



UPDATE

September 15, 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*

NIH STUDY SHOWS NO BENEFIT OF OMEGA-3 OR OTHER NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR COGNITIVE DECLINE

While some research suggests that a diet high in omega-3 fatty acids can protect brain health, a large clinical trial by researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that omega-3 supplements did not slow cognitive decline in older persons. With 4,000 patients followed over a five-year period, the study is one of the largest and longest of its kind.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2015/nei-25.htm>

HHS TAKES NEXT STEP IN ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a proposed rule to advance health equity and reduce disparities in health care. The proposed rule, *Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities*, will assist some of the populations that have been most vulnerable to discrimination and will help provide those populations equal access to health care and health coverage. The proposed rule implements new protections against sex discrimination, enhances language assistance, protects individuals with disabilities, and extends to insurers participating in Health Insurance Marketplaces.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/09/20150903a.html>

HHS ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL TO UPDATE RULES GOVERNING RESEARCH ON STUDY PARTICIPANTS: PROPOSED CHANGES ENHANCE PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH, WHILE MODERNIZING RULES AND IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

HHS announced proposed revisions to the regulations that govern research on individuals who participate in research. The current regulations that protect individuals who participate in research, which have been in place since 1991, are followed by 18 federal agencies and are often referred to as the *Common Rule*. They were developed at a time when research was predominantly conducted at universities, colleges, and medical institutions, and each study generally took place at a single site. The expansion of research into new scientific disciplines, such as genomics, along with an increase in multisite studies and significant advances in technology, has highlighted the need to update the regulatory framework. Notably, a more participatory model of research has also emerged, with individuals looking for more active engagement with the research enterprise.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/09/20150902b.html>

9.4 MILLION AMERICAN ADULTS HAD SERIOUS THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE IN 2014; 2.7 MILLION ADULTS MADE SUICIDE PLANS AND 1.1 MILLION MADE NONFATAL SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

A new report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reveals that in 2014, 3.9 percent of American adults aged 18 and older thought seriously about killing themselves during the past 12 months. During this same period, 1.1 percent of adults made suicide plans, and 0.5 percent of adults made non-fatal attempts at suicide. Adults with substance use disorders or major depressive episodes had higher rates of serious suicide thoughts and behaviors. The SAMHSA report shows that the percentage of adults who had serious thoughts of attempting suicide over the past 12 months has remained relatively stable since SAMHSA started tracking this issue in 2008.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201509100930>

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE BY TEENS DECLINES; LEVEL OF YOUTH WITH MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODES REMAINS HIGH

SAMHSA's latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health report shows progress in reducing some forms of substance use – especially among adolescents. Substance use levels in many areas, however, have remained relatively constant. Mental illness levels have also remained constant over time, but adolescents are experiencing higher levels of depression than in past years.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201509100930-0>

WINNERS OF SAMHSA'S TECH-BASED CHALLENGE TO ASSIST OFFENDER REINTEGRATION

Recently, SAMHSA selected three winners for its *Technology-based Offender Reintegration Toolkit Challenge*. SAMHSA launched the Challenge in June to help persons re-entering the community after being incarcerated. Seven eligible entries were reviewed by a panel of technology specialists, subject matter experts, and representatives from the federal government, who evaluated the entries on their quality of product design, quality of product performance, feasibility of use, and potential impact. The winning solutions include: *Obodo*, an interactive membership website designed to be a hub that provides resources, information, and connection for persons formerly incarcerated; *SecondChanceResources Library*, a website designed to look and behave like a library, providing resources and information for persons formerly incarcerated; and *Right Path*, a website that provides resources and information for persons formerly incarcerated, and the people who help them (parole officers, community service staff, family, and friends).

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201509090315>

SAMHSA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION CHALLENGE

SAMHSA announced the three prizewinners for its *Technology-based Opioid Overdose Prevention Challenge*. SAMHSA launched the Challenge in June to help educate people about the signs of opioid use, how to prevent death from opioid overdose, and to provide treatment and recovery support. Thirteen eligible entries were reviewed by a panel of technology specialists, subject matter experts, and representatives from the federal government that evaluated the entries on their quality of product design, quality of product performance, feasibility of use, and potential impact. Winners include RX Assurance's *OPI Rescue*, a free support tool created to serve as a patient support network application for OpiSafe, a service that promotes best practices and prescription drug monitoring programs checking for prescribers of opioids; Jared Schwartz's *Smart Response*, an interactive, pin-based website designed to put critical information about opioid overdose front and center, for users seeking direction about how to prepare or respond to an opioid overdose; and iHealthventure's *Overdose Prevention iPhone* application, which provides overdose prevention information in a colorful, easy to use iPhone app.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/201509040200>

CDC FUNDING HELPS STATES COMBAT PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the launch of *Prescription Drug Overdose: Prevention for States*, a new program to help states end the ongoing prescription drug overdose epidemic. The *Prevention for States* program, as part of the U.S. HHS' Opioid Initiative, will make a strong investment in 16 states, giving them the resources and expertise they need to help prevent overdose deaths related to prescription opioids. Through a competitive application process, CDC selected 16 states to receive funds through the program: Arizona, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Press Release: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0904-cdc-funding.html>

NIMH ARCHIVED WEBINAR: MENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH: CROSS-CUTTING ASPECTS OF THE NIMH STRATEGIC PLAN

The archived NIMH webinar brought recognition to the unique and compelling needs to reduce and eliminate mental health disparities in communities across the country. NIMH-funded researchers who have investigated disparities under each of the four NIMH Strategic Objectives of the revised *NIMH Strategic Plan for Research* presented their preliminary findings.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/webinar-series-office-for-research-on-disparities-and-global-mental-health.shtml>

NEW NIH RESOURCES

MEDLINEPLUS MAGAZINE: FEATURE: ANXIETY DISORDERS

This *NIH MedlinePlus Magazine* feature on anxiety disorders includes articles about living with anxiety disorders, types of anxiety disorders, diagnosis and treatment, and the safe use of complementary health products and practices. <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine/issues/summer15/toc.html>

NEW VIDEO ON MEDITATION

In this National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health video, viewers will learn the definition of meditation, its origins, and the evolution of its place in society from ancient times to today.

<https://nccih.nih.gov/news/multimedia/video/meditation-origins-traditions>

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: ADDICTION SCIENCE CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND THE BEE CRISIS

National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow blogs about the possible connection between addiction science and the collapse of bee colonies. Some researchers have attributed this alarming trend, at least in part, to widespread use of a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids. These are chemically related to nicotine, and they are thought to challenge the health of bee colonies by impairing bees' ability to learn and navigate as well as impairing their motor functioning. Recent research now suggests that bees may be preferentially drawn to foods laced with these pesticides as a result of reward mechanisms.

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2015/09/addiction-science-can-help-us-understand-bee-crisis>

HEALTH NEWSLETTER FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

A new online newsletter, called *Honoring Health: Resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives*, features a different health topic in each issue. The e-newsletter highlights health-related resources, events, training, and funding opportunities from NIH and other federal agencies. The first issue focuses on healthy aging. <http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/sep2015/Capsule2>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

BOOKLET TO HELP PEOPLE IN RECOVERY FROM SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

A Journey Toward Health and Hope: Your Handbook for Recovery after a Suicide Attempt is designed to help people who have attempted suicide take their first steps toward healing and recovery. The tools and stories contained in the booklet come from the firsthand experiences of individuals who have survived a suicide attempt and their supporters. These personal accounts about how people overcame the challenges of suicidal thoughts and behaviors can help others learn they are not alone, how they can build hope, and most importantly, how to stay safe in challenging times. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA15-4419>

TRAUMATIC STRESS AND SUICIDE AFTER DISASTERS: SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH BULLETIN

This issue highlights recent research on disasters and their relationship to traumatic stress, suicide rates, and suicidal ideation, planning, and attempts. It examines how rates of suicide, and suicidal thinking and behaviors, have changed—or not—following disasters both natural and human caused. The bulletin covers post-disaster traumatic stress and related conditions. In addition, it reviews evidence on populations that may be most (or least) at risk for traumatic stress and suicide after disasters.

http://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dtac/srb_sept2015.pdf

RECOVERY WEBCAST: NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR WHOLE BODY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

This Road to Recovery web episode looks at the use of new technologies that help people track their physical, mental, and emotional health. The episode reviews SAMHSA's new mobile applications and interactive tools. This episode also examines new self-directed tools for wellness and programs that allow patients to self-monitor their own mental health. Additionally, the episode discusses tools to help individuals access recovery and support networks through their mobile phones.

<http://www.recoverymonth.gov/road-to-recovery/tv-series/september-2015-webcast-new-technologies-whole-body-wellness>

ARCHIVED WEBINAR: THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER'S ROLE IN PREVENTING SUICIDE

Primary care physicians can play an important role in assessing and managing suicide risk given that nearly half of individuals who die by suicide are in contact with a primary care physician within one month of their death. This archived webinar from the SAMHSA-Health Resources and Services Administration Center for Integrated Solutions covered the seven essential elements of suicide care with Zero Suicide, a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention in health and behavioral health systems.

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/webinars>

NEW AHRQ WEB RESOURCES

HEALTHIER PREGNANCY INITIATIVE

This new site is designed to help providers and organizations increase the uptake and quality of preventive services for prenatal and perinatal patients as articulated by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations. The site offers free continuing education opportunities, tools, and resources for perinatal health care providers to implement efficient and effective screening, intervention, and referral practices for ACA-covered preventive services, including screening for depression and intimate partner violence.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/prevention-chronic-care/healthier-pregnancy/>

REDUCING EMERGENCY CARE BY CONNECTING FREQUENT USERS TO COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

This *Innovations* issue describes a program in which community health workers partnered with emergency medical providers to connect at-risk individuals to needed community-based services; a center that coordinated intensive medical and behavioral health care, addiction services, and social services for frequent emergency department users; and a consortium that provided policy recommendations to improve the quality and efficiency of health care services for safety-net users, thereby reducing their reliance on emergency services. <https://innovations.ahrq.gov/node/8307>

HHS BLOG POSTS

HELP AND HOPE THROUGH SUICIDE PREVENTION

In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day, HHS Acting Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Wakefield blogs about this year's theme, "Preventing Suicide: Reaching Out and Saving Lives," a reminder that individuals and communities can make a difference in preventing suicide. This blog post outlines warning signs of suicide and tips for knowing when to ask for help. <http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2015/09/10/help-and-hope-through-suicide-prevention.html>

THE MYTH OF "MEAN GIRLS"

This Stopbullying.gov post explores recent research that debunks the popular perception that girls are being meaner than boys. While data shows some differences between how boys and girls experience bullying – for example, girls were more likely than boys to report experiencing verbal bullying and rumor-spreading, several large cross-cultural studies and meta-analyses have found no gender differences in relational aggression. <http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/09/10/myth-mean-girls>

CDC RESOURCES

INJURIES AND TRAUMATIC PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPOSURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTH NAPA EARTHQUAKE — CALIFORNIA, 2014

Mental health effects are common after disasters. Community assessments can collect information on psychological traumatic exposures to provide useful guidance for allocation of limited resources to those at greater risk for longer-term negative mental health effects. On August 24, 2014, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck California, with the epicenter in Napa County. It was the largest earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area in 25 years. Napa and Solano counties experienced widespread power outages, five residential fires, two deaths, and damage to roadways, waterlines, and 1,600 buildings. Two household-level Community Assessments for Public Health Emergency Response were conducted by the California Department of Public Health in conjunction with Napa and Solano counties. Among households reporting injuries, approximately half occurred during cleanup, suggesting that increased messaging on safety precautions after disasters might be needed. One-fifth of households reported one or more traumatic psychological exposures. Local response to the assessment included mental health resource reallocations, and public education campaigns for mental health support and disaster preparedness.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6435a4.htm>

QUICKSTATS: PERCENTAGE OF ADULT DAY SERVICES CENTER PARTICIPANTS, BY SELECTED DIAGNOSES — NATIONAL STUDY OF LONG-TERM CARE PROVIDERS, UNITED STATES, 2014

This quickstat shows the percentage of adult day services center participants by selected diagnoses in the U.S. in 2014. Cardiovascular disease was the most common diagnosis among adult day services center participants, while severe mental illness was the least common diagnosis. About 30 percent of adult day services center participants had a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other dementias; 30 percent had diabetes; about 25 percent had intellectual or developmental disabilities; and 25 percent had depression.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6435a11.htm>

REAL WARRIORS: RESOURCES FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

This Real Warriors web page lists resources for psychological health care professionals to use when counseling service members, Veterans, and their families.

<http://www.realwarriors.net/healthprofessionals/tools/counseling.php>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RESOURCES

BULLETIN EXAMINES DETERRENCE AMONG HIGH-RISK ADOLESCENTS

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has released *Studying Deterrence Among High-Risk Adolescents*, the latest bulletin in the Pathways to Desistance series. This bulletin examines the link between perceptions of the threat of sanctions and deterrence from crime among high-risk adolescents. The authors' findings show that severe punishment - such as correctional placement or a longer stay in correctional placement - does not meaningfully reduce juvenile offending or arrests among these youth.

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/enews/15juvjust/150805.html>

HELPING VICTIMS OF MASS VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM

The Office for Victims of Crime, in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Office for Victim Assistance and the U.S Department of Justice's Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism, have released a toolkit containing checklists and training materials to assist communities in adopting and strengthening holistic approaches when preparing and responding to victims of mass violence and terrorism. Lessons learned from past incidents indicate that through advanced planning (which includes the establishment of victim assistance protocols), and by developing and maintaining multidisciplinary partnerships, communities are better prepared to engage a holistic approach to victim assistance to ensure that each victim's needs are met. <http://ovc.gov/pubs/mvt-toolkit/about-toolkit.html>

EVENTS

CDC PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS: PREVENTING SUICIDE IN THE U.S.: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, 1:00 PM ET

This session of Grand Rounds discusses the strategies needed to promote broader awareness of suicide and the role that public health can play in identifying factors that reduce the risk of suicide, and in promoting actions and programs that protect people from engaging in suicidal behavior. For non-CDC staff interested in viewing the session, a live external webcast will be available. For individuals who are unable to view the session during the scheduled time, the archived presentation will be posted 48 hours after the session.

<http://www.cdc.gov/cdcgrandrounds/>

WEBINAR: FINANCING CARE TRANSITIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS AT RISK FOR SUICIDE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, 12:30-2:00 PM ET

During this SAMHSA webcast, the audience will learn about potential financing mechanisms for post-discharge care services aimed at individuals who are at risk of suicide. The speakers will discuss current financing models as well as expected changes that will alter the national health services payment landscape. The discussion will focus on three case studies - an accountable care organization, a behavioral health plan, and a county-led crisis program - as examples of innovative financial models that support services for individuals in crisis.

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=registration.jsp&eventid=1035239&sessionid=1&key=9E82A2B2665F03E451C9211870CF3471&sourcepage=register>

WEBINAR: BEST PRACTICES IN ACA OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Learn from faith leaders who have conducted successful outreach and enrollment campaigns before and during open enrollment. In this HHS webinar, participants will hear from Reverend Jeanette Salguero who has conducted successful outreach using a one-stop-shop model, integrating health and human service enrollment opportunities. <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1246879539121527298>

WEBINAR: IT'S TIME TO UNITE TO FACE ADDICTION!

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015, 12:30-2:00 PM ET

SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer Centers Network is an organizing partner for UNITE to Face Addiction, an opportunity for thousands to gather on the National Mall on October 4 and end the silence about addiction. Join this webinar to learn more about this event.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5398339678008903425>

RECOVERY MONTH CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015, 7:00-8:00 PM ET

The Office on National Drug Control Policy will host an online event at the White House in celebration of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month with a special focus on youth in recovery. Tune in and watch the event, or host a viewing party of friends, family, and stakeholders. With everyone's help, this event will be a significant occasion to celebrate and inspire millions of young persons in recovery, and raise awareness about critical resources and commitments needed to help other young people in their journeys. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/09/02/join-recovery-month-celebration-september-17th>

WEBINAR: MILITARY CULTURE TRAINING FOR STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO SERVICE MEMBER AND VETERAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This SAMHSA webinar will include information about the Veterans Administration's (VA) newly released *Understanding Military Culture* Community Provider Toolkit, the impact of the VA's Choice Program on community providers, and other military culture training resources. State examples from SAMHSA's Policy Academy teams will also be featured to highlight successful implementation of military culture training and collaboration with the VA to increase access to services.

<https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1073887>

WEBINAR: GOT COVERAGE? NEXT STEPS IN USING YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Many people now have health insurance, but may not know how to use it. This HHS webinar will discuss how to read an insurance card, how to find a doctor, what one needs to know in making an appointment, and what to do in case of a health emergency. Key terms will be discussed as well as recommended health screenings. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2123431098731395586>

NIMH FACEBOOK Q&A ON POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

NIMH is conducting a Facebook question and answer session on postpartum depression. NIMH expert Dr. Peter Schmidt will be answering questions on the topic.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1614808635445833/>

WEBINAR: THERAPEUTIC RISK MANAGEMENT OF THE SUICIDAL PATIENT

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This Defense Centers of Excellence of Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury webinar will provide an overview of the Therapeutic Risk Management model, a medicolegally and clinically sound method of conducting suicide risk assessment and management. The session will present suicide risk assessment methods consistent with the VA and Department of Defense *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk* as well as the rationale and tips for augmenting the clinical interview with objective assessment measures. The presenter will highlight the importance of stratifying suicide risk with respect to both severity and temporality, and share recommendations for documentation. Finally, the presentation will provide an overview of safety planning as an evidence-informed risk management intervention. http://www.dcoe.mil/Training/Monthly_Webinars.aspx

WEBINAR: IMPACT OF PTSD ON FEMALE AS COMPARED TO MALE AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ WAR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY FUNCTIONING

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM ET

Study findings from a large prospective study of female and male Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans will be presented in this VA webinar. Women's as compared to men's work- and family-related quality of life will be described, and gender differences in the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on both work and family outcomes will be discussed. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7026062187400114689>

WEBINAR: SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS AND RESOURCES FOR THE UNINSURED

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

The health care law has created special enrollment periods for those who experience special circumstances such as graduating from college and losing health insurance, getting married and needing coverage for a spouse, losing employer insurance, or turning 26 and losing coverage on a parent's health plan. Join this HHS webinar to learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For those who are uninsured and don't qualify for the special enrollment period, learn what resources are available and when to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4639254440571358978>

WEBINAR: MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION FOR POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AMONG VETERANS: A RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

OCTOBER 5, 2015, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Save the date for this VA webinar on mindfulness-based stress reduction for PTSD among Veterans.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1450333167905241090>

WEBINAR: OPENING CONGREGATIONAL DOORS TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

OCTOBER 7, 2015, 12:30-1:30 PM ET

As faith and community organizations place a greater emphasis on the health and wellness of their communities and neighborhoods, they are making their playgrounds, meeting rooms, parish halls, and classrooms available for the health needs of their neighbors. In this HHS webinar, learn about a network of congregations who have partnered with Bon Secours Health System to regularly host a primary care clinic for the uninsured in their neighborhoods in Richmond, Virginia. Participants will also hear about resources created by ChangeLab Solutions that highlight faith-based organizations that are embracing "shared use" of their facilities and programs to help create and sustain healthy congregations and communities.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1675475765862269698>

WEBINAR: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION FOR VETERANS WITH SUICIDAL IDEATION

OCTOBER 13, 2015, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

A “Hope Box” is a therapeutic tool employed by mental health clinicians with patients having difficulty coping with negative thoughts and stress, including patients who may be at risk for suicide or suicide behaviors. This VA webinar will present findings from a pilot study as well as preliminary results from a randomized controlled trial of a smartphone application, the *Virtual Hope Box*, which was designed to expand the reach of the hope box modality to a mobile platform.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6417084476953350658>

NIH REGIONAL SEMINAR ON PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

OCTOBER 14-15, 2015, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

This two-day symposium and optional workshop day is geared to extramural research administrators and new investigators wanting to learn more about the NIH grants application and award processes. Over 50 NIH extramural policy, program, review, and grants management staff from across NIH, as well as HHS staff, will present on a wide variety of topics during the seminar. Attendees can participate in sessions to learn about the latest in tools and resources for applying for funding and managing their award, relevant NIH and HHS policies, special programs and initiatives, as well as topics such as animals and humans in research, data sharing and invention reporting, business and loan repayment programs, research integrity, financial conflict of interest, compliance, and much more. <https://nccih.nih.gov/node/6945>

NIH DIGITAL SUMMIT: OPTIMIZING DIGITAL TO REACH PATIENTS, SCIENTISTS, CLINICIANS, AND THE PUBLIC

OCTOBER 19, 2015, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM ET, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NIH is presenting its first digital summit, developed to explore how patients, health professionals, and researchers are getting and sharing health and science information in today’s technology-driven world. The summit is designed to encourage discussion, so come prepared to ask questions in person or virtually. The organizers welcome participants to use the hashtag #NIHDigital to join the conversation online. Researchers, health professionals, and communications professionals interested in digital health are all encouraged to attend. This summit is open to the public and registration is required for in-person attendance. A live webcast will be available at [videocast.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov/news/events/digital-summit.htm). <http://www.nih.gov/news/events/digital-summit.htm>

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT AND EVIDENCE REVIEW: SCREENING FOR DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force posted a draft recommendation statement and draft evidence review on screening for depression in children and adolescents. Both are available for review and public comment from September 8, 2015 through October 5, 2015.

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/us-preventive-services-task-force-opportunities-for-public-comment>

NONDISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES: COMMENTS SOUGHT ON PROPOSED RULE

HHS has issued a proposed rule to advance health equity and reduce disparities in health care. The proposed rule, *Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities*, will assist some of the populations that have been most vulnerable to discrimination, and will help provide those populations equal access to health care and health coverage. It harmonizes protections provided by existing, well-established federal civil rights laws, and clarifies the standards HHS would apply in implementing Section 1557 of the ACA, which provides that individuals cannot be subject to discrimination based on their race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Comments accepted through November 9, 2015.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/section1557/nprmsummary.html>

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.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/09/08/2015-21756/federal-policy-for-the-protection-of-human-subjects>

FUNDING INFORMATION

BRAIN INITIATIVE: SHORT COURSES IN COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE (R25)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-700.html>

BRAIN INITIATIVE: TECHNOLOGY SHARING AND PROPAGATION (R03)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-725.html>



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.