

Alison Cernich, PhD
Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research



Dr. Cernich is a board certified neuropsychologist, who serves as the director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) at the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health. She provides oversight for the portfolio of NCMRR and works within NIH to coordinate rehabilitation research. She serves on multiple interagency strategic planning committees and government oversight committees for major research initiatives in the federal government.

Previously, Dr. Cernich served as the deputy director for the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and TBI (DCoE) and worked through the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate major strategic initiatives and programs with the Department of Defense to support service members and veterans with these conditions.

Dr. Cernich received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). She completed a pre-doctoral research fellowship in rehabilitation outcomes measurement at the Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research & Education Corporation, funded by the National Institutes of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and a post-doctoral fellowship in cognitive neurosciences at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Washington, DC.

She was previously the director of neuropsychology and director of the Polytrauma Support Clinical Team at the VA Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS). Her previous research focus at the VAMCHS and the University of Maryland was to investigate the effects of aerobic exercise on cognition in multiple clinical populations (e.g., individuals diagnosed with stroke or Parkinson's disease) and understand the relationship between mental health conditions and the presentation of symptoms in individuals with mild traumatic brain injury.

She is the lead or contributing author on multiple peer-reviewed articles and conference presentations, with a specific emphasis on traumatic brain injury and computerized neuropsychological assessment.