



UPDATE

June 1, 2011

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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*

SCIENCE AND SERVICE NEWS UPDATES**AUTISM BLURS BRAIN TISSUE'S DISTINCTIVENESS: ERODES MOLECULAR IDENTITIES IN CORTEX**

Autism blurs the molecular differences that normally distinguish different brain regions, a new study suggests. Among more than 500 genes that are normally expressed at significantly different levels in the front versus the lower middle part of the brain's outer mantle, or cortex, only 8 showed such differences in brains of people with autism, say researchers funded, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2011/autism-blurs-brain-tissues-distinctiveness.shtml>

NEW STUDY SHOWS 49 PERCENT RISE IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR DRUG-RELATED SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY FEMALES AGED 50 AND OLDER

A new national study shows that from 2005 to 2009 there was a 49 percent increase in emergency department (ED) visits for drug related suicide attempts by women aged 50 and older from 11,235 visits in 2005 to 16,757 in 2009. This increase reflects the overall population growth of women aged 50 and older. The report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) also shows that, while overall rates for these types of hospital ED visits by women of all ages remained relatively stable throughout this period, visits involving particular pharmaceuticals increased. For example, among females, ED visits for suicide attempts involving drugs to treat anxiety and insomnia increased 56 percent from 32,426 in 2005 to 50,548 in 2009.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1105185202.aspx>

Full Report: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k11/DAWN011/DrugRelatedSuicide.cfm>

NEW REPORT DESCRIBES THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES OFFERING COUNSELING SERVICES IN ASIAN LANGUAGES

A new SAMSHA report shows that only two percent of the nation's 13,513 substance abuse treatment facilities provide counseling services in various Asian languages. The report also revealed that the proportion of facilities offering these services varied by geographic region. The report issued in conjunction with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, brings attention to the counseling services being offered in Chinese, Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, or Vietnamese, and the benefit to the community.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1105252206.aspx>

HHS ANNOUNCES PROMOTORES DE SALUD INITIATIVE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced an initiative to promote utilization of promotores de salud as a means of strengthening outreach and education on the availability of health services and insurance coverage to underserved Hispanic/Latino communities. Promotores, who are sometimes known as community health workers, peer leaders, patient navigators or health advocates, typically work in their own communities to convey information to their neighbors and other community members on health and wellness, the availability of support services, and access to health services. The HHS initiative aims to develop a national program to recognize the work of promotores, develop a database of promotores networks, which will include information on their training and where they work, and to foster cooperation among various networks. The project also aims to develop a bilingual web site with information and resources to assist community workers and their networks.

Press Release: <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/content.aspx?ID=8935&lvl=1&lvlID=10>

RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

NEW ON THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH WEBSITE

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: MAKING THE MOST OF OUR INTERVENTIONS RESEARCH

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Director Thomas Insel discusses why interventions that are shown to be effective may not be routinely disseminated, and provides background about NIMH's approach to developing interventions that could be a better fit for the community.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2011/making-the-most-of-our-interventions-research.shtml>

NIMH THERAPEUTIC DEVELOPMENT WEB PAGE

This new web page provides links to NIH and NIMH supported drug therapeutic development programs, resources, relevant reports, and related activities. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/therapeutics/index.shtml>

NEW FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

EXPANDING THE FRAMEWORK OF TREATMENT

This issue of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)'s *Alcohol Research and Health* explores the latest developments in treating alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Articles examine the ways in which treatment is being made more accessible, more successful, and more cost-effective. Other topics include behavioral therapy, medications development, advances in technology, as well as integrated care for patients with co-occurring disorders. http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh334/toc33_4.htm

WOMEN AND ALCOHOL FACT SHEET

This NIAAA fact sheet provides information that women need to know about alcohol use, including guidelines for low-risk drinking, particular risks that women face, and statistics on women's drinking.

<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/womensfact/womensfact.htm>

PARENTING TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD ALCOHOL USE

This NIAAA fact sheet focuses on how alcohol affects the development of children and adolescents and how parents can talk to their children about alcohol-related topics and set clear family policies about alcohol.

<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/adolescent/adolflyer.htm>

SAMHSA RESOURCES

NEW VIDEOS ON SERVING HOMELESS LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) YOUTH

Larkin Street Stories: Serving Homeless LGBTQ Youth is a three-part video series offering tips on best practices for providers serving LGBTQ youth who are homeless.

<http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Channel/Larkin-Street-Stories-681.aspx>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT ADMISSIONS THAT WERE LABOR FORCE DROPOUTS

In 2008, 18.3 percent of substance abuse treatment admissions aged 18 to 64 were labor force dropouts (i.e., not employed, not looking for work, and not disabled, retired, a homemaker, a student, or an inmate of an institution). The majority of these admissions were male between the ages of 35 and 54, or had never married. Over half of admissions that were labor force dropouts reported daily use of their primary substance of abuse compared with 41.2 percent of all admissions aged 18 to 64. Approximately 29.8 percent of labor force dropout admissions had a psychiatric disorder in addition to a substance use problem.

http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k11/008/WEB_TEDS-008_LaborForceDropouts.cfm

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT ADMISSIONS AGED 12 TO 14

This bulletin reports on the characteristics of youth aged 12 to 14 admitted to substance abuse treatment in 2008. It includes demographic characteristics, substances of abuse, age of first use, treatment characteristics, and prevalence of co-occurring disorders. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/TEDS11-0503>

ONE QUARTER OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES PROVIDE SPANISH-SPEAKING STAFF COUNSELORS

In 2009, an estimated 3.6 million Hispanics aged 12 or older either abused or were dependent on alcohol or an illegal drug in the past year. Providing these individuals with an effective therapeutic intervention requires not only understanding the substance(s) being abused, but also providing counseling in a culturally sensitive and competent manner. <http://oas.samhsa.gov/spotlight/Spotlight011SpanishSpeaking.pdf>

MEDICARE ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUG CLAIMS FOR ELDERLY NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

The HHS Office of Inspector General evaluated the extent which elderly nursing home residents receive atypical antipsychotic drugs and associated costs to Medicare. The Office found that for the period January 1 through June 30, 2007, 51 percent of Medicare claims for atypical antipsychotic drugs were erroneous, amounting to \$116 million. <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-08-00150.asp>

NEW FROM DEFENSE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

HOW MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS ARE TREATED IN-THEATER

Dr. James Bender, a former Army psychologist who deployed to Iraq as the brigade psychologist for the 1st Cavalry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Hood, discusses how the management of mental health treatment in-theater differs from home.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=248>

PROGRAM OFFERS SPECIALIZED HELP TO SUPPORT THOSE TRANSITIONING

In the Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) Blog, staff recently took the opportunity to chat with one of the *inTransition* program coaches about their work supporting service members. *inTransition*, a Defense Department program, helps service members who are receiving mental health treatment transition to a new health care system or provider. Program participants are assigned a personal coach who monitors and guides them through their transition. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=247>

TWO NEW FACT SHEETS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND CHAPLAINS

DCoE released two new fact sheets for health care providers and chaplains that highlight a variety of DCoE programs and resources for providers and caregivers. The two-page fact sheets provide information about a few DCoE key initiatives and programs, including the DCoE Outreach Center, the *inTransition* program, the *Real Warriors Campaign*, *afterdeployment.org*, and DCoE monthly webinars.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/DCoENews/DCoERelasesTwonewFactSheetsforHealthCareProvidersandChaplains.aspx>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RESOURCES

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ILLICIT DRUG USE ON AMERICAN SOCIETY 2011

Illicit drug use cost the U.S. economy more than \$193 billion in 2007, according to estimates from a study by the National Drug Intelligence Center. <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs44/44731/44731p.pdf>

JUSTICE RESOURCE UPDATE

The Office of Justice Programs' latest issue of *Justice Resource Update* newsletter discusses the U.S. Department of Justice's efforts to prevent youth violence.

<http://www.ojp.gov/justiceresourceupdate/april2011/index.htm>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAMHSA REGIONAL PEER MEETING: REGION 10

JUNE 13, 2011, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

SAMHSA is convening a Regional Peer Meeting for Region X to hear from people in recovery from mental health and substance use conditions from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to attend and participate in the meeting. SAMHSA is holding this regional meeting to: gather input directly from peers on the top needs, issues, and concerns of people with mental health and substance use conditions in the region; solicit comments and suggestions for SAMHSA priorities and activities; and facilitate regional sharing, networking, and innovation to improve behavioral health services.

<http://www.wciconferences.com/WARegional2>

11TH ANNUAL TRAINING SESSION OF THE COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF DRUG DEPENDENCE: TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE -- AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF RECOVERY

JUNE 18, 2011, HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

This SAMHSA training session to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence will provide clinicians, clinical supervisors, and administrators with the information and treatment practices on trauma and trauma-informed services, including: an overview of the impact of trauma on behavioral health disorders; a respective description of the elements of trauma-informed care; and interventions for specific populations. Participants will have the opportunity to assess their organizations' readiness to deliver trauma-informed services. Registration deadline is June 6, 2011.

<http://conferences.jbsinternational.com/cpdd2011/index.htm>

FORGING A PATH TOWARD SOCIAL INCLUSION: COLLABORATION AMONG INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND PUBLIC SYSTEMS

JUNE 23, 2011, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

The SAMHSA ADS Center presents this free training teleconference to demonstrate how consumers of mental health and substance use services are working together with private and public officials to make socially inclusive systems across many dimensions of community life, housing, employment, education, arts and culture, transportation, civic and entrepreneurial leadership, health, and recreation. Speakers will provide strategies for building diverse collaborations to map community assets and discover individual capacities that benefit communities and the delivery of social services. Registration will close at 5:00 pm ET on June 21, 2011.

<http://www.promoteacceptance.samhsa.gov/teleconferences/registration/Default.aspx>

SAMHSA REGIONAL PEER MEETING: REGION 7

JUNE 28, 2011, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

SAMHSA is convening a Regional Peer Meeting for Region 7 to hear from people in recovery from mental health and substance use conditions from the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

<http://www.wciconferences.com/KCRegional>

IMPROVING CAMPUS CLIMATE FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) STUDENTS

JULY 13-14, 2011, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

The Department of Education Higher Education Center is sponsoring this training to help create safe campus climates for retention and academic success. During this two-day training institute, participants will build upon existing skills to improve their own campus climate, support effective prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse and violence on college campuses for LGBT college students, and learn how policies can bring about long-lasting positive changes that increase their retention and academic success.

<http://highercenter.ed.gov/services/training/institute/improving-campus-climate-lgbt-students>

OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 8-10, 2011, NATIONAL HARBOR, MARYLAND

The theme of this year's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools conference is *Making the Connection: Creating and Maintaining Conditions for Learning*. The conference will address issues related to: alcohol, drug, and violence prevention; health, mental health, and physical education; special populations; emerging issues; and other areas concerning drug and violence prevention.

<http://osdfs.dgimeetings.com/Home.aspx>

2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, AND MEDIA

AUGUST 9-11, 2011 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is pleased to announce the fifth annual National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media. This conference brings together individuals representing academia, public health researchers, and practitioners from federal and state government and the private sector, and provides a forum for collegial dialogue within and across these disciplines. The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues and shape the future of health communication, marketing, and media practice. <http://www.cdc.gov/NCHCMM/>

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TO ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

AUGUST 22-25, 2011, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Georgetown University, in collaboration with SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services and AFYA, Inc., is convening a *Leadership Academy to Address Disparities in Mental Health Care*. Designed for individuals who are actively engaged in mental health care policy, practice, research, and advocacy throughout the life cycle and who are invested in developing their leadership role to address disparities in mental health care. The Leadership Academy is an intensive course of study comprised of three months of preparatory activities and a four-day residential learning experience. <http://www.attcnetwork.org/documents/gusavedateLA.pdf>

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: NIMH RESEARCH DOMAIN CRITERIA PROJECT

NIMH is seeking comments regarding Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) Project, a research classification system based on genetics and neuroscience. Comments are welcome about any aspect of the RDoC project, including the overall RDoC framework, including the organization of the Domains and Constructs, and the Units of Analysis; particular domains or constructs that should be added, deleted, merged, or changed; criteria for determining what constructs should be included or modified; “grain size” of the constructs; and criteria for making future changes to the domain and construct specifications. Comments will be accepted through July 1, 2011. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-11-007.html>

CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION

NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT: PEDIATRIC BIPOLAR DISORDER RESEARCH STUDY

NIMH: CLINICAL TRIAL OF RILUZOLE IN PEDIATRIC BIPOLAR DISORDER

This study is testing the effectiveness of riluzole versus placebo for decreasing anxiety in children with pediatric bipolar disorder. Children and youth with bipolar disorder display episodic elevated mood and associated symptoms of decreased need for sleep, increased goal-directed behavior, and increased self-esteem/grandiosity. Children ages 9 to 17 with bipolar disorder may be eligible to participate in this 12- to 15-week inpatient or outpatient study. This study has four phases. During Phase I, participants are gradually withdrawn from all current psychotropic medications. Phase II is a one-week medication-free period. During Phase III, which lasts two weeks, participants are randomly assigned to receive either riluzole or placebo (a sugar pill). Phase IV lasts for 6 weeks. During this phase, participants continue riluzole or placebo. At the end of the study, those who received placebo have the opportunity to receive riluzole. All procedures and medications associated with the research are provided at no cost to participants, and assistance with transportation and lodging expenses is available. Schooling will be provided while on the inpatient unit or in day treatment. To find out more information, call (301) 496-8381 or email bipolarkids@mail.nih.gov

For more information on research conducted by the NIMH in Bethesda, MD, visit:

<http://patientinfo.nimh.nih.gov>

FUNDING INFORMATION

NIMH TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR NIMH OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The NIMH will invite applicants to submit proposals for consideration as an NIMH Outreach Partner for the following states: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and New York City, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Texas Border Area, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Non-profit organizations that conduct outreach on mental health are invited to submit proposals for participation in the NIMH Outreach Partnership Program, which is designed to facilitate and increase the use of science-based information on mental disorders nationwide. Organizations with experience in child and adolescent mental health and/or mental health disparities are encouraged to apply. The solicitation will be available on June 9, 2011 at the NIMH Outreach Partnership Program website (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/solicitation-process/outreach-partners-solicitation-process.shtml>).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PUBLISH A REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MECHANISMS UNDERLYING PREVALENCE PATTERNS OF DEPRESSIVE AND ANXIETY DISORDERS ACROSS DIVERSE POPULATIONS

The NIMH intends to promote a new initiative by publishing a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to invite applications for research on the mechanisms underlying racial/ethnic differences in the prevalence of a core group of depressive and anxiety disorders (major depressive disorder, dysthymia, generalized anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, and panic disorder). Descriptive epidemiologic studies drawn from representative samples of racial and ethnic groups in the United States—the National Comorbidity Study Replication, the National Survey of American Life, and the National Latino and Asian American Study—document substantial variation in the aggregated prevalence of these disorders by race/ethnicity. However, the reasons for these differences are poorly understood. This initiative seeks to stimulate innovative research that will expand current knowledge of the affective, biological, cognitive, behavioral, social, and/or developmental mechanisms underlying racial/ethnic differences in the prevalence of these depressive and anxiety disorders. This notice is being provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive projects. The FOA is expected to be published in Summer 2011 with an expected receipt date in Fall 2011.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-11-009.html>

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR FY 2011 BASIC CENTER PROGRAM

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-ACYF-CY-0166>

INTEGRATION OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-12-008.html>

2011 SECOND CHANCE ACT REENTRY PROGRAM FOR ADULT OFFENDERS WITH CO-OCCURRING
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS GRANT

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SCACoOccurringDisordersSol.pdf>



The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to help close the gap between mental health research and clinical practice, inform the public about mental illnesses, and reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partners>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.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.