



UPDATE

November 1, 2015

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

TEAM-BASED TREATMENT IS BETTER FOR FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS; NIH-FUNDED STUDY SHOWS EARLY INTERVENTION HAS BEST OUTCOMES

New research shows that treating people with first episode psychosis with a team-based, coordinated specialty care approach produces better clinical and functional outcomes than typical community care. Investigators also found that treatment is most effective for people who receive care soon after psychotic symptoms begin. John M. Kane, M.D. heads the Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) Early Treatment Program, one of two studies that make up the RAISE project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The team's research is published online in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/team-based-treatment-is-better-for-first-episode-psychosis.shtml>

ANTIPSYCHOTICS USE AMONG OLDER ADULTS INCREASES WITH AGE; RESEARCHERS CITE SAFETY CONCERNS, CALL FOR ALTERNATIVES

Despite known risks of serious side effects, especially in older adults, the fraction of seniors treated with antipsychotic medications increases with age, NIMH-funded researchers have found. Such medications may be appropriate for treating certain mental disorders, yet more than three-quarters of seniors receiving an antipsychotic prescription in 2010 had no documented clinical psychiatric diagnosis during the year. Further, among those who did have a diagnosed mental disorder and/or dementia, nearly half of the oldest patients had dementia, regardless of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warnings that antipsychotics increase mortality in people with dementia.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/antipsychotics-use-among-older-adults-increases-with-age.shtml>

MEDICAID TO COVER NEW TREATMENT FOR FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS BASED ON NIMH-FUNDED RESEARCH; COORDINATED SPECIALTY CARE MAY BECOME MORE READILY AVAILABLE

On October 16, 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) posted an informational bulletin to State Medicaid Directors about covering treatment for first episode psychosis. A key feature of this bulletin is CMS' support for coordinated specialty care, the evidence-based treatment approach tested in the NIMH RAISE initiative.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/medicaid-to-cover-new-treatment-for-first-episode-psychosis-based-on-nimh-funded-research.shtml>

HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR DEMENTIA FOUND GREATER THAN FOR ANY OTHER DISEASE; NIH-FUNDED STUDY EXAMINES MEDICAL CARE COSTS IN LAST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE

In the last five years of life, total health care spending for people with dementia was more than a quarter-million dollars per person, some 57 percent greater than costs associated with death from other diseases, including cancer and heart disease. The new analysis estimates that total health care spending was \$287,000 for those with probable dementia and \$183,000 for other Medicare beneficiaries in the study. The analysis was funded primarily by the National Institute on Aging.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2015/nia-27.htm>

PREVALENCE OF MARIJUANA USE AMONG U.S. ADULTS DOUBLES OVER PAST DECADE

The percentage of Americans who reported using marijuana in the past year more than doubled between 2001-2002 and 2012-2013, and the increase in marijuana use disorder during that time was nearly as large. Past year marijuana use rose from 4.1 percent to 9.5 percent of the U.S. adult population, while the prevalence of marijuana use disorder rose from 1.5 percent to 2.9 percent, according to national surveys conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2015/niaaa-21.htm>

STUDY IN MICE SHOWS HOW BRAIN IGNORES DISTRACTIONS; NIH-SUPPORTED SCIENTISTS MAP OUT CIRCUITRY THAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN AUTISM, ADHD, AND SCHIZOPHRENIA

In a study of mice, scientists discovered that a brain region called the thalamus may be critical for filtering out distractions. The study, published in *Nature* and partially funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), paves the way to understanding how defects in the thalamus might underlie symptoms seen in patients with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and schizophrenia.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2015/ninds-21.htm>

PROGRAM FOR PARENTS HELPS SUSTAIN LEARNING GAINS IN KIDS FROM HEAD START TO KINDERGARTEN; NIH-FUNDED STUDY SHOWS INVOLVING PARENTS SETS THE STAGE FOR LATER ACADEMIC SUCCESS

An instructional program for parents helps young children retain the literacy skills and positive learning behaviors acquired in Head Start and retain them through to the end of the kindergarten year, according to NIH-funded researchers. The program appears to offset what education researchers call “summer loss,” or the tendency of children to forget during summer break what they learned during the previous year.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2015/nichd-20.htm>

CLUES TO OPIOID ABUSE FROM STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS; CDC URGES EARLY TREATMENT OF SEVERELY ILL AND HIGH-RISK PATIENTS

Information from state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) can be used to detect and measure prescribing patterns that suggest abuse and misuse of controlled substances, according to a report released in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summary*. It is the first multi-state report from the CDC- and FDA-funded Prescription Behavior Surveillance System, which analyzes data from state PDMPs.

Press Release: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p1015-opioid-abuse.html>

SAMHSA REPORT SHOWS CONVERSION THERAPY NOT APPROPRIATE FOR MINORS, OFFERS METHODS TO SUPPORT LGBTQ AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING CHILDREN

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released *Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth*, a comprehensive report that provides an in-depth review of research and clinical expertise related to conversion therapy. This important new resource makes it clear that conversion therapy is not an appropriate therapeutic approach based on the evidence, and explores alternative ways to discuss sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression with young people.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201510150630>

HHS AWARDS UP TO \$22.9 MILLION IN PLANNING GRANTS FOR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS

SAMHSA in conjunction with CMS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), awarded a total of \$22.9 million to support states throughout the nation in their efforts to improve the behavioral health of their citizens by providing community-based mental and substance use disorder treatment. Authorized under Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, the planning grants are part of a comprehensive effort to integrate behavioral health with physical health care, utilize evidence-based practices on a more consistent basis, and improve access to high quality care.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201510191200>

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$41 MILLION FOR ADULT, FAMILY, AND JUVENILE DRUG COURTS

The Justice Department announced that it was awarding grants of more than \$41 million to increase the effectiveness of adult, family, and juvenile drug courts across the country. The competitive grant programs will enhance training; establish statewide performance measures; and support local partnerships among judges, treatment and school programs, law enforcement, and others.

Press Release: <http://ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2015/ojp10052015.pdf>

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$53 MILLION IN GRANT AWARDS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM AMONG ADULTS AND YOUTH

The Justice Department announced that it will award grants totaling \$53 million to 45 jurisdictions to reduce recidivism among adults and youth returning to their communities after confinement. The Second Chance Act program supports state, local, and tribal community organizations in their efforts to reduce recidivism, provide reentry services, and support research programs.

Press Release: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-53-million-grant-awards-reduce-recidivism-among-adults-and-youth>

RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

NEW FROM NIMH

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: TEAM-BASED TREATMENT IS BETTER FOR FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS

New NIMH-funded research shows that a team-based, coordinated specialty care treatment plan produces better outcomes than typical community care for people with first episode psychosis. NIMH Director Thomas Insel further discusses these findings and other recent studies of coordinated care in his latest blog. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2015/new-hope-for-treating-psychosis.shtml>

NIMH OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING: SUMMARY

The summary from the 2015 Annual Meeting of the NIMH Outreach Partnership Program is now available. A recurring theme of the meeting was the engagement of consumers and their families in research. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/meetings/outreach-partnership-program-2015-annual-meeting-overview.shtml>

ARCHIVED TWITTER CHAT: SPORTS-RELATED HEAD INJURY AND COGNITIVE DECLINE

The transcript from the NIMH Twitter chat with the National Institute on Neurological Diseases and Stroke on sports-related head injury and cognitive decline is available. <https://storify.com/NIMHgov/twitter-chat-on-sports-related-head-injury-cogniti>

NEW FROM NIH

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: STUDY MAY RAISE STANDARD FOR TREATING FIRST PSYCHOTIC EPISODE

NIH Director Francis Collins describes the recent findings of the NIMH RAISE Early Treatment Program. The blog describes the team-based intervention and includes the story of a study participant who benefitted from the program.

<http://directorsblog.nih.gov/2015/10/20/study-may-raise-standard-for-treating-first-psychotic-episode/>

NIH NEWS IN HEALTH: PLACEBO EFFECT IN DEPRESSION TREATMENT

People with depression who benefited from a placebo showed signature changes in the brain and also responded better to subsequent medication.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/october2015/10192015placebo.htm>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

GOOD MENTAL HEALTH IS AGELESS (SPANISH VERSION)

This resource is designed to increase awareness among older adults about the importance of good mental health. The easy to read brochure identifies signs of depression and other emotional problems, and suggests steps the elderly can take to overcome these problems. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/La-Buena-Salud-Mental-No-Tiene-Edad/All-New-Products/SMA15-3897>

MATRIX INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH STIMULANT USE DISORDERS: CLIENT'S HANDBOOK

This handbook contains client materials for an intensive outpatient treatment course for people who use or abuse stimulants. It provides handouts used in sessions on early recovery skills and relapse prevention.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Matrix-Intensive-Outpatient-Treatment-for-People-With-Stimulant-Use-Disorders-Client-s-Handbook/SMA15-4154>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WITH CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ISSUES

This resource summarizes guidelines for screening, assessment, and comprehensive treatment of child abuse and child neglect issues among people in substance abuse treatment. It discusses therapeutic issues for counselors and how to help break the intergenerational cycle of child abuse and neglect.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Substance-Abuse-Treatment-for-Persons-With-Child-Abuse-and-Neglect-Issues/SMA15-3604>

ARCHIVED WEBINAR: RESPONDING TO SUICIDE CLUSTERS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

This two-part web conference, co-produced by SAMHSA and the JED Foundation, has been archived and is available for viewing. Presenters discuss the epidemiology and demographics of suicide clusters; what we know about settings in which clusters are more likely to occur; and how to reduce the risk of contagion through effective communication, intervention, and postvention on- and off-campus.

<http://www.sprc.org/training-institute/samhsa-webinars>

NEW FROM AHRQ

PSYCHOSOCIAL AND PHARMACOLOGIC INTERVENTIONS FOR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

This Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) review assessed psychosocial and pharmacologic treatment approaches for disruptive behavior disorders (DBD). DBDs are a group of related psychiatric disorders of childhood and adolescence marked by temper tantrums, interpersonal aggression, and defiance. <http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productID=2133>

CHARTBOOK FOR HISPANIC HEALTH CARE; 2014 NATIONAL HEALTH CARE QUALITY AND DISPARITIES REPORT

This Hispanic Health Care chartbook is part of a family of documents and tools that support the National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report (QDR). This chartbook includes a summary of trends across measures of Hispanic health care from the QDR and figures illustrating select measures of Hispanic health care. Among the data presented, about 33 percent of Hispanics ages 18 to 64 were uninsured during the second quarter of 2014 compared with about 11 percent of whites. From 2008 to 2012, 25 percent of measures of suicide prevention and mental health care worsened among Hispanics.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrd/2014chartbooks/hispanichealth/index.html>

HEALTH CARE INNOVATIONS FOR HISPANIC POPULATIONS

This issue of the Innovations Exchange is the first in a new monthly series focused on health care disparities experienced by different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the U.S. population. This issue features a selection of content that can help address disparities in Hispanic health care.

<https://innovations.ahrq.gov/node/8325>

NEW FROM HHS

GUIDE FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

HHS in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice released this new guide for parents involved in the criminal justice system on working with the child welfare system to stay involved with their children and understand the reunification process. <http://youth.gov/sites/default/files/COIP-Parent-Guide-508.pdf>

BLOG POST: TAKING NEW STEPS TO COMBAT OPIOID USE DISORDER

HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell discusses HHS initiatives to end opioid use disorder, including increasing access to evidence-based treatment, expanding the use of naloxone, and encouraging safe prescribing practices. <http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2015/10/14/taking-new-steps-combat-opioid-use-disorder.html>

2014 SCHOOL HEALTH POLICIES AND PRACTICES STUDY RESULTS RELEASED

The CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health released the *2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study*. The release includes a comprehensive report that includes results on a number of topics, including health education; counseling, psychological, and social services; and safe and healthy school environment. <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>

NEW FROM REAL WARRIORS

PRACTICING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION TO COPE WITH STRESS

Mindfulness meditation is a popular form of meditation that can help one cope with psychological concerns. It can be combined with clinical care and aid in keeping a healthy lifestyle and staying mentally fit. This article defines mindfulness meditation and its benefits, shares ways to make this practice part of a daily routine, and explains how one can practice individually or in a group. <http://www.realwarriors.net/active/treatment/mindfulness-meditation.php>

HEALTHY WAYS TO MANAGE PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS

There are a number of healthy ways to take care of oneself and manage psychological health concerns and symptoms. Commonly referred to as self-management techniques, these practices can be used along with counseling to further ease symptoms. This article provides a summary of three different Real Warriors campaign articles about self-management practices, explains the benefits of using these practices, and links to more in-depth articles on the campaign website about each practice. <http://www.realwarriors.net/active/treatment/self-management.php>

JOIN NIH DEPRESSION RESEARCH STUDIES

Does depression impede your daily life? Are you currently feeling sad and hopeless, experiencing worthlessness and guilt, and have a lack of interest in everyday activities you once enjoyed? NIH studies are investigating the brain and experimental medications (such as ketamine and diazoxide) to rapidly reduce depressive symptoms. Research includes: depressed adults ages 18 to 70, outpatient visits or inpatient stays of up to 12 weeks at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. Call 1-877-MIND-NIH, TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Email: moodresearch@mail.nih.gov

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/trials/adult-studies/depression-evaluations-for-medication-and-brain-imaging-studies.shtml>

Twitter message:

Join an NIMH Study. Depression research evaluates adults ages 18-70, the brain, and novel medications to rapidly reduce symptoms. <http://goo.gl/Se1io5>

BIPOLAR DISORDER (PEDIATRIC) RESEARCH STUDY: TREATMENT OF SEVERE MOOD DYSREGULATION

(Inpatient: 12-15 weeks) This study tests the efficacy of different treatments for decreasing irritability in children with severe mood and behavioral problems. Participants have symptoms of severe irritability and are not doing well on their current medications. The child must be currently in treatment with a physician, medically healthy, and not currently hospitalized, psychotic, or suicidal. The study includes day or full hospitalization to discontinue medication, followed by either methylphenidate plus citalopram, or methylphenidate plus placebo. Recruiting ages 7-17. [09-M-0034]

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/trials/childrens-studies/citalopram-methylphenidate-bpd.shtml>

For more information on research conducted by NIMH in Bethesda, MD click here:

www.nimh.nih.gov/JoinAStudy.

Twitter message:

Research Opportunities: Participants needed for studies on pediatric bipolar disorder.

<http://1.usa.gov/1hr27cH>

EVENTS

WEB CHAT: “CELL”EBRATE THE CELL WITH NIGMS SCIENTISTS

NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM ET

To encourage future generations of scientists, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) will host an interactive Web chat about the cell and careers in research for middle and high school students. <http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/cellday2015/>

VIDEOCAST LECTURE: VIDEO GAMES AND NEUROSCIENCE: A VISION OF THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE AND EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 2:00 PM ET

In this NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research lecture, neuroscientist Adam Gazzaley, Ph.D. will describe an approach developed in his lab that uses custom-designed video games to achieve meaningful and sustainable cognitive enhancement. He will also share the next stage of his research program, which uses video games integrated with technological innovations in software and hardware (e.g., virtual reality headsets, motion capture, mobile EEG, transcranial electrical brain stimulation) to treat neurological and psychiatric conditions, as well as better target our educational efforts.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebis9fta07aee745&llr=vyklrptab>

WEBINAR: GETTING TO KNOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 3:30 PM ET

In this HHS Office of Minority Health Resource Center webinar, a Federal funders panel will reveal best practices in responding to Federal funding announcements. Opportunities for Federal funding are identified. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1409324687085554946>

WEBINARS FOR APPLICANTS AND GRANT ADMINISTRATORS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NIH APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS: NOVEMBER 5, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM ET
RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS: NOVEMBER 6, 2015, 2:00-4:00 PM ET

The NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) is hosting two webinars to give participants useful insights into the application submission and peer review processes. CSR is the portal for NIH grant applications and their review for scientific and technical merit. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-154.html>

WEBINAR: RESPONDING TO TRAUMATICALLY BEREAVED MILITARY CHILDREN IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

NOVEMBER 10, 2015, 12:00 PM ET

Join SAMHSA's National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCTSN) for a multi-disciplinary and highly interactive look at the common issues traumatically bereaved military children and their families experience in educational settings. Presenters will discuss systemic, individual, cultural, and financial barriers, and opportunities to help traumatically bereaved military children and their families. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

WEBINAR: TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

NOVEMBER 12, 2015, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

Join SAMHSA's SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance Center for an informational webinar on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in the context of representing the SOAR applicant with the Social Security Administration. In recent years, SOAR practitioners have seen an increase in Veterans with a TBI, a common medical impairment among this population. This webinar will educate the SOAR practitioner about the presence of TBI among returning service members, as well as individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/events/2015/11/12/soar-webinar-traumatic-brain-injury-tbi>

WEBINAR: RECONNECTING YOUTH TO THE CIRCLE: THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES FOR PREVENTION

NOVEMBER 17, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The SAMHSA Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Center is hosting this webinar that will provide an opportunity for youth to discuss their cultural connectedness, and the impact it has on their healing and overall wellness. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss strategies of engagement to reconnect tribal youth to the circle. As tribal and urban American Indian and Alaska Native communities strive to address the issue of youth suicide, it is critical to connect with and seek a better understanding of youth perspectives. <http://documents.kauffmaninc.com/projects/3tac/Generational-Resilience-20151117.pdf>

WEBINAR: IMPACT OF SLEEP ON TREATMENT AND RECOVERY IN VETERANS WITH TBI AND PTSD

NOVEMBER 17, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This Veterans Affairs' cyberseminar will provide an overview of the quality of sleep in returning Veterans with TBI and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); discuss how sleep disturbance affects everyday functioning and outcome in Veterans with TBI and PTSD; and review current treatment options for sleep disturbance in TBI and PTSD. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5392804735763544833>

WEBINAR: STATE POLICY INNOVATIONS IN CHILD TRAUMA: LESSONS FROM NORTH CAROLINA AND ARKANSAS

NOVEMBER 17, 2015, 2:30 PM ET

Many states are playing a leadership role in enacting and implementing policies to support trauma-informed services for children and families. This NCTSN webinar will highlight two examples of such state-based child trauma policy innovations. <http://learn.nctsn.org/>

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCING TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES SEEKS INPUT FOR ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

The NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) is currently seeking input on the scientific and operational opportunities, challenges, and research needs in translational science to help set the Center's strategic priorities and inform the development of a five-year strategic plan. The deadline for comments is January 8, 2016. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-TR-16-002.html> NCATS will hold a series of informational webinars to facilitate the feedback process on November 4 and 10, 2016. <https://ncats.nih.gov/events#strategic>

PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 PROCESS

HHS is soliciting written comments regarding current objectives proposed for inclusion in *Healthy People 2020*. During this comment period, the public can comment on proposed new objectives to be added to the following topic areas: Family Planning; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health; Preparedness; and Social Determinants of Health, as well as propose new objectives to be included in the 42 existing *Healthy People 2020* topic areas. Comments will be accepted through 5:00 PM ET on November 13, 2015. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/about/history-development/Public-Comment>

WANT TO HELP THE FDA? BECOME A CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE ON AN FDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The FDA continually seeks input from consumers on scientific and medical issues by including Consumer Representatives on Agency advisory committees. The role of Consumer Representatives is to: represent the consumer perspective on issues and actions before the advisory committee; serve as a liaison between the committee and interested consumers, associations, coalitions, and consumer organizations; and, facilitate dialogue with the advisory committees on scientific issues that affect consumers. Learn about current and upcoming vacancies on FDA advisory committees.

<http://blogs.fda.gov/fdavoices/index.php/2015/10/want-to-help-the-fda-become-a-consumer-representative-on-an-fda-advisory-committee/>

FEDERAL POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS: COMMENTS SOUGHT ON PROPOSED RULE

HHS and other Federal agencies propose revisions to modernize, strengthen, and make more effective the *Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects* that was promulgated as a *Common Rule* in 1991. Comments are sought on proposals to better protect human subjects involved in research, while facilitating valuable research and reducing burden, delay, and ambiguity for investigators. This proposed rule is an

effort to modernize, simplify, and enhance the current system of oversight. The participating departments and agencies propose these revisions to the human subjects regulations because they believe these changes would strengthen protections for research subjects while facilitating important research. Comments accepted through 5:00 PM ET on December 7, 2015.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/regulations/nprmhome.html>

FUNDING INFORMATION

SERVICES RESEARCH FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN II: PILOT STUDIES OF SERVICES STRATEGIES FOR ADULTS WITH ASD (R34)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-17-205.html>

SERVICES RESEARCH FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER ACROSS THE LIFESPAN II: PILOT RESEARCH ON SERVICES FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH (R34)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-17-200.html>

PERSONALIZED STRATEGIES TO MANAGE SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC ILLNESS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-007.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-006.html> (R15)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-16-008.html> (R21)



National Institute
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to increase the public's access to science-based mental health information through partnerships with national and state organizations. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml>. To subscribe to receive the Update every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>.

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.