Abstract

The Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers (Army STARRS) is the largest study of mental health risk and resilience ever conducted among military personnel. Army STARRS investigators are using five separate study components – the Historical Administrative Data Study, New Soldier Study, All Army Study, Soldier Health Outcomes Study and Special Studies – to identify factors that help protect a Soldier’s mental health and factors that put a Soldier’s mental health at risk. Integrated into multiple of these studies is collection of biological data. These include data related to genetics, epigenetics, telomere length, gene expression, metabolomics and other biomarkers. This talk will provide an introduction to these data—with special focus on the biological data—and some of the methodological issues being confronted by integrating such diverse data with survey and administrative data.