Learning Objectives:
1. Be aware of the specific needs of returning Wounded Warriors with PTSD, their families, and clinical staff.
2. Learn design guidelines based on peer-reviewed research, focus groups, and direct input from Wounded Warriors, their families, and clinical staff.
4. Understand military processes and their impact on design through three distinctly different military medical facilities.

As with any project, an important starting point is to gain an understanding of your client and their needs. Veterans with PTSD have unique characteristics and may also be recovering from traumatic limb amputation, mild traumatic brain injury, hearing and sight loss. The secondary effects of PTSD may also be intensified in family settings. These considerations increase the complexity of design considerations. Surveys, focus groups and research informed design guidelines in categories of manageable, purposeful and meaningful, friendly and interesting. © These principles can be applied both throughout a site or campus as well as to specific details.

Jerry Smith, FASLA, EDAC, LEED AP, SMITH | GreenHealth Consulting, LLC

Jerry Smith will discuss conceptual design solutions by way of examples from the Tribute to America’s Warriors project for the TriCare Management Activity of the Military Health System. Three architecture firms and consultants were contracted to develop a singular design concept for a tribute garden for wounded warriors that would be interpreted at each of the three major military medical centers in the US. This segment of the presentation is meant to demonstrate that these strategic design concepts and strategies are influenced by user-specific and site-specific factors.

The Tribute to America’s Warriors project includes installations at the following military medical facilities with associated design teams:
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda - HOK
- Fort Belvoir Community Hospital – HDR/Lee & Pappas Associates
- San Antonio Military Medical Center – RTKL
Brian Bainnson, ASLA, Quatrefoil, Inc.

This session will look at the design of healing gardens to meet the specific needs of Wounded Warriors, their families and caregivers. The talk will focus on three recent garden designs at Books Army Medical in San Antonio Texas, Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda Maryland and at Ft Belvior Medical Center in Belvior, Virginia. The Warriors being treated at these facilities are dealing with a wide range of injuries; multiple amputations, head trauma, severe burns and other severely disfiguring injuries. In addition many of these warriors are coping with varying levels of PTSD. The session will show how the AHTA healing garden design characteristics where used in the design of these gardens. The session will show how the seven characteristics can be used to both design and evaluate the garden.

Warriors are dealing with physical, psychological and social issues that are unprecedented in our time. The gardens in conjunction with the activities available in the Wounded Warrior and Family Support Centers create a model for how to heal the entire individual. These facilities act in concert with the care that Warriors are receiving at these prestigious Medical Facilities and do things that the military cannot do. These gardens have been designed as a place that warriors can spend time with their families outside of the stressful environments found at the medical center and base housing that the warriors live in while they are receiving outpatient treatment.

Resources

- American Horticultural Therapy Association
  www.ahta.org
- Center of Design for an Aging Society
  www.centerofdesign.org
- The Epidaurus Project
  www.smcaf.org/InPressFoote.pdf
- Journal of Traumatic Stress
  www.wiley.com
- Legacy Health System
  www.legacyhealth.org/gardens
- National Center for PTSD
  www.ptsd.va.gov
- Therapeutic Landscapes Database
  www.healinglandscapes.org