National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership Program

Update

July 15, 2009

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Mental Health
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison
Science and Service News Updates

NIMH: Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder Share Genetic Roots: Chromosomal Hotspot of Immunity/Gene Expression Regulation Implicated
A trio of genome-wide studies – collectively the largest to date – has pinpointed a vast array of genetic variation that cumulatively may account for at least one third of the genetic risk for schizophrenia. One of the studies traced schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, in part, to the same chromosomal neighborhoods. "These new results recommend a fresh look at our diagnostic categories," said Thomas R. Insel, M.D., director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), part of the National Institutes of Health. "If some of the same genetic risks underlie schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, perhaps these disorders originate from some common vulnerability in brain development." Three schizophrenia genetics research consortia, each funded in part by NIMH, report separately on their genome-wide association studies online July 1, 2009, in the journal Nature. However, the SGENE, International Schizophrenia, and Molecular Genetics of Schizophrenia consortia shared their results - making possible meta-analyses of a combined sample totaling 8,014 cases and 19,090 controls.

National Institutes of Health Issues Guidelines on Human Stem Cell Research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is hereby publishing final "National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research" (Guidelines). On March 9, 2009, President Barack H. Obama issued Executive Order 13505: Removing Barriers to Responsible Scientific Research Involving Human Stem Cells. The Executive Order states that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Director of NIH, may support and conduct responsible, scientifically worthy human stem cell research, including human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research, to the extent permitted by law. These Guidelines implement Executive Order 13505, as it pertains to extramural NIH-funded stem cell research, establish policy and procedures under which the NIH will fund such research, and help ensure that NIH-funded research in this area is ethically responsible, scientifically worthy, and conducted in accordance with applicable law. Internal NIH policies and procedures, consistent with Executive Order 13505 and these Guidelines, will govern the conduct of intramural NIH stem cell research.

NINDS: Novel Drug Discovery Tool Could Identify Promising New Therapies for Parkinson’s Disease
Researchers funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) have turned simple baker’s yeast into a virtual army of medicinal chemists capable of rapidly searching for drugs to treat Parkinson’s disease. In a study published online in Nature Chemical Biology, the researchers showed that they can rescue yeast cells from toxic levels of a protein implicated in Parkinson’s disease by stimulating the cells to make very small proteins called cyclic peptides. Two of the cyclic peptides had a protective effect on the yeast cells and on neurons in an animal model of Parkinson’s disease.
IOM Report Recommends 100 Initial Priorities for Research to Determine Which Health Care Approaches Work Best

A new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends 100 health topics that should get priority attention and funding from a new national research effort to identify which health care services work best. It also spells out actions and resources needed to ensure that this comparative effectiveness research initiative will be a sustained effort with a continuous process for updating priorities as needed and that the results are put into clinical practice.

Report: [http://www.iom.edu/?id=71032](http://www.iom.edu/?id=71032)

FDA: Boxed Warning on Serious Mental Health Events to be Required for Chantix and Zyban

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it is requiring manufacturers to put a Boxed Warning on the prescribing information for the smoking cessation drugs Chantix (varenicline) and Zyban (bupropion). The warning will highlight the risk of serious mental health events including changes in behavior, depressed mood, hostility, and suicidal thoughts when taking these drugs.

Press Release: [http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm170100.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm170100.htm)

U.S. Department of Education Awards more than $32.8 Million to Promote Safe Schools, Healthy Students

More than $32.8 million in grants have been awarded to 18 states and the District of Columbia as part of a joint effort by the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice to support schools in creating safer and healthier learning environments. Under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, school districts, in partnership with local public mental-health agencies, law-enforcement and juvenile justice entities, must implement a comprehensive, community-wide plan that focuses on the following elements: 1) Safe school environments and violence prevention activities; 2) Alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention activities; 3) Student behavioral, social and emotional supports; 4) Mental-health services; and 5) Early childhood social and emotional learning programs.


Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources

Inside NIMH: Latest Issue Available

This NIMH e-newsletter published three times a year alerts researchers to NIMH funding opportunities, trends, and plans. This issue provides an update regarding budget and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 activities, as well as other funding news. [http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/newsletter/index.shtml](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/newsletter/index.shtml)

NIH Research Matters

*Common Gene Variants Implicated in Schizophrenia*

Three international research teams have detected many tiny and common gene variations that together could account for at least one-third of the genetic risk for schizophrenia. Although none of these variants alone significantly boosts the chances of developing schizophrenia, in combination they seem to exert a powerful effect on disease risk. [http://www.nih.gov/news/research_matters/july2009/07132009schizophrenia.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/research_matters/july2009/07132009schizophrenia.htm)
Alcohol’s Site of Action Revealed
People have used alcohol for thousands of years for its pleasant and intoxicating effects. A new study finally provides an explanation for how it produces these effects in the brain. The breakthrough could lead to new treatments for alcohol abuse and dependence.  

NIH News In Health: How You See Yourself: When Your Body Image Doesn’t Measure Up
The July issue of NIH News in Health, the monthly newsletter bringing you practical health news and tips based on the latest NIH research, features a story about body dysmorphic disorder.  

NIDA NewScan: NIDA Research Addiction News Service
The latest issue of NIDA NewScan is available, including summaries of NIDA research findings, including the impact of computerized Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy on drug use, and the use of a family-based intervention to help male children of drug users to avoid substance use disorders.  

New SAMHSA Resources
Latest SAMHSA NEWS Available
The latest issue of SAMHSA News focuses on suicide prevention activities on college campuses, including SAMHSA’s Campus Suicide Prevention Grant program  
http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/default.aspx

New TIP on Group Therapy from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
This Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) presents an overview of the role and efficacy of group therapy in substance abuse treatment. Developed through a collaborative, consensus-based process, TIP 41 provides critical research and clinical findings and distills them into practical guidelines for practitioners who utilize group therapy in substance abuse treatment settings.  

Free Curriculum for Training Personal Assistance Service Providers
The Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Curriculum, developed by Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, delivers training that prepares individuals to become PAS providers for those with psychiatric disabilities. The curriculum is designed to be used by other individuals with disabilities, mental health workers, as well as those with no expertise in mental health. Included are a knowledge base component as well as three skill building components (Coaching, Collaborating and Managing Crises), each with a trainer guide and participant workbook. The Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation is jointly supported by the SAMHSA’s Center for Mental Health Services and the Department of Education’s National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.  
http://www.bu.edu/cpr/resources/pas-curriculum/
New Resources from SAMHSA’s National Child Traumatic Stress Network

**Psychological First Aid for Community Religious Professionals**
This guide is an adaptation of *Psychological First Aid* developed for religious and spiritual leaders. It was created to give these professionals a particular set of skills and procedures that will allow them to minister safely and effectively to survivors of disasters and terrorist events. [http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/pfa/CRP-PFA_Guide.pdf](http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/pfa/CRP-PFA_Guide.pdf)

**Trauma in the Lives of Gang-Involved Youth: Tips for Volunteers and Community Organizations**
This fact sheet defines traumatic stress, explains why trauma is so prevalent among gang-involved youth, and provides tips for community organizations and volunteers on working with this population. [http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/trauma_and_gang_involved_youth.pdf](http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/trauma_and_gang_involved_youth.pdf)

**Your Child and Gangs: What You Need to Know about Trauma - Tips for Parents**
This fact sheet defines traumatic stress, explains the appeal of gang involvement for traumatized youth, and offers information for parents on helping their children cope with the aftermath of trauma. [http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/Your_child_and_gangs.pdf](http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/Your_child_and_gangs.pdf)

**BJA: New Guide for Policymakers and Practitioners on Using Research to Craft Better Law Enforcement Responses to People with Mental Illnesses**

**U.S. ED: The Challenge Newsletter Focusing on Cyber Bullying**
This issue of *The Challenge*, created by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, examines emerging trends in cyber bullying, an issue that can have an impact on students’ well-being, safety, and academic achievement. It discusses research and promising practices to provide school personnel with tools to help students navigate cyberspace safely. [http://www.thechallenge.org/](http://www.thechallenge.org/)

**AHRQ Research Activities**

*The Time Spent in Office Visits with Psychiatrists has Equalized among Blacks and Whites in Recent Years*
In recent years, there has been progress in eradicating racial differences in the time office-based psychiatrists spend with patients, reveals a new study. For example, from 2001 to 2003, black patients had office-based visits with psychiatrists that were an average of 4.4 minutes shorter than visits by whites (28.3 vs. 32.7 minutes). This difference was reduced to 3.5 minutes after accounting for other factors that could affect visit length. However, by 2004 to 2006, the time spent with the psychiatrist was about the same for black and white patients. Between these periods, there were longer visits by black patients rather than shorter visits by white patients. The study was supported in part by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). [http://www.ahrq.gov/research/jul09/0709RA6.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/research/jul09/0709RA6.htm)
**Patients with Diabetes and Depression are Less Likely to Achieve Goals for Glucose Control**

People with diabetes have almost twice the risk of becoming depressed compared with the general public. A new AHRQ-funded study found that depression can interfere with their ability to reach the recommended goals for control of their glucose (blood sugar). Researchers examined the responses of 1,223 adult patients with diabetes who completed a survey that included two questions about depression-related symptoms. According to the research team, physicians who identify depression in their patients with diabetes must also consider how depression will affect the patient's ability to manage their diabetes, particularly when it comes to reaching personal clinical goals.

http://www.ahrq.gov/research/jul09/0709RA10.htm

**Low Omega-3 Fatty Acid Levels Found in Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome and Depression**

Patients with chest pain at rest (unstable angina) or a heart attack (myocardial infarction) are usually diagnosed as having acute coronary syndrome (ACS). When patients with ACS also suffer from depression, they are more likely to die or experience recurrent cardiovascular events. Linking these two conditions may be a deficiency in essential fatty acids. In a new study, ACS patients with depression were found to have lower red blood cell membrane levels of omega-3 fatty acids, such as DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). The researchers indicate that interventions to raise the level of omega-3 fatty acids may help prevent both depression and adverse cardiovascular events. The study was supported in part by AHRQ.

http://www.ahrq.gov/research/jul09/0709RA11.htm

**America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2009**

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has released its annual update on the well-being of children and families in the United States across a range of domains. The report includes indicators of emotional and behavioral difficulties, adolescent depression, and alcohol and drug use. The 2009 report includes a important feature about Children with Special Health Care Needs.

http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp

**OMH: Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response**

The Office of Minority Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services has launched its newest program – the Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response. The first of its kind for disaster personnel, this new e-learning program discusses the provision of culturally and linguistically competent care and services at every phase of a disaster. This set of courses is designed to integrate knowledge, attitudes, and skills related to cultural competency in order to help lessen racial and ethnic health care disparities brought on by disaster situations. The courses target emergency medical personnel, disaster mental health and social workers, public health service officers, and disaster relief organization employees who have the unique opportunity to help improve access to care, quality of care, and health outcomes to those persons subject to racial and ethnic health disparities in a disaster situation.

https://cccdpcr.thinkculturalhealth.org/
Calendar of Events

Webcast: Consumer Integration: Everyone is Talking About It, But How Do We Get It Done? Next Steps to Creating Recovery-Oriented Environments
July 23, 2009 at 12:00pm ET
This free SAMHSAs Homelessness Resource Center webcast, will highlight principles of recovery and benefits and common barriers to participation as they relate to consumer integration. The presenters will also discuss potential roles for people formerly or currently experiencing homelessness.

Webcast: The Social Services System: Supporting Treatment and Recovery for Individuals and Families
August 5, 2009
This Center for Substance Abuse Treatment program will examine ways in which social services effectively delivers assistance - via foster care, housing, job training, medical care, veteran support, for example - to the children and families of people with substance use disorders. The program also will offer tips on how to improve cooperation with other sectors of society.

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools National Conference
August 3-5, 2009, National Harbor, Maryland
The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools National Conference will address issues related to crisis planning; health, mental health, and physical education; broad-based issues related to alcohol, drug and violence prevention; civic and character education; scientifically-based programs; and many other areas concerning drug and violence prevention.
http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/news.html

National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media 2009
August 11-13, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia
SAMHSA is joining with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to sponsor the 2009 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media. SAMHSA’s goal for co-sponsoring the conference is to increase the visibility and presence of mental health and substance abuse service delivery organizations, providers, and advocates, and to leverage the new media environment to address the needs of people with or at risk for substance use and mental disorders.
http://www.edc.gov/healthmarketing/NCHCMM2009/

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month)
September 2009
The Recovery Month observance highlights the societal benefits of substance abuse treatment, lauds the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible. The observance also encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective substance abuse treatment for those in need.
http://www.recoverymonth.gov
AHRQ's 2009 Annual Conference: Research to Reform: Achieving Health System Change
September 13-16, 2009, Bethesda, Maryland
This free conference is designed to bring participants together with leading health care research and policy experts in sessions on issues including quality and safety, delivery of services and improving Americans' health status.
http://www.ahrq.gov/about/annlconf09.htm

2010 National GAINS Center Conference
Call for Presentations Deadline: September 15, 2009
March 17-19, 2010, Orlando, Florida
The CMHS National GAINS Center is now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2010 National GAINS Center Conference that promote the conference theme, Including Justice-Involved People with Mental Illness in Health Care Reform.
http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/html/conference/

Calls for Public Input

Request for Information: Input on Field Capacity for NIMH’s interest in Leveraging Existing Healthcare Networks to Transform Effectiveness Research
The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is seeking input on the capacity of the field to use existing healthcare networks to conduct large-scale effectiveness research of mental health treatment, preventive, and services interventions. Advice is sought from the interventions and services research communities, stakeholders within healthcare delivery systems and other interested groups on the current capacity of the field with regards to efficient use of existing user friendly health information systems for the identification, recruitment and enrollment of patients into trials; efficient recruitment of providers to deliver novel interventions within research studies; efficient collection and storage of biologic materials for research use, and in general efficient clinical data collection for research analysis.
Deadline for Responses: July 31, 2009

Programmatic Funding Opportunities

Psychological Health Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program Concept Award
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QfXLKcKBQm7hSLrWgBz3JDIY0L1Mt1CJ1nyv7JDHGvT1mpGF8Xvr1!1656926990?oppId=48393&mode=VIEW

Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QfXLKcKBQm7hSLrWgBz3JDIY0L1Mt1CJ1nyv7JDHGvT1mpGF8Xvr1!1656926990?oppId=48392&mode=VIEW

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinical Treatment Research Among Active Duty Army Soldiers
http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QfXLKcKBQm7hSLrWgBz3JDIY0L1Mt1CJ1nyv7JDHGvT1mpGF8Xvr1!1656926990?oppId=48354&mode=VIEW
Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Research Program Investigator-Initiated Research Award

http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QfXLKcKBQm7hSLrWgBz3JDY0L1Mt1CJ1nyv7JDHGvT1mpGF8Xvr1!1656926990?oppId=48395&mode=VIEW

Enabling Stress Resistance

http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=QfXLKcKBQm7hSLrWgBz3JDY0L1Mt1CJ1nyv7JDHGvT1mpGF8Xvr1!1656926990?oppId=48361&mode=VIEW

Research Funding Opportunities

Selected NIH Requests for Applications (RFAs)
[Full listing of NIH RFAs at
http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=rfa]

None.

Selected NIH Program Announcements
[Full listing of NIH PAs at
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=pa]

Mechanisms Underlying the Links between Psychosocial Stress, Aging, the Brain and the Body

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

The Outreach Partnership Program is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) with support from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and in cooperation with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 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 on the NIMH Outreach Program please visit http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners.

To subscribe to receive the Update every two weeks, go to: http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml

The information provided in the NIMH Update is intended for use by the 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.