for the first night except OSA and PLMs will not be measured. The PSG will be used to assess standard sleep continuity parameters (e.g. sleep latency, wake after sleep onset, total sleep time, sleep efficiency, and number and length of nocturnal awakenings) and sleep architecture parameters (e.g. time spent in each sleep stage), according to standard criteria.

### 6.F.1.g. Medication Adherence

The ACTG Interview of Antiretroviral Medication Use (AIAM) will be used to assess adherence to medication regimens. This interview was developed by the Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) to assess in detail HIV medication adherence over the previous four days and takes about 10 minutes to complete.<sup>89</sup> The measure was modified for the current study to assess adherence for prescribed psychotropic medications by omitting references to HIV or AIDS and omitting the last item that lists side-effects that are common to HIV medications. Decreased medication adherence has been associated with substance use,<sup>89</sup> and in this study, we anticipate increased adherence following our SUD treatment. The accuracy of self-reports of medication adherence have been questioned, and more objective methodologies are available, such as unannounced pill counts and medication bottle caps containing microchips that record medication adherence. However, for the current study, we have selected this self-report measure that requires less time, effort, and costs and has been validated when compared with other methods. Additionally, based on our prior research with Veterans, there are substantial differences in number and types of medications prescribed, complicating alternative non-self-report assessment procedures.

	Baseline	2 months	5 months	8 months	Each Session
<b>Primary Outcome Measures</b>					
CAPS (PTSD)	X	X	X	X	
TLFB	X	X	X	X	

<b>Other Alcohol and Substance Use Measures</b>					
ASI	X	X	X	X	
SUI					X
Toxicology Screen	X	X (random)	X (random)	X (random)	
MCC	X	X	X	X	
SCID-IV (AD, SUD)	X	X	X	X	
<b>Other Measures of PTSD and Other Axis I Disorders</b>					
PCL-S					X
BDI					X
<b>Measures of Functioning</b>					
NP Battery	X				
SF-36	X	X	X	X	
<b>Measures of Mechanism and Mediation</b>					
WOC	X		X	X	
UTI		X	X	X	
ETO	In session 1				
ATI				X	
PTCI	X	X	X	X	
CSQ					X
SS content					X
Process Measures					X
PANAS	X	X	X	X	
Actigraphy (1 week)	X	X			
Sleep Diary (1 week)	X	X			
Polysomnogram (on subgroup)	X	X			
ISI	X	X			
PSQI	X	X			
<b>Additional Measures for Initial Screening</b>					
SCID stem questions for mania and psychosis					

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## 6.G. Quality Control

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**6.G.1. Data Safety Monitoring (DSM).** DSM will include periodic review and reporting of participant accrual, adverse event rates, treatment compliance, and drop-out rates. Study termination will be triggered by excessive drop-outs or adverse events. Adverse events includes 1) need to break confidentiality, 2) loss of data, 3) inadvertent harm caused by study participation, 4) patient suicidality. If treatment is needed during the follow-up phase due to increased alcohol consumption or serious psychiatric/medical symptoms, patients will be referred to appropriate treatment and followed by the PI and study psychiatrist until treatment is initiated. Adverse events will be reported to UCSD's IRB and the VA R&D (serious adverse events within 48 hours) and clinically managed as appropriate, including hospitalization if necessary. A summary of all adverse events will be submitted to the VA annually. The PI and a co-investigator (both licensed psychologists in the state of California) will be available by pager 24-hours a day. The PI will be responsible for initial determination of serious adverse events from non-serious adverse events.

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Tammy Wall, Ph.D. will serve as the Data Monitoring Officer. Her functions include the following: 1) Review of research protocol and plans for data safety and monitoring, 2) Evaluation of the progress of the study every 6 months, including the quality of data collection, security and quality, participant recruitment/retention, participant risk and benefit, and any other factors affecting study outcome, 3) Consultation regarding continuation or termination or other modifications of the trial in the service of protecting safety of study participants, 4) Evaluation of study adverse events and consultation to maximize protection of participants. Progress evaluations every 6 months will be provided to UCSD IRB, VA R&D, and study investigators. The Data Monitoring Officer is not an investigator in the study and does not have any conflict of interest.

040 **6.G.2. Data entry and management.** Data will be collected on paper forms and checked for missing items at  
041 the time of collection. Patients will be queried immediately to complete or clarify blank or illegible responses.  
042 Refusal or inability to respond to items will be coded, with explanations documented. Data will be entered into  
043 Access databases using a double-entry system. This system incorporates checks for out of range values and  
044 requires all data to be entered twice, with discrepancies corrected at time of entry. Data will be stored in locked  
045 file cabinets.

046 Only approved study personnel will have access to study data, and all study personnel have been trained  
047 regarding privacy and security issues. In the event of a real or suspected breach of security, the VA Police, the  
048 VA Information Security Officer, and the VA Privacy Officer will be notified.  
049

050 Secure information will be accessed, stored, and destroyed according to a data security plan that will promote  
051 security and privacy, including, but not limited to the following:  
052

053 1. Hardcopy study data will be stored in the investigator's locked laboratory space in locked cabinets. Only  
054 approved study personnel, University of California, San Diego Institutional Review Board (IRB), and VA  
055 Research and Development will have access to this information. Hard copies will be retained for the amount of  
056 time specified by the VA (currently, permanently). Informed consent forms are kept in a locked office in a  
057 locked cabinet. The binder with these consent forms is in a separate cabinet from the de-identified case report  
058 forms. In addition, the code assigned to a specific participant exists only on two hardcopy documents that are  
059 stored separately from consent forms and case report forms.  
060

061 2. All electronic study data is de-identified and stored electronically on VA research computer unless  
062 specifically designated otherwise and approved in advance by the Information Security Officer (ISO) and IRB.  
063 The computer is accessed only by approved study personnel, UCSD IRB, and VA R&D.  
064

065 3. Study records entered into a computer system or on electronic media will be assigned code numbers and  
066 will not be individually identifiable. The key that relates the code numbers to the individuals will be kept in a  
067 locked cabinet in the research locked office and destroyed when data analyses for this study are completed.  
068

069 4. All study recruitment, interventions, and assessments are conducted at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla  
070 and all study data remains at this site. No data is removed from the VA. All data analyses are conducted in  
071 the VA study research offices.  
072

## 073 **6.H. Statistical Considerations.**

074  
075 **6.H.1. Power analysis.** Sample size was determined to ensure adequate statistical power to detect between  
076 group differences in PTSD and PDA at end of treatment and 8-month follow-up. For both outcomes the effect  
077 size was estimated as  $d$  defined as  $[d = |m_1 - m_2| / \sigma]$  where  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are change from intake in the outcome  
078 scores of the two conditions and  $\sigma$  is the common within-group standard deviation of the change score.<sup>90</sup> The  
079 effect size for the between group difference in PTSD CAPS scores from intake to end of treatment was  
080 estimated from several studies that have evaluated the effect of PE<sup>36,42</sup> or SS<sup>45</sup> on PTSD. Four studies of PE  
081 have demonstrated large within group effect sizes ranging from 1.3<sup>42</sup> to 4.1<sup>91</sup> with an average ES of 2.5. Hien  
082 et al.<sup>18</sup> found SS to have a within group effect size of .71 standard deviations. Using the average PE ES as an  
083 estimate, the between group effect size for the two treatments is about 1.79. This large effect size would  
084 require 6 participants per group to be detected with 80% power and a two-tailed test with alpha at .05. As a  
085 result of the large expected effect size for PTSD symptoms, study sample size was based on the second  
086 primary outcome of alcohol PDA at follow-up. This effect size is difficult to determine because exposure  
087 therapies have not been previously applied to individuals with AD and measured at follow-up time points,  
088 particularly after addressing PTSD symptoms. A recent study conducted by our group compared the effects  
089 ICBT to TSF on PDA and depression in a randomized trial of 178 Veterans.<sup>3,8</sup> By 12 months after treatment,  
090 participants without PTSD in the ICBT group maintained higher levels of abstinence at 18 months (adjusted M  
091 = 91% days abstinent) relative to participants without PTSD in the TSF group (adjusted M = 76%) and  
092 participants with PTSD in both groups (ICBT adjusted M = 77%; TSF adjusted M = 75%). Using a pooled  
093 standard deviation of  $\sigma = 26\%$ , the estimated effect size  $d = (.91-.76)/.26 = .58$ . This effect size requires 48  
094 participants per group to be detected with 80% power and a two-tailed test with alpha at .05. We increased the  
095 total sample size to  $N = 148$  in anticipation of 35% study drop-out by the 8 month assessment. Overall, we

096 believe this sample size balances three needs: (1) sufficient power to compare the study groups; (2) the reality  
097 of recruiting a sample with dual AD and PTSD; and (3) project cost considerations.

098 **6.H.2. Statistical Analyses.** In the initial 3-6 months, data management procedures will be developed and put  
099 into practice. Data will be entered as it is collected and quality assurance checks conducted on an on-going  
100 basis (e.g., double entry and cross validation). Preliminary analysis with initial baseline data will examine data  
101 characteristics (outliers, distribution properties) and group characteristics to evaluate the success of group  
102 randomization and the potential utility of covariates (e.g. gender) or the need for more structured randomization  
103 procedures. Randomization will be stratified by gender. Analyses will be conducted on an on-going basis to  
104 assure strict adherence to important issues for clinical trials, such as treatment fidelity, therapeutic alliance,  
105 and therapist effects.

106 Preliminary analyses will include descriptive statistics of the study population, and assessment of  
107 randomization. Outliers will be assessed. Variables whose distributions depart significantly from normality will  
108 be transformed. Reliability of multiple item scales will be examined.

110 **6.H.3. Primary Outcome Analyses.** The first primary aim is to evaluate if I-PE demonstrated greater reduction  
111 in PTSD symptoms than SS at post treatment. The statistical model will be a random intercept regression  
112 model with treatment condition (I-PE, SS) and a linear term for time (0, 2 months). The primary test of the  
113 treatment conditions will be treatment x time interaction effect. We will also test the extent to which gender  
114 moderates treatment effect. The model can be expanded to determine an adjusted intervention effect by  
115 including additional covariates, (e.g., age, ethnicity). This model provides maximum likelihood (ML) parameter  
116 estimates; allowing modeling of the covariance error structure data across assessment points.<sup>92</sup>

117 The second primary aim is to evaluate if I-PE will result in greater percent days abstinent (PDA) from  
118 substance use at 5 and 8-month follow-up. The statistical model will be a random intercept regression model  
119 with treatment condition (I-PE, SS) and a linear term for time (0, 2, 5, 8 months). The primary test of the  
120 treatment conditions will be the treatment x time interaction effect. A quadratic effect of time will also be tested  
121 to model potential decaying treatment effects. We will test the moderating effect of gender on the treatment  
122 effect by testing a treatment x time x gender interaction term in the model. Additional covariates can also be  
123 added to the model to determine an adjusted intervention effect.

124 The primary outcomes will be tested using an intent-to-treat framework. If, the extent of missing data is small  
125 and the data appear to be consistent with a missing-at-random model (MAR), then the maximum-likelihood  
126 analysis using all randomized cases and the observed data is an appropriate method for handling the missing  
127 data. In the MAR model the missingness can be a function of the observed covariates and observed outcomes.  
128 The MAR assumption is plausible in treatment situations, even in studies such as substance abuse in  
129 adolescents.<sup>93</sup> The critical element when conducting MAR-based analyses is to include variables related to the  
130 missingness in the statistical model.<sup>93</sup> Potential variables we will measure that may be related to study drop out  
131 are group assignment, social and familial support, employment status, and income. As a check on the  
132 sensitivity of our conclusions to the assumption that the missing data are MAR we will conduct pattern-mixture  
133 modeling, which is appropriate with data that is likely MAR.<sup>94</sup> The distinction between ignorable (MAR) and  
134 non-ignorable missingness (missing not at random; MNAR) is generally not empirically testable and we  
135 acknowledge the possibility that data may be missing not at random. Therefore, we propose to perform MNAR  
136 sensitivity analyses using pattern mixture models. With 3 follow-up assessment points there are 9 potential  
137 missing data patterns that can emerge. Some patterns will likely have small numbers of cases precluding  
138 parameter estimation for these patterns separately. In this case we will apply the Hedeker and Gibbons (1997)  
139 approach that combines missing data patterns to estimates model parameters that are conditional on the  
140 missingness using a binary variable in the model to denote missing data at one or more time points.

143 **5.H.4 Secondary Analyses.** We will assess the impact of the intervention on PTSD symptoms at 5- and 8-  
144 month follow-up and the impact of the interventions on depression and quality of life at post-treatment, 5- and  
145 8-month follow-up. The same random intercept regression model will be specified with data from 0, 2, 5, and 8  
146 month assessments. A significant treatment x time interaction will indicate a differential slope effect between  
147 the groups over time. The quadratic effect of time will be tested to model potential decaying treatment effects.

149 We will compare participants' satisfaction between the two conditions. ANOVA models with satisfaction (post  
150 intervention) and attendance as dependent variables and treatment condition as the independent variable will  
151 be specified. The models can be expanded to determine an adjusted intervention difference by including  
152 additional covariates such as gender. A chi-square test will compare attrition rates between groups.

153 **6.H.5 Exploratory Analyses.** We will evaluate the extent to which psychosocial, intervention process factors,  
154 and sleep problems are related to treatment outcomes. We hypothesize that the I-PE intervention will result in  
155 greater reductions in negative post-traumatic cognitions, compared to the SS intervention; while the SS  
156 intervention will result in greater use of positive coping skills. We will also test effects of process measures  
157 such as number of therapy sessions completed, negative affect, and sleep disruption on treatment outcomes.  
158 The statistical model for the mediation tests will be a path analysis with regression paths from treatment  
159 condition to change in the mediator ( $\alpha$ ) and from change in the mediator to change in the outcome ( $\beta$ ), along  
160 with the direct path from intervention to change in the outcome ( $\tau$ ). The statistical significance of the mediation  
161 effect ( $\alpha\beta$ ) will be tested by dividing it by its standard error with critical values for the distribution of the product  
162 of the coefficients determined by PRODCLIN.<sup>95</sup> Standard regression models will be used when examining  
163 predictors that are not expected to have differential changes by treatment condition.

## 164 **6.I. Strengths of this Proposal**

165  
166 Veterans with AD and PTSD are a highly prevalent population who are also highly distressed and clinically  
167 complex and challenging. Our team of investigators has both the clinical and research experience to further  
168 our knowledge of evidence based psychotherapy treatment for this population.

169 There are studies in progress through VA and NIH integrating CBT and exposure principles for the treatment of  
170 PTSD and alcohol or substance use disorder, but as of yet, outcomes are not available. The present study is  
171 unique in comparing the best practice therapy to the best disseminated therapy, and therefore, can directly  
172 address the question of what can and should be offered to individuals with PTSD and AD. In addition, this  
173 study is unique in that we integrate ICBT with PE. ICBT is not only a research-supported treatment for AD, but  
174 has a specific focus on negative affect which is highly prevalent among Veterans with comorbid PTSD and AD.  
175 PE is a best practice treatment for PTSD that is rarely offered to individuals with AD and PTSD. The strong  
176 data behind each treatment and the theoretical reasoning for combining these two treatments to reduce  
177 AD/PTSD suggests evaluating this integrated treatment is important.

178 Our VA recently received a grant for sleep equipment including polysomnography equipment (the PI, Sean  
179 Drummond, is a co-investigator on this proposal). Thus, we will be able to examine how sleep problems, which  
180 are highly prevalent among the AD/PTSD population, affect treatment outcomes, at very low cost to this  
181 proposal. This will give us important and novel data to help understand mechanisms of change in the  
182 treatments in the proposed trial. It will also give us an opportunity to collect pilot data to support future trials  
183 focused more primarily on sleep intervention.

184 As with other studies, the current project will generate data not related to the main aims, yet sufficient for  
185 testing secondary hypotheses and/or generating hypotheses for future studies. For example, we will be able to  
186 run moderator analyses to understand the role of mild cognitive impairment and gender on response to the  
187 treatments.

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