Our study, entitled *Improving Access to Care for Warfighters: Virtual Worlds Technology to Enhance Primary Care Training in Posttraumatic Stress and Motivational Interviewing* aims to investigate differences in training modalities aimed at enhancing primary care providers’ ability to assess for and treat Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in their veteran, military service, or civilian patients. This study is funded by the Department of Defense. The Principal Investigator is Karen Seal, MD, MPH, from the Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and the San Francisco Veteran’s Affairs Health Care System. Below are more details regarding the study so that you can learn what our study is about and decide if you would like to participate. Participation in research is completely voluntary; you don’t have to participate unless you want to and you may end your participation at any time.

**Why is this study being done?**
The mental health community is interested in working with primary care providers to increase their ability to detect and begin to manage PTSD symptoms. The ultimate goal being that the mental health needs of veterans, who might not have access to or willingness to engage in specialty mental health care, are met. The purpose of this study is to understand if a virtual world training or web-based training is better for improving PCPs’ understanding of PTSD, and their ability to detect and care for patients who may be suffering from the symptoms of PTSD. You have been asked to participate in this research study because you are working in a primary care setting.

**Who pays for this study?**
This study is funded by the Department of Defense.

**How many people will take part in this study?**
Up to 170 primary care providers will take part in this study.

In order to participate, you are required to go through an eligibility screen online (5 minutes). You must be a:

- Primary care provider (PCP) currently practicing adult medicine (including licensed internists, family practitioners, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, allied health professionals and trainees working in Primary Care setting)
- English-speaking

Once determined eligible you will be randomized to one of two different types of trainings. Depending on which training you are randomized to your participation requirements will vary. You will be asked to participate in either one or two 90-minute trainings sessions and phone calls with a standardized patient actor. The standardized patient will call you up to three times throughout the study to complete your “practice” interviews. These phone calls will last approximately 30 minutes. Both trainings modalities require that you take a pre-training assessment, post-training assessment and 90-day follow-up.
assessment. Each assessment is approximately 20 minutes long. All of your responses will be collected and securely stored online. Throughout the duration of the study, you will have access to resource training materials—patient handouts and clinician print materials are available via download.

If you are a VA PCP, the study staff may access your patients’ records to ascertain outcomes by comparing the density of VA mental health and VA primary care clinic utilization in the 6 months prior to the training and during 6 months after the training using VA administrative data.

Study staff will contact a selected subgroup of RCT enrolled participants at the end of their training who will be asked to partake in an optional additional semi-structured interview over the telephone to provide feedback on the training.

Audio Consent:
The simulated interviews with the standardized patient actor over the phone will be audio recorded. Audio recordings will be done for the purpose of research analysis and training and supervising the research staff. The audio recordings will be kept confidential and only research staff will have access to the recordings. Consent to be audio recorded is required for participation in the study.

Study location:
All these procedures will be done at a location of your choosing, with a requirement of an internet-enabled computer.

How long will I be in the study?
The total length of the study is 4 years. Total time commitment for the RCT participation is approximately 6 hours over the course of 3 months.

Can I stop being in the study?
Yes, you can decide to stop at any time. Tell the study staff right away if you wish to stop being in the study.

What side effects or risks can I expect from being in the study?
Because your participation will be confidential, there should be minimal to no risks to loss of privacy.

Are there benefits to taking part in the study?
The benefits of the study are not guaranteed but you may:

- Develop enhanced clinical expertise in recognizing PTSD and its related physical symptoms in primary care patients.
- Help researchers understand the impact of virtual world vs. web-based education in training primary care providers to identify and treat mental health disorders.

What other choices do I have if I do not take part in this study?
You are free to choose not to participate in the study. If you decide not to take part in this study, there are no negative consequences.

Will information about me be kept private?
We will do our best to make sure that the personal information gathered for this study is kept private. You will use a non-identifying username so that your answers to the pre- and post-assessments are
coded. If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other personal information will not be used.

Organizations that may look at and/or copy your research records for research, quality assurance, and data analysis include UCSF and their Committee on Human Research, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the funding agency, the Department of Defense. We may also provide your name, phone number, and/or email address to our project contractors in cases where they need to provide technology support.

**What are the costs of taking part in this study?**
You will not be charged for the study intervention.

**Will I be paid for taking part in this study?**
You will be eligible to receive up to 5.75 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits for participating in this course. If you are unable to accept or do not want CME credits or equivalent credits you may instead receive $50 gift card. In addition, at the end of participation, everyone who completes all study requirements will receive a $50 gift card. Meaning you could make up to 5.75 credits plus a $50 gift card OR a total of $100 in gift cards.

If you participate in the semi-structured interview, you may earn an additional $20 gift card.

**What are my rights if I take part in this study?**
Taking part in this study is your choice. You may choose either to take part or not to take part in the study. If you decide to take part in this study, you may end your participation at any time.

**Who can answer my questions about the study?**
You may contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Karen Seal, at any time by email, karen.seal@va.gov, or by phone 415-221-4810 x24852. You can also contact the Study Coordinator by phone at 415-933-9480.

If you wish to ask questions about the study or about your rights as a research participant of someone other than the researchers or if you wish to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study, please call the Office of the Committee on Human Research at 415-476-1814.

**PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY.** You have the right to decline to be in this study, or to withdraw from it at any point without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.