

## Scientific Record File (S-File 3)

### *Structural Governance Failure and Consequence Documentation*

**Prepared and submitted by:**

Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC™  
Grain Valley, Missouri, United States

**Purpose of This File**

This Scientific Record File preserves documentary and structural material relevant to analysis of governance failure under sustained administrative, clinical, and institutional load. The contents are fixed, descriptive, and non-interpretive. They are presented solely to establish record integrity, sequence, and material continuity across systems.

**Scope**

This file does not present scientific data, experimental findings, clinical guidance, treatment recommendations, policy proposals, or instructions for action. It does not diagnose, predict, or prescribe. It records observable conditions, artifacts, and procedural outcomes as they exist.

**Record Status**

This file is complete and closed.  
No material herein is provisional, speculative, or subject to revision.  
All contents are presented without alteration of original form or context.

**Intended Use**

This file is intended for informational, oversight, and record-keeping purposes only. It is submitted as part of a procedurally fixed scientific and documentary record for review within appropriate governmental or institutional contexts.

**Date of Record Fixation:**

February 7, 2026



© 2025–2026

All rights reserved.

No portion of this work, including text, figures, or artwork, may be reproduced, distributed, stored, transmitted, or adapted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the rights holder, except as permitted under applicable law.

This work is protected under Title 17 of the United States Code and applicable trademark and unfair competition provisions of the Lanham Act.

Assertions of prior authorship or derivation predating 20 November 2025 require independent evidentiary substantiation.

Published by Journal of Structural Pathology  
Produced by Staring Down The Muzzle LLC  
United States of America

Author:

Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens

Web of Science ResearcherID:

PCR-8369-2025

*“Fear preserves authority because it rests on the dread of punishment, which never fails.  
And anything in this work that proves unfit under pressure will be punished first by me.  
I am not afraid of the future. I am building it.”*

— From *The Architecture of Human Will*

12.26.25

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: bto@darpa.mil

date: Nov 26, 2025, 8:10 AM

subject: Submission for Scientific Review: Neurostructural Trauma Science™ / SD PTSD™

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Good morning,

My name is Justin Brown. I served four tours as a Combat Infantryman and spent 22 years in, working in concert with SOF elements in support of nearly every operational phase of OIF, and spent part of every year in Iraq from 2004 through 2011. I also served as the Personnel Security Officer for the DCG-O, 25th ID, a selected position appointed by the Division CG and CSM. I am noting this only to give you the level of responsibility and exposure I operated under, not as a claim to status. I am sending this to DARPA first because this is the community I'm closely familiar with and the environment that shaped the patterns that later became this scientific discipline.

Like many of the Operators and combat arms personnel I worked alongside, the transition out came with the kind of real, mind numbing trauma we put ourselves through during those years. What I built did not come from external therapies or clinical models. It came from Internalized Experience™, processing it from the inside, the way many of us actually survive it.

The discipline is called Neurostructural Trauma Science™ and its central classification model is the Structural Degradation PTSD (SD PTSD™) framework. I developed this work from 11.21.25 through 11.25.25 and completed the copyright and trademark filings yesterday as well.

This timeline is verifiable through the filing records, document metadata, and the full progression of work completed in that window, including the creation of more than 180 new scientific terms in that same five day period.

The speed, clarity, and structural accuracy of the output are the anomaly, and that anomaly is part of the impact. In the history of psychological, neurological, and trauma sciences, no individual has ever produced a full field lexicon, classification system, and theoretical structure in under a week, let alone a multidimensional framework that combines all related entities into a single integrated structure. A feat of this scale has never been realized until now, because I have.

The framework defines how prolonged, repeated combat exposure creates cumulative structural and functional degradation patterns that existing PTSD era models do not capture.

I reached 13.4 METS on my stress test, documented in VA clinical records, and went nearly eleven minutes on a six minute protocol. I stopped by choice, though clinical notes state "fatigue." That level of performance is well above average for someone in their forties, yet I have twice required emergency care for severe hypertension. This test took place while I was building this framework, and the contradiction between high performance under load and instability at rest reflects structural patterns that current models cannot account for.

This is not a treatment request, a clinical submission, or a medical inquiry. I am not seeking diagnosis or care. I am providing this information for your awareness and consideration regarding its relevance to DARPA's work in warfighter performance, resilience, neurophysiology, and long term operational capability.



Neurostructural Trauma Science™ integrates systems neuroscience, neurophysiology, cognitive architecture, trauma pattern analysis, and operational behavior into a unified model explaining how long duration high intensity environments alter structural function over time. SD PTSD™ fills gaps that have remained unresolved since the PTSD construct was introduced in 1980 and expands the field into a domain that has not been organized or formally studied.

If this material warrants interest, I am prepared to provide the lexicon, structural diagrams, supporting documents, and implementation plan. I am also collecting notarized lived experience statements from Veterans who have reviewed the framework and want to provide their perspective independently.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am prepared to move forward, because this field of science can't wait, and no other entity is better aligned to its impact than DARPA.

V/R,  
Justin L. Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: pdunlap@vfw.org  
date: Nov 26, 2025, 11:44 AM  
subject: Submission for National Review: Neurostructural Trauma Science™ / SD-PTSD™  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Hey Paul,

Here is everything you will need to move this up via our discussion. I appreciate the way you handled this today. Per our conversation, today brought me to you by sitting down with the VA and walking them through the severity and scale of what I built, they understood the gravity of it immediately. But with Thanksgiving break starting tomorrow, their main staff was already out. They told me they didn't have anyone with the authority to move this forward internally right now, and that I needed to bring this to VFW Headquarters today. Not next week. Today.

I am not looking for funding, investments, partnerships, or anything financial. What this needs now is the influence and authority to move it in front of Congress to begin formalization. I am more than willing to brief this at VFW Headquarters when our schedules align. Just know I am busy, and I am not chasing attention or asking for special time. This is vet to vet, and this will move because of the weight behind it.

Before I shift into the structural explanation, I want to give you the transition you will need for context.

I will warn you now, the next part is going to sound clinical, and I apologize for the shift in tone, but I also understand that you don't know me yet. So I need you to see exactly why this framework is nothing like the PTSD era models you have been seeing for decades. This is not recycled psychology. This is structural science built from the inside, and it is the piece that changes everything.

Below is the scientific context I originally provided to DARPA. It is included here so you have the complete foundation to pass up the chain.

“Good morning,

My name is Justin Brown. I served four tours as a Combat Infantryman and spent 22 years in, working directly with SOF elements across nearly every operational phase of OIF. I spent part of every year in Iraq from 2004 through 2011. I also served as the Personnel Security Officer for the DCG-O, 25th ID, a position appointed by the Division CG and CSM. I note this only to give the level of responsibility and operational exposure I worked under.



Like many Operators and combat arms personnel, the transition out came with the kind of trauma we learn to survive by processing from the inside, not through external models. That is where this discipline came from. The scientific field is Neurostructural Trauma Science™ and its central classification model is Structural Degradation PTSD™ (SD-PTSD™). I built the framework from 11.21.25 through 11.25.25 and completed the copyright and trademark filings immediately afterward.

This timeline is verifiable through metadata, filing records, and the full body of work completed, including more than 180 newly created scientific terms in the same window. The speed and structural clarity of the output are part of the anomaly, and the anomaly is part of the impact. No one in the history of trauma science has produced a unified lexicon, classification system, and theoretical structure in under a week. This is the first time.

The framework defines how prolonged and repeated combat exposure produces cumulative structural and functional degradation patterns that existing PTSD models cannot capture.

During development, I completed a stress test at the VA where I reached 13.4 METS and went nearly eleven minutes on a six minute protocol. I stopped by choice, though the notes say fatigue. That level of performance is above average for my age, yet I have twice required emergency care for severe hypertension. This contradiction between high performance under load and instability at rest reflects structural patterns that current models cannot explain. SD-PTSD™ directly accounts for this.

This is not a medical request or clinical submission. I am not seeking diagnosis or care. I am providing this because Neurostructural Trauma Science™ integrates systems neuroscience, trauma routing, autonomic mechanics, cognitive architecture, and operational behavior into a unified structural model that fills the gaps left unresolved since 1980. If this warrants interest at your level, I can provide the representative structural diagrams, supporting documentation, and implementation model. Veterans who have reviewed the field are also providing notarized statements.”

For representative terminology only, without submitting the lexicon itself:

Internalized Experience™

Trauma Routing Architecture™

Auto-Dysfunction Rage Trigger™

Dissociative Routing Failure™

Collapse-State Cognition™

Autonomic Compression Mechanism™

I want to pause here and give you something personal, because every Veteran understands it immediately. Imagine years ago, instead of a clinician telling you that you have PTSD, which explains nothing, they looked at you and said:

You are not just angry. You are hitting something called the Auto-Dysfunction Rage Trigger™.

And instead of giving you a diagnosis, they explained it in plain language.

Auto-Dysfunction Rage Trigger™ means your system is so overloaded and worn down that even a tiny stressor, something that would never have bothered you years ago, suddenly feels like a full internal detonation. Your body fires off anger before your brain even knows why. It is not because you are an angry person. It is because the wiring



responsible for regulating that surge has been damaged by years of combat-level load that never reset. The trigger fires without permission and you are left holding the reaction. If someone had explained that back then, it would have changed everything. It would have given you a map instead of a label. That is the entire purpose of this framework.

I have also attached the Staring Down The Muzzle logo and its accompanying philosophical breakdown for your review. This explanation provides both Veterans and civilians with a translation of what the internal detonation of combat feels like long after the war ends, and it bridges understanding in ways clinical language never could.

If you need anything refined before this moves to the Assistant National Director, let me know. Otherwise, this should provide you with everything you need for now. I look forward to the opportunity of working with such a highly respected organization, of which I too, recently became a member.

V/R,  
Justin L. Brown, MBA

**from: medrxiv@openrxiv.org via sendgrid.net**  
to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
cc: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 5, 2025, 2:01 PM  
subject: Your medRxiv submission -- MEDRXIV/2025/341682

MS ID#: MEDRXIV/2025/341682  
MS TITLE: The SD-PTS Neurostructural Trauma Model (Manuscript Edition)

Dear Dr. Brown-Stephens,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to medRxiv. As part of our process, all submissions are screened to ensure they match medRxiv posting criteria and scope. During this process, we determined that your manuscript is not suitable for medRxiv. It is not a clinical research article with new data and therefore it is out of scope and will not be posted.

We would like to emphasize that this conclusion is not a judgment on the merits of the work, and we would welcome future submissions of content types that are in scope.

Thank you for your interest in medRxiv.

Kind regards,  
The medRxiv team

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: medrxiv@openrxiv.org  
date: Dec 5, 2025, 3:04 PM  
subject: Re: Your medRxiv submission -- MEDRXIV/2025/341682  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear medRxiv Screening Team,



Thank you for taking the time to review my manuscript and for your clear feedback regarding the need for additional clinical validation before it can be considered as a preprint. I genuinely appreciate the professionalism and the careful attention you give to submissions.

My work represents a structurally grounded trauma-science model built from direct physiological evidence, federal medical data, and field-study documentation. I fully understand the importance of clinical confirmation and welcome the opportunity to strengthen the scientific foundation before resubmitting.

If possible, I would greatly appreciate any guidance or recommendations you may have on appropriate journals, fields, or research groups best suited for this type of structural trauma science, particularly those that would be receptive to novel mechanistic models emerging from Veteran populations and multisystem clinical evidence.

My goal is to ensure the work is evaluated through the correct scientific channels, strengthened with the appropriate external validation, and positioned where it can contribute meaningfully to the field.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and commitment to scientific rigor. Any direction you can offer would be sincerely valued.

V/R,  
Justin L. Brown, MBA

**from: medRxiv medrxiv@openrxiv.org via helpscout.net**  
to: Sdtm - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 9, 2025, 9:17 AM  
subject: Re: Your medRxiv submission -- MEDRXIV/2025/341682  
mailed-by: bounce.helpscout.net  
signed-by: helpscout.net

Dear Dr. Brown,  
Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, we are not able to advise on specific alternative preprint servers. We can only assess submissions for compliance with medRxiv's own policies and scope.

If you wish to submit your work elsewhere, we recommend reviewing the guidelines of other preprint servers to ensure that your manuscript's content and format are compatible with their requirements.

Thank you for your understanding and good luck with your submission.

Kind regards,  
The medRxiv Team

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: medRxiv medrxiv@openrxiv.org  
date: Dec 9, 2025, 9:28 AM  
subject: Re: Your medRxiv submission -- MEDRXIV/2025/341682  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear medRxiv Team,  
I've already moved into Peer Review with another significant scientific organization! I just wanted to say thank you very much. The work you do does not go unnoticed! Have a fantastic day.



V/R,  
**Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA**

**from: SDTM - J Brown** [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)  
to: Customer Service [customerservice@gruntstyle.com](mailto:customerservice@gruntstyle.com)  
date: Dec 9, 2025, 3:04 PM  
subject: This Is Live Now: Get in Front of Tim Jensen ASAP...  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Elissa and GS Team,

Please read in full. Time is of the essence.

The SD-PTSD Neurostructural Trauma Model is now in formal peer review with PLOS ONE, Frontiers, Military Medicine, and AMSUS. All four advanced into editorial and academic review within approximately twenty hours.

The work is now routing through VA Behavioral Health leadership.

It has also been formally escalated to VFW National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., with a documented response window.

This is no longer a 2026 conversation. It is active at the federal and national Veteran-institution level right now.

This is not a funding request. I am requesting zero dollars from Grunt Style. I am requesting Tim Jensen's weight, influence, and reach only.

This is the exact lane Tim has publicly spoken about for years concerning veteran suicide, no excuses, and real action.

This needs to be routed to Tim directly.

Provided is the time-stamped email sent to VFW Headquarters. Below is the exact message as it was received by the VFW.

---

**"Paul and Karol,**

I wanted to provide you both with a brief and important update on where things currently stand with the SD-PTSD Neurostructural Trauma Model and why I am reaching back out to you both directly.

Over the last several days, I rebuilt the Codex I provided to the VFW into a core scientific framework.

It has now been formally submitted to four independent scientific domains: PLOS ONE, Frontiers, Military Medicine, and AMSUS. Yesterday, within roughly twenty hours, all four moved the work forward into their editorial and peer-review pipelines, including assignment for academic review.

In parallel with this, I met with VA Behavioral Health to formally brief them on the model and its implications for severe combat trauma. That internal routing is now underway.

I have also updated my website, [staringdownthemuzzle.com](http://staringdownthemuzzle.com), so that anyone reviewing it can clearly see the intent, structure, and professional boundaries of the work. The site explicitly reflects that SD-PTSD does not replace PTSD, but adds a deeper structural layer beneath what the current diagnostic framework captures.



I have respected the VFW since I was a kid. You have always stood for something solid and principled within the Veteran community. That is why I am a member and why I have been at your front entrance every week for the last month, back when this was still a living, written book meant to connect severe combat trauma Veterans like myself into a safe community where we could truly be ourselves. Even then, Paul, you saw something in it and made sure I knew you were carrying it forward and placing it in front of the right people.

My hope is that these recent developments remove caution flags and allow for a direct, open conversation about this science and its potential role in serving our most severely affected Veterans. This deserves to be heard on the Capitol, in front of those who have the authority to make things right with this community.

I will be equally direct and respectful. Things are now moving forward in a substantial way, with or without formal institutional participation. **I made sure of that.** My preference is that the VFW be part of this early and at the table, not on the outside later explaining to Veterans why it chose not to engage when time was of the essence and it had the rare influence to move with purpose.

I look forward to a response, but will respectfully move on if I do not hear from someone at **VFW National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., by Wednesday, December 17th.**"

---

My contact information is below for Mr. Jensen to reach me directly. This work will remain free for all service members suffering from severe combat trauma. I will never release it in parts or dilute it in any way that compromises its original intent.

Unlike the VFW, I am not placing a response deadline on this. I am asking for Veteran support to help route this upward. We are losing Veterans every single day, and this will materially help stop the bleeding. I am already doing that at my current scale.

V/R,  
**Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA**

**On Fri, Nov 21, 2025 at 12:48 PM Customer Service <[customerservice@gruntstyle.com](mailto:customerservice@gruntstyle.com)> wrote:**  
Hello Justin,

Thanks for reaching out to us!

We all appreciate your support.

For the remainder of 2025 we are no longer accepting partnership requests.

We encourage you to please contact us again in 2026 for any future opportunities.

We truly appreciate your understanding.

Please let us know if there is anything else we can assist you with at this time.

Elissa H  
Customer Service Representative-Patriot  
Grunt Style, LLC  
"This We'll Defend"  
[www.gruntstyle.com](http://www.gruntstyle.com)



877-554-7868

[customerservice@gruntstyle.com](mailto:customerservice@gruntstyle.com)

<https://www.gruntstyle.com/collections/the-ultimate-gift-guide>

**from: Military Medicine em@editorialmanager.com**

reply-to: Military Medicine milmed.editorialoffice@publishingsolutions.net

to: Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

date: Dec 10, 2025, 10:27 AM

subject: A manuscript number has been assigned to The SD-PTSD Neurostructural Trauma Model: Autonomic, Cognitive, and Cardiovascular Structural Convergence Following Traumatic Brain Injury

mailed-by: mail.editorialmanager.com

signed-by: editorialmanager.com

Dear Mr. Brown-Stephens,

Your submission entitled "The SD-PTSD Neurostructural Trauma Model: Autonomic, Cognitive, and Cardiovascular Structural Convergence Following Traumatic Brain Injury" has been assigned the following manuscript number: MILMED-D-25-00956.

You will be able to check on the progress of your paper by logging on to Editorial Manager as an author.

The URL is <https://www.editorialmanager.com/milmed/>.

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

Regards,  
Military Medicine

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: maggie.baldwin@va.gov

date: Dec 10, 2025, 10:57 AM

subject: Fwd: A manuscript number has been assigned to The SD-PTSD Neurostructural Trauma Model: Autonomic, Cognitive, and Cardiovascular Structural Convergence Following Traumatic Brain Injury

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dr. Baldwin,

Please see below. You can send that up too if ya want. I won't give a way too much, but I completed the last 4 Modalities last night and the Capstone. Have a great day!

V/R,

**Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA**

**from: Sonya Walton onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com**

reply-to: sonya.walton@queensu.ca

to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

cc: maxime.valsamas@queensu.ca

date: Dec 10, 2025, 1:31 PM

subject: A decision has been made on Manuscript ID jmvfh-2025-0118 for the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health



mailed-by: outbound.manuscriptcentral.com  
signed-by: manuscriptcentral.com

Dear Justin Brown-Stephens,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript (jmvfh-2025-0118), "THE SD-PTSD™ NEUROSTRUCTURAL TRAUMA MODEL (MANUSCRIPT EDITION) Structural Degradation Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder™ A Neurostructural Trauma Science™ Discipline The Foundational Scientific Model of Structural Degradation PTSD™," to the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health.

After careful consideration, we have determined manuscript ID jmvfh-2025-0118 does not fit the scope of our journal.

Thank you for considering the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health for publication of your research. We hope to have the opportunity to showcase your work in the future.

All the best,  
Sonya Walton  
Managing Editor, Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health  
[sonya.walton@queensu.ca](mailto:sonya.walton@queensu.ca)

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: [sonya.walton@queensu.ca](mailto:sonya.walton@queensu.ca)  
date: Dec 10, 2025, 2:03 PM  
subject: Re: A decision has been made on Manuscript ID jmvfh-2025-0118 for the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dear Ms. Walton,  
Thank you for your time and for the consideration given to my manuscript (jmvfh-2025-0118). I appreciate your notification and respect the editorial decision regarding scope.  
I look forward to my work completing peer review within the journals where it is currently in scope, so that it may better serve and support military families and those affected by trauma.  
I wish you and the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health continued success in your important work.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: [maggie.baldwin@va.gov](mailto:maggie.baldwin@va.gov)  
date: Dec 11, 2025, 8:27 AM  
subject: Additional Context for Our Ongoing Plan  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dr. Baldwin,



I wanted to reach out once again to thank you for the time, care, and attention you have invested in helping me navigate what has become an unusually complex physiological picture. Your willingness to look deeper, to consider the broader context, and to treat me as an active participant in my own care has meant a great deal. I value your judgment, and my goal in writing is to ensure that I remain aligned with you as we continue moving forward.

I have not taken the mirtazapine or trazodone. This was not out of reluctance or resistance, but out of caution based on the pattern that has emerged across my evaluations. As you know, repeated assessments in both federal and civilian systems have shown that my conscious cognitive state remains stable even as my autonomic system behaves independently, at times escalating into crisis-range blood pressure and collapse-state physiology without any psychological distress. This dissociation has been documented in stress testing, emergency evaluations, Apple Fitness telemetry, and the timestamped field recordings captured during instability episodes. My concern is not with the medications themselves, but with how sedative-class agents might interact with this specific physiology. Sedatives can quiet cognition while the autonomic system continues its own surge behavior beneath it, and in my case, early awareness of escalation is one of the few stabilizing tools I have. I wanted to provide this context so my decision is understood as a safety consideration rather than opposition.

I remain fully committed to working with you and following a coordinated plan. I trust your guidance, and I am grateful for your willingness to see the broader physiological landscape that others often overlook. As we move ahead, I would appreciate your thoughts on possible approaches that support sleep and stabilization without diminishing my awareness during autonomic shifts. I am also open to any further diagnostic steps, including pharmacogenomic testing, if you feel they would help clarify how my system processes or responds to certain medications.

I want to make clear that I am not rejecting care, nor am I pushing back against your recommendations. My intention is simply to keep our approach consistent with what has already been documented about my physiology, and to maintain the collaborative relationship you have established with me. Thank you again for your time, your insight, and your continued support. I look forward to our next steps together.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**  
**to: [info@garysinisefoundation.org](mailto:info@garysinisefoundation.org)**  
**date: Dec 12, 2025, 8:29 AM**  
**subject: Veteran Suicide Is a Systems Failure: This Needs Gary Sinise's Awareness**  
**mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

Gary Sinise Foundation Team,

I am writing because I am holding a systems-level clinical finding related to suicide and physiologic collapse affecting both Active-Duty service members and Veterans. This information should not remain siloed and should be visible to Gary Sinise.

I am not asking for funding, sponsorship, or donations. My objective is awareness and contact handshakes, ensuring this work is seen by the right people before more Active-Duty service members and Veterans die inside systems that currently cannot detect the underlying failure mechanism.

I am a Combat Infantryman with twenty-two years of Active-Duty service and four deployments to Iraq. I am also Patient 0 of the trauma mechanism I identified.

Following my final Army assignments, I experienced rapid physiologic degradation, severe weight loss, and two full-system collapse events within weeks. These collapses did not conform to PTSD, TBI, or any existing medical or



psychological framework. Rather than being treated successfully, I documented autonomic, cardiovascular, sleep, and metabolic failures in real time and reverse engineered the underlying mechanism from the collapse-state itself.

That work became the foundation of Shock-Origin 9X Multidisciplinary Combat Trauma Science™ (SO-9X-MCTS™), a closed-loop scientific architecture that reframes suicide risk, long-term health decline, and premature mortality in both Active-Duty and Veteran populations as a structural injury progression rather than a primary psychological condition.

The science is already moving through formal federal and international review.

It is currently under review with Military Medicine (AMSUS), manuscript MILMED-D-25-00956.

It is under editorial and peer review with PLOS ONE, manuscript PONE-D-25-65383.

It has been submitted to Frontiers in Neuroscience, Autonomic Neuroscience section, manuscript ID 1762830.

In parallel, I have been recognized as an Editorial Reviewer with PLOS ONE, with reviewer activity indexed through Clarivate's Web of Science, ResearcherID PCR-8369-2025.

Initial human field validation has been completed. Objective physiologic validation using FDA-grade metrics is underway. This work is being taken seriously in scientific channels that do not accelerate lightly.

The reason I am reaching out is simple. This explains why Active-Duty service members and Veterans continue to die despite engagement with existing programs. The system is looking in the wrong layer.

I am intentionally limiting technical detail to protect ongoing review processes and intellectual property. This is not a pitch and not a data disclosure. It is a notice.

I want to be clear about how this reached its current state and why I am contacting you now. I did not set out to accelerate or escalate this work. I brought an initial Codex to the Kansas City VA in good faith and learned quickly that it would not be read at the level required to protect lives. At that point, waiting was no longer responsible. I made a deliberate and strategic decision to translate the Codex, which already contained the scientific principles, into a fully structured and formally articulated multidisciplinary scientific framework. I did this because time is not abstract in this space. When fellow Brothers and Sisters are actively collapsing and dying, waiting for systems to catch up is not an option. Over the course of that weekend, I converted the work into a true scientific structure and submitted it to the appropriate journals. Each formally accepted it into editorial or peer review in under twenty hours. That response confirmed what I already understood. This was not work that could sit idle, and it is not work that should move slowly.

Gary Sinise has consistently demonstrated that when the truth is clear and the stakes are real, action follows. This work and the fact that it exists should be visible to him or to the senior leadership he trusts. I am not asking for funding, support, or a handout. I am putting eyes on something that matters and cannot wait. This message should be routed upward to Gary Sinise or to the senior leadership he trusts for review ASAP. Time is of the essence.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**  
to: [zachary.goldman@louisville.edu](mailto:zachary.goldman@louisville.edu)  
date: Dec 12, 2025, 5:02 PM



subject: UofL SID 5487186 — Justin Brown, Former Student (Huge News at the End)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dr. Goldman,

I hope you have been doing well. I am genuinely excited to reach out and reconnect, because this is one of those moments where your guidance from years ago has come full circle.

I graduated from the Online MBA program in May of 2023, and you may remember me from a program-level issue that arose when Dijana requested that I be moved to a different group after it became clear the existing team was not operating at a pace or level that allowed for meaningful contribution. That moment reinforced a conversation you and I had earlier in the program, and it has stayed with me.

I still remember telling you that while the curriculum was solid, I did not feel as challenged as I expected. Not because it lacked rigor, but because I felt there was more I was meant to be doing on purpose. You encouraged me to think beyond traditional lanes and suggested that with my level of intensity and drive, I should find a way to apply the MBA toward helping Veterans through health services or systems-level work. I took that advice seriously, though not in the way either of us would have anticipated.

What ultimately set this in motion was not academic curiosity or professional ambition, but full-system physiologic collapse that nearly took my life on October 19, 2025, and again on November 6, 2025, while I was working as an HR Business Partner for Walgreens. I am still in that role today under medical accommodations. Those collapse events did not align with PTSD, TBI, or any existing clinical framework. I survived them, documented them in real time, and brought the science back out with me.

Rather than stepping away, I began tracing the failure state itself. What emerged was not a psychological explanation, but a systems-level mechanism involving autonomic, cardiovascular, metabolic, and cognitive breakdown. That work evolved into a multidisciplinary scientific framework that reframes suicide risk, long-term health decline, and premature mortality as a structural injury progression rather than a primary psychological condition.

I now know exactly what was wrong with me. For the first time, I am focused on truly living rather than merely surviving, and on bringing as many severely combat-traumatized Veterans as possible to that same side of the line.

I am not reaching out for funding, sponsorship, or anything transactional. What I am asking for is guidance and connection. Specifically, I am hoping you might help bridge this work to the University of Louisville's Office of Research and Innovation so it can be seen by appropriate academic and clinical leadership before more lives are lost inside systems that are currently looking at the wrong layer.

This is exactly the kind of interdisciplinary, real-world, time-sensitive work universities aim to be associated with, and I believe Louisville has an opportunity to be involved early and responsibly. I am intentionally limiting technical detail in writing to protect ongoing review processes and intellectual property. This is not a pitch or a data disclosure, but a request for help navigating the right path forward.

Current scope and status, in brief:

- The work formally began November 20, 2025, with the creation of Staring Down the Muzzle LLC and associated legal protections.
- Scientific development began November 21, 2025 and has resulted in nine structural modalities, two sub-modalities, two capstone laws, and a purpose-built assessment instrument.
- The assessment instrument has already been administered in observational, non-clinical Veteran field settings, with notarized documentation maintained.



- Materials currently under peer review include five of the nine modalities only. Remaining modalities, sub-modalities, and the assessment instrument are being deliberately withheld pending completion of a 30-subject FDA-approved Field Study II.
- Field Study II testing runs December 15, 2025 through January 15, 2026. Baseline lipid and genetic panels have already been completed and will be repeated post-study under identical conditions.

Active scientific review:

- Military Medicine (AMSUS) — Manuscript MILMED-D-25-00956
- PLOS ONE — Manuscript PONE-D-25-65383
- Frontiers in Neuroscience (Autonomic Neuroscience) — Manuscript ID 1762830

In parallel, I have been recognized as an Editorial Reviewer with PLOS ONE, with reviewer activity indexed through Clarivate's Web of Science.

Published and indexed as:  
Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens  
ORCID iD: 0009-0001-1616-6959

I am sharing this to establish clarity around what exists, what is under review, and what remains intentionally protected. The work is active, advancing responsibly, and already integrated into the scientific record.

I would welcome the opportunity to reconnect and hear your thoughts on how this might best move forward within the University.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Goldman, Zachary zachary.goldman@louisville.edu**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 12, 2025, 9:02 PM  
subject: Re: UofL SID 5487186 — Justin Brown, Former Student (Huge News at the End)  
mailed-by: louisville.edu  
signed-by: louisville.edu

Justin,

I'm sincerely sorry on the delayed response, but I am very excited to (re)connect with you, even more after reading your message. This semester was crazy, as I took on a new role while keeping my previous responsibilities. That said, the semester ended today and I have a few days to breathe. Let me know when you are available on Monday and I'll give you a call. I'm truly inspired by your work, and I'm eager to help however I can (I've got some ideas). Looking forward to talking soon.

Dr. Goldman

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 12, 2025, 9:25 PM  
subject: Re: UofL SID 5487186 — Justin Brown, Former Student (Huge News at the End)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com



Dr. Goldman,

No worries at all! You don't stop, and neither do I. I've always respected you for that, and for the way you lead. You don't just influence people, you genuinely care. Because of that, you're the only person in academia I would have brought this to.

I did submit a formal request to the Office of Research and Innovation yesterday, but quickly realized this conversation needed to happen through a more personal route. And for me, there is nothing more personal than this work.

I'm available before 9:00 a.m., from 10:00–11:00 a.m., and from noon to 2:00 p.m. CST. I do have a two-hour meeting from 2:00–4:00 p.m., but I can flex afterward once I front-load my HR updates to the regional team, which should take about 3:00–3:15. You tell me what works best for you, and I'll make it happen.

I need someone I trust in this space. The science is solid, but protecting the people involved is what I stand on. I'm really looking forward to talking again! Talk soon.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Goldman, Zachary zachary.goldman@louisville.edu**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 13, 2025, 9:37 AM  
subject: Re: UofL SID 5487186 — Justin Brown, Former Student (Huge News at the End)  
mailed-by: louisville.edu  
signed-by: louisville.edu

Looking forward to it, Justin!

How about 8 am CT, Monday morning via phone? Does that work for you? Excited to learn more and find ways to support you.

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 13, 2025, 1:16 PM  
subject: Pre-Read for Monday | 8:00 AM Confirmation  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zach,

Sounds great. I'll be ready then. My intent here was simply to send a brief read-ahead before our conversation Monday morning.

You'll notice this is coming a bit later than I initially expected after your response. I assumed the weekend would offer some quiet space to sit with things before we talked, but that hasn't been the case. Attention and outreach continued through last night and into today in a way that made it clear I needed to slow down and frame this more carefully rather than rush it out. That's why I wanted to share this context ahead of time.

Attached are two deliberately limited preread documents. The first reflects a conducted and redacted assessment, shared only to establish legitimacy and grounding. The second shows real-time updates and refinement based on direct Veteran feedback. Both are intentionally bounded and do not disclose full architecture, downstream mechanics, or the broader scope of the work. They're included so our conversation can start from something concrete rather than abstract.

The intent moving forward is for this work to be conducted in person, on site, in a non-clinical setting, either following completion of Field Study II or concurrently where appropriate, modifying the assessment only as necessary to support real-time capture and translation using methods consistent with existing VA practice, including tools analogous to 'Ambient AI Scribe.'

I want to be candid in a professional sense. The work has crossed from contained development into live execution faster than I anticipated managing independently. Field Study II begins the same day as our discussion, and with that shift has come a noticeable change in operating conditions. External attention has increased across academic, clinical, legal, and advocacy channels, including targeted outreach that does not pause with the workweek. Even when handled carefully, that pull competes directly with focus and execution.

At the same time, my operating limits have become clearer as I've been carrying this alongside my current role, which spans responsibility for 138 stores across three states and regional support covering nearly 700 locations. Despite improvement, my sleep continues to average between three and five hours, and I've lost a significant amount of weight over this period, including during the collapse events that initiated the work. I've been able to sustain output, but continuing to run both at this level without insulation isn't a responsible long-term posture. One of the parallel goals of Field Study II is restoring my own baseline so execution remains stable and sound.

I should also be transparent that I've personally invested close to twenty thousand dollars into getting this to where it is now. I have what I need to continue the work itself. What I no longer have is more of me, or the ability to responsibly multitask across national, federal, and international demands without compromising focus or judgment.

I've taken the necessary steps to protect the work legally and structurally, as you know. What I'm asking for now is your perspective on how to navigate this inflection point responsibly, and whether and how institutional authority, protection, and resources might be applied so the work can proceed with focus and containment rather than fragmentation.

My intent is to retain full intellectual property and authorship while placing this work with an institution I trust to steward it responsibly, and Louisville is the place I want to explore doing that. I'm willing to absorb the travel and distance because, based on my direct experience working with KU Med through Walgreens, I know this work aligns more closely with the depth and interdisciplinary expertise Louisville brings to the table. I don't make that choice lightly. I spent four years at war away from my life, followed by years of training, development, and leadership commitments that required the same level of sacrifice, and I'm prepared to do that again when it's for the right reason and the right stewardship.

I wanted to get this in front of you ahead of Monday so the conversation can stay focused on substance, given both of our time constraints, while keeping the gravity and potential of this clear. Given our prior conversations through the MBA program, it felt important to surface this now rather than let momentum decide for me.

I appreciate you taking the time to review the preread, and I'm looking forward to our conversation Monday.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA



**from: PLOS ONE em@editorialmanager.com**  
reply-to: PLOS ONE plosone@plos.org  
to: Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 14, 2025, 4:25 AM  
subject: PLOS ONE Decision: PONE-D-25-65383 - [EMID:f495415b65f0718a]  
mailed-by: mail.editorialmanager.com  
signed-by: editorialmanager.com

PONE-D-25-65383  
The SD-PTSD™ Neurostructural Trauma Model: Autonomic, Cognitive, and Cardiovascular Structural  
Convergence Following Traumatic Brain Injury  
PLOS One

Dear Dr. Brown-Stephens,

Thank you very much for submitting your manuscript above for review by PLOS One. After careful consideration, we have decided that your manuscript does not meet our criteria and is therefore not suitable for publication in PLOS One.

PLOS One has been specifically designed to communicate original research contributing to the base of academic knowledge. Individual case reports and collections of case reports are not considered for publication. More about our guidelines can be found at <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/criteria-for-publication#loc-1>.

I am sorry that we cannot be more positive on this occasion, and I wish you luck in finding an alternative venue for your work.

Yours sincerely,

Jayati Bhattacharyya, PhD  
Editorial Office  
PLOS One

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: PLOS ONE plosone@plos.org  
date: Dec 14, 2025, 6:19 AM  
subject: Re: PLOS ONE Decision: PONE-D-25-65383 - [EMID:f495415b65f0718a]  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear PLOS ONE Editorial Team,

Thank you for the time and consideration given to my submission, and for the clear explanation regarding PLOS ONE's publication criteria. I appreciate the care with which the manuscript was reviewed and the professionalism of your communication throughout the process.

I fully understand the scope boundaries you outlined, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to have had the work considered. Identifying an alternative venue for this manuscript will not be an issue, and I remain appreciative of the role PLOS ONE plays in maintaining rigorous standards for original research contributions.

Separately, I want to reiterate that I remain very interested in continuing to contribute to PLOS ONE in my capacity as a reviewer, as time and availability permit. I value the journal's mission and would be glad to remain engaged in supporting the review process where helpful.



Thank you again for your time and consideration. I wish the editorial team continued success.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 15, 2025, 10:54 AM  
subject: Executive Summary Package Ready for Klein & Hurwitz  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zach,

As requested, the executive summary package is complete and ready to send to the two individuals you selected: Jon B. Klein, M.D., Ph.D. and Kyle Hurwitz.

Good news is you have it in hand today. The only constraint is length. I was not able to compress this into a true 1–2 page document without stripping out core context, legal posture, or the five Structural Modalities. That said, it is formatted for fast review and is an easy read.

Included are the cover pages, legal disclaimer, the executive summary with the five modalities, and a final disclosure page. I also prepared a short Appendix A PDF with four time-stamped observational screenshots from this morning's field study for verification and transparency.

Per your original correspondence, I am also including the redacted Structural Severity Instrument packet previously provided (with MSG K's notarized involvement), along with the updated redacted version reflecting her feedback from conducting the assessment. This will be important for them to see it in action as well.

If you want me to adjust anything for your preferred delivery format before you forward it, I can do that quickly today.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 15, 2025, 12:17 PM  
subject: Updated Outline with One Correction  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zach,

Everything is fine on the first one, but I have OCD when it comes to professional documentation, so I corrected one formatting error I found. Use either, but this one is preferred, lol. Thank you!

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA



**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: april.medina@gruntstyle.com  
cc: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 15, 2025, 4:07 PM  
subject: Mission Alignment and Availability: Week After Christmas  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Hi April,

Thank you for reaching out and for coordinating on Tim's behalf. It's truly appreciated and please extend my thanks to those who elevated this. It will not disappoint.

The week after Christmas would be ideal if Tim's schedule allows. Timelines are compressing faster than expected due to multiple parallel efforts now converging around this work. I will be out of town the first week of January, and the second week of January is tentative, but is currently being reserved for an in-person meeting with the University of Louisville, which is working through the process and they have acknowledged that an NDA is sufficient for that formal discussion. For that reason, I am intentionally keeping the week after Christmas as open as possible.

By way of brief context only, this work is currently progressing through formal scientific review with Military Medicine (AMSUS) and Frontiers in Neuroscience (Autonomic Neuroscience section), and I hold an active Web of Science ResearcherID (PCR-8369-2025) associated with this body of work. In parallel, I am coordinating with the Bob Woodruff Foundation regarding funding support for JR's Pups N Stuff, a national non-profit organization, to stand up a pilot program for a new combat-trauma service animal classification in direct support of veterans. I share this context solely to explain why coordination and decision timelines are accelerating. The focus throughout remains mission execution and responsible stewardship on behalf of our brothers and sisters. In addition, my 30-day FDA-approved Field Study II formally began today, which further compresses availability outside of these coordinated efforts.

If this discussion moves beyond an initial phone call, an NDA with Grunt Style, LLC will be required prior to any substantive exchange. I do not believe an NDA is necessary for an introductory conversation. Based on Tim's public record and leadership, I believe we align in mission purpose and integrity, which is why I reached out the way I did.

I will execute any required agreements promptly as things move forward, however I'd like to be clear from the outset that all intellectual property remains entirely under my ownership and stewardship. This work is not for sale, not transferable, and not subject to dilution. Its purpose is singular: service to the veteran community. I prefer to state that plainly at the beginning.

For availability that week (Central Time), I can offer the following windows:

Friday, Dec 26, 2025: 0900-1200

Monday, Dec 29, 2025: 1200-1445

Tuesday, Dec 30, 2025: 0900-1130 or 1300-1600

Wednesday, Dec 31, 2025: 1000-1330



Friday, Jan 2, 2026: 0900-1200

If none of these align with Tim's schedule, let me know what does and I will adjust where possible. Phone or video is fine, whatever works best on your end.

As a professional courtesy, and so Tim has clear visibility into the nature and seriousness of what I'm asking his position and leadership to support, I've attached two redacted documents with the explicit approval of a former severe combat trauma Veteran participant (these are for Tim Jensen's eyes only). These include the current Structural Severity Assessment Instrument and the updated redacted version incorporating direct soldier feedback. They are provided solely to establish context and rigor, not for distribution. For clarity, the underlying science will not be discussed in technical detail at this stage. I have aligned with the University of Louisville that substantive scientific discussion will remain within their review and governance process during these early conversations. That decision is intentional and focused on ensuring appropriate institutional coverage so this work can be responsibly positioned as a foundational framework with national applicability. The purpose of this discussion is alignment on mission, stewardship, and pathway, not debate over the science itself.

I've included Dr. Zachary Goldman, Director at the University of Louisville, on this email for continuity and awareness only. Future correspondence regarding scheduling or discussion with Grunt Style will not include him.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

***Internal Contingency Draft | Not Transmitted (Preserved for Record)***

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)

date: Dec 15, 2025, 5:25 PM

subject: For VFW if they do not respond.

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

I had hoped this would be taken seriously when first raised. It now is, by institutions willing to engage while time still mattered. America will know who chose to act, and who did not. We will take this to Congress from here. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

**from: Goldman, Zachary [zachary.goldman@louisville.edu](mailto:zachary.goldman@louisville.edu)**

to: "Metcalfe, William" [will.metcalfe@louisville.edu](mailto:will.metcalfe@louisville.edu),

"Klein, Jon" [jon.klein@louisville.edu](mailto:jon.klein@louisville.edu),

"Hurwitz, Kyle" [kyle.hurwitz@louisville.edu](mailto:kyle.hurwitz@louisville.edu)

cc: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)

date: Dec 16, 2025, 6:31 AM

subject: Introduction to Potential UofL Collaborator and Meeting Request

mailed-by: [louisville.edu](mailto:louisville.edu)

signed-by: [louisville.edu](mailto:louisville.edu)

Jon, Will, and Kyle -

Good morning! I hope you all are well and enjoying much-deserved time away.

I am writing to introduce you to Justin Brown (copied here), an alumni of our MBA program who I worked with closely for many years. In the days to come, I hope to introduce you more thoroughly to Justin, but I would briefly describe his journey as one that deeply resonates with the University of Louisville and all of us. His story is defined

by perseverance, grit, and purpose-guided work, much like UofL. As an alumni of the College of Business, entrepreneur, and Veteran, I am very proud of Justin and his accomplishments and the work he is pursuing, especially in the face of real adversity.

Justin, I am certainly willing to extend a more thorough introduction as well, but I would like to introduce you to the following UofL Leaders:

- Jon Klein (Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation)
- Will Metcalf (Associate Vice President for Research Development and Strategic Partnerships)
- Kyle Hurwitz (Director of the Center for Military-Connected Students)

Context: Justin reached out in recent weeks and asked me to help him connect with the University of Louisville to explore a potentially profound partnership to serve our military population. Justin is addressing a gap he sees in how current military/medical systems evaluate combat-exposed individuals dealing with TBI + post-traumatic stress, where autonomic, cognitive, and cardiovascular effects often get assessed in silos. His framework proposes an integrated, “structurally grounded” way to organize observation and assessment across those domains, including an associated assessment instrument and an initial real-world physiological field-study context to demonstrate feasibility. The progress he has made on his own is remarkable in my opinion (acknowledging my bias given he is my former student), but objectively his work speaks for itself. That said, a partnership with UofL could elevate/scale this work significantly and would extend the transformative impact on the broader military community.

Justin is being thoughtful about positioning: he is seeking confidential institutional evaluation and partnership discussion (not public distribution or immediate clinical implementation), and the work is moving through multiple formal scientific review channels.

Request(s): I have two requests in hopes of moving a partnership between Justin and UofL forward.

1. Please review the attached outline of Justin's work at your earliest convenience. I asked him to prepare a significantly truncated version of his work in hopes of soliciting request #2. Please know this is greatly abbreviated for introduction sake, but it frames the origins and the goal.
2. After review, if you agree or believe there is opportunity for UofL to collaborate with Justin, I would like to suggest a meeting as soon as possible (likely early January). Although Justin is not local to Louisville, he is willing to meet in person and is holding time in his calendar in hopes of finding an opportunity for us to connect in the coming weeks.

I do hope to communicate some time-sensitivity as Justin has informed me and shared confidential information regarding other potential partnerships he is exploring. We are his preferred university partner and for the reasons outlined above, I hope we can discuss this together soon.

Justin, please correct me if I have mischaracterized or miscommunicated any of your shared information with me. Otherwise, thank you all for your time and consideration and please let me know how I can help this potential collaboration moving forward.

The impact of the work and the lives Justin is beginning to change in the military community is truly inspiring. Justin, thank you for being a great ambassador of the University of Louisville and for your interest in collaborating with UofL on this transformative endeavor you are pursuing.

Thank you all again for your time!

Sincerely,

Zac Goldman

Zachary W. Goldman, Ph.D.

Chair, Management & Entrepreneurship  
 Director of Online Teaching and Learning  
 Program Director | [Online MBA](#)  
 Chair, AACSB [Graduate Business Education Affinity Group](#)  
 Associate Professor of Practice  
[Department of Management and Entrepreneurship](#)

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: maggie.baldwin@va.gov

date: Dec 17, 2025, 8:46 PM

subject: Update on IP Protection and Routing

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dr. Baldwin,

I wanted to provide a brief update and formally close the loop.

I have an upcoming NDA meeting with the University of Louisville, who will be assuming responsibility for protecting the intellectual property and scientific integrity of the work. As part of that engagement, I am now connected with the following University of Louisville leadership:

- Jon Klein: VP of Research and Innovation
- Will Metcalf: VP of Research Development and Strategic Partnerships
- Kyle Hurwitz: VP of Military-Connected Student Engagement

Separately, I have also been contacted by the CEO of Grunt Style. These are distinct and separate relationships, and will remain so.

Given this direction, you can pause any further upward routing through the VA. The work is progressing at a broader level with appropriate safeguards in place, and in a manner intended to best protect the science and the Veteran population it serves.

Thank you for the time, attention, and professionalism you've shown throughout.

V/R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Baldwin, Maggie L. Maggie.Baldwin@va.gov**

The certificate is not trusted. Sender info

to: "jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com" jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

date: Dec 18, 2025, 4:30 PM

subject: SDTM

mailed-by: va.gov

signed-by: va.gov

Good Afternoon,

This is the contact number that we have discussed over the phone regarding your manuscript. Research Office: 816-861-4700 ext. 57093.

Thank you,

Maggie Baldwin, DNP, PMHNP-BC, ANCC

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 18, 2025, 4:37 PM  
subject: Fwd: SDTM  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zac,  
Please see below!

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Dec 22, 2025, 9:42 AM  
subject: Disclosure Brief for UofL  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zac,

Hope you had a great weekend! I sure did. I am going to send you the Disclosure Brief for the University of Louisville this week.

I would like 90 minutes to brief it when things get aligned. I am asking for a one sided format on purpose. I would like you to introduce me, then I will brief, and then I will step away. There will be no Q and A. That structure is intentional and it protects the work while it is still in the most sensitive phase.

The science remains active and the plan is to have it into PNAS no later than next week for canonical peer review. I can make that happen. The framework has now resolved from 9X to 15X and the system is complete. This brief is the infrastructure behind the science, not a deep dive into the science itself. It lays out purpose, protected structure, the floor projections, the five year trajectory, the bridge requirements for the next three months, and what UofL gains by moving forward.

You will be the only person receiving the unredacted brief in advance exactly as it will be presented, minus any final tweaks I make. A redacted version will be available for broader distribution afterward. You are welcome to invite other involved staff to the briefing, but I would prefer a maximum of 12 attendees and only on a need to know basis.

Timing wise, I can brief the week of the 12th. My preference is to hold the briefing between the 13th and 16th, or the week after, so I can complete the Field Study panels before travel and walk into the room with everything clean and finished.

This is a strong one. I think it will excite the right people for the right reasons.

Thanks!

***Internal Contingency Draft | Not Transmitted (Preserved for Record)***

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Dec 22, 2025, 11:10 AM



subject: UofL Opening Speech The Architecture of Human Will  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

This is the architecture of human will.

Before anything else, I want to acknowledge where you are. You are not here casually. You sit in responsibility, not curiosity. You carry institutional memory, professional risk, and the quiet pressure of knowing that the most consequential failures do not announce themselves immediately. They surface later, when revision is expensive and accountability is unavoidable. I respect that position.

Nothing I am presenting asks you to abandon rigor, standards, or the science you already trust. This work does not contradict yours. It operates alongside it, reinforcing what already holds by addressing the one variable every system eventually encounters and few are willing to name directly: the human being under sustained pressure.

I did not come here to persuade you or to provoke you. I came here to mark a transition. In the environments I come from, you do not move forward carrying unnecessary weight. You identify what no longer survives contact with reality, you end it deliberately, and you proceed. So this moment functions as a funeral. Not for a body, but for a version of myself that could not endure what was required. The version that needed approval. The version that softened conclusions to preserve comfort. The version that mistook being liked for being effective. That version served its purpose. Under real load, it failed. I buried it openly, because what follows demands discipline, not validation.

Discipline, as I am using the term, is not harshness. It is restraint. It is the intelligent management of scarcity. Time is scarce. Attention is scarce. Tolerance is scarce. Mercy is scarce. When these are spent without structure, systems decay. When explanation is unlimited, nothing is corrected. When flexibility has no boundary, disorder spreads. This work was built under scarcity by design. Limited tolerance for error. Limited patience for noise. Immediate consequence when failure appeared. Not ideology. Engineering.

Pressure reveals what sentiment hides. I chose to work where pressure could not be avoided.

I do not want to be a man of the herd. The herd survives through proximity, reassurance, and shared warmth. It also trades freedom for comfort and agency for consensus. I know that world well. I lived in it long enough to understand its cost. What it offers in belonging, it takes in independence. I chose a colder path because it is the honest one. In the cold there is no audience to regulate you and no group rhythm to hide inside. There is only terrain, time, and your own law.

Even at war, we were never men of the herd. We were individual sheepdogs, autonomous, disciplined, and self-directed, operating in fine-tuned tactical cohesion. Not bonded by comfort or sameness, but by mission, standards, and trust earned under pressure. Each man thinking independently, acting decisively, and aligning instantly when the situation demanded it. The herd existed, but we were not part of it. We protected it by standing apart, not dissolving into it. That distinction matters here. This is not isolation for its own sake. It is the capacity to stand alone without losing cohesion, to operate independently without fracturing the system.

That stance applies inward first. I am the first to tear my own work apart. Nothing here is protected by ego, narrative, or authorship. If a component fails under pressure, I destroy it and rebuild it without sentiment. No one will ever be more ruthless with this work than I am, because no one has spent more hours inside it. There is no external critic who can outwork me on it. That is not bravado. It is arithmetic.

While others remained confused, the science continued to strengthen. Confusion is not a weakness in this process. It is a delay that protects rigor. I did not rush clarity for the sake of comfort. I let the structure harden while questions circled it. The easy path optimizes for agreement and warmth. It manages perception instead of outcomes. I rejected

it because it produces systems that collapse the moment consensus disappears. What I chose instead is colder, slower, and solitary, but it produces something that holds without being carried.

Only after this work reached coherence did I recognize its lineage in Niccolò Machiavelli. He wrote from exile, not from power. Removed from court, stripped of position, separated from the very structures he understood better than those still occupying them. Distance clarified. Isolation revealed incentives. Reality stopped pretending to be kind. He did not write about power as virtue or aspiration. He wrote about it as constraint, as necessity, as what survives when sentiment collapses. Discipline preserves order. Scarcity stabilizes systems. Love is contingent. Explanation is consumable. Authority endures only where consequence is certain. I did not study him to arrive here. I arrived here and found him describing the same constraints centuries earlier. His work did not guide this process. It confirmed it.

There is one final context that must be stated plainly, because Machiavelli was explicit about this failure mode. A ruler does not fall only by force. He falls when he submits his internal state to a court that cannot govern it. When favor replaces sovereignty, authority is no longer internal. It is leased. Under those conditions, collapse is not dramatic. It is inevitable. Dependence on approval dissolves command. A man who must be approved cannot act freely. He begins to anticipate reaction instead of necessity. Judgment fragments. Will erodes. The body absorbs the debt. Recovery begins only when sovereignty is reclaimed, when discipline is restored inwardly, and consequence is allowed to govern again.

This is not power over others. It is power over myself. I had to master the hardest person in this room first. Me. Once that consolidation was complete, everything else became inevitable. When a system is coherent internally, the external world adjusts without coercion.

When I leave this room, there will be nothing to argue with. No permission was requested. No justification was required. Some of you may feel the impulse to counter, not because this is wrong, but because it is complete. Understand this plainly. There are only two options. One adapts to what endures, or one exhausts itself opposing it. My path is not louder, kinder, or easier, but it survives scrutiny, pressure, and time. And when time is the judge, there are no rebuttals left to file.

Fear preserves authority because it rests on the dread of punishment, which never fails. And anything in this work that proves unfit under pressure will be punished first by me.

I am not afraid of the future.

I am building it.

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [president@louisville.edu](mailto:president@louisville.edu)

cc: [provost@louisville.edu](mailto:provost@louisville.edu),

[jon.klein@louisville.edu](mailto:jon.klein@louisville.edu) [jon.klein@louisville.edu](mailto:jon.klein@louisville.edu),

[will.metcalf@louisville.edu](mailto:will.metcalf@louisville.edu) [will.metcalf@louisville.edu](mailto:will.metcalf@louisville.edu),

[kyle.hurwitz@louisville.edu](mailto:kyle.hurwitz@louisville.edu),

[milconstu@louisville.edu](mailto:milconstu@louisville.edu),

"Goldman, Zachary" [zachary.goldman@louisville.edu](mailto:zachary.goldman@louisville.edu),

[rebecca.stahl@louisville.edu](mailto:rebecca.stahl@louisville.edu),

[angela.curry@louisville.edu](mailto:angela.curry@louisville.edu),

[counsel@louisville.edu](mailto:counsel@louisville.edu),

[research@louisville.edu](mailto:research@louisville.edu)

date: Dec 26, 2025, 7:01 AM

subject: Potential Stewardship Alignment and Context

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)



Dr. Bradley,

I am writing to provide clarity and context as this work continues to move forward.

Before anything else, I want to explicitly acknowledge Dr. Zachary Goldman. His decision to introduce this work internally and to do so with the discretion, precision, and professional risk reflected in his correspondence was neither routine nor inconsequential. He carried substantial weight on my behalf and on behalf of the work itself, and he did so with integrity, judgment, and care. I made a deliberate decision to place that weight back where it belongs, on me, but his willingness to carry it when it mattered should not go unnoticed. I am grateful for the trust he placed in me and for his guidance, including his direct counsel not to let the exposure he created go to waste, because what I am carrying does not belong to me alone. It belongs to those who need it most. Severely combat trauma affected Veterans like myself.

I also want to be transparent that structured outreach is now occurring across a small number of institutions. This was intentional and designed to establish a level playing field. Each University involved is receiving the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions. Timing of contact does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

That said, I want to be equally clear that this does not alter where I see the strongest potential alignment. I have been explicit from the outset that the University of Louisville is where I would prefer this work to land should alignment continue to hold. The manner in which Dr. Goldman has engaged, protected the work, and represented both its substance and its sensitivity reflects exactly the standard required for something of this nature.

This note is intended to preserve transparency, protect trust, and ensure that no aspect of Dr. Goldman's judgment or advocacy is misread in light of broader exposure. My intent is clarity, not repositioning.

The following below is the identical correspondence provided to every other University, followed by the list of institutions to whom it has been sent.

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein. Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

#### Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency

The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.

These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.

This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.

Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.

Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain

with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.

University of Louisville  
University of Missouri  
University of Montana  
Virginia Military Institute  
Christopher Newport University  
Virginia Tech  
Auburn University  
University of Wyoming

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [superintendent@vmi.edu](mailto:superintendent@vmi.edu),

[moreschirw@vmi.edu](mailto:moreschirw@vmi.edu)

cc: [provost@vmi.edu](mailto:provost@vmi.edu),

[research@vmi.edu](mailto:research@vmi.edu),

[legal@vmi.edu](mailto:legal@vmi.edu),

[vetbenefits@vmi.edu](mailto:vetbenefits@vmi.edu)

date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:03 AM

subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](http://staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Mr. Furness and Mr. Moreschi,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. You both know the one. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025 37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein. Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need to know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University would draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

#### Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency

The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.

These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.

This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.

Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.

Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain



with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.

University of Louisville  
University of Missouri  
University of Montana  
Christopher Newport University  
Virginia Tech  
Auburn University  
University of Wyoming

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [daniel.sui@vt.edu](mailto:daniel.sui@vt.edu),

[rheflin@vt.edu](mailto:rheflin@vt.edu)

cc: [jon.porter@vt.edu](mailto:jon.porter@vt.edu),

[prjacobs@vt.edu](mailto:prjacobs@vt.edu),

[pres\\_office@vt.edu](mailto:pres_office@vt.edu),

[provost@vt.edu](mailto:provost@vt.edu),

"[heidbred@vt.edu](mailto:heidbred@vt.edu)" [heidbred@vt.edu](mailto:heidbred@vt.edu),

[veteran@vt.edu](mailto:veteran@vt.edu),

"[moorejm@vt.edu](mailto:moorejm@vt.edu)" [moorejm@vt.edu](mailto:moorejm@vt.edu),

"[cstinch23@vt.edu](mailto:cstinch23@vt.edu)" [cstinch23@vt.edu](mailto:cstinch23@vt.edu),

"[amber127@vt.edu](mailto:amber127@vt.edu)" [amber127@vt.edu](mailto:amber127@vt.edu)

date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:05 AM

subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](http://staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dr. Sui and Dr. Heflin,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended. I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025



This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein. Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

#### Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency

The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.

These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.

This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.

Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.



Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder

Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.

University of Louisville  
 University of Missouri  
 University of Montana  
 Virginia Military Institute  
 Christopher Newport University  
 Virginia Tech  
 Auburn University  
 University of Wyoming

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [taylost@auburn.edu](mailto:taylost@auburn.edu)

cc: [veterans@auburn.edu](mailto:veterans@auburn.edu),

[ospadmn@auburn.edu](mailto:ospadmn@auburn.edu),

[president@auburn.edu](mailto:president@auburn.edu),

"[provost@auburn.edu](mailto:provost@auburn.edu)" [provost@auburn.edu](mailto:provost@auburn.edu),

[jhammer@auburn.edu](mailto:jhammer@auburn.edu)

date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:10 AM

subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](http://staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dr. Taylor,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025



This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein. Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

#### Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency

The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.

These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.

This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.

Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.

Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain

with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.

University of Louisville  
University of Missouri  
University of Montana  
Virginia Military Institute  
Christopher Newport University  
Virginia Tech  
Auburn University  
University of Wyoming

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: president@cnu.edu

cc: "jennifer.latour@cnu.edu" jennifer.latour@cnu.edu,

"qkidd@cnu.edu" qkidd@cnu.edu,

"llambert@cnu.edu" llambert@cnu.edu,

"vetaffrs@cnu.edu" vetaffrs@cnu.edu,

titleixeo@cnu.edu,

"kmhughes@cnu.edu" kmhughes@cnu.edu

date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:10 AM

subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dr. Kelly,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein. Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

#### Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency

The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.

These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.

This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.

Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.



Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.

University of Louisville  
University of Missouri  
University of Montana  
Virginia Military Institute  
Christopher Newport University  
Virginia Tech  
Auburn University  
University of Wyoming

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: provost@vt.edu  
cc: pres\_office@vt.edu  
date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:54 AM  
subject: Routing clarification (re: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Provost's Office,

I'm following up briefly to clarify routing only.

Two addresses included on my prior note returned as inactive, which appears to reflect directory changes rather than message delivery issues. The message has otherwise reached the intended recipients.

No action is required on my part, but I wanted to ensure the context was not interpreted as misdirected outreach.

Thank you for your time.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: spencerte@missouri.edu,  
renoes@missouri.edu  
cc: lorsonc@missouri.edu,  
veterans@missouri.edu,  
"president@missouri.edu" president@missouri.edu,  
"provost@missouri.edu" provost@missouri.edu,  
vcresearch@missouri.edu

date: Dec 26, 2025, 8:56 AM  
 subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review  
 mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dr. Spencer and Dr. Renoe,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632
- Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956
- Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein.

Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

*Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency*

*The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.*

*These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.*

*This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.*

*Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.*

*Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain with*

*Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder*

*Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.*

*Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.*

University of Louisville

University of Missouri

University of Montana

Virginia Military Institute

Christopher Newport University

Virginia Tech

Auburn University

University of Wyoming

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

**to: [seth.bodnar@umontana.edu](mailto:seth.bodnar@umontana.edu)**

**cc: [president@umontana.edu](mailto:president@umontana.edu),**

**[provost@umontana.edu](mailto:provost@umontana.edu),**

**[research@umontana.edu](mailto:research@umontana.edu),**

**[legal@umontana.edu](mailto:legal@umontana.edu),**

**[mvso@mso.umt.edu](mailto:mvso@mso.umt.edu)**

**date: Dec 26, 2025, 10:01 AM**

**subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review**

Dr. Bodnar,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. You know the one. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632
- Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956
- Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein.

Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

*Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency*

*The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.*

*These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.*

*This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.*

*Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.*

*Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain*

with

Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.

*Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.*

University of Louisville  
University of Missouri  
Virginia Military Institute  
Christopher Newport University  
Virginia Tech  
Auburn University  
University of Wyoming

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [pchitnis@uwyo.edu](mailto:pchitnis@uwyo.edu),

[kmiller@uwyo.edu](mailto:kmiller@uwyo.edu),

[president@uwyo.edu](mailto:president@uwyo.edu)

cc: [veterans@uwyo.edu](mailto:veterans@uwyo.edu),

[provost@uwyo.edu](mailto:provost@uwyo.edu),

[vpr@uwyo.edu](mailto:vpr@uwyo.edu),

[generalcounsel@uwyo.edu](mailto:generalcounsel@uwyo.edu),

"[uw-vets@uwyo.edu](mailto:uw-vets@uwyo.edu)" [uw-vets@uwyo.edu](mailto:uw-vets@uwyo.edu)

date: Dec 26, 2025, 10:03 AM

subject: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review

Dr. Seidel, Dr. Chitnis, and Dr. Miller,

I am reaching out to provide context, so this note is read as intended.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and then write it down so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits at 35 days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025-37632
- Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript MILMED D 25 00956
- Frontiers in Neuroscience Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

ORCID iD 0009 0001 1616 6959

Web of Science ResearcherID PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway. This is about architecture. Structure. Sequencing. Protecting something fragile before institutions do what they always do and attempt to soften, absorb, or repackage it.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being granted. I am not here for prestige or notoriety. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list is intentionally small, and your institution is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, each University referenced in this correspondence regardless of when this message was received has been provided the same exact parameters, scope, and conditions as outlined herein.

Timing of receipt has and does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further steps, including movement toward an NDA Disclosure Brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with those in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. I will be plain. If this takes place, there will be no Q and A. I will ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what specifics they are looking forward to within the brief so I can hold that context as I speak.

If alignment advances to the point of an NDA Disclosure Brief, that is where stewardship expectations would be discussed. This includes a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to begin protecting the work in its most fragile state while it is under formal peer review, and what bringing this work to your University would mean operationally and institutionally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in official statistics, floor-based baselines, and stated rationale. These would not be speculative or caution inducing numbers. Continuation beyond the initial ninety-day period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed. If alignment continues toward an NDA, the University will draft the NDA outlining institution specific terms for submission to me and my legal counsel for review prior to execution.

As you will notice while reviewing the list below, it spans much of the United States. This structure allows me to align with the right fit for the work without clouding the work or my judgement. This is about precision in action because lives are and have been at stake for far too long. This outreach is intentionally timed during the winter break period to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases in January. This work will continue to move forward with those who share the same pace of persistent purpose.

Below are the other institutions currently engaged or being deliberately brought into contact. This list is provided intentionally and transparently. Any institution seeking alignment with my LLC, Staring Down The Muzzle, will be held to the same standard of clarity, integrity, and responsibility, without exception.

*Disclaimer on Scope, Alignment, and Transparency*

*The following institutions are referenced solely for transparency and contextual clarity. No representations, warranties, commitments, endorsements, funding obligations, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, are made or inferred by their inclusion.*

*These institutions are not being asked to fund discovery, endorse conclusions, assume ownership, or assert authority over the work described herein. They are being considered exclusively for potential stewardship, translation, and validation of a framework that is already structurally complete and advancing through formal peer review.*

*This list is intentionally limited. Institutions were selected based on scale, discretion, operational maturity, and demonstrated ability to carry consequential work without dilution or spectacle.*

*Inclusion does not imply priority, exclusivity, or obligation beyond what is explicitly stated.*

*Nothing herein constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works will always remain with*

*Justin Lawrence Brown, Founder  
Staring Down The Muzzle LLC.*

*Transparency is provided because clarity matters. Professionalism is non-negotiable.*

University of Louisville

University of Missouri

University of Montana

Virginia Military Institute

Christopher Newport University

Virginia Tech

Auburn University

University of Wyoming

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: officeoftheprovo@umontana.edu  
date: Dec 26, 2025, 10:10 AM  
subject: Routing clarification (re: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Provost's Office,  
I'm following up briefly to clarify routing only.  
A couple of addresses included on my prior note returned as inactive, which appears to reflect directory changes rather than message delivery issues. The message has otherwise reached the intended recipients.  
No action is required on my part, but I wanted to ensure the context was not interpreted as misdirected outreach.  
Thank you for your time.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: provost@uwyo.edu  
date: Dec 26, 2025, 10:14 PM  
subject: Routing clarification (re: Time-Sensitive Stewardship Outreach Requiring Direct Review)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Provost's Office,  
I'm following up briefly to clarify routing only.  
A couple of addresses included on my prior note returned as inactive, which appears to reflect directory changes rather than message delivery issues. The message has otherwise reached the intended recipients.  
No action is required on my part, but I wanted to ensure the context was not interpreted as misdirected outreach.  
Thank you for your time.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: tim.jensen@gruntstyle.com  
date: Dec 26, 2025, 7:24 PM  
subject: This Is the Moment: No Delay, No Excuses  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Tim,  
Breaking protocol here deliberately. You'd want to know and you'll be happy I did.

My only direct submission to PNAS was accepted. That was the trigger. I designed the next move so there was no room to wait. Today, executive leadership at eight national universities were contacted simultaneously. Same email. Same notice. All institutions were explicitly notified of who else was on the list.

Those universities were selected to carry the science, build the infrastructure, and protect it. That side is moving. What I need from you is the other half of this moment.

I'm placing the link to the article below here. It's from The Architecture of Human Will. I need you to help push it (after you read and agree with the sentiment).



Please Post it. Put it in front of Veterans. Especially those still carrying it and the severe combat trauma Vets like us. Don't let it rest. That's been my only goal this entire time in connection and now is that time.

[https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/architecture-human-justin-brown-5ej0c?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios&utm\\_campaign=share\\_via](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/architecture-human-justin-brown-5ej0c?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&utm_campaign=share_via)

This is how change happens.  
And thank you for standing when others wouldn't, and most couldn't.

V/R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: info@decisivepoint.com  
cc: eric@decisivepoint.com, careers@decisivepoint.com, tommy@decisivepoint.com  
date: Dec 29, 2025, 8:01 AM  
subject: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Decisive Point Leadership Team,  
I am reaching out to provide context so this note is read as intended. This outreach follows a referral initiated by a currently attending Chief Behavioral Health Psychologist at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. I provided the work directly for review. It was elevated to senior leadership, and I was subsequently notified through Dr. Maggie Baldwin, my attending clinician, that the work was reviewed, deemed sound, and that I should be contacted and informed.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and document it so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits under forty-days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific peer review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.  
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences  
Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025 37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript  
MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience  
Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830  
I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

- ORCID iD: 0009 0001 1616 6959
- Web of Science ResearcherID: PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway and properly insulated through peer review. This outreach concerns architecture, sequencing, and stewardship, protecting something fragile before it is softened, absorbed, or repackaged prematurely.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being broadly granted. I am not seeking prestige, publicity, or endorsement. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list of potential stewards is intentionally small, and your organization is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, all entities referenced in parallel outreach have been provided identical parameters, scope, and conditions. Timing of receipt does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further movement, including toward a limited NDA disclosure brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with individuals in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. There would be no open question and answer period. I would ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what they are hoping to understand so I can hold that context while speaking.

If alignment advances to an NDA disclosure brief, stewardship expectations would be addressed at that stage. This would include a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to protect the work during its most fragile phase while under active peer review, and a shared understanding of what stewardship would and would not mean operationally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in floor-based baselines and explicit rationale rather than speculation. Continuation beyond the initial period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed.

This outreach is intentionally timed to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases. The work will continue to move forward with those who share a pace of persistent purpose.

Nothing in this correspondence constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works remains exclusively with me and is not subject to transfer, negotiation, dilution, or future claim of any kind.

This work exists to help save severely combat trauma affected Veterans in ways that have been avoided, minimized, or turned away from in national discussion for far too long. I am seeking alignment only with those who understand that reality and are willing to support this work without intent to control it or extract profit from it. I have placed explicit caps and constraints on myself for this same reason.

If this does not align with Decisive Point's

focus or operating philosophy, I respect that completely. In that case, I would appreciate being directed toward other investors or stewards who share this understanding and are willing to support the work on those terms.

All of this work remains under my sole control to ensure it is protected, stewarded responsibly, and remains accessible to those it is intended to serve.

Clarity matters.

Professionalism is non-negotiable.

To provide context for how my research is conducted, below is a recent field capture ([source post linked](#)).

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

**to: [info@iqt.org](mailto:info@iqt.org)**

**cc: [sbowsher@iqt.org](mailto:sbowsher@iqt.org),**

**[manderson@iqt.org](mailto:manderson@iqt.org),**

**[ssewall@iqt.org](mailto:ssewall@iqt.org),**

**[yzheng@iqt.org](mailto:yzheng@iqt.org),**

**[lfox@iqt.org](mailto:lfox@iqt.org)**

**date: Dec 29, 2025, 8:07 AM**

**subject: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review**

**mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)**



IQT Leadership Team,

I am reaching out to provide context so this note is read as intended. This outreach follows a referral initiated by a currently attending Chief Behavioral Health Psychologist at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. I provided the work directly for review. It was elevated to senior leadership, and I was subsequently notified through Dr. Maggie Baldwin, my attending clinician, that the work was reviewed, deemed sound, and that I should be contacted and informed.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and document it so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits under forty-days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific peer review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025 37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript  
MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience

Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

- ORCID iD: 0009 0001 1616 6959
- Web of Science ResearcherID: PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway and properly insulated through peer review. This outreach concerns architecture, sequencing, and stewardship, protecting something fragile before it is softened, absorbed, or repackaged prematurely.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being broadly granted. I am not seeking prestige, publicity, or endorsement. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list of potential stewards is intentionally small, and your organization is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, all entities referenced in parallel outreach have been provided identical parameters, scope, and conditions. Timing of receipt does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further movement, including toward a limited NDA disclosure brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with individuals in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. There would be no open question and answer period. I would ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what they are hoping to understand so I can hold that context while speaking.

If alignment advances to an NDA disclosure brief, stewardship expectations would be addressed at that stage. This would include a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to protect the work during its most fragile phase while under active peer review, and a shared understanding of what stewardship would and would not mean operationally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in floor-based baselines and explicit rationale rather than speculation. Continuation beyond the initial period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed.

This outreach is intentionally timed to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases.

The work will continue to move forward with those who share a pace of persistent purpose.

Nothing in this correspondence constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works remains exclusively with me and is not subject to transfer, negotiation, dilution, or future claim of any kind.

This work exists to help save severely combat trauma affected Veterans in ways that have been avoided, minimized, or turned away from in national discussion for far too long. I am seeking alignment only with those who understand that reality and are willing to support this work without intent to control it or extract profit from it. I have placed explicit caps and constraints on myself for this same reason.

If this does not align with IQT's focus or operating philosophy, I respect that completely. In that case, I would appreciate being directed toward other investors or stewards who share this understanding and are willing to support the work on those terms.

All of this work remains under my sole control to ensure it is protected, stewarded responsibly, and remains accessible to those it is intended to serve.

Clarity matters.

Professionalism is non-negotiable.

To provide context for how my research is conducted, below is a recent field capture ([source post linked](#)).

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [hello@overmatch.vc](mailto:hello@overmatch.vc)

cc: [evan@overmatch.vc](mailto:evan@overmatch.vc),

[jordan@overmatch.vc](mailto:jordan@overmatch.vc),

[aaron@overmatch.vc](mailto:aaron@overmatch.vc)

date: Dec 29, 2025, 9:03 AM

subject: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Overmatch Ventures Leadership Team,

I am reaching out to provide context so this note is read as intended. This outreach follows a referral initiated by a currently attending Chief Behavioral Health Psychologist at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. I provided the work directly for review. It was elevated to senior leadership, and I was subsequently notified through Dr. Maggie Baldwin, my attending clinician, that the work was reviewed, deemed sound, and that I should be contacted and informed.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and document it so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits under forty-days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific peer review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025 37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript

MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience

Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

- ORCID iD: 0009 0001 1616 6959
- Web of Science ResearcherID: PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway and properly insulated through peer review. This outreach concerns architecture, sequencing, and stewardship, protecting something fragile before it is softened, absorbed, or repackaged prematurely.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being broadly granted. I am not seeking prestige, publicity, or endorsement. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list of potential stewards is intentionally small, and your organization is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, all entities referenced in parallel outreach have been provided identical parameters, scope, and conditions. Timing of receipt does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further movement, including toward a limited NDA disclosure brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with individuals in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. There would be no open question and answer period. I would ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what they are hoping to understand so I can hold that context while speaking.

If alignment advances to an NDA disclosure brief, stewardship expectations would be addressed at that stage. This would include a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to protect the work during its most fragile phase while under active peer review, and a shared understanding of what stewardship would and would not mean operationally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in floor-based baselines and explicit rationale rather than speculation. Continuation beyond the initial period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed.

This outreach is intentionally timed to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases. The work will continue to move forward with those who share a pace of persistent purpose.

Nothing in this correspondence constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works remains exclusively with me and is not subject to transfer, negotiation, dilution, or future claim of any kind.

This work exists to help save severely combat trauma affected Veterans in ways that have been avoided, minimized, or turned away from in national discussion for far too long. I am seeking alignment only with those who understand that reality and are willing to support this work without intent to control it or extract profit from it. I have placed explicit caps and constraints on myself for this same reason.

If this does not align with Overmatch's focus or operating philosophy, I respect that completely. In that case, I would appreciate being directed toward other investors or stewards who share this understanding and are willing to support the work on those terms.

All of this work remains under my sole control to ensure it is protected, stewarded responsibly, and remains accessible to those it is intended to serve.

Clarity matters.

Professionalism is non-negotiable.

To provide context for how my research is conducted, below is a recent field capture ([source post linked](#)).

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

**to: [mike@veteran.fund](mailto:mike@veteran.fund)**

**cc: [ryan@veteran.fund](mailto:ryan@veteran.fund),**

**[justin@veteran.fund](mailto:justin@veteran.fund),**

**[lisa@veteran.fund](mailto:lisa@veteran.fund)**

**date: Dec 29, 2025, 11:02 AM**

**subject: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review**

**mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)**



Mr. Sherbakov and The Veteran Fund Leadership Team,

I am reaching out to provide context so this note is read as intended. This outreach follows a referral initiated by a currently attending Chief Behavioral Health Psychologist at the Kansas City VA Medical Center. I provided the work directly for review. It was elevated to senior leadership, and I was subsequently notified through Dr. Maggie Baldwin, my attending clinician, that the work was reviewed, deemed sound, and that I should be contacted and informed.

I carried a weight for decades. The kind that does not show up on scans, does not resolve with time, and does not respond when systems finally get involved far too late. I collapsed twice very recently, close to death, as a direct result of that weight. I am not special. I simply lived long enough to pull the mechanism apart from the inside, save my own life through it, and document it so other severely combat trauma affected Veterans do not continue to die at unsustainable rates.

That work now sits under forty-days from first articulation and is already progressing through formal scientific peer review channels that most never attempt, let alone reach.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Direct Report submitted Tracking Number 2025 37632

Military Medicine AMSUS Manuscript  
MILMED D 25 00956

Frontiers in Neuroscience

Autonomic Neuroscience Manuscript ID 1762830

I am published and indexed as Justin Lawrence Brown Stephens.

- ORCID iD: 0009 0001 1616 6959
- Web of Science ResearcherID: PCR 8369 2025

This outreach is not for evaluation of the science. That function is already underway and properly insulated through peer review. This outreach concerns architecture, sequencing, and stewardship, protecting something fragile before it is softened, absorbed, or repackaged prematurely.

Others are moving toward this work, but access is not being broadly granted. I am not seeking prestige, publicity, or endorsement. I have always operated as a quiet professional and step forward only when required in service of others. I decide where this work goes. The list of potential stewards is intentionally small, and your organization is on it by design.

For clarity and to avoid misinterpretation, all entities referenced in parallel outreach have been provided identical parameters, scope, and conditions. Timing of receipt does not imply priority, exclusivity, or variance in access, expectations, or consideration.

If alignment exists, the next step may be a brief introductory conversation. Any further movement, including toward a limited NDA disclosure brief, would occur only if alignment is mutually established.

Any such disclosure would be conducted by me and only with individuals in a need-to-know capacity. It would exist solely to clarify boundaries, structure, and stewardship expectations. There would be no open question and answer period. I would ask only that those present identify who they are, what they do, and what they are hoping to understand so I can hold that context while speaking.

If alignment advances to an NDA disclosure brief, stewardship expectations would be addressed at that stage. This would include a defined ninety-day stewardship horizon, bridge funding to protect the work during its most fragile phase while under active peer review, and a shared understanding of what stewardship would and would not mean operationally. Any figures discussed would be grounded in floor-based baselines and explicit rationale rather than speculation. Continuation beyond the initial period would be considered only upon mutual assessment and is not assumed.

This outreach is intentionally timed to allow space for thoughtful consideration before operational tempo increases. The work will continue to move forward with those who share a pace of persistent purpose.

Nothing in this correspondence constitutes a solicitation, offer, partnership proposal, or assignment of rights. Full ownership of all intellectual property, methods, frameworks, and derivative works remains exclusively with me and is not subject to transfer, negotiation, dilution, or future claim of any kind.

This work exists to help save severely combat trauma affected Veterans in ways that have been avoided, minimized, or turned away from in national discussion for far too long. I am seeking alignment only with those who understand that reality and are willing to support this work without intent to control it or extract profit from it. I have placed explicit caps and constraints on myself for this same reason.

If this does not align with The Veteran Fund's focus or operating philosophy, I respect that completely. In that case, I would appreciate being directed toward other investors or stewards who share this understanding and are willing to support the work on those terms.

All of this work remains under my sole control to ensure it is protected, stewarded responsibly, and remains accessible to those it is intended to serve.

Clarity matters.

Professionalism is non-negotiable.

To provide context for how my research is conducted, below is a recent field capture ([source post linked](#)).

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Mike Sherbakov [mike@veteran.fund](mailto:mike@veteran.fund)**

to: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)

date: Jan 2, 2026, 11:23 AM

subject: Re: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review

mailed-by: veteran.fund

signed-by: veteran.fund

Justin,

Thanks for the message.

It sounds like great work you're doing.

If you'd like to submit your company for investment consideration from The Veteran Fund, please complete our short intake: [www.veteran.fund/startup](http://www.veteran.fund/startup)

- Mike

--



Mike Sherbakov  
General Partner, The Veteran  
Fund

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: Mike Sherbakov [mike@veteran.fund](mailto:mike@veteran.fund)

date: Jan 2, 2026, 6:57 PM

subject: Re: Controlled Stewardship Review: Author-Owned Work Under Active Peer Review

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Mike,

Thanks for the reply.

Just to close the loop, this work is already funded and has progressed beyond the stage you're referencing. The outreach you received was not an investment solicitation, and I'm no longer seeking capital or intake-based consideration.



At this point, stewardship discussions are already underway with a limited set of institutions, and access is no longer open. Timing matters with work like this, and that window has effectively closed. I appreciate you taking the time to respond and wish you and The Veteran Fund well.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu  
date: Jan 2, 2026, 4:21 PM  
subject: Disclosure Brief Materials: Context Before Sharing  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Zac,  
Quick note so we're aligned before anything goes out.  
You retain the full Disclosure Brief and the PP only. That material isn't for distribution. What can be shared is the outline, and only as context for the people you're looping in.  
I also want to correct one point plainly. This work isn't a theory. It's often described that way because most people assume it's much smaller in scope than it actually is. The outline should help make the scale and posture clearer without expanding beyond what's appropriate to share.  
As you'll see, how I operate publicly is very different from how I speak with you in confidence. That separation is intentional.  
I appreciate being able to speak openly with you and knowing that space is held in stewardship. That matters to me.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: submissions@theatlantic.com  
cc: science@theatlantic.com  
date: Jan 8, 2026, 10:32 AM  
subject: Essay Submission: The True Cost of War (2,579 words)  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editors,  
I am submitting a long form essay for your consideration titled The True Cost of War Combat Veterans and the Architecture of Damage (2,579 words).  
The essay examines how modern institutions externalize the human cost of sustained violence through administrative design such as delay reclassification and jurisdictional thinning rather than neglect or intent. It focuses on how lethal outcomes persist while official suicide metrics remain stable and why those outcomes are systematically routed outside institutional accounting before they are counted.  
The essay is attached as a PDF. It has not been previously published and is not under consideration elsewhere. I report no external funding and no conflicts of interest related to this work.  
Thank you for your time and consideration.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: daedalus@amacad.org

date: Jan 8, 2026, 11:27 AM

subject: Inquiry Regarding Potential Fit for Daedalus

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editors,

I am writing to inquire whether a recent manuscript examining severe combat-conditioned human systems may be an appropriate fit for *Daedalus*.

The manuscript analyzes sustained exposure to combat violence as a structural condition that reorganizes human regulatory systems. It argues that downstream harm in severely combat-exposed populations frequently emerges after the withdrawal of authority and command, rather than during exposure itself. Drawing on longitudinal physiological observation and systems-level analysis, the work proposes a framework for understanding persistence, collapse, and recovery in combat-conditioned human systems as functions of regulatory authority rather than symptom pathology or behavioral compliance.

The contribution is interdisciplinary and theory-driven, engaging physiology, psychology, institutional process, and ethics. It is not a clinical or treatment paper and does not make population-level claims. The focus is on structural mechanisms governing severe trauma adaptation and delayed consequence under lawful institutional conditions.

I am reaching out prior to any formal submission to ask whether this line of inquiry aligns with *Daedalus*'s scope and current editorial interests. I would be glad to provide an abstract or the manuscript if helpful.

Thank you for your time.

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: editor@nybooks.com

date: Jan 8, 2026, 11:43 AM

subject: Essay Submission The True Cost of War Combat Veterans and the Architecture of Damage

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editor,

I am writing to inquire whether an essay titled *The True Cost of War: Combat Veterans and the Architecture of Damage* may be of interest to *The New York Review of Books*. The piece argues that modern states can place human beings under sustained violence and reclaim them afterward without restoring what that violence alters, then preserve institutional continuity by displacing consequence through administrative process. Damage is not denied but deferred, reclassified, individualized, and allowed to decay until it no longer produces institutional obligation. Veterans who die after service are not recorded as outcomes of the system that processed them, but as exceptions, allowing lethal consequence to resolve outside enforcement while the structure remains lawful and intact. The essay traces this mechanism across phases: how wars conclude administratively while physiology continues, how institutions stabilize by treating continuous exposure as discrete, how clinicians are positioned inside systems that record risk without authority to intervene, and how outcomes ultimately resolve at the perimeter where obligation has thinned to documentation. The argument is structural rather than confessional or policy driven, treating death as an incurred cost of institutional design rather than accident or moral failure. The completed essay is approximately 2,600 words and can be provided upon request.

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: havokjournal@havokmedia.com  
cc: authorcentral@gohavok.com  
date: Dec 30, 2025, 8:45 AM  
subject: Havoc Journal Submission  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Havoc Journal Editorial Team,  
Attached for submission is "The Architecture of Human Will."  
Author: Justin Lawrence Brown  
Combat Infantry Veteran, U.S. Army (22 years)  
OIF II-IV, Operation New Dawn  
This work is original and submitted for editorial consideration.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Havok Publishing Author Central authorcentral@gohavok.com**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 2, 2026, 5:06 PM  
subject: Re: Havoc Journal Submission  
mailed-by: gohavok.com  
signed-by: gohavok.com

Thank you for your inquiry, Justin. We don't accept unsolicited submissions via email.

Our submission guidelines can be found here: <https://gohavok.com/submission-guidelines/>

Best wishes for your success!

--  
Teddi Deppner  
Co-Founder & Marketing Kraken  
Havok Publishing // <https://gohavok.com/>

**from: Scott Faith havokjournal@havokmedia.com**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 7, 2026, 2:55 PM  
subject: Re: Havoc Journal Submission  
mailed-by: havokmedia.com  
signed-by: netorgft800010.onmicrosoft.com

Hi Justin,

Thank you for reaching out! And thank you for your service to our country.

This is an interesting read and set to publish in *The Havoc Journal* on January 8th. Beneath the discussion of discipline, consequence, and Machiavelli, you're writing about grief and the need for approval. You turn that into a

rule-set that holds up under stress and pressure. It's something anyone can relate to. That's why it will resonate. Thank you for taking the time to write this and share it with our readers.

We would certainly welcome future contributions from you! Please send them in Microsoft Word or Google Doc format as it's an easier format for us to work with.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for sharing this.

Respectfully,

~Scott Faith  
Managing Editor, *The Havok Journal*

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: Scott Faith havokjournal@havokmedia.com  
date: Jan 7, 2026, 4:31 PM  
subject: Re: Havoc Journal Submission  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Scott,

I appreciate the publication and the care with which the piece was read.

The article served two purposes. First, it was a clear signal that rigorously grounded science in this space is now emerging from a combat Veteran perspective, with the explicit aim of producing outcomes that materially improve Veteran survivability. Second, it marked a deliberate closure of a prior personal chapter and a return to the operational mindset that proved effective in war and in leadership under consequence.

This piece is one entry point into a larger architecture now under formal review. The full framework, including definitions and applied instruments, has progressed through intake at the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) following deliberate segmentation. Portions of the work were submitted separately by design to test rigor and scope alignment, and those responses informed the subsequent submission of the complete architecture, which had already cleared preliminary approval thresholds.

In parallel, the work progressed through review with *The Lancet*. *The Lancet*, founded in 1823, is one of the world's most influential medical journals and a primary venue for population-level and clinical science. In both cases, the scientific integrity of the work was not challenged; placement decisions were determined by scope rather than validity. This has all occurred in the span of when my LLC was created on 11.20.21 and the writing of the science that began the next day. I'm moving the process by decades for good reason. Too many brothers and sisters continue to die at unsustainable rates in silence.

The context within this article is personal by design, but it may also be useful for your editor's notes at the beginning of the piece. Accurate framing matters as the work begins circulating more broadly. Spreading it clearly and correctly is the priority right now.

I will be in touch, and thank you again for the work you and Havok Journal do.

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Scott Faith havokjournal@havokmedia.com**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 8, 2026, 5:02 PM  
subject: Re: Havoc Journal Submission  
mailed-by: havokmedia.com  
signed-by: netorgft800010.onmicrosoft.com

Justin,



Thank you for the follow up and kind words. I understand the intent of the piece and the distinction you're making between the personal narrative and the broader "architecture" you're building.

On framing: we're happy to represent your intent accurately. At the same time, we can't independently verify claims about journal review/intake or make evaluative statements about scientific standing. If you'd like us to reference PNAS/Lancet activity in any way, please send exact wording you want used as an author statement, and keep it narrowly factual (e.g., "submitted to," "under review," "received scope-related feedback"), without implying endorsement.

For future submissions, if framing is important, I recommend adding a short Author's Note at the top (3–6 sentences) that clearly states your aim, what the article is and isn't, and what readers should take from it. If needed, that's the most efficient way to control context without relying on editor notes.

Again, we're looking forward to your next submission!

Respectfully,

~Scott Faith

Managing Editor, *The Havok Journal*

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: Scott Faith havokjournal@havokmedia.com

date: Jan 8, 2026, 5:16 PM

subject: Re: Havoc Journal Submission

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Scott,

Thank you for the clarification, completely understood. To be clear, those details were shared with you privately for context only and were never intended for inclusion in the article or for public framing in any way. I ensure the work stands on its own merits and would not imply endorsement or leverage review activity.

I appreciate the guidance on using a brief Author's Note for future submissions. That's a clean way to control context without relying on editorial notes.

Thank you again for your time, for the thoughtful exchange, and for publishing the article. I value the professionalism you brought to the process.

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: patricia.kime@military.com

cc: "Steve.Beynon@military.com" Steve.Beynon@military.com,

"konstantin.toropin@military.com" konstantin.toropin@military.com

date: Jan 12, 2026, 11:14 AM

subject: Completed record on combat veteran suicide and governance failure

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Patricia,

I'm submitting a completed analytical work documenting combat veteran suicide as a terminal governance failure within compliant Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs systems.

This is a finished record, authored by Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens, and provided intact. The work is not broken or modular. It may be published in two parts if necessary, but only as a single complete work, with both parts accepted and published in full. Embedded images are integral to the analysis and are non-negotiable.

The document identifies the structural mechanism by which preventable loss accumulates without triggering corrective response and documents the material residue produced when governance exhausts its binding force. It is not advocacy, not memoir, and not a clinical recommendation.

Ownership remains with Staring Down The Muzzle LLC. Submission is for editorial review and potential publication in full and does not transfer intellectual property rights.  
 This record sits under a larger Architecture currently in formal peer review with *The Journal of Special Forces Medicine*. No classified, confidential, or improperly obtained materials are included.  
 The attached PDF is paginated and final.

V R,  
 Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
 to: "magazine@nytimes.com" magazine@nytimes.com  
 cc: virginia.hughes@nytimes.com,  
 michael.roston@nytimes.com  
 date: Jan 12, 2026, 9:22 PM  
 subject: Submission: Trigger-Muzzle Governance Collapse Sovereignty End-State  
 mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editors,

I am submitting a completed analytical work documenting combat Veteran suicide as a terminal governance failure occurring within fully compliant Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs systems.

This is a finished record authored by Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens and submitted intact. The work is not modular and is not offered for excerpting. If publication requires division, it may be published in two parts only as a single complete work, with both parts accepted and published in full. Embedded images are integral to the analysis and are non-negotiable.

The document identifies the structural mechanism by which preventable loss accumulates without triggering corrective response and documents the material residue produced when governance exhausts its binding force. It is not advocacy, not memoir, and not a clinical recommendation.

Ownership remains with Staring Down The Muzzle LLC. Submission is for editorial review and potential publication in full and does not transfer intellectual property rights.

This record exists within a larger architecture currently under formal peer review with the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*. The science has already undergone scope review by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *The Lancet*, and *Science Advances* and was deemed technically sound but misaligned with venue, with each indicating it warranted a more specialized audience.

No classified, confidential, or improperly obtained materials are included. The attached PDF is paginated and final.

V R,  
 Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
 to: science@theatlantic.com  
 cc: politics@theatlantic.com,  
 culture@theatlantic.com,  
 global@theatlantic.com  
 date: Jan 12, 2026, 11:13 PM  
 subject: Submission: Trigger-Muzzle Governance Collapse Sovereignty End-State  
 mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editors,



I am submitting a completed analytical work documenting combat Veteran suicide as a terminal governance failure occurring within fully compliant Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs systems.

This is a finished record authored by Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens and submitted intact. The work is not modular and is not offered for excerpting. If publication requires division, it may be published in two parts only as a single complete work, with both parts accepted and published in full. Embedded images are integral to the analysis and are non-negotiable.

This record exists within a larger architecture currently under formal peer review with the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*. The science has already undergone scope review by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *The Lancet*, and *Science Advances* and was deemed technically sound but misaligned with venue, with each indicating it warranted a more specialized audience.

The document identifies the structural mechanism by which preventable loss accumulates without triggering corrective response and documents the material residue produced when governance exhausts its binding force. It is not advocacy, not memoir, and not a clinical recommendation.

Ownership remains with Staring Down The Muzzle LLC. Submission is for editorial review and potential publication in full and does not transfer intellectual property rights.

No classified, confidential, or improperly obtained materials are included. The attached PDF is paginated and final.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: The Atlantic Global global+noreply@theatlantic.com**  
to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 12, 2026, 11:13 PM  
subject: Re: Submission: Trigger-Muzzle Governance Collapse Sovereignty End-State  
mailed-by: listserv.bounces.google.com  
signed-by: theatlantic.com

Hello,

Thank you for your submission. Due to the high volume of emails we receive, we're unable to respond to each one. We'll be in touch within 1 week if your pitch might work for us; otherwise, you should feel free to send it elsewhere.

Best,  
The Atlantic

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: edit@lrb.co.uk  
cc: letters@lrb.co.uk  
date: Jan 12, 2026, 11:52 PM  
subject: Submission: Trigger-Muzzle Governance Collapse Sovereignty End-State  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Editors,

I am submitting a completed analytical work documenting combat Veteran suicide as a terminal governance failure occurring within fully compliant Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs systems.

This is a finished record authored by Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens and submitted intact. The work is not modular and is not offered for excerpting. If publication requires division, it may be published in two parts only as a single complete work, with both parts accepted and published in full. Embedded images are integral to the analysis and are non-negotiable.



This record exists within a larger architecture currently under formal peer review with the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*. The science has already undergone scope review by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *The Lancet*, and *Science Advances* and was deemed technically sound but misaligned with venue, with each indicating it warranted a more specialized audience.

The document identifies the structural mechanism by which preventable loss accumulates without triggering corrective response and documents the material residue produced when governance exhausts its binding force. It is not advocacy, not memoir, and not a clinical recommendation.

Ownership remains with Staring Down The Muzzle LLC. Submission is for editorial review and potential publication in full and does not transfer intellectual property rights.

No classified, confidential, or improperly obtained materials are included. The attached PDF is paginated and final.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: LRB (Editorial) edit@lrb.co.uk**  
to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 13, 2026, 4:00 AM  
subject: Re: Submission: Trigger-Muzzle Governance Collapse Sovereignty End-State  
mailed-by: lrb.co.uk  
signed-by: lrb.co.uk

Many thanks for your interest in contributing to the *London Review of Books*. We receive a great number of proposals and unsolicited pieces and cannot respond to every submission. If you don't hear from us within three weeks, please assume that we do not intend to publish on this occasion.

--

LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

[www.lrb.co.uk](http://www.lrb.co.uk)

28 Little Russell Street

London

WC1A 2HN

+44 (0)20 7209 1101

**from: BMJ onbehalf@manuscriptcentral.com**  
reply-to: rhinton@bmj.com  
to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 14, 2026, 6:27 AM  
subject: The BMJ - decision on manuscript BMJ-2026-089440  
mailed-by: outbound.manuscriptcentral.com  
signed-by: manuscriptcentral.com

14-Jan-2026

BMJ-2026-089440 entitled "Pharmacological Modulation and the Limits of Prediction: A Governance-Centered Theory"

Dear Mr. Brown-Stephens,

Thank you for sending us your paper. We read it with interest but I regret to say that we have decided not to publish it in the BMJ.

We receive over 8000 submissions a year and accept less than 10%. We do therefore have to make hard decisions on just how interesting an article will be to our general clinical readers, how much it adds, and how much practical value it will be. We hope that this will allow you to promptly submit your manuscript elsewhere.

Thank you for considering BMJ for the publication of your article. I am sorry to disappoint you on this occasion, and I hope the outcome of this specific submission will not discourage you from the submission of future manuscripts.

Yours sincerely,  
Rachael Hinton, PhD  
Analysis Editor, The BMJ

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: rhinton@bmj.com  
date: Jan 14, 2026, 5:31 PM  
subject: Re: The BMJ - decision on manuscript BMJ-2026-089440  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Dr. Hinton,  
Thank you for your review of the manuscript and for the clarity of your decision.  
I appreciate the time taken to consider the submission and the explanation regarding scope and readership fit. I understand the constraints involved in selecting work for a broad clinical audience and am grateful for the prompt handling of the paper.  
Thank you as well for the encouragement to submit future work. You will likely be hearing from me again in the near future as additional manuscripts reach completion.  
With appreciation,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Perspectives on Psychological Science onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com**  
reply-to: perspectivesaps@gmail.com  
to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com  
date: Jan 14, 2026, 9:57 AM  
subject: Perspectives on Psychological Science - Decision on Manuscript ID PPS-26-018  
mailed-by: outbound.manuscriptcentral.com  
signed-by: manuscriptcentral.com

14-Jan-2026

Dear Dr. Brown-Stephens:

Thank you for submitting your manuscript # PPS-26-018 entitled "Reestablishment of Regulatory Authority in a Combat-Conditioned Human System Under Sustained Load" to Perspectives on Psychological Science.  
Prior to soliciting any expert reviewer advice, I have read the manuscript with great interest and care. I believe the ensuing article is unlikely to make a contribution strong enough to warrant publication in Perspectives, and therefore I am sorry to write that I have decided to decline the manuscript.  
The manuscript in its current form does not fit the program of articles to be published in Perspectives. My advice is to submit this manuscript to a journal specialized for empirical studies in psychology.  
I realize that authors such as yourself work hard on the preparation of these manuscripts, and I am sorry that I cannot bring you better news. The number of submissions to Perspectives is many times higher than the number of articles that can be published in six bimonthly issues, and, as a result the Editorial Team must restrict the journal to articles of outstanding quality and a perfect fit for the journal.  
Thank you for considering Perspectives on Psychological Science for the publication of your research. I hope the outcome of this specific submission will not discourage you from the submission of future manuscripts.  
Sincerely,

Arturo E. Hernandez  
Editor-in-Chief, Perspectives on Psychological Science

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: perspectivesaps@gmail.com  
date: Jan 14, 2026, 5:34 PM  
subject: Re: Perspectives on Psychological Science - Decision on Manuscript ID PPS-26-018  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Dr. Hernandez,

Thank you for taking the time to read the manuscript and for your thoughtful and direct response. I appreciate the care with which you evaluated the submission and the clarity regarding fit with the journal's program. I understand the constraints involved in curating content for Perspectives and am grateful for the prompt handling of the manuscript.

The manuscript has since been placed with a specialty venue aligned with its empirical focus and is currently under external peer review with the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*.

Thank you as well for the encouragement to submit future work. I anticipate being in touch again as additional manuscripts reach completion.

V R,

Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: C.P.Caulfield@damtp.cam.ac.uk  
cc: pdnhod@pdn.cam.ac.uk,  
"n.peake@damtp.cam.ac.uk" n.peake@damtp.cam.ac.uk,  
"cm761@cam.ac.uk" cm761@cam.ac.uk,  
clinical.dean@medschl.cam.ac.uk,  
hod@ch.cam.ac.uk,  
SecSPS@admin.cam.ac.uk  
date: Jan 15, 2026, 11:25 PM  
subject: Assistance Request Due to Exhaustion of Venue Scope  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Professor Caulfield,

I am placing this record with you because there is no remaining venue below this level capable of holding what now exists.

Since December 5, 2025, twenty-three distinct manuscripts have entered formal editorial custody across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, systems analysis, and philosophy of science. Each cleared initial admissibility. None were terminated for quality or rigor. All movement has been driven by scope. The attached editorial record documents that progression.

The manuscript you are receiving, Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load, is currently under consideration at Foundations of Science. It has cleared submission and technical checks and is proceeding through the journal's workflow. An automated language assessment reported above-average quality with no required revisions. The document is included here solely to establish the level and form of work presently in motion.

The origin of this body of work is not abstract. Following twenty-two years of military service and four combat deployments, I experienced two full-system physiological collapses on October 19, 2025 and November 6, 2025. Existing clinical and psychological models could not account for the observed failure pattern. I therefore documented the collapse states directly and worked forward from structural degradation rather than theory. That constraint produced the present body of work.

What is not contained in any single submission is the larger structure from which these manuscripts are being drawn. That structure exists as a monolith with a completed outline. It is analytically unified but not yet instantiated as a single work. The current fragmentation across journals is a forced condition imposed by scope, not a design choice.

This contact is procedural, not solicitational. The remaining issue is stewardship.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**  
to: [gavin.screaton@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gavin.screaton@medsci.ox.ac.uk)  
cc: [patrick.grant@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:patrick.grant@admin.ox.ac.uk),  
[head@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:head@mpls.ox.ac.uk),  
[head.office@dpag.ox.ac.uk](mailto:head.office@dpag.ox.ac.uk),  
[communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk)  
date: Jan 15, 2026, 11:42 PM  
subject: Assistance Request Due to Exhaustion of Venue Scope  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dear Professor Screaton,

I am placing this record with you because there is no remaining venue below this level capable of holding what now exists.

Since December 5, 2025, twenty-three distinct manuscripts have entered formal editorial custody across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, systems analysis, and philosophy of science. Each cleared initial admissibility. None were terminated for quality or rigor. All movement has been driven by scope. The attached editorial record documents that progression.

The manuscript you are receiving, Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load, is currently under consideration at Foundations of Science. It has cleared submission and technical checks and is proceeding through the journal's workflow. An automated language assessment reported above-average quality with no required revisions. The document is included here solely to establish the level and form of work presently in motion.

The origin of this body of work is not abstract. Following twenty-two years of military service and four combat deployments, I experienced two full-system physiological collapses on October 19, 2025 and November 6, 2025. Existing clinical and psychological models could not account for the observed failure pattern. I therefore documented the collapse states directly and worked forward from structural degradation rather than theory. That constraint produced the present body of work.

What is not contained in any single submission is the larger structure from which these manuscripts are being drawn. That structure exists as a monolith with a completed outline. It is analytically unified but not yet instantiated as a single work. The current fragmentation across journals is a forced condition imposed by scope, not a design choice.

This contact is procedural, not solicitational. The remaining issue is stewardship.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: thomas.romer@college-de-france.fr  
cc: "message@college-de-france.fr" message@college-de-france.fr  
date: Jan 15, 2026, 11:57 PM  
subject: Assistance Request Due to Exhaustion of Venue Scope  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Professor Römer,

I am placing this record with you because there is no remaining venue below this level capable of holding what now exists, and because this institution was identified as the appropriate locus for stewardship once journal scope was exhausted.

Since December 5, 2025, twenty-three distinct manuscripts have entered formal editorial custody across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, systems analysis, and philosophy of science. Each cleared initial admissibility. None were terminated for quality or rigor. All movement has been driven by scope. The attached editorial record documents that progression.

The manuscript you are receiving, Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load, is currently under consideration at Foundations of Science. It has cleared submission and technical checks and is proceeding through the journal's workflow. An automated language assessment reported above-average quality with no required revisions. The document is included here solely to establish the level and form of work presently in motion.

The origin of this body of work is not abstract. Following twenty-two years of military service and four combat deployments, I experienced two full-system physiological collapses on October 19, 2025 and November 6, 2025. Existing clinical and psychological models could not account for the observed failure pattern. I therefore documented the collapse states directly and worked forward from structural degradation rather than theory. That constraint produced the present body of work.

What is not contained in any single submission is the larger structure from which these manuscripts are being drawn. That structure exists as a monolith with a completed outline. It is analytically unified but not yet instantiated as a single work. The current fragmentation across journals is a forced condition imposed by scope, not a design choice. This contact is procedural, not solicitational. The remaining issue is stewardship.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**  
to: gs@gv.mpg.de  
cc: post@gv.mpg.de  
date: Jan 16, 2026, 12:18 AM  
subject: Assistance Request Due to Exhaustion of Venue Scope  
mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Ms. Schwanitz,

I am placing this record with you because there is no remaining venue below this level capable of holding what now exists, and because this institution was identified as the appropriate locus for stewardship once journal scope was exhausted.

Since December 5, 2025, twenty-three distinct manuscripts have entered formal editorial custody across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, systems analysis, and philosophy of science. Each cleared initial admissibility. None were terminated for quality or rigor. All movement has been driven by scope. The attached editorial record documents that progression.

The manuscript you are receiving, Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load, is currently under consideration at Foundations of Science. It has cleared submission and technical checks and is proceeding through the journal's workflow. An automated language assessment reported above-average quality with no required revisions. The document is included here solely to establish the level and form of work presently in motion.

The origin of this body of work is not abstract. Following twenty-two years of military service and four combat deployments, I experienced two full-system physiological collapses on October 19, 2025 and November 6, 2025. Existing clinical and psychological models could not account for the observed failure pattern. I therefore documented the collapse states directly and worked forward from structural degradation rather than theory. That constraint produced the present body of work.

What is not contained in any single submission is the larger structure from which these manuscripts are being drawn. That structure exists as a monolith with a completed outline. It is analytically unified but not yet instantiated as a single work. The current fragmentation across journals is a forced condition imposed by scope, not a design choice. This contact is procedural, not solicitational. The remaining issue is stewardship.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**  
to: [compoff@ias.edu](mailto:compoff@ias.edu)  
date: Jan 16, 2026, 12:29 AM  
subject: Assistance Request Due to Exhaustion of Venue Scope  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dear Professor Nirenberg,

I am placing this record with you because there is no remaining venue below this level capable of holding what now exists, and because this institution was identified as the appropriate locus for stewardship once journal scope was exhausted.

Since December 5, 2025, twenty-three distinct manuscripts have entered formal editorial custody across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, systems analysis, and philosophy of science. Each cleared initial admissibility. None were terminated for quality or rigor. All movement has been driven by scope. The attached editorial record documents that progression.

The manuscript you are receiving, Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load, is currently under consideration at Foundations of Science. It has cleared submission and technical checks and is proceeding through the journal's workflow. An automated language assessment reported above-average quality with no required revisions. The document is included here solely to establish the level and form of work presently in motion.

The origin of this body of work is not abstract. Following twenty-two years of military service and four combat deployments, I experienced two full-system physiological collapses on October 19, 2025 and November 6, 2025. Existing clinical and psychological models could not account for the observed failure pattern. I therefore documented the collapse states directly and worked forward from structural degradation rather than theory. That constraint produced the present body of work.

What is not contained in any single submission is the larger structure from which these manuscripts are being drawn. That structure exists as a monolith with a completed outline. It is analytically unified but not yet instantiated as a single work. The current fragmentation across journals is a forced condition imposed by scope, not a design choice. This contact is procedural, not solicitational. The remaining issue is stewardship.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: president@missouri.edu,  
president@louisville.edu,  
provost@louisville.edu,  
jeff.bumpous@louisville.edu,  
middletonjr@missouri.edu,  
chris.smith@missouri.edu,  
thepresident@umontana.edu,  
officeoftheprovoast@umontana.edu,  
kelly.webster@umontana.edu,  
vmi-superintendent@vmi.edu,  
bissellga@vmi.edu,  
williamsba@vmi.edu,  
president@cnu.edu,  
qkidd@cnu.edu,  
pres\_office@vt.edu,  
vpit@vt.edu,  
"Goldman, Zachary" zachary.goldman@louisville.edu,  
president@auburn.edu,  
provost@auburn.edu,  
bwoodard@auburn.edu,  
uwpres@uwyo.edu,  
wmai@uwyo.edu,  
msmith21@uwyo.edu

cc: HVAC.DemPress@mail.house.gov,  
denis.mcdonough@va.gov,  
vpublicaffairs@va.gov,  
legislative.affairs@dodig.mil,  
disa.meade.bd.mbx.public-affairs@mail.mil,  
osd.SOCO@mail.mil,  
pdunlap@vfw.org,  
Karol Shadle kshadle@vfw.org,  
nspringer@vfw.org,  
jgrassi@vfw.org,  
jcraig@vfw.org,  
maggie.baldwin@va.gov,  
"jresponsorship@joerogan.net" jresponsorship@joerogan.net,  
info@comedymothership.com,  
resourcecenter@woundedwarriorproject.org,  
questions@mercuryone.org,  
tim.jensen@gruntstyle.com,  
April Medina april.medina@gruntstyle.com,  
info@bobwoodrufffoundation.org,  
publicaffairs@naavets.org,  
publicrelations@woundedwarriorproject.org,  
"john.bohannon@ninlineapparel.com" john.bohannon@ninlineapparel.com,  
Info@naavets.org,

brand@bobwoodruffffoundation.org,  
 "press@gruntstyle.com" press@gruntstyle.com,  
 press@teamrubiconusa.org,  
 fundraising@teamrubiconusa.org,  
 "press@t2t.org" press@t2t.org,  
 "donationsupport@t2t.org" donationsupport@t2t.org,  
 press@blackriflecoffee.com,  
 IR@blackriflecoffee.com

bcc: **REDACTED**

This message serves as a formal record update.

Since my December correspondence, journal scope exhaustion has completed across medicine, neuroscience, psychology, ethics, strategy, and philosophy of science. The attached editorial record documents submission sequence, chain of custody, and disposition. No submission was rejected for quality, rigor, or methodological deficiency. All movement occurred at the level of jurisdictional limitation.

Consideration by standard university structures is no longer operative. The work exceeded institutional handling capacity before internal alignment could be established. That outcome is closed.

As of today, the record has been placed for stewardship consideration with the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Collège de France, and the Max Planck Society.

In December, I stated that this work would move with purpose. That statement described constraint, not preference. Institutional pacing mechanisms based on deliberation, sequencing, and internal comfort were not compatible with the conditions governing this work. They were bypassed because they could be.

Relevant federal and organizational offices are included on this correspondence because formal written statements were entered into the official records of the United States House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs two weeks ago. This notice reflects the jurisdictional state that followed that filing.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is included on this correspondence because a formal escalation record and request for confirmation was transmitted to VFW National Headquarters on December 31, 2025, following original in-person delivery and written follow-up on December 8, 2025. No subsequent clarification altered that record.

Veteran service organizations are included because each asserts responsibility, by charter or public mission, for advocating on behalf of combat Veterans. Their presence here reflects existing obligation, not outreach.

The editorial record already demonstrates that time is the governing constraint. Execution planning is therefore fixed at operational speed for the next five years. A defined request is tied to two percent of an already approved federal baseline budget of approximately \$1.085 trillion. Of that amount, \$1.0 million is allocated strictly to legal protection, compliance, security, and containment. These allocations do not produce visibility, scale, or institutional reassurance. They exist to preserve authority while correction is executed. The remaining \$101,000 is capped and explicit. \$60,000 compensates required on-site execution, removing the author from his family for approximately half of each month for 90-Days. \$41,000 is allocated to equipment and materials required to execute the work without substitution or delay. Compensation is capped at \$300,000 annually after until cumulative system value exceeds \$1 billion. Any adjustment thereafter is limited to two percent of an annual cumulative baseline drawn from the already approved budget. Under no condition does compensation exceed \$5 million annually, exclusive of inflation. These limits are fixed. Authority is prevented from following money. This posture is established. The work is executable. I am prepared to execute it.

Combat Veterans were injured in real environments, under lawful orders, and at operational tempo set by the state. What followed was not a diagnostic dispute or a philosophical problem. It was progressive physiological degradation, autonomic failure, and regulatory collapse that persists after service ends. I did not enter full collapse, black out, and come close to death on 10.19.25 and again on 11.6.25, extract the science from those events, and then retain it privately while preventable deaths continue at scale. The "22 a day" figure is recited constantly. The tempo of corrective care does not match the slogan. These outcomes present as suicide, cardiovascular failure, neurological shutdown, family collapse, and death occurring while systems remain procedurally correct and institutionally slow. Carl von Clausewitz did not theorize violence. He observed its residue and identified friction as the point where systems fail those subjected to sustained force. Those friction points governed the speed and structure of this work. Delay at those points converts directly into loss. Institutional pause does not reduce that cost. Veterans do not

experience review cycles or jurisdictional ambiguity as neutral conditions. They experience continued exposure while degradation accumulates. This work moved quickly because it had to. The nation that deploys its men and women does not wish the residue of that deployment returned once utility has been extracted. That residue is now documented, named, and entered into the record. What remains is whether governing authority will confront it or continue to absorb the cost as acceptable loss.

Another preventable death occurred during the transmission of this correspondence. That is not rhetorical. It is temporal. Imagine who's Bcc'd on this email.

For those removed from the table, this constitutes final closure. For those remaining on notice, jurisdiction now applies. Let's get to work.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**  
to: "Goldman, Zachary" [zachary.goldman@louisville.edu](mailto:zachary.goldman@louisville.edu)  
date: Jan 17, 2026, 7:21 AM  
subject: Statement of Stewardship  
mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Zac,

Thinking carefully about our conversation, I want to state my position regarding UofL with precision. I did take your perspective seriously. I understand, as you noted, how universities operate, how internal consensus forms, and why additional outreach would normally be the appropriate move within that system. I respect that assessment and the experience behind it.

However, I am not in a position to contort my posture to fit institutional process when doing so undermines the integrity of the work itself. My objective is systems change across domains. Not navigation. Not accommodation. Not persistence through repetition until permission is granted.

At this point, UofL has been contacted four times in total: twice by you and twice by me. Each contact included sufficient material, context, and opportunity to engage. The work was clear. The stakes were clear. The burden was clear. Any further outreach would signal uncertainty where none exists and would place me in contradiction with a position I have maintained consistently. I am therefore not pursuing a fifth contact.

As we discussed, this work is not meant to be carried by one person alone. That is precisely why I am no longer providing additional clarification to institutions that have already been given adequate opportunity to move. Part of this phase is distinguishing between those who understand the gravity of what exists and those who do not. UofL has had the material and the time. Their decision not to engage is itself an answer.

I am not withdrawing the work. I am not changing my position. I am moving forward in line with the record already placed. My personal wants no longer factor into decisional requirements. I am obligated to protect the work, even if that requires denying myself, because integrity demands restraint.

As you recognized, my last email would create confusion for some. That confusion was expected and it reaffirmed the original reason for placing the record publicly in the first place. Not everyone will understand the gravity of what exists, nor should they. Those who do will pursue it. I am no longer chasing anyone. I put in the work. The record is complete and attached. From here, the burden transfers to those with the capacity and authority to protect it.

Those who are prepared to act will understand why the stance must remain fixed. It is not my role to adjust it.

Thank you for your time and insight. I'll keep you looped in as things continue or as more exciting news presents.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com**

to: sparc@sparcopen.org,

"contact@cos.io" contact@cos.io,  
 science.policy@royalsociety.org,  
 governance@royalsociety.org,  
 ethics.reporting@springernature.com

cc: C.P.Caulfield@damtp.cam.ac.uk,

pdnhod@pdn.cam.ac.uk,  
 "n.peake@damtp.cam.ac.uk" n.peake@damtp.cam.ac.uk,  
 gavin.screaton@medsci.ox.ac.uk,  
 patrick.grant@admin.ox.ac.uk,  
 thomas.romer@college-de-france.fr,  
 "message@college-de-france.fr" message@college-de-france.fr,  
 gs@gv.mpg.de,  
 post@gv.mpg.de,  
 compoff@ias.edu,  
 ashley@sparcopen.org,  
 ORSupport@springernature.com,  
 "comms@publicationethics.org" comms@publicationethics.org,  
 openscience@unesco.org,  
 info@nas.edu

date: Jan 19, 2026, 1:10 AM

subject: Formal Notice of Systemic Routing Failure for Scientifically Valid Work

mailed-by: staringdownthemuzzle.com

Dear Colleagues,

I am transmitting the attached materials as a formal notice of a systemic routing failure within scholarly publishing mechanisms.

The materials concern a body of interrelated scientific work examining regulatory capacity, execution, and failure in complex human systems under sustained load. This work spans general science, philosophy of science, clinical medicine, military medicine, and applied domains. As documented in the attached editorial record, editors across venues have repeatedly acknowledged rigor and technical soundness while declining individual manuscripts solely on the basis of journal scope, audience fit, or venue limitation. No adverse findings regarding validity, methodology, or analytical quality have been issued for any submission referenced.

The attached editorial record documents twenty three editorial determinations and active reviews occurring between December 5, 2025, and January 15, 2026. Taken as a whole, the record establishes a consistent pattern of scope based routing failure rather than merit based rejection. Several manuscripts remain under active external peer review.

On January 15, 2026, at 16:49 CST, the journal *Philosophy of Science* issued a scope based rejection of the manuscript *Regulatory Governance in Complex Human Systems: Execution, Capacity, and Failure Under Sustained Load*. The decision explicitly cited the manuscript's significant virtues and identified journal scope as the sole basis for rejection. No technical, methodological, or analytical criticism was made.

Following that decision, and with the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* still processing the same manuscript under comparable scope criteria, the manuscript was submitted to the journal *Foundations of Science* on January 15, 2026, at 22:31 CST, at which time it entered initial technical check. This submission constituted a final conventional routing attempt within the philosophy of science domain after exhaustion of adjacent venues.

After submission to *Foundations of Science*, and in light of the cumulative scope based exclusions already documented, five academic institutions were contacted between January 15, 2026, at 23:25 CST and January 16, 2026, at 00:29 CST. That outreach was initiated to establish a contemporaneous institutional record of systemic routing failure across the body of work and to seek clarification regarding custodial responsibility once journal scope mechanisms repeatedly fail. This correspondence was not prompted by, nor contingent upon, any response from *Foundations of Science*.

The only material development since compilation of the editorial record is the subsequent decision by *Foundations of Science* to decline the *Regulatory Governance* manuscript at the editor in chief level without external peer review and without technical criticism. That correspondence is forwarded below as part of this notice.

On January 18, 2026, at 14:38 CST, following scope-based termination of peer review at Foundations of Science, the Research Square editorial team contacted me directly to invite public posting of the manuscript on the Research Square preprint platform. That communication is included in the record to document prevailing post-termination routing practice. This outreach reflects the standard disposition of scientifically valid work following scope-based exclusion: redirection toward public dissemination rather than custodial placement or governance resolution for cross-domain submissions.

For clarity, the *Regulatory Governance* manuscript attached here is the same manuscript submitted to *Foundations of Science*.

The supporting S files associated with the current *Journal of Special Operations Medicine* submission were previously reviewed at the general science level. The manuscript *Reestablishment of Regulatory Authority in a Combat-Conditioned Human System Under Sustained Load* was declined by *The Lancet* on January 6, 2026, at 05:15 CST, following editorial consideration across the Lancet family of journals, with no adverse technical findings reported. The same manuscript was subsequently declined by *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on January 8, 2026, at 09:47 CST, following initial Editorial Board assessment, explicitly on the basis of journal aims and audience scope rather than technical quality. These determinations preceded submission to the *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*, where the manuscript is currently under formal blinded external peer review and is intentionally withheld here to preserve scientific integrity. The supporting files document a non pharmacologic, non interventional longitudinal observation conducted under sustained operational load, consisting solely of continuous physiological and blood pressure measurements without unloading, treatment, or environmental normalization, and are included to establish evidentiary continuity rather than advance scientific claims.

Also included is the manuscript *Trigger–Muzzle Governance Collapse: Sovereignty End-State*. This work is not part of the *Foundations of Science* submission and is not offered for review or consideration. It is included solely to demonstrate the terminal governance condition produced when the structural mechanisms analyzed across the attached works operate to completion. The manuscript documents an observable end state of regulatory collapse using administrative, clinical, and material artifacts as system outputs rather than behavioral narrative. Its inclusion establishes that the routing failure documented in the editorial record corresponds to a real, realized governance outcome that existing disciplinary scope mechanisms are structurally unable to accommodate without fragmentation or exclusion.

None of the attached materials are provided for publication, submission, or discretionary consideration. They are transmitted solely to establish procedural history, evidentiary sufficiency, and exhaustion of conventional journal routing mechanisms.

This correspondence is not an appeal, not a submission, and not a request for discretionary assistance. It is a governance escalation.

The issue is not rejection. The issue is the repeated confirmation that journal level scope mechanisms are structurally incapable of routing non decomposable, cross domain scientific work even where scientific soundness is explicitly acknowledged and independent peer review is ongoing elsewhere. Fragmentation would invalidate the results and renders standard corrective guidance inapplicable.

The procedural question requiring resolution is therefore systemic rather than editorial. Where scientifically valid work resides once journal scope mechanisms fail in the absence of merit based deficiencies remains unresolved.

This communication is directed to organizations whose mandates include stewardship of scholarly infrastructure, research integrity, and open scientific governance. The attached materials are provided solely to establish record, sequence, and disposition.

The five institutions previously contacted are included here for informational continuity and record awareness only. Their inclusion does not constitute solicitation or request. It reflects exhaustion of conventional journal routing and the need for clarity regarding custodial responsibility once that exhaustion occurs.

The editorial record and supporting documentation are attached for completeness.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA



**from: Brian Walker BWalker@vfw.org**

to: SDTM - J Brown jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

date: Jan 19, 2026, 3:08 PM

subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Preventable Veteran Deaths: Official Record Correction (VFW)

mailed-by: vfw.org

signed-by: vfw.org

I asked you to take Karol off of these emails. Also, why are you attaching 40 people to an email I asked for?

**from: Armed Forces and Society onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com**

reply-to: afsjournal@iusafs.org

to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

cc: afsjournal@iusafs.org,

ori.swed@ttu.edu,

hla@ttu.edu

date: Jan 20, 2026, 1:21 PM

subject: AF&S - Decision on Manuscript ID AFS-26-019

mailed-by: outbound.manuscriptcentral.com

signed-by: manuscriptcentral.com

20-Jan-2026

Mr. Brown-Stephens:

We write you in regards to manuscript # AFS-26-019 entitled "Sovereign Maneuver Under Institutional Failure: Tempo, Authority Reversion, and Non-Kinetic Strategy in Civilian Systems" which you submitted to Armed Forces and Society.

The editorial team conducted an internal assessment of your manuscript and decided not to send your article out for review. It does not align well with the issues and topics that we publish. We publish studies that examine subjects at the intersection of military and society. Your article does not coherently examine anything military or society. Many of the sentences are incoherent.

See the information regarding "journal overview and metrics" on our website at <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/afs>.

Also see this open access chapter in the Handbook of Military Sciences [https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-02866-4\\_31-1](https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-3-030-02866-4_31-1). It outlines the topics that are part of the military and society field of study. A quick skim will make it clear why your paper is not a good fit.

Also, there was no attempt to follow formatting guidelines. Further, there are few references, and no theory development.

You may want to consider sending your paper to one of the journals you cite. You are more likely to already be part of the conversation in those journals.

Good luck finding a journal that is a better fit.

Thank you for considering Armed Forces and Society for the publication of your research. I hope the outcome of

this specific submission will not discourage you from the submission of future manuscripts.

Sincerely,

Donald Travis

Ori Swed, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, Armed Forces & Society Journal  
<http://afs.sagepub.com>

Associate Professor  
Texas Tech University, Sociology Department  
Director, Peace War & Social Conflict Laboratory  
Director, Texas Security Center  
Lubbock, Texas 79409  
[ori.swed@ttu.edu](mailto:ori.swed@ttu.edu)

Additional point of contact:

Donald S. Travis, PhD  
Managing Editor  
Armed Forces & Society  
Cell: 703-853-9170 (USA, Eastern Standard Time)  
e-mail address: [afsjournal@iusafs.org](mailto:afsjournal@iusafs.org)

Like us on Facebook: Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society  
Follow us on Twitter: @AFS\_Sage

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

**from: SDTM - J Brown [jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com)**

to: [afsjournal@iusafs.org](mailto:afsjournal@iusafs.org)

cc: [afsjournal@iusafs.org](mailto:afsjournal@iusafs.org),  
[ori.swed@ttu.edu](mailto:ori.swed@ttu.edu),  
[hla@ttu.edu](mailto:hla@ttu.edu)

date: Jan 20, 2026, 1:40 PM

subject: Re: AF&S - Decision on Manuscript ID AFS-26-019

mailed-by: [staringdownthemuzzle.com](mailto:staringdownthemuzzle.com)

Dr. Swed, Dr. Travis,

This message acknowledges receipt of your decision regarding manuscript AFS 26 019, issued on 20 January 2026 at 13 21 CST.

For the record, this manuscript was submitted to Armed Forces and Society following a scope based decline by the Journal of Strategic Studies on 13 January 2026 at 05 54 CST. That decision did not identify any technical deficiencies, incoherence, or lack of scholarly validity. Following that determination, the publisher Taylor and Francis initiated transfer support for alternative venue placement.

The manuscript explicitly examines command authority, authority reversion, tempo, guardianship failure, and non-kinetic maneuver. These concepts originate in military practice and are analytically extended to civilian institutional

systems operating under duty of care constraints. The manuscript also explicitly states that it is descriptive in nature and does not propose theory, doctrine, policy, or reform.

The manuscript contains defined terminology, bounded scope, and primary references to Machiavelli, Weber, Foucault, Clausewitz, and Sun Tzu. Statements asserting incoherence, absence of theory development, or lack of engagement with military society dynamics do not reflect the contents of the submitted work.

No appeal is requested. This correspondence serves solely to correct the record.

Please consider this matter closed.

V R,  
Justin Lawrence Brown, MBA

**from: Journal of Strategic Studies onbehalfof@manuscriptcentral.com**

reply-to: joe.maiolo@kcl.ac.uk

to: jlbrown@staringdownthemuzzle.com

date: Jan 13, 2026, 5:54 AM

subject: Journal of Strategic Studies - Decision on Manuscript ID 267779080

mailed-by: outbound.manuscriptcentral.com

signed-by: manuscriptcentral.com

13-Jan-2026

Dear Dr Justin Lawrence Brown-Stephens,

I regret to inform you that after careful consideration the editor has decided that your above referenced paper, entitled "Sovereign Maneuver Under Institutional Failure: Tempo, Authority Reversion, and Non-Kinetic Strategy in Civilian Systems", which you submitted to Journal of Strategic Studies is not appropriate for publication in this journal and I must therefore decline to consider it further.

Your manuscript may be better suited to one of Taylor & Francis' other journals, and the Taylor & Francis editorial team might be in touch with some specific suggestions.

Thank you for considering Journal of Strategic Studies for the publication of your research. I hope the outcome of this specific submission will not discourage you from the submission of future manuscripts.

Sincerely,

Professor Maiolo  
Editor, Journal of Strategic Studies  
[joe.maiolo@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:joe.maiolo@kcl.ac.uk), [joe.maiolo@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:joe.maiolo@kcl.ac.uk)

#### **ADDENDUM | FURTHER CONTEXT ON LINKEDIN**

The posts on this profile between **November–January** reflect contemporaneous record placement during active scientific submission, institutional routing, and scope review.

They are preserved as-posted. No retroactive editing.

Full chronology and supporting record are available here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/justinlbrown/>

## CLOSING DISCLAIMER / TERMINAL NOTICE

### Record Closure and Use Limitation

This Scientific Record File constitutes a closed documentary record. All materials contained herein are presented as structural and evidentiary artifacts reflecting system behavior, administrative handling, and material consequence under sustained load.

Nothing in this file constitutes medical advice, clinical opinion, diagnostic determination, legal guidance, policy instruction, or operational recommendation. No reader is authorized to rely upon this material for decision-making, risk assessment, treatment, intervention, enforcement, or action of any kind.

The contents do not assert intent, motive, causality, fault, or attribution of responsibility to any individual or institution. No inference beyond the observable record is authorized. Interpretation, extrapolation, or application outside descriptive analysis exceeds the scope of this file.

Any references to injury, death, suicide, or harm are presented solely as observable outcomes at the structural and population level, without attribution of individual intent, pathology, or moral cause. No instructional, illustrative, or behavioral modeling is provided or implied.

This file creates no duty of care, fiduciary obligation, stewardship responsibility, or institutional mandate. Review, acknowledgment, possession, or discussion of this material does not confer authority, endorsement, or obligation.

Unauthorized reproduction, redistribution, modification, or application of this material outside fair-use scholarly or governmental review is prohibited. All rights are reserved.

This notice is not advisory.  
It is record.

End of Scientific Record File (S-File 3)

© 2025–2026 Staring Down The Muzzle LLC™. All rights reserved.

