

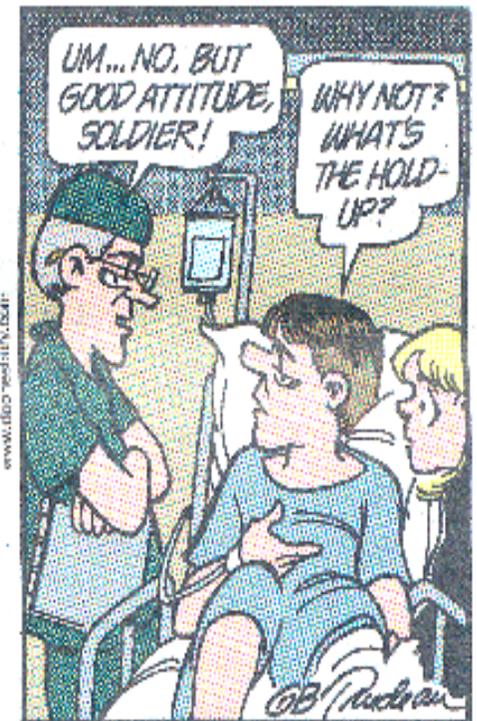
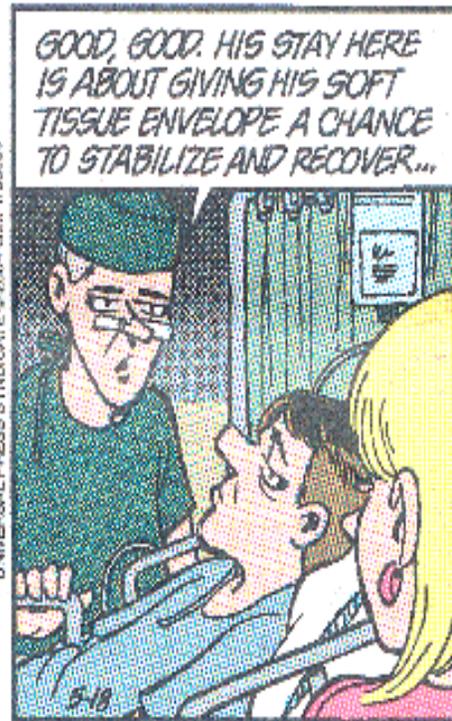
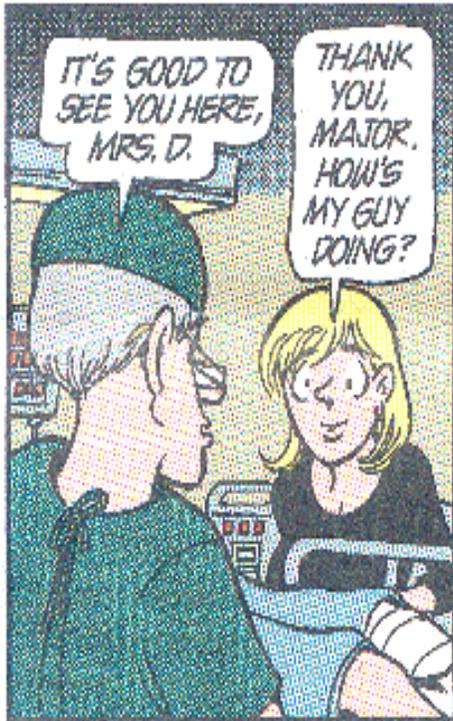
# Why Have a Traumatic Amputation QUERI?

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# It is the RIGHT THING TO DO!



# Ongoing and acute healthcare challenges for VA clinicians and clinician scientists

- Presently, >10,000 amputees are eligible for VA services
- Since 1998, the Army has recorded over 1,870 unique patients with amputation related diagnosis and/or amputation procedures
- Diabetes is the #1 cause of amputation in the veteran population and percentages continue to grow

**Provide the highest quality of care to our veterans, who put their life in harm's way**

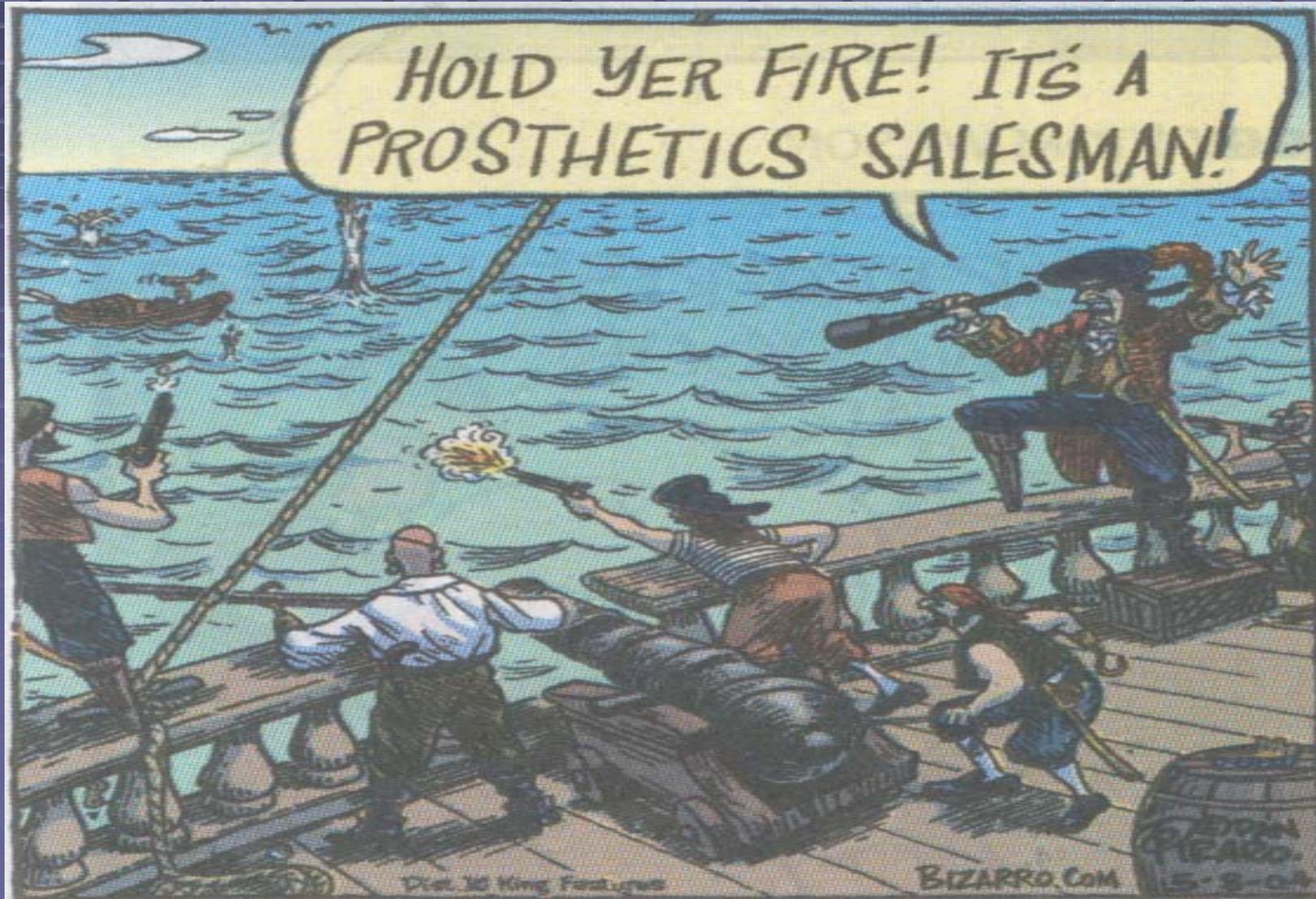
# Ongoing and acute healthcare challenges for VA clinicians and clinician scientists

Over 200 soldiers have experienced major limb loss as a result of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIFEF).

- Most of these servicemen and women have multiple injuries
- Many of these servicemen and women are upper limb amputees
- Many of these servicemen and women have lost multiple limbs

**Provide the highest quality of care to our soldiers, who are putting their lives in harm's way – Partner with WRAMC**

# Precious Little Evidence-Based Data Exists on Appropriate Treatment of Amputees



# VA / WRAMC Can Lead the National Health Care System

- Findings obtained from studies conducted by WRAMC and VA can direct national health care policy
- The Strength of the VA system is **INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE** – acute treatment, rehab, prosthetics
- VA is the best for Outcomes Research, Rehab Research and Clinical Trials

# VA Health Care System

- 163 hospitals
- 800 clinics
- 46 domiciliaries
- Largest healthcare system in the world
- Electronic filing system with over 1300 points of care and a paperless file transfer system
- Statutory obligation to associate with Academia
- Clinician/Clinician-scientist brain trust



# The VA has the Tools to Do the Job

- Excellent clinicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, orthotists and prosthetists
- Excellent resources driven by a definition of “best care” **not** health insurance constraints
- Excellent research and development in all aspects of patient healthcare including new devices, head-to-head trials of existing technology, and analyses of “best care”

# November 2003 SOTA Conference

- Analyzed commercially available orthotics and prosthetics
- **Need:** Translate current scientific and technological advances into patient care
- **Need:** Decrease 2<sup>nd</sup> complications
- **Need:** Identify clinically useful outcome measures
- **Need:** Training highly skilled amputee healthcare teams that address all the rehabilitation needs of the amputee for life
- <http://www.vard.org/meet/wramc03.htm>

# Information Dissemination



- Primary information dissemination vehicle
- Scientifically reviewed and indexed
- Six issues a year and supplements
- Stacieann Yuhasz, Ph.D. Editor

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