



UPDATE

February 15, 2014

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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*

NIH, INDUSTRY, AND NON-PROFITS JOIN FORCES TO SPEED VALIDATION OF DISEASE TARGETS: GOAL IS TO DEVELOP NEW TREATMENTS EARLIER, BEGINNING WITH ALZHEIMER'S, TYPE 2 DIABETES, AND AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), 10 biopharmaceutical companies, and several non-profit organizations launched an unprecedented partnership to transform the current model for identifying and validating the most promising biological targets of disease for new diagnostics and drug development. The Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) aims to distinguish biological targets of disease most likely to respond to new therapies and characterize biological indicators of disease, known as biomarkers. Through the Foundation for the NIH, AMP partners will invest more than \$230 million over five years in the first projects, which focus on Alzheimer's disease, type 2 diabetes, and the autoimmune disorders rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus).

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2014/od-04.htm>

FY2014 FUNDING FOR SAMHSA EXPANDS VITAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES – ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As a result of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 "Consolidated Appropriations Act" (P.L. 113-76), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will provide expanded help to meet the mental health needs of individuals, families, and communities across the nation. The \$276 million additional funding above the FY 2013 post-sequestration level will enable SAMHSA to better address the mental health needs of the nation's children and young people – including those most at risk for serious mental illnesses (SMI).

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1402112340.aspx>

FDA LAUNCHES ITS FIRST NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT, REDUCE YOUTH TOBACCO USE

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the launch of a national public education campaign to prevent youth tobacco use and reduce the number of kids ages 12 to 17 who become regular smokers. *The Real Cost* campaign is the FDA's first of several planned tobacco education campaigns using the new authority granted under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, signed into law by President Obama in 2009. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States, causing more than 480,000 deaths each year.

Press Release: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm384049.htm>

NEW FROM NIMH

A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

NIMH Director Thomas Insel discusses the impetus behind a newly released prioritized agenda for research on suicide prevention, and what the task force that developed the agenda hopes to achieve in terms of reducing suicide rates. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2014/a-new-research-agenda-for-suicide-prevention.shtml>

A GROWTH CHART FOR THE MIND

NIMH Director Thomas Insel talks about a just-published paper that offers the first picture of a growth chart for cognitive development. As long-term studies add information on different facets of cognitive function, such a map has the potential to be just as vital a tool for evaluating growing children as charts for height, weight, and head circumference. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2014/a-growth-chart-for-the-mind.shtml>

NEW NIH RESOURCES

NIH DIRECTOR'S BLOG: CREATIVE MINDS: INTERPRETING YOUR GENOME

Before we can use an individual's genome to develop more personalized strategies for detecting, treating, and preventing disease, we need to be able to interpret the many variations that make each genome distinct from everybody else's. While most of these variations are neither bad nor good, some raise the risk of particular diseases and others serve to lower the risk. How do we figure out which is which? In this blog post, NIH Director Francis Collins describes NIH-funded research seeking to identify and interpret genetic variations in the human genome. <http://directorsblog.nih.gov/2014/02/11/creative-minds-interpreting-your-genome/>

NIDA SCIENCE UPDATE: MEDICATION MAY HELP PATIENTS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS STAY SMOKE-FREE

Although varenicline is an FDA-approved smoking cessation medication, it had not been proven effective for smokers with SMI. The results of this study supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) suggest that it is feasible to prescribe varenicline to individuals with SMI, which could lessen the health burdens caused by smoking in this population. Smokers with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder are three times more likely to abstain from smoking over the course of a year if they take varenicline. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2014/02/medication-may-help-patients-severe-mental-illness-stay-smoke-free>

NIAAA: LATEST CURRENT RESEARCH REVIEW: MEASURING THE BURDEN -- ALCOHOL'S EVOLVING IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND SOCIETY

Alcohol use is associated with tremendous costs to the drinker, those around him or her, and society as a whole. These costs result from the increased health risks (both physical and mental) associated with alcohol consumption as well as from the social harms caused by alcohol. This issue of *Alcohol Research: Current Reviews* from the National Institute on Alcohol Use and Alcoholism examines the public health impact of alcohol consumption, looking at the full burden of disease that can be attributed to drinking.

http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arcr352/toc35_2.htm

LATEST NIH ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT AVAILABLE

A new online report from the NIH highlights recent progress in NIH-supported Alzheimer's disease research. Prepared annually by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at NIH, the latest report describes new investments and research priorities, and summarizes research in several areas including: biology of Alzheimer's and the aging brain; biomarkers for Alzheimer's progression; genes that may play a role in the disease; risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia; advances in detecting Alzheimer's disease; translational research to identify and test new drugs; potential new therapies to treat, delay, or prevent Alzheimer's; caregiving; and gender and racial differences in the impact of Alzheimer's.

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/2012-2013-alzheimers-disease-progress-report>

NEW SPANISH-LANGUAGE RESOURCES FROM NIA

NIA has expanded its Spanish-language resources for older adults, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

EL DUELO POR LA MUERTE DE UN CÓNYUGE (MOURNING THE DEATH OF A SPOUSE)

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/espanol/publicaciones/el-duelo-por-la-muerte-de-un-conyuge>

ENTENDIENDO LA PÉRDIDA DE MEMORIA (UNDERSTANDING MEMORY LOSS)

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/espanol/publicaciones/entendiendo-la-perdida-de-memoria>

ENTENDIENDO LA ENFERMEDAD DE ALZHEIMER (UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE)

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/espanol/publicaciones/entendiendo-la-enfermedad-de-alzheimer>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

MAYORS' RESOURCE GUIDE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES

This resource equips mayors and other local public health officials with strategies and resources to use in their role in shaping community responses that promote mental health and substance abuse recovery, and ensure that needed treatments and services are available. [http://store.samhsa.gov//product/PEP14-](http://store.samhsa.gov//product/PEP14-MAYORSRG)

MAYORSRG

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BAROMETER, 2013

This resource presents a set of substance use and mental health indicators from population and treatment facility-based data sets. It provides point-in-time and trend data reflecting the status and progress in improving key behavioral health indicators. <http://store.samhsa.gov//product/SMA13-4796>

FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS INITIATIVE

This report presents findings from a national cross-site evaluation of a program that supports collaborative planning and implementation of programs and services to foster safer schools and healthy students. <http://store.samhsa.gov//product/SMA13-4798>

BLOG: FENTANYL-LACED HEROIN CAN KILL, BUT THERE ARE STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO SAVE LIVES

SAMHSA Chief Medical Officer Elinore McCance-Katz discusses issues surrounding a new heroin on the street far more potent than the usual that addicts have come to know and expect. This heroin is laced with fentanyl—a prescription painkiller used to treat the severe pain of cancer. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2014/02/05/fentanyl-laced-heroin-can-kill-but-there-are-steps-we-can-take-to-save/>

DISASTER RESPONSE APP AVAILABLE

The SAMHSA *Disaster App* is now available for downloading on an iPhone, Android, or BlackBerry device. The app makes it easy to provide quality support to survivors. Users can navigate pre-deployment preparation, on-the-ground assistance, post-deployment resources, and more—at the touch of a button from the home screen. Users also can share resources, like tips for helping survivors cope, and find local behavioral health services. And, self-care support for responders is available at all stages of deployment. <http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/disaster/>

AHRQ RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

SOME MEDITATION PROGRAMS BENEFICIAL FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS

A new research review from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Effective Health Care Program finds that meditation programs—particularly mindfulness programs designed to focus attention and awareness on inner and outer experiences with acceptance, patience, and compassion—are beneficial for reducing psychological stress, including anxiety, depression, and pain; however, there was insufficient evidence on the effect of meditation programs on stress-related behavioral outcomes such as positive mood, attention, substance use, eating, sleep, and weight.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsletters/research-activities/14feb/0214RA26.html>

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS SLOWER TO ADOPT NEW SECOND-GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS THAN PSYCHIATRISTS

Overall, physicians waited at least two years after approval by the FDA to adopt second-generation antipsychotic drugs; however, adoption of the drugs was much faster among psychiatrists, according to a new study. In the study, researchers found that the speed of drug adoption was slowest for the 80 percent of physicians who prescribed antipsychotic drugs who were primary care physicians, somewhat faster for the four percent who were neurologists, and fastest for the 16 percent who were psychiatrists. Furthermore, physicians who prescribed a high volume of antipsychotic drugs adopted the second-generation drugs much faster than physicians who prescribed a low volume of such drugs. Finally, psychiatrists prescribed a greater variety of antipsychotic drugs than did primary care physicians, neurologists, or pediatricians. <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsletters/research-activities/14feb/0214RA24.html>

CLOZAPINE'S SUPERIOR EFFECTIVENESS RELATIVE TO OTHER ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS IS CONFIRMED

The superior effectiveness of the antipsychotic drug clozapine in the treatment of schizophrenia, demonstrated in clinical trials, is not influenced by the patient's race or ethnicity, according to a new study. In a study of black, Latino, and caucasian Florida residents with schizophrenia insured by Medicaid, of 20,122 persons prescribed an antipsychotic drug, the proportion of blacks and Latinos taking clozapine (2.3 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively) was lower than that of caucasians (5.9 percent). <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsletters/research-activities/14feb/0214RA25.html>

CDC: STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teen dating violence is a preventable public health problem. It requires a comprehensive community approach to stop it before it starts. To address these issues, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed *Dating Matters™: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships*, which aims to: develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive approach; build local public health capacity; and identify and validate community level indicators.

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/datingmatters_flyer-a.pdf

ONLINE GUIDE: STARTING A YOUTH-SERVING PROGRAM

The Administration for Children and Families produced an online guide for adults or youth who want to start a youth-serving program. The guide is divided into four parts, each with a series of videos and other downloadable tools. <http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/start-a-youth-program/stage-4>

DCOE BLOG POSTS

INTRODUCING NEW CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONCUSSION RECOVERY

This Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) blog post describes new clinical recommendations from the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC), a DCoE center. The recommendations help service members who have sustained a concussion, also known as mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), gradually return to activity. This first-of-its-kind tool provides a stepped process that uses patient feedback with provider assessment. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/14-02-04/Introducing_New_Clinical_Recommendations_for_Concussion_Recovery.aspx

DOES STIGMA HAVE YOU CORNERED? REGAIN CONTROL, SEEK HELP FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

This DCoE blog post describes how stigma is a major barrier to care and treatment for service members and Veterans who experience psychological health concerns, such as posttraumatic stress, depression, or substance abuse. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/14-02-12/Does_Stigma_Have_You_Cornered_Regain_Control_Seek_Help_for_Your_Mental_Health.aspx

RESOURCES FROM REAL WARRIORS CAMPAIGN

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING STRESS AT EVENTS

Experiencing stress as a result of military stressors is common for even the most seasoned service members. Sometimes events such as family gatherings, holiday parties, and other social events can be stressful for warriors returning home from deployment. This Real Warriors article outlines common stress reactions service members may experience before or during social events, as well as provides tips and resources to help them decrease stress levels and anxiety surrounding social events. <http://www.realwarriors.net/active/treatment/managestress.php>

YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM: SUPPORT FOR GUARD AND RESERVE

This Real Warriors article describes the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP), which promotes the well-being of members of the National Guard and reserve, their families, and communities. Members of the National Guard and reserve often live far from military installations and members of their units. This can make it harder to access support resources, especially after deployment. The YRRP works to connect National Guardsmen, reservists and their families with resources before, during, and after deployment. Through YRRP events, these service members and their families can access information and resources, including information about healthcare, education opportunities, finances, and legal benefits. <http://www.realwarriors.net/guardreserve/reintegration/yellowribbon.php>

EVENTS

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

FEBRUARY 2014

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month is a national effort to raise awareness and protect teens from violence. <http://www.healthfinder.gov/NHO/FebruaryToolkit2.aspx>

TWITTER CHAT: RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION: AN ACTION PLAN TO SAVE LIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Research Prioritization Task Force recently released *A Prioritized Research Agenda for Suicide Prevention: An Action Plan to Save Lives*, the first-ever national Prioritized Research Agenda aimed at guiding research toward efforts to reduce suicide. To further engage the community regarding the Prioritized Research Agenda, the Research Prioritization Task Force is holding a Twitter chat. Dr. Jane Pearson, Chair of the NIMH Suicide Research Consortium and staff lead for the Research Prioritization Task Force, and Bob Gebbia, Chief Executive Officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and a member of the Research Prioritization Task Force, will be answering questions. Join the conversation by following @Action_Alliance, @NIMHgov, and @afspnational and tweeting questions with the hashtag #SuicideResearch. View the live stream of tweets at twubs.com. An archive will be available shortly after the chat.

WEBCAST: PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS: PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE

FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This session of CDC Grand Rounds will explore the societal burden of youth violence, and the evidence-based approaches and partnerships that are necessary to prevent youth violence and its consequences. Homicide, the third leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24, is responsible for more deaths in this group than the next six leading causes of death combined. While many prevention programs have been found to significantly reduce youth violence, the available evidence-based approaches are often not used in communities because of real and perceived challenges to implementation. Registration is not required to watch the live webcast of Grand Rounds. Individuals seeking continuing education credits can register after the event has concluded. <http://www.cdc.gov/about/grand-rounds/>

WEBINAR: SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

This SAMHSA GAINS Center webinar will review the research on supported employment for justice-involved people with mental illness and how to apply supported employment in real world settings. Following the webinar, the GAINS Center will be holding three "Ask the Expert" discussion groups on supported employment with the presenters, allowing participants an opportunity to converse directly with leaders in the field. Calls will be held February 19 from 1:00-2:00 PM ET; February 20 from 1:00-2:00 PM ET; and February 20 from 2:00-3:00 PM ET.

For details on the discussions: <http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/eNews/solicit-0211.html>

For details on the webinar: <http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/eNews/solicit-0127.html>

WEBINAR: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE ACA

FEBRUARY 20, 2014, 1:00 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships is hosting this webinar about the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Presenters will answer questions that have been submitted in advance as well as new questions asked during the webinar. Please send questions by 10:00 AM ET on February 20 to ACA101@hhs.gov.

http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/aca_101-invite.html

WEBINAR: SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL DISORDERS: EARLY DETECTION, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT – A HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 PROGRESS REVIEW

FEBRUARY 26, 2014, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This Healthy People 2020 webinar will present the state of science for substance use and mental disorders, with a focus on NIMH efforts related to suicide prevention and early detection of SMI, including schizophrenia and related disorders. The webinar will also feature Howard Koh, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Secretary for Health, HHS, and presenters from other federal agencies, including NIDA and SAMHSA.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2014/healthy-people-2020-webinar.shtml>

WEBINAR: LATINOS AND THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE (IN ENGLISH)

FEBRUARY 26, 2014, 7:00-8:00 PM ET

According to the Census Bureau, nearly 16 million Hispanics are uninsured. The health care law is in effect and there is a new way for individuals and families to get health insurance. This webinar is co-sponsored by ACF and the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Please send questions to ACA101@hhs.gov by Noon ET on February 26. http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/resources/aca_101-invite.html

SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

APRIL 2014

The theme of this year's National Minority Health Month is *Prevention is Power: Taking Action for Health Equity*. In the coming weeks, the HHS Office of Minority Health will share additional details about National Minority Health Month, including activities, tools, and resources for providers, agencies, community and faith-based organizations, families, and individuals to promote the message of prevention and improve the health of minority populations. <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/>

2014 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CONFERENCE

APRIL 23-25, 2014, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Registration is open for the 22nd NIMH Conference on Mental Health Services Research (MHSR): Research in Pursuit of a Learning Mental Health Care System. The MHSR Conference is organized biennially by the NIMH's Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology Branch to promote areas of high priority for services research, and identify opportunities with potential for significant impact on the health and well-being of people with mental disorders. <http://event.cabazon.com/mhsr/home>

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY 2014

MAY 8, 2014

Awareness Day 2014, taking place May 8, seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. SAMHSA's national launch event for Awareness Day 2014 takes place on May 6 and will focus on the unique needs of young adults, ages 16 to 25 years, with mental health challenges, and the value of peer support in helping young adults build resilience in the four life domains of housing, education, employment, and healthcare access. <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national.asp>

NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK 2014

MAY 18-24, 2014

National Prevention Week is a SAMHSA-supported annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. National Prevention Week 2014 is about *Our Lives. Our Health. Our Future.* SAMHSA is highlighting the important role everyone has in maintaining a healthy life and ensuring a productive future. A video is available to promote the week.

<http://beta.samhsa.gov/prevention-week>

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORT

The AHRQ Effective Health Care Program encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus its research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

NONPHARMACOLOGICAL VERSUS PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENTS FOR ADULT PATIENTS WITH MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER (COMMENTS DUE 2/24/14)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=568&questionset=247>

IMPROVING CULTURAL COMPETENCE TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES FOR PRIORITY POPULATIONS (COMMENTS DUE 2/26/14)

<http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=573&questionset=251>

NIH PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is accepting applications for its Health Communications Internship Program (HCIP). The HCIP gives highly qualified graduate students and recent graduates the opportunity to participate in vital health and science communications projects in one of the many offices that make up the NCI. Deadline is March 4, 2014. <https://hcip.nci.nih.gov/hcip/>

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE: CMS MEDICARE PROGRAM: CONTRACT YEAR 2015 POLICY AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PROGRAMS

The proposed rule would revise the Medicare Advantage program (Part C) regulations and prescription drug benefit program (Part D) regulations to implement statutory requirements; strengthen beneficiary protections; exclude plans that perform poorly; improve program efficiencies; and clarify program requirements. The proposed rule also includes several provisions designed to improve payment accuracy. Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted through 5:00 PM ET on March 7, 2014.

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=CMS-2014-0007-0002>

NIDA'S TEACHERS/EDUCATORS ADVISORS GROUP: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NIDA is now accepting applications from teachers, school counselors, school nurses, and other professionals who work with teens to join its Teachers/Educators Advisors Group (TEA). Starting in May 2014, the TEA will meet via webinar and conference call for one hour, three to four times a year. TEA members are asked to share their thoughts and feedback about NIDA for Teens materials, the program's website, and other components. Applicants are expected to participate in at least one meeting and will receive a \$25 stipend for each meeting in which they participate. Email NIDATAG@iqsolutions.com to request an application. Applications are due March 14, 2014.

FUNDING INFORMATION

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE EXPANSION: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=250757>

ACCESS TO RECOVERY

<http://beta.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-14-004>

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH POLICY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=250871>



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 help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. 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.