

# National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership Program

## *Update*

August 1, 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**

### **Major NIMH Research Project to Test Approaches to Altering the Course of Schizophrenia: Recovery Act Funds Will Support First Phase of Project**

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is launching a large-scale research project to explore whether using early and aggressive treatment, individually targeted and integrating a variety of different therapeutic approaches, will reduce the symptoms and prevent the gradual deterioration of functioning that is characteristic of chronic schizophrenia. The Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) project is being funded by NIMH with additional support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). RAISE is a model example of how money from the Recovery Act can accelerate science related to public health problems and potentially benefit those citizens most in need.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/major-nimh-research-project-to-test-approaches-to-altering-the-course-of-schizophrenia.shtml>

### **NIMH: Evidence-Based Prevention is Goal of Largest Ever Study of Suicide in the Military**

The NIMH has announced that an interdisciplinary team of four research institutions will carry out the largest study of suicide and mental health among military personnel ever undertaken, with \$50 million in funding from the U.S. Army. Study investigators aim to move quickly to identify risk and protective factors for suicide among soldiers and provide a science base for effective and practical interventions to reduce suicide rates and address associated mental health problems. The study is a direct response to the Army's request to NIMH to enlist the most promising scientific approaches for addressing the rising suicide rate among soldiers. A memorandum of agreement between NIMH and the Army, signed in October 2008, authorized NIMH to undertake the investigation with Army funding. Suicide rates among Army personnel have risen substantially since the beginning of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan despite major surveillance and intervention efforts introduced by the Army to prevent suicides over this period.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/evidence-based-prevention-is-goal-of-largest-ever-study-of-suicide-in-the-military.shtml>

### **NIH Launches The Human Connectome Project to Unravel The Brain's Connections**

The National Institutes of Health Blueprint for Neuroscience Research is launching a \$30 million project that will use cutting-edge brain imaging technologies to map the circuitry of the healthy adult human brain. By systematically collecting brain imaging data from hundreds of subjects, the Human Connectome Project (HCP) will yield insight into how brain connections underlie brain function, and will open up new lines of inquiry for human neuroscience. Investigators have been invited to submit detailed proposals to carry out the HCP, which will be funded at up to \$6 million per year for five years. The HCP is the first of three Blueprint Grand Challenges, projects that address major questions and issues in neuroscience research.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/nih-launches-the-human-connectome-project-to-unravel-the-brains-connections.shtml>

### **NIMH: Brain Emotion Circuit Sparks as Teen Girls Size Up Peers**

What is going on in teenagers' brains as their drive for peer approval begins to eclipse their family affiliations? Brain scans of teens sizing each other up reveal an emotion circuit activating more in girls as they grow older, but not in boys. The study by NIMH researchers shows how emotion circuitry diverges in the male and female brain during a developmental stage in which girls are at increased risk for developing mood and anxiety disorders. Researchers reported on one of the first studies to reveal the workings of the teen brain in a simulated real-world social interaction, in the July, 2009 issue of the *Journal Child Development*.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/brain-emotion-circuit-sparks-as-teen-girls-size-up-peers.shtml>

### **NIH Issues Research Plan on Fragile X Syndrome and Associated Disorders**

The NIH has developed a research plan to advance the understanding of fragile X syndrome and its associated conditions, fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome and fragile X-associated primary ovarian insufficiency. Fragile X syndrome causes intellectual and developmental disabilities and results from a mutation in a gene on the X chromosome. The plan puts forward goals to guide future research, setting research priorities for each of the conditions. A major priority of the plan is to investigate the biological processes underlying all three disorders and how to better diagnose and treat them. Other priorities are studying how widespread the gene variations are in the population and how the three conditions affect families.

Press Release: [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs\\_details.cfm?from=&pubs\\_id=5729](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs_details.cfm?from=&pubs_id=5729)

### **NIH and VA Announce \$7 Million Partnership for Substance Abuse Research among Military Personnel, Veterans and their Families: Research Will Focus on War Efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan**

Two federal departments have joined forces to create a first-time collaborative funding project to support research on substance abuse and associated problems among U.S. military personnel, veterans and their families. The National Institute on Drug Abuse, in partnership with two other NIH Institutes — the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Cancer Institute — are jointly collaborating with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), on a seven million dollar funding opportunity announcement for research in this area. The funding opportunity announcement will focus on the causes, screening and identification, prevention and treatment of substance use and abuse — including alcohol, tobacco and other drugs — and associated problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jul2009/nida-30.htm>

## **Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources**

### **New NIMH Publications**

#### *Schizophrenia (Easy-to-Read)*

This easy-to-read booklet on schizophrenia explains what it is, when it starts and how to get help.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia-easy-to-read/schizophrenia-easy-to-read.shtml>

*Treatment of Children with Mental Disorders*

This guide answers to frequently asked questions about the treatment of mental disorders in children.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/treatment-of-children-with-mental-disorders/index.shtml>

**The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research: Congressional Briefing by the NIMH Director**

The Association of American Medical Colleges sponsored a series of congressional briefings on how the NIH is investing federal support provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, P.L. 111-5) to advance medical research. Webcast and slides are available from the July 10 briefing by Thomas Insel, M.D., NIMH director.

<http://www.aamc.org/research/adhocgp/news.htm>

**Disability.gov Offers Social Media Tools, Upgrades to Complement Information from 22 Federal Agencies on Disability-Related Programs and Services**

In conjunction with the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Labor has re-named and re-launched DisabilityInfo.gov as Disability.gov. The site offers comprehensive information about programs and services to better serve more than 50 million Americans with disabilities, their family members, veterans, employers, educators, caregivers and anyone interested in disability-related information.

<http://www.disability.gov>

**New SAMHSA Resources**

*Latest Dialogue Available*

This issue of The Dialogue, Volume 5, Issue 4, 2009, summarizes the information presented and discussed at the All-Hazards Disaster Behavioral Health: Optimizing Psychological Health and Resiliency in Difficult Economic Times conference. This 3-day conference brought together disaster mental health and substance abuse coordinators, researchers, and other professionals from across the country to discuss how to maximize resources, build resilience, and manage stress in difficult economic times.

[http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Issue4\\_09.asp](http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/dtac/dialogue/Issue4_09.asp)

*New Resource Available to Help Decision-Makers Choose Cost Effective Substance Abuse Prevention Programs*

Communities can better develop comprehensive prevention strategies based on their unique needs and characteristics and use cost-benefit ratios to help guide their decisions with the help of the new publication, *Substance Abuse Prevention Dollars and Cents: A Cost Benefits Analysis*. The guide is designed to help policymakers and other stakeholders use the results of cost-benefit analysis as an information tool for decision making and for selecting the substance abuse prevention programs that best apply available resources toward addressing their needs.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0907210321.aspx>

*New Resource Provides Nurses with Current Information on Buprenorphine*

This new manual which provides nurses with general information about buprenorphine products and serves as a resource in improving treatment outcomes for individuals receiving office-based treatment for opioid addiction.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0907240525.aspx>

**Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports on Disaster Response and Recovery**

*Hurricane Katrina: Barriers to Mental Health Services for Children Persist in Greater New Orleans, Although Federal Grants Are Helping to Address Them*

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies have supported mental health services for children in greater New Orleans through various programs, including grant programs initiated in response to Hurricane Katrina. GAO was asked to study the federal role in addressing barriers to these services in greater New Orleans. In this report, GAO (1) identifies barriers to providing and to obtaining mental health services for children in greater New Orleans, and (2) describes how federal programs, including grant programs, address such barriers.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-563>

*Hurricane Katrina: Federal Grants Have Helped Health Care Organizations Provide Primary Care, but Challenges Remain*

In 2007, HHS awarded the \$100 million Primary Care Access and Stabilization Grant (PCASG) to Louisiana to help restore primary care services to the low-income population. Louisiana gave PCASG funds to 25 outpatient provider organizations in the greater New Orleans area. GAO was asked to study how the federal government can effectively leverage governmental resources to help area residents gain access to primary care services. This report examines (1) how PCASG fund recipients used the PCASG funds to support primary care services in greater New Orleans, (2) how PCASG fund recipients used and benefited from other federal hurricane relief funds that support the restoration of primary care services in the area, and (3) challenges PCASG fund recipients continued to face in providing primary care, and their plans for sustaining services after PCASG funds are no longer available.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-588>

*Disaster Coordination and an Evaluation of Programs Outcomes Could Improve Disaster Case Management*

As a result of the unprecedented damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the federal government, for the first time, funded several disaster case management programs. These programs help victims access services for disaster-related needs. GAO was asked to review (1) steps the federal government took to support disaster case management programs after the hurricanes, (2) the extent to which federal agencies oversaw the implementation of these programs, (3) challenges case management agencies experienced in delivering disaster case management services, and (4) how these programs will inform the development of a federal case management program for future disasters.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-561>

*Community Development Block Grant Program Guidance to States Needs to be Improved*

Almost 4 years after the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes, the region continues to face daunting rebuilding challenges. To date, \$19.7 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been appropriated for Gulf Coast rebuilding assistance--the largest amount in the history of the program. GAO was asked to report on (1) how Louisiana and Mississippi allocated their shares of CDBG funds, (2) what difficulties Louisiana faced in administering its housing recovery program, and (3) what human capital challenges Louisiana and Mississippi encountered and the efforts taken to address those challenges.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-541>

## **New Resources from AHRQ**

### *New Spanish-Language Consumer Guides Compare Treatments for Depression, and Other Conditions*

Spanish speakers who want to know how soon they can expect to feel better when taking an antidepressant, can get this and other treatment information through new Spanish-language consumer guides released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

<http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/healthInfo.cfm?infotype=sg&DocID=153&ProcessID=7&language=spanish>

### *AHRQ Research Activities: Availability of Primary Care Results in Better Mental Health for Rural Residents*

A new study supported in part by AHRQ focusing on rural and urban environments has identified some striking contextual associations with mental health status. The association between better mental health and the number of primary care providers in rural areas may reflect the front-line role these practitioners play in mental health care. Likewise, the association between better mental health status and the number of psychiatrists in urban areas may reflect the preference of these providers to practice in the city, note the researchers.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/aug09/0809RA26.htm>

## **Unprecedented Global Aging Examined in New Census Bureau Report Commissioned by the National Institute on Aging**

The average age of the world's population is increasing at an unprecedented rate. The number of people worldwide age 65 and older is estimated at 506 million as of midyear 2008; by 2040, that number will hit 1.3 billion. Thus, in just over 30 years, the proportion of older people will double from 7 percent to 14 percent of the total world population, according to a new report, *An Aging World: 2008*. The report examines the demographic and socioeconomic trends accompanying this phenomenon. It was commissioned by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/ResearchInformation/ExtramuralPrograms/BehavioralAndSocialResearch/GlobalAging.htm>

## **New DOJ Resources**

### *Community Oriented Policing Services Guide Addresses Bullying in Schools*

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has published a guide which provides police with information about the causes and extent of bullying in schools and includes recommendations for developing practices and policies that promote student safety.

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=18>

### *Guide Seeks To Heal the Wounds of Children Exposed to Violence*

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Safe Start Center has published *Healing the Invisible Wounds: Children's Exposure to Violence*. The guide, which is available in English and Spanish, offers informative tips on how to recognize the signs of children's exposure to violence and helpful advice on helping children thus exposed. Exposure to violence is a pervasive problem that crosses all ages, and the guide provides specific information pertaining to children of various ages, as well as a list of useful resources.

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/enews/09juvjust/090730.html>

## **Calendar of Events**

### **Webcast: The Social Services System: Supporting Treatment and Recovery for Individuals and Families**

*August 5, 2009*

This Center for Substance Abuse Treatment webcast will examine ways in which social services effectively deliver assistance - via foster care, housing, job training, medical care, and veteran support, for example - to the children and families of people with substance use disorders. The webcast will also offer tips on how to improve cooperation with other sectors of society.

<http://www.recoverymonth.gov/Multimedia/Road-to-Recovery-Television-Series.aspx>

### **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.cdc.gov/healthmarketing/NCHCMM2009/>

### **Call for Posters: 3rd Annual Julius Axelrod Lecture**

*Poster submissions due August 14, 2009*

*October 18, 2009, 6:45–9:00 PM, Chicago, Illinois*

NIDA, NIMH, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) will co-sponsor a lecture celebrating the career of Dr. Julius Axelrod, one of the founders of modern neuropharmacology. An early career investigator poster session to honor the dedication of Dr. Axelrod to neuropharmacology research and to the mentoring of young investigators will follow the keynote presentation.

<http://dev.seiservices.com/nida/axelrod2009/Index.asp>

### **Teleconference: Moving Towards Social Inclusion**

*August 25, 2009, 2:00-3:30 PM ET*

SAMHSA's Resource Center to Promote Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion Associated with Mental Health is sponsoring this free teleconference training to (1) provide a definition and framework for social inclusion; (2) provide feedback and findings from an April 2009 SAMHSA meeting on social inclusion; (3) provide information on the role of the ADS Center in providing technical assistance and resources; and (4) share effective strategies for promoting social inclusion.

<http://www.promoteacceptance.samhsa.gov/teleconferences/>

### **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>

Toolkit now available: <http://www.recoverymonth.gov/Recovery-Month-Kit.aspx>

August 1, 2009

**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: Updating the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Research**

On behalf of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), NIMH is seeking comments to inform the annual update of the IACC Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Research as required by the Combating Autism Act of 2006. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit input from ASD stakeholders to inform the next update of the Strategic Plan. In the RFI form, there will be an opportunity to provide input on each section of the IACC Strategic Plan. Please include suggestions regarding missing or underrepresented knowledge areas, new opportunities needed for advancing research and knowledge about ASD, and suggestions for prioritizing research objectives. Deadline for responses: August 21, 2009

For more information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-09-013.html>

**Comment Period on Lifting Ban on HIV Visitors to the U.S. The Department of Health and Human Services has published A Notice of the Proposed Rulemaking to lift restrictions on nonimmigrant visas for people with HIV/AIDS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is proposing to revise the Part 34 regulation to remove "Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection" from the definition of "communicable disease of public health significance." CDC is also proposing to remove references to "HIV" from the scope of examinations in its regulations. Aliens infected with a "communicable disease of public health significance" are inadmissible into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Deadline for comments: August 17, 2007

For more information: [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?position=all&page=31798&dbname=2009\\_register](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?position=all&page=31798&dbname=2009_register)

## **Clinical Research Participation News**

### **NIMH: Bipolar Disorder Genetics: A Collaborative Study**

If you have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder (BP) you may be eligible to participate in a research study at the NIH clinical Center. The purpose of this study is to identify genes that may contribute to the development of bipolar disorder (manic depression), and related conditions. Bipolar disorder is a common and potentially life-threatening mood disorder. The tendency to develop bipolar disorder can be inherited, but this is poorly understood and probably involves multiple genes. This study will use genetic markers to map and identify genes that contribute to bipolar disorder. Families and individuals who have the disorder are asked to contribute personal information and a blood sample to an anonymous national database. This information will aid scientists around the world who are working together to develop better treatments for this serious mood disorder. To find out if you qualify or for more information, please call 1-866-644-4363 or email us at [kazubad@mail.nih.gov](mailto:kazubad@mail.nih.gov).

For more NIMH Clinical Research Information: <http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov>

## **Funding Information**

### **Important Registration Reminders for Businesses Submitting in Response to New Recovery Act Funding Opportunity Announcements**

Businesses applying in response to funding opportunities through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 are reminded that electronic registrations with Grants.gov and the NIH eRA Commons are required and must be completed before submitting an application to NIH. NIH strongly encourages first time applicants to begin this process at least four weeks before the September 1, 2009 submission deadline. Failure to complete the registration processes before the due date is not considered a system problem and will not lead to acceptance of a late application. Registration instructions are available in Section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcements. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-126.html>

### **HHS Makes Recovery Act Funding Available to Expand Health Professions Training**

HHS announced the availability of \$200 million to support grants, loans, loan repayment, and scholarships to expand the training of health care professionals. The funds are expected to train approximately 8,000 students and credentialed health professionals by the end of fiscal year 2010. These funds are part of the \$500 million allotted to HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to address workforce shortages under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) including:

- \$200 million targets health professions training programs to strengthen the workforce in key areas
- \$300 million supports scholarship and loan repayment programs for health professions students, including the National Health Service Loan Repayment Program

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090728c.html>

## **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](http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=rfa)]

#### **The Human Connectome Project (U54)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-10-020.html>

#### **Development of New Technologies Needed for Studying the Human Microbiome**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-008.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-009.html> (R21)

#### **Short-Term Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health-Related Research**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HL-10-013.html>

### **Selected NIH Program Announcements**

[Full listing of NIH PAs at

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search\\_results.htm?year=active&scope=pa](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/search_results.htm?year=active&scope=pa)]

#### **Substance Use and Abuse among U.S. Military Personnel, Veterans and their Families**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-001.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-002.html> (R21)



## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **National Institutes of Health**

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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.