



**Vision:** NAVREF envisions a nation in which veterans receive the finest care based on innovative research and education.

**Mission:** To advance the success of the VA-affiliated research and education corporations.

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# NAVREF newsletter

## Narrows Institute Lands New DoD Awards > \$5M

The Narrows Institute for Biomedical Research & Education was incorporated in 1989 to serve as a flexible funding mechanism and to support and facilitate approved research and educational activities at the VA New York Harbor Healthcare System (VA NYHHS). Over the years, the Narrows Institute has helped VA researchers receive funding from a variety of outside sources, most recently working with the NYHHS's Gait and Motion Analysis Laboratory to achieve the distinction of earning three Department of Defense (DoD) research awards. Established in 2010, the Gait and Motion Analysis Lab was designed in part to provide state-of-the-art clinical evaluations for Veterans with mobility impairments secondary to amputation, functional limb loss, neurological disorders, and orthopedic conditions.

Dr. Jason Maikos, the inaugural director of the lab and principal investigator on multiple awards managed by the Narrows Institute, has had the unique opportunity to shape both the research and clinical programs of the lab from the ground level. He has focused the majority of his research on complex analytical methods that explore both cutting edge prosthetic technology and rehabilitation treatment, with the goal of determining the best practices to maximize our disabled Veterans' rehabilitative and functional potential. The lab's cutting edge technology promotes research in the fields of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedics, Spinal Cord Injury and Sports Medicine/Recreation. The early success of the lab enabled Dr. Maikos to expand rapidly. He has established strategic collaborations within the VA, the DoD, and academic institutions, which has led to the award of over \$10 million in grant funding since the lab's inception.



Most recently, Dr. Maikos and his research team have been awarded over \$5 million in DoD merit awards to study prosthetic outcomes. His most recent grant explores the effects of a powered ankle-foot prosthesis on biomechanics, function, cognition, and pain for individuals living with Trans femoral (i.e. "above-the-knee") amputations. In addition, he is co-investigator on other awards which include "Criteria for Advanced Prosthetic Foot Prescriptions" and a very deserving population of Veteran, "Woman with Amputations". Dr. Maikos has laid the foundation for an elite clinical research program in New York that will provide both an immediate and direct impact on Veterans healthcare, as well as promote beneficial research for future applications.

The Narrows Institute, together with VA physicians, their staff, and others who are involved in research throughout the VA NYHHS, are committed to conducting research with the highest regard for the welfare of human subjects. We hope to learn from our predecessor's trials and tribulations, join forces with our colleagues, and serve as a champion for Veteran research throughout the Veteran communities.

We promote clinical trials as the paths to create and test treatments that are more effective and less toxic. Clinical trials should not be thought of as "last resort" treatments. In fact, patients in clinical trials are often the first to take the treatments of tomorrow, the cutting edge of care; and we are pleased to be able to offer our Veterans these opportunities.

*This article was contributed by the Narrows Institute in Brooklyn, NY. It has been edited for brevity.*