AMVETS Partners with TruGenomix to Tackle the Rise in Suicide Among Women Veterans

AMVETS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - AMVETS (American Veterans) and TruGenomix, a veteran-owned precision behavioral health company is the first company to offer a clinical decision support tool to help identify those living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military veterans and first responders, have announced a strategic partnership that will focus specifically on female veterans. Women, as well as other minority groups, have been largely underrepresented in leading studies.

“We hope that by providing women veterans with the opportunity to understand how their genes were affected by trauma exposure, it will create treatment protocols that are more precise and individualized to the needs of these women,” said Cherissa Jackson, AMVETS Chief Medical Executive.

Research suggests that individuals with PTSD are at an increased risk for suicide and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) found that women veterans were twice as likely to take their own lives compared to their non-Veteran counterparts. Prevalence rates for PTSD in women have been found to be over twice that of men; however, these studies have been unable to control for reporting and utilization bias. “By using an objective, genomic-based assay for
PTSD we can remove the biases and begin to understand true sex differences. Only then can we begin to tailor therapies to the underlying biologic changes,” said Dr. Anne Naclerio, Chief Medical Officer of TruGenomix.

“DNA doesn’t lie. Many of us return from our deployments suffering from PTSD but are not seeking help because of the stigma, especially women,” said Yusuf Henriques, Army Veteran, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer of TruGenomix." We intend to help our sisters-in-arms by better understanding their experiences as revealed through their biomarkers, which in turn will help them determine the best treatment plans for them.”

**AMVETS, which is also known as American Veterans, is the most inclusive Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization open to representing the interests of 20 million veterans and their families. We are veterans serving veterans since 1944. [amvets.org](http://amvets.org)**

**TruGenomix is a precision behavioral health company based in Rockville, Maryland. We focus on advancing the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders by offering a clinical decision support tool to help identify those living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our behavioral health platform includes TruGen-1; the first-to-market patented PTSD genomic biomarker blood test, coupled with a mental health risk assessment tool. TruGen-1 will revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of behavioral and mental health disorders by assisting clinicians in early identification of patients with PTSD, thus preventing significant suffering, improving mental health care, and reducing suicide. [trugenomix.com](http://trugenomix.com)**

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