



UPDATE

April 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*

NEW NIMH STRATEGIC PLAN AIMS TO FOCUS, ACCELERATE MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Against a backdrop of rapid scientific advances and dramatic changes in the landscape of mental health care, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has issued a new *Strategic Plan for Research*. Informed by the successes and challenges of recent years, the new plan updates the strategic objectives of its 2008 predecessor with the aim of balancing the need for long-term investments in basic research with urgent mental health needs.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/new-nimh-strategic-plan-aims-to-focus-accelerate-mental-health-research.shtml>

NIH ANNOUNCES FOLLOW THAT CELL CHALLENGE FINALISTS

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has selected 16 finalists for Phase One of its *Follow that Cell Challenge*. The goal of the challenge is to stimulate the development of new tools and methods that will enable researchers to predict the behavior and function of a single cell in complex tissue over time. This ability could help reveal valuable information such as how cells transition from a healthy to diseased state, or identify changes that influence a cell's responsiveness to treatment. In addition, non-destructive methods for monitoring single cells could assist with early disease detection and allow doctors to better tailor therapies to cells as they evolve throughout the course of a disease.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/nih-announces-follow-that-cell-challenge-finalists.shtml>

HIV CAN SPREAD EARLY, EVOLVE IN PATIENTS' BRAINS; FINDINGS ADD URGENCY TO SCREENING, TREATMENT

The AIDS virus can genetically evolve and independently replicate in patients' brains early in the illness process, NIH-funded researchers have discovered. An analysis of cerebral spinal fluid (CSF), a window into brain chemical activity, revealed that for a subset of patients HIV had started replicating within the brain within the first four months of infection. CSF in 30 percent of HIV-infected patients tracked showed at least transient signs of inflammation – suggesting an active infectious process – or viral replication within the first two years of infection. There was also evidence that the mutating virus can evolve a genome in the central nervous system that is distinct from that in the periphery.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/hiv-can-spread-early-evolve-in-patients-brains.shtml>

NIH-FUNDED STUDY SHOWS PROGRAM FOR ADULTS RESULTS IN BETTER SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT FOR CHILDREN

Parents who took part in a program to learn parenting skills during their first pregnancy had children who were better adjusted than parents who didn't participate in the program. That's what researchers concluded after evaluating the program five to seven years later. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development funded a program called Family Foundations which offered a series of classes for expectant first-time parents to help them prepare for a new baby. During the pregnancy and after the birth, parents were taught how to work together as a team, how to communicate with each other to resolve their conflicts, and how to solve problems together. For this current analysis, the researchers also received funding from NIMH. The children who took part in the program were less likely to show signs of what researchers describe as internalizing behaviors, for example, withdrawing from social situations, not interacting with others, feeling anxious or depressed, or changes in sleeping or eating patterns. In addition, boys whose parents had the training were less likely to engage in externalizing behaviors, that is, vandalism, disregarding rules, threatening others, or physical violence.

Press release: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/Pages/031715-podcast-parenting.aspx>

ZYPREXA RELPREVV: DRUG SAFETY COMMUNICATION - FDA REVIEW OF STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON TWO DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INJECTABLE ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUG

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has concluded a review of a study undertaken to determine the cause of elevated levels of the injectable antipsychotic medication Zyprexa Relprev (olanzapine pamoate) in two patients who died. The study results were inconclusive. FDA is unable to exclude the possibility that the deaths were caused by rapid, but delayed, entry of the drug into the bloodstream following intramuscular injection. The study suggested that much of the drug level increase could have occurred after death, a finding that could explain the extremely high blood levels found in the two patients who died three to four days after receiving injections of appropriate doses of Zyprexa Relprev. On the basis of all of the information reviewed, FDA is not recommending any changes to the current prescribing or use of Zyprexa Relprev injection at this time. Patients should not stop receiving treatment without first talking to their health care professionals.

Press Release:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm439472.htm>

HHS TAKES STRONG STEPS TO ADDRESS OPIOID-DRUG RELATED OVERDOSE, DEATH AND DEPENDENCE

The United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a targeted initiative aimed at reducing prescription opioid and heroin-related overdose, death, and dependence. Deaths from drug overdose have risen steadily over the past two decades and currently outnumber deaths from car accidents in the U.S. The President's fiscal year 2016 budget includes critical investments to intensify efforts to reduce opioid misuse and abuse, including \$133 million in new funding to address this critical issue. HHS efforts focus on three priority areas that tackle the opioid crisis, significantly impacting those struggling with substance use disorders and helping save lives.

- Providing training and educational resources, including updated prescriber guidelines, to assist health professionals in making informed prescribing decisions and address the over-prescribing of opioids.
- Increasing use of naloxone, as well as continuing to support the development and distribution of the life-saving drug, to help reduce the number of deaths associated with prescription opioid and heroin overdose.
- Expanding the use of Medication-Assisted Treatment, a comprehensive way to address the needs of individuals that combines the use of medication with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/03/20150326a.html>

DEA ISSUES NATIONWIDE ALERT ON FENTANYL AS THREAT TO HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration issued a nationwide alert about the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues and compounds. Fentanyl is commonly laced in heroin, causing significant problems across the country, particularly as heroin abuse has increased. This alert was issued through the multi-agency El Paso Intelligence Center to all U.S. law enforcement.

Press Release: <http://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2015/hq031815.shtml>

NEW FROM NIMH

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: A PLAN FOR CHANGING TIMES

NIMH's new *Strategic Plan for Research* is a broad roadmap for the Institute's priorities for the next five years. NIMH Director Thomas Insel provides an overview of the new plan in this blog post.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2015/a-plan-for-changing-times.shtml>

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: BRAIN AWARENESS

In observance of Brain Awareness Week, NIMH Director Thomas Insel talks about some exciting areas of research underway on the brain. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2015/brain-awareness.shtml>

SECOND-GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUG USE AMONG MEDICAID-ENROLLED CHILDREN: QUALITY-OF-CARE CONCERNS

Second-generation antipsychotics (SGAs) are a class of drugs used to treat psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and psychotic depression. SGAs are widely used to treat children enrolled in Medicaid who have mental health conditions; however, they can have serious side effects and little clinical research has been conducted on the safety of treating children with these drugs. Consequently, children's treatment with SGAs needs careful management and monitoring. This HHS Office of Inspector General evaluation examined the quality of care provided to children receiving SGAs that were paid for by Medicaid.

<https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-12-00320.asp>

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 MONTHLY BULLETIN: MENTAL HEALTH

This Healthy People 2020 Monthly bulletin features Mental Health indicators. The bulletin includes the most recent data points for "suicides" and "adolescents who experience major depressive episodes," and describes the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Project: Improving Access to Mental Health Treatment, which is using the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Innovation Model grant to advance the integration of behavioral health and primary care for children.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USOPHSODPHPHF/bulletins/f8b71d>

NEW FROM NIH

MEDICATION FINDS NEW USE IN SUSTAINING OPIOID QUIT SUCCESS

New research funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) suggests that clonidine, a medication for high blood pressure and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, can enhance buprenorphine's ability to treat opioid dependence. This combination of medications reduces stress-induced craving and prolongs opioid abstinence during outpatient treatment for heroin or prescription pain reliever dependence, compared to buprenorphine alone. These results show that clonidine, when combined with buprenorphine, could be another tool for clinicians who are treating patients in recovery from opioid misuse.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2015/03/medication-finds-new-use-in-sustaining-opioid-quit-success>

END OF LIFE VIDEOS

Five new videos about end-of-life care issues from NIHSeniorHealth.gov can help older adults and their families learn what to expect during the final stage of life so they can plan ahead. The videos include: *Preparing for the End of Life*, *Exploring End-of-Life Care Options*, *What Can Be Done About Pain at the End of Life?*, *Emotions and Cognitive Issues at the End of Life*, and *What Are Advance Directives?*

<http://nihseniorhealth.gov/endoflife/preparingfortheendoflife/01.html>

ONLINE HEALTH INFORMATION—CAN YOU TRUST IT?

Many older adults share a common concern: “How can I trust the health information I get on the Internet?” This National Institute on Aging AgePage lists ways to find reliable health information online. Choosing which websites to trust is an important part of using the Internet.

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/online-health-information>

RESEARCH BLOG: CLOSING THE GAP: RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF CREATIVE ARTS IN MILITARY POPULATIONS

In this National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) blog post, Dr. Emmeline Edwards, Director of the NCCIH Division of Extramural Research shares insights about the recent national summit on advancing research in the arts for health in the military. The summit aimed to stimulate evidence-based research on creative arts therapies for symptom management, with a focus on topics of interest to the military such as pain management and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

<https://nccih.nih.gov/research/blog/creative-arts-in-military-populations?nav=upd>

VIDEO: WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?

In this NCCIH video, Amishi Jha, Ph.D., talks about mindfulness and her research on mindfulness training and building resilience. Dr. Jha is an Associate Professor of Psychology and the Director of Contemplative Neuroscience for the Mindfulness Research and Practice Initiative at the University of Miami.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FccK9UjuF0>

SAMHSA NEW RESOURCES

THE ROLE OF SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS IN PREVENTING SUICIDE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Resource Center has just posted a new information sheet which provides basic information to help professionals working in senior living communities recognize and respond to people who may be suicidal or at high risk for suicide. Senior living community professionals at the national and local levels provided input into the development of the sheet. http://www.sprc.org/sites/sprc.org/files/slc_providers.pdf

BLOG POST: SPOTLIGHT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES

In honor of the 10th anniversary of SAMHSA's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, this SAMHSA blog post highlights the Lifeline and other resources available to individuals, family members, health care providers, and employers to help prevent suicide. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2015/03/16/spotlight-on-suicide-prevention-resources/>

THE DIALOGUE: A COLORADO COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE SAMHSA EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT

This issue highlights disaster preparedness and recovery efforts in two areas of the country—Colorado, as part of recovery after the 2012 theater shooting in Aurora, and New York, in preparing to support people returning from Africa who may have been exposed to the Ebola virus during the recent outbreak. The articles describe work done as part of each effort; challenges encountered; and lessons applicable to preparedness, response, and recovery for many types of disasters.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dialogue-vol-11-issue-1.pdf>

INTEGRATING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN AN ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

This white paper is the first in a series of white papers from SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer (ATTC) Network discussing the unique issues involved in integrating substance use disorder services in health care.

http://attcnetwork.org/advancingintegration/ATTC_WhitePaper-final-web.pdf

EFFECTS ON MARIJUANA USE ON DEVELOPING ADOLESCENTS

In this ATTC video, Dr. Kari Franson from the University of Colorado's Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences shares information on the long-term negative outcomes marijuana use has on developing adolescents. <https://vimeo.com/123204869>

CHILD MALTREATMENT IN MILITARY FAMILIES: A FACT SHEET FOR PROVIDERS

This fact sheet from SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network profiles child maltreatment in military families. It also reviews for providers the key concepts, findings, and interventions that will support them in their approach to the care of today's military family.

<http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/mfchildmaltreatment.pdf>

HEALTH CARE INNOVATIONS EXCHANGE: SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS OF PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA

The March issue of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Health Care Innovations Exchange features three programs that used innovative strategies to support caregivers of patients with dementia. <https://innovations.ahrq.gov/>

NEW FROM HRSA

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN BULLYING AND FAMILY VIOLENCE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND DATING VIOLENCE

This StopBullying.gov blog post reviews risk factors explored at a two-day workshop sponsored by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). The workshop entitled, "Building Capacity to Reduce Bullying and Its Impact on Youth Across the Lifecourse" brought together a diverse group of representatives of key sectors involved in bullying research and prevention to explore the risk factors associated with bullying and effective evidence-based models for preventing it. One area in particular that the group coalesced around was the relationship between bullying others in early adolescence and later perpetration of sexual harassment and forms of teen dating violence as students progress through school. The group's close analysis of this growing body of research revealed a pattern of escalating aggressive and violent behaviors that can start with bullying and homophobic name calling in middle school and ultimately lead to unhealthy dating relationships (including dating violence) in high school and college.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/03/18/connections-between-bullying-family-violence-sexual-harassment-dating-violence>

MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM: PARTNERING WITH PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED

This resource provides information on how the Home Visiting Program is helping at-risk families in each state. <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/homevisiting/states/index.html>

NEW FROM CDC

INCREASED CONFUSION AND MEMORY LOSS IN HOUSEHOLDS

An analysis of the 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data examined households in 13 states in which the respondent or another adult household member experienced increased confusion or memory loss (ICML) in the preceding 12 months. A total of 12.6 percent of households reported at least one adult who experienced ICML, and in 5.4 percent of households all adults experienced ICML. Based on these results, an estimated four million households in these 13 states have a member with ICML, potentially affecting more than 10 million people. This study can inform public health communication campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the signs and symptoms of cognitive decline and augment community planning efforts so that the needs of households in which one or more adults has cognitive decline are considered.

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2015/14_0430.htm

DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH STATUS DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE AGED 45 OR OLDER WITH AND WITHOUT FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO INCREASED CONFUSION OR MEMORY LOSS

An analysis of demographic and health characteristics of people aged 45 years or older in 21 states with self-reported ICML by whether or not they also reported functional difficulties related to ICML is available. The analysis used the 2011 BRFSS optional module on impact of cognitive impairment. After adjusting for demographic differences, researchers found that respondents with ICML and functional difficulties were significantly more likely than those with ICML and no functional difficulties to report frequent poor physical health, frequent poor mental health, limited activity due to poor physical or mental health, and a need for more help. Further understanding of the implications for long-term services and supports is needed.

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2015/14_0429.htm

UNEMPLOYMENT AND DEPRESSION AMONG EMERGING ADULTS IN 12 STATES

The high rate of unemployment among emerging adults (aged 18 to 25 years) is a public health concern. The risk of depression is higher among the unemployed than among the employed, but little is known about the relationship between unemployment and mental health among emerging adults. This secondary data analysis of the 2010 BRFSS assessed the relationship between unemployment and depression among emerging adults. Almost 12 percent of emerging adults were depressed (PHQ-8 ≥ 10) and about 23 percent were unemployed. Significantly more unemployed than employed emerging adults were classified with depression. In the final model, the odds of depression were about three times higher for unemployed than employed emerging adults. The relationship between unemployment and depression is significant among emerging adults. With high rates of unemployment for this age group, this population may benefit from employment- and mental health-focused interventions.

http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2015/14_0451.htm

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER TOOLKIT

This resource includes information state health departments can use to train and further build the capacity of their community health workers, as well as helpful resources that community health workers can use within their communities. <http://www.cdc.gov/dhds/pubs/chw-toolkit.htm>

DISABILITY AWARENESS EMPLOYEE EDUCATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE

U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP) The Campaign for Disability Employment recently released a new suite of materials that employers can use to express a commitment to disability inclusion. The materials, which include a discussion guide and posters, all center around the, "Who I Am" public service announcement, which features nine diverse people with disabilities.

<http://www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org/blog/index.php/who-i-am-toolkit/>

PTSD RESEARCH QUARTERLY: RESILIENCE: AN UPDATE

Understanding why some trauma-exposed individuals develop PTSD, while most do not, has spurred research on resilience. A common thread throughout all definitions of resilience is that it is "the process of adapting to and bouncing back from adversity". This *Research Quarterly* from the National Center for PTSD provides an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to the current literature on resilience.

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/publications/ptsd-rq.asp>

DCOE BLOG POSTS

TEACH YOURSELF TO MEDITATE MINDFULLY

This is the second article in a series from the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) on the practice of mindfulness. Mindfulness meditation is a popular form of meditation that helps treat various psychological health concerns – and it has clinical evidence to show that it works. Although there are many programs led by certified instructors to teach you mindfulness meditation, you can also try the practice on your own. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/15-03-18/Teach_Yourself_to_Meditate_Mindfully.aspx

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS MILITARY TBI

This DCoE Blog post describes *A Head for the Future*, a public awareness initiative which aims to change the way people think about traumatic brain injury (TBI). While many might believe that TBI in the military mainly happens in combat, the initiative addresses the fact that most are diagnosed in non-deployed settings. Through the launch of a redesigned website, the initiative highlights the signs, symptoms, and treatment of TBI. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/15-03-23/Initiative_Highlights_Military_TBI.aspx

EVENTS

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

APRIL 2015

During April, the HHS Office of Minority Health marks National Minority Health Month by raising awareness about the health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minorities.

<http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/nmhm/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2015

Alcohol Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about alcohol abuse and take action to prevent it, both at home and in the community. The HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has created a toolkit to spread the word about strategies for preventing alcohol abuse.

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/NHO/AprilToolkit.aspx>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

APRIL 2015

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. Visitors to the 2015 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website can access tools to engage children, families, and communities, and raise awareness of child maltreatment prevention, including the new interactive Protective Factors in Practice vignettes illustrating how multiple protective factors support and strengthen families. The website also features three new strength-based parent tip sheets and three activity calendars for promoting well-being using protective factors for prevention programs, parents, and community partners—all of which are available in both English and Spanish. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH AND WORLD AUTISM DAY

APRIL 2015

April is Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 is World Autism Day. These observances offer the opportunity to highlight the increasing number of children identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the substantial burden on families and health, educational and other support services, as well as an opportunity to celebrate the unique perspectives of those living with ASD.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6411a5.htm>

WEBINAR: WHAT INTERVENTIONS PREVENT SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR?

APRIL 2, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Research shows that intervention strategies such as psychotherapies targeting suicidal thoughts, “caring letters,” and a limited number of medications with specific suicide mitigation effects are beneficial in preventing suicide in health care settings. This webinar, part of a series sponsored by the National Council for Behavioral Health in collaboration with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and NIMH, will address advances in the most effective psychotherapies, medication interventions, and adjunct interventions, and research challenges that remain in refining and expanding interventions.

<https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1057031>

SPECIAL LECTURE TO RECOGNIZE NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH: FRANKIE AND ME

APRIL 6, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET, BETHESDA, MD (AVAILABLE VIA VIDEOCAST)

The Office Autism Research Coordination and the NIMH are hosting a special lecture to recognize National Autism Awareness Month. In his talk, Dr. Kevin Pelphrey, father of a child on the ASD spectrum and renowned researcher in the field, will discuss his individual journey as a father of a little girl with autism, who is now a young woman. Dr. Pelphrey will relay experiences that he and his family have shared with their daughter, Frances, who said her first word at three and a half years old. When his daughter was later diagnosed with ASD at four years old, Dr. Pelphrey shifted the focus of his work to concentrate on autism.

<http://iacc.hhs.gov/non-iacc-events/2015/nimh-lecture-announcement-april6.shtml>

WEBINAR: PATIENT-CENTERED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS

APRIL 13, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This webinar will present findings regarding women Veterans' priorities and gender-related preferences for mental health care to inform patient-centered care. This study was used to illustrate how the Veterans Affairs (VA) Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network can support multi-site research with women Veterans. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6419083388278776834>

WEBINAR: ACCOMMODATING EMPLOYEES WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

APRIL 23, 2015, 1:00- 2:00 PM ET

This webinar is being provided in coordination with the U.S. Department of Labor's ODEP-funded Employer Technical Assistance Center. In this webinar, participants will learn why, how, and when to accommodate employees with mental health disabilities in the higher education employment setting. In addition to addressing the legal framework for the provision of such accommodations, speakers will provide practical guidance and strategies higher education human resource professionals can use to respond confidently to reasonable accommodation requests from employees across all sectors of their institution, and develop a well-planned process that will lead to sound decisions. Several real-life accommodation situations and solutions from colleges and universities across the country will also be presented.

<http://www.askearn.org/m-events.cfm?show=day&CURRENTDATE=04%2023%202015>

WEBINAR: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE QUALITY INDICATORS AMONG ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

APRIL 27, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This VA webinar presents findings from a systematic review of health disparities in quality indicators of health care among adults with mental illness. The VA evaluated comparative studies that assessed a broad range of preventive care and chronic disease management quality indicators to assess if, and to what extent, disparities in health care exist for individuals with mental illness. The study highlights areas in which studies conducted within the VA differ to those conducted outside the VA health care system.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6868520860468880129>

2015 NIH REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

MAY 6-8, 2015, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

This NIH seminar is designed to help demystify the NIH grant application and review process, as well as clarify federal regulations and policies so that attendees will be able to return to their institution with a much better understanding of the overall NIH grants process.

<http://regionalseminars.od.nih.gov/baltimore2015/>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

MAY 7, 2015

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and to show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. This year, Awareness Day will address the needs of children, youth, and young adults with mental health and substance use challenges and their families. A national launch event will take place in Washington, D.C. to highlight strategies for integrating behavioral health with primary health care, child welfare, and education. <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national-childrens-awareness-day-events/awareness-day-2015>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

MAY 17-23, 2015

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. The National Prevention Week 2015 theme is, "The Voice of One, the Power of All." This theme highlights the important role that individuals and communities alike have in helping people lead healthy, productive lives. A planning toolkit for participating in the week's observances is available. <http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week>

SAVE THE DATE: AHRQ RESEARCH CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 4-6, 2015, CRYSTAL CITY, VA

AHRQ announced that its research conference, held annually between 2007 and 2012, will make a return engagement in 2015. The conference will again bring authorities in health care research and policy together to participate in sessions focused on addressing today's challenges in improving quality, safety, access, and value in health care. In addition, AHRQ and AcademyHealth will team with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) in holding sessions on Tuesday afternoon, October 6, 2015, also at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, as part of the AHRQ conference and PCORI's first annual meeting, which follows at the same location from October 7-9, 2015. The Tuesday afternoon sessions, jointly hosted by AHRQ, AcademyHealth, and PCORI, will address key issues in dissemination and implementation of patient-centered outcomes research. <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/ahrq-conference.html>

CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION NEWS

NIH NEWS IN HEALTH: BE A PARTNER IN CLINICAL RESEARCH: HELP OTHERS, HELP YOURSELF

Clinical research, also known as clinical studies or clinical trials, offers hope for many people because it helps to find better treatments. Clinical trials are at the heart of all medical advances. Clinical research occurs at places such as hospitals, universities, doctors' offices, and community clinics. Studies may be funded by foundations, medical institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and federal agencies such as NIH. This NIH article describes the role that volunteer participation, including healthy volunteers, plays in clinical research, as well as issues to consider prior to participating in research.

<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/mar2015/Feature1>

NIH BIPOLAR DEPRESSION RESEARCH STUDIES ENROLLING PARTICIPANTS

Call about eligibility to participate in depression research studies.

IS YOUR BIPOLAR DEPRESSION HARD TO TREAT?

Experiencing thoughts of sadness, hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness, lacking interest in everyday activities you once enjoyed?

NIH researchers seek people between the ages of 18-70 with bipolar disorder, who are currently in a depressive phase, for participation in several brain imaging and medication studies that are evaluating how experimental medications (i.e., ketamine, riluzole and scopolamine) may reduce symptoms rapidly. Participation includes one to four visits, psychiatric interviews, medical history, physical exam, and blood and other medical tests. Some studies are conducted on an outpatient basis, others on an inpatient basis. Participants must be free of other serious medical conditions. Research evaluations and medications are provided at no cost.

The studies are conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. There is no cost to participate. We enroll eligible participants locally and from around the country. Travel arrangements are provided and costs covered by NIMH. (Arrangements vary by distance and by specific study.) After completing the study participants receive short-term follow-up care while transitioning back to a provider. Atendemos pacientes de habla hispana.

First Steps to Participate in Research:

- Call NIMH
- Learn Study Details
- Be Evaluated for Eligibility
- Consent to Participate

Call: 1-877-MIND-NIH (1-877-646-3644)

TTY: 1-866-411-1010

E-mail: moodresearch@mail.nih.gov

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/labs-at-nimh/join-a-study/adults/adults-depression.shtml>

Department of Health and Human Services, NIH, NIMH, Protocol # 01-M-0254

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

CSAP SEEKS NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is seeking to fill member vacancies for its National Advisory Council. Of the Council's 12 voting members, nine shall be from among the leading representatives of the health disciplines relevant to the activities of CSAP. A total of three members shall be from the public, to include leaders in the fields of public policy, public relations, law, health policy, economics, or management. Interested in being appointed to the Council? Submit resume and a short biography by April 10, 2015. <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSAMHSA/bulletins/fa79c4>

FDA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN RELATED TO RACIAL/ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHIC SUBGROUPS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

The FDA is opening a docket to obtain information and comments on specific areas of public health concern for racial/ethnic demographic subgroup populations, focusing on certain disease areas where significant outcome differences may be anticipated. FDA is seeking public input on identifying areas that can be addressed through regulatory science research. Submit either electronic or written comments or information by April 27, 2015. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/25/2015-03846/request-for-information-on-specific-areas-of-public-health-concern-related-to-raciaethnic>

SURVEY ON ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE: CME NEEDS

NIDA is supporting the development of continuing medical education (CME) activities that address adolescent substance use. NIDA is seeking feedback to help identify the information that would be most useful to medical professionals regarding early intervention for substance use with adolescent patients and their parents. Survey link will be active through April 30, 2015. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HH76Y6K>

FUNDING INFORMATION

PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE COVERAGE IN COMMUNITIES II INITIATIVE
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=275314>

NATIONAL WORKFORCE DIVERSITY PIPELINE PROGRAM
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=275242>

AHRQ SMALL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-15-147.html>

OFFENDER REENTRY PROGRAM
<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-15-012>

FY 2015 RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXAMINING VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HOMICIDE, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, SEX TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, STALKING, AND TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=271573>

PARTNER SUPPORT FOR HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=275107>

PSYCHIATRIC GENE NETWORKS: SOLVING THE MOLECULAR PUZZLE OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-300.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-310.html> (Collaborative R01)

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sp-15-004>



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.