



UPDATE

November 15, 2011

- I. [Science and Service News Updates](#)
- II. [Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources](#)
- III. [Calendar of Events](#)
- IV. [Calls for Public Input](#)
- V. [Funding Information](#)

Subscribe to Receive the Update

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/subscribe-to-the-update.shtml>

Follow NIMH on Social Media

<http://twitter.com/nimhgov>
<http://www.facebook.com/nimhgov>
<http://www.youtube.com/nimhgov>

*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

WIDELY USED SCREENING TOOL SHOWN TO SUCCESSFULLY PREDICT SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

A widely used suicide screening tool can help determine who is most at risk for suicide by pinpointing the threshold at which a person's suicidal thinking is severe enough to warrant professional intervention, according to a recent study published online ahead of print November 8, 2011, in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2011/widely-used-screening-tool-shown-to-successfully-predict-suicide-attempts.shtml>

NIH-FUNDED STUDY SHOWS PRE-BIRTH BRAIN GROWTH PROBLEMS LINKED TO AUTISM

Children with autism have more brain cells and heavier brains compared to typically developing children, according to researchers partly funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on November 9, 2011, the small, preliminary study provides direct evidence for possible prenatal causes of autism.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2011/nih-funded-study-shows-pre-birth-brain-growth-problems-linked-to-autism.shtml>

NIH ANNOUNCES RESULTS FROM FIRST LARGE SCALE STUDY ON TREATMENT OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ADDICTION

People addicted to prescription painkillers reduce their opioid abuse when given sustained treatment with the medication buprenorphine plus naloxone, according to research published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry* on November 7, 2011 and conducted by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The study, which was the first randomized large scale clinical trial using a medication for the treatment of prescription opioid abuse, also showed that the addition of intensive opioid dependence counseling provided no added benefit.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2011/nida-08a.htm>

NIH, MUSICARES AND GRAMMY FOUNDATION HAIL TEEN ARTISTS DURING NATIONAL DRUG FACTS WEEK

Two teens with powerful stories about their experience in drug treatment have been awarded the top distinction in the MusiCares and Grammy Foundation's Teen Substance Abuse Awareness through Music Contest. The annual contest was created to celebrate National Drug Facts Week and is coordinated by NIDA. **Press Release:** <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2011/nida-08.htm>

NIDA-FUNDED RESEARCH IN MICE SHOWS THAT NICOTINE PRIMES THE BRAIN TO ENHANCE COCAINE'S EFFECTS

A landmark study in mice identifies a biological mechanism that could help explain how tobacco products could act as gateway drugs, increasing a person's future likelihood of abusing cocaine and perhaps other drugs as well, according to NIDA. The study is the first to show that nicotine might prime the brain to enhance the behavioral effects of cocaine.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2011/nida-02.htm>

UPDATED NIH SLEEP DISORDERS RESEARCH PLAN SEEKS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT SLEEP HEALTH

Building on scientific advances that link sleep problems to health and safety risks, the NIH released the *2011 NIH Sleep Disorders Research Plan*. The plan identifies research opportunities to be pursued over the next three to five years in order to spur new approaches to the prevention and treatment of sleep disorders. Recommended research initiatives include looking at the connection between sleep and circadian systems, studying the influence of genetic and environmental factors that could influence a person's sleep health, and conducting more comparative effectiveness trials to improve treatments for sleep and circadian disorders.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/nov2011/nhlbi-09.htm>

RISK FACTORS FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS SYMPTOMATOLOGY IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS SIMILAR TO THOSE OBSERVED IN VIETNAM VETERANS; WOMEN VETERANS FACE NEW RISK FACTORS

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers from Boston report in the November issue of the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* that risk factors for post-traumatic stress symptomatology (PTSS, short of full-blown post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD) in Afghanistan and Iraq veterans were found to be similar to those observed in Vietnam veterans. This suggests that there may be generalized mechanisms and pathways, common to different veteran populations, through which risk factors contribute to PTSS. An interesting finding was that the women veterans surveyed had new risk factors that were not seen in Vietnam-era women, such as exposure to combat and perceived threat.

Press Release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2203>

VA PLANS 3,000 UNITS OF HOUSING FOR VETERANS AT 25 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE

The VA has entered into agreements to provide more than 3,000 units of permanent and transitional housing for veterans at 25 VA medical center campuses nationwide. Additionally, agreements are pending on an additional 1,000 units, which VA anticipates completing in the coming weeks. Proposed opportunities include housing for homeless veterans, senior veterans, disabled veterans, other at-risk veteran populations and their families.

Press Release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2204>

VA INTRODUCES MAKE THE CONNECTION: SHARED EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

Make the Connection, a new campaign launched by the VA, is creating ways for Veterans and their family members to connect with the experiences of other Veterans—and ultimately to connect with information and resources to help them confront the challenges of transitioning from service, face health issues, or navigate the complexities of daily life as a civilian.

Press Release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2207>

INTENTIONAL POISONINGS RESULT IN 14,720 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN A YEAR

A first-of-its-kind national report reveals that more than 14,720 emergency department (ED) visits were caused by drug-related intentional poisonings during 2009. The report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) shows that the majority of those visits were by females, and that 73 percent of the visits were by people aged 21 or older. Intentional poisoning refers to attempts to physically harm someone or render that person defenseless against crimes by deliberately getting them to ingest, inhale, or in some other way take in a potentially harmful substance without their knowledge.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1111092243.aspx>

Full report: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1111092243.aspx>

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS INVOLVING THE MISUSE OF THE MUSCLE RELAXANT DRUG CARISOPRODOL HAVE DOUBLED OVER FIVE YEARS, STUDY SHOWS

ED visits involving the misuse of the muscle relaxant carisoprodol have doubled from 15,830 visits in 2004 to 31,763 visits in 2009 (the latest year for which figures are available), according to a new SAMHSA report.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1111025907.aspx>

Full report: http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k11/DAWN071/WEB_DAWN_071.cfm

NEW STUDY SHOWS RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS ARE OPERATING AT 89 PERCENT OF CAPACITY

A new SAMHSA report shows that the vast majority of residential substance abuse treatment programs are operating near full capacity. This report indicates that there is continuing widespread demand for these services. The residential treatment programs included in the report are those operating outside a hospital setting. Nationwide a total of 110,795 residential beds were designated for this purpose, with more than three-quarters in private non-profit facilities.

Press release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1111022333.aspx>

Full Report: http://oas.samhsa.gov/spotlight/web_spot_033.pdf

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF APPS AGAINST ABUSE TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Two mobile phone applications that employ innovative uses of text, email, and social media, as well as offer users quick and easy access to emergency assistance and dating violence and abuse resources have won the Apps Against Abuse Technology Challenge. Prototypes of the two winning applications, "Circle of 6" and "On Watch," were selected from a pool of over 30 entries submitted to the Apps Against Abuse challenge page on Challenge.gov. These applications will be available for free public download beginning in early 2012.

Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/11/20111101a.html>

NEW STUDY SHOWS SMOKERS UNDERUTILIZE PROVEN TREATMENT AND SERVICES FOR QUITTING

Most American adults who smoke wish they could quit, and more than half have tried within the past year, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report says 68.8 percent of current American adult smokers say they want to quit and 52.4 percent of adult smokers tried to quit within the past year. The report says 48.3 percent of smokers who saw a health professional in the past year recalled getting advice to quit and 31.7 percent used counseling and/or medications in the past year. The use of these effective treatments can almost double to triple rates of successfully quitting.

Press Release: http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p1110_smoking_treatment.html

RESOURCES: PUBLICATIONS, TOOLKITS, OTHER RESOURCES

NEW ON NIMH WEBSITE

BLOG: RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

In observance of Veterans Day, NIMH Director Thomas Insel reflects on NIMH's role supporting the military community. NIMH was founded by President Harry Truman to address the needs of soldiers returning from World War II with "combat neurosis," the syndrome recognized today as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Nearly 65 years later, NIMH continues to pursue biomarkers for prediction, preventive interventions following a traumatic event, and treatments. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2011/recognizing-those-who-have-served.shtml>

NIH RESEARCH MATTERS

GENES AND THE BRAIN

Two related studies revealed gene activity in the brains of people of different genders and ethnicities, from fetal development to old age. The findings provide a broad foundation for understanding both normal brain development and what goes awry in mental disorders.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/november2011/11072011brain.htm>

PERINATAL ANTIDEPRESSANT MAY AFFECT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Rats exposed to an antidepressant just before and after birth had altered behaviors and substantial brain abnormalities. The findings raise questions about how perinatal antidepressants might influence brain development in people. <http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/october2011/10312011antidepressant.htm>

NIH NEWS IN HEALTH: LIVING WITH ANXIETY DISORDERS

This *NIH News in Health* article provides an overview of anxiety disorders.

<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Nov2011/Feature1>

NIH MEDLINE PLUS: FEATURE ON DRUG ABUSE AND DRUG ADDICTION

The Fall 2011 issue of *NIH Medline Plus* magazine features several stories on addiction, including prescription drug abuse.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine/issues/fall11/articles/fall11pg16.html>

SAMHSA RESOURCES

YOUTHS LIVING WITH A VETERAN FATHER ARE MORE LIKELY TO USE ILLICIT DRUGS, TOBACCO, OR ALCOHOL

A new nationwide report reveals that the 2.8 million American adolescents age 12 to 17 living with fathers who had served in the armed forces had higher levels of illicit drug, tobacco, or alcohol use than adolescents living with non-veteran fathers. Adolescents living with veteran fathers also had significantly higher rates of having used alcohol in their lifetime than their counterparts not living with fathers who were veterans.

http://www.samhsa.gov/spotlights/WEB_SPOT_055.pdf

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL AND SENSORY DISABILITIES

This guide provides healthcare professionals who work with people with physical and sensory disabilities information about substance use disorders, including risk factors and warning signs; screening; types of substance abuse services; and strategies for helping clients. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA11-4648>

BLOG POST: STATES EMBRACE CHANGES TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT

Over the past year SAMHSA has changed the way it administers the State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants. SAMHSA requested that states complete an addendum to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Block Grant application to provide preliminary information on health care reform efforts. This SAMHSA blog post reviews how states are responding to this request. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2011/11/02/states-embrace-changes-to-the-mental-health-and-substance-abuse-block-grant/>

BLOG POST: MENTAL HEALTH AS PUBLIC HEALTH: Q&A WITH SAMHSA'S PAMELA HYDE

SAMHSA Administrator Pamela Hyde, a keynote speaker at this year's American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting, focused on what public health can do to improve behavioral health prevention, treatment, and recovery. This blog post includes a Q&A with the Administrator and a link to watch her opening session speech. <http://blog.samhsa.gov/2011/11/10/mental-health-as-public-health-qa-with-samhsa%e2%80%99s-pamela-hyde/>

AHRQ RESOURCES

ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER MEDICATIONS AND RISK OF SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Recent reviews of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Adverse Event Reporting System data have raised concern that attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication use might be associated with increased risk of serious cardiovascular disease. This Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) study examined the association between use of ADHD medications and the risk for serious cardiovascular disease, including sudden cardiac death, acute myocardial infarction, and stroke in children and youth ages two to 24 years. <http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productid=830&ECem=111101>

NON-PHARMACOLOGIC INTERVENTIONS FOR TREATMENT-RESISTANT DEPRESSION IN ADULTS

A new AHRQ research review has found there is insufficient evidence to evaluate whether non-pharmacologic treatments are effective for treatment-resistant depression. The review summarizes evidence of the effectiveness and efficacy of four non-pharmacologic treatments: electroconvulsive therapy, repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation, vagus nerve stimulation, and cognitive behavioral therapy or interpersonal psychotherapy. These findings and the future research needs are summarized in this review. <http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/search-for-guides-reviews-and-reports/?pageaction=displayproduct&productID=792&PCem=EN>

BRIEF PSYCHOTHERAPY HELPS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENTS WITH INSOMNIA AND DEPRESSION

Patients with multiple sclerosis experience a complex spectrum of symptoms such as fatigue, pain, reduced use of legs and arms, vision problems, functional difficulties with their bowels and bladders, and sexual problems. They also experience higher rates of insomnia—often linked to their depression and anxiety. A new AHRQ-funded study suggests that short-term psychotherapy can improve insomnia in these individuals, which may also lower levels of depression and anxiety.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/nov11/1111RA10.htm>

CDC REPORTS

MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION: PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATION WITH CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Integrating mental health and public health programs that address chronic disease is a challenging but essential task in protecting the health of Americans. The Division of Adult and Community Health (DACH) in CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has a mission to prevent death and disability from chronic disease and to promote healthy behaviors. With this report, DACH outlines its goal to include mental health promotion as a part of its efforts to prevent chronic disease.

http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/docs/11_220990_Sturgis_MHMIActionPlan_FINAL-Web_tag508.pdf

OVERDOSES OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOID PAIN RELIEVER

From 1999 to 2008, overdose death rates, sales, and substance abuse treatment admissions related to opioid pain relievers (OPR) all increased substantially. Overdose deaths involving OPR abuse now exceed deaths involving heroin and cocaine combined. CDC analyzed rates of fatal OPR overdoses, nonmedical use, sales, and treatment admissions. This report describes the use and abuse of OPR by state.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6043a4.htm>

REAL WARRIORS: SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR LINE LEADERS

Suicide prevention begins with leadership and requires engagement from all parts of the military community. In many ways, line leaders are in the best position to reduce the stressors that can lead to suicidal behaviors. Supervisors and unit leaders can establish a supportive command atmosphere by fostering a culture of engagement with subordinates and peers that encourages service members to ask for help and seek treatment when needed.

<http://www.realwarriors.net/active/leaders/suicideprevention.php>

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 2008-2010

This Bureau of Justice Statistics report presents estimates of nonfatal violent victimization (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault) against persons ages 12 or older with disabilities from 2008 to 2010. Findings are based on the National Crime Victimization Survey. The report compares the victimization of persons with and without disabilities, types of disabilities, and victim and crime characteristics using population estimates based on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Data are presented on victim and crime characteristics of persons with and without disabilities, including distributions by age, race, and sex; offender weapon possession; victim injuries; and reporting to the police.

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2238>

REPORT EXAMINES PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT AT-RISK YOUTH

A new report from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) presents research-based frameworks that can be used to develop programs for at-risk youth. This report also describes the risk factors for at-risk youth and approaches that can help these youth achieve self-sufficiency. At-risk youth include youth aging out of foster care, runaway and homeless youth, youth receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, teenage parents, and juvenile offenders.

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/fys/youth_development/reports/synthesis_youth.pdf

DISABILITY BLOG: THE PRE-EXISTING CONDITION INSURANCE PLAN – A NEW COVERAGE OPTION FOR THE UNINSURED

This Disability.Gov blog post provides an overview of the new government program, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, created by the Affordable Care Act. This transitional program is available for children and adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia who have been locked out of the health insurance market because of a pre-existing condition. In 2014, Americans – regardless of their health status – will have access to affordable health insurance when the Nation transitions to a new marketplace.

<http://blog.govdelivery.com/usodep/2011/11/the-pre-existing-condition-insurance-plan-a-new-coverage-option-for-the-uninsured.html>

2011 STUDY ON BULLYING PREVENTION STATE LAWS

The National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention jointly funded by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, and Education recently released a study on bullying prevention state laws. To date, 47 states have passed bullying prevention legislation requiring schools to take leadership in addressing this problem. <http://www.promoteprevent.org/publications/prevention-briefs/bullying-prevention-state-laws>

STUDENT REPORTS OF BULLYING AND CYBER-BULLYING

The National Center for Education Statistics released findings on bullying and cyber-bullying from the National Crime Victimization Survey: School Crime Supplement, 2009. The survey collects information about student and school characteristics related to criminal victimization on a national level. About 28 percent of students reported that they were bullied in school and approximately six percent of students reported that they were cyber-bullied. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011336.pdf>

DCOE BLOG: WHAT IS GENERATIONAL PTSD?

This Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) blog provides a summary from a recent DCoE webinar, Generational Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Post-traumatic Growth. Although there isn't a genetic link that says just because one has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), one will pass it on to their children, the webinar explored how an individual's mental health problems, such as a combat veteran with PTSD, can affect their children or grandchildren. Presenters cited historical evidence, clinical research, personal anecdotes, and hypothetical case examples that offer insights into how PTSD affects individuals and family members.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/blog/article.aspx?id=1&postid=309>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEBINAR: CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN FOSTER CAREDECEMBER 1, 2011, 12:00 PM ET

As part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Zero to Six Speaker Series, presenters will introduce core concepts for enhancing diversity-informed practice and will present vignettes to highlight how each core concept can be applied to child welfare practice. This is the fourth in a series of nine webinars, sponsored by the NCTSN Zero to Six Workgroup in collaboration with the Early Trauma Treatment Network, designed to address the needs of young children in the child welfare system.

<http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php>

WEBINAR: USING DELIBERATIVE METHODS TO ENGAGE PATIENTS, CONSUMERS, AND THE PUBLICDECEMBER 6, 2011, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

The AHRQ invites participation in a webinar about how to use deliberative methods to explore the views of patients, consumers, caregivers, or other members of the community on health policy and healthcare issues. This webinar will describe how to use deliberative methods to elicit the views of patients, consumers, or caregivers – or of other community groups – concerning health policy and healthcare issues. The purpose of this webinar is to share tools with potential to enhance work in the areas of public deliberation, patient/consumer participation, and community engagement.

<https://air-min.webex.com/air-min/j.php?ED=16414853&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>

WEBINAR: FIDELITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE: THE EXPERIENCE FROM A DUBLIN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITYDECEMBER 7, 2011, 12:00 PM ET

As part of the NCTSN Implementing and Sustaining Evidence-Based Practice Speaker Series, presenters will consider the challenges and opportunities arising from the introduction of evidence-based programs for children across a range of established organizations, lessons learned from mechanisms and approaches supporting fidelity and quality delivery, and the centrality of emotional intelligence as a key implementation driver. <http://learn.nctsn.org/calendar/view.php>

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND TBI: PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY FOR THE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN COHORT CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 8–9, 2011, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

This conference sponsored by the VA, DCoE, and NIH seeks to bridge the gap between clinical care and research by highlighting available resources and best practices to assist with the spectrum of psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI) issues found in the Iraq and Afghanistan cohorts.

<http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Training/TraumaSpectrumConference.aspx>

WARRIOR RESILIENCE CONFERENCE IV: RESTORING READINESS: INDIVIDUAL, UNIT, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

MARCH 29-30, 2012, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The DCoE is sponsoring the Fourth Annual Warrior Resilience Conference. This conference continues last year's theme of bringing Total Force Fitness, an initiative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to line leaders and will focus on "Restoring Readiness: Individual, Unit, Community and Family" as part of the initiative's social domain. <http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Training/WarriorResilienceConferenceIV.aspx>

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

SAMHSA PROJECT EVOLVE: SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR WEBSITE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

SAMHSA is initiating a website improvement project, Project Evolve, designed to ensure that stakeholder feedback is one of the key elements driving improvements on SAMHSA.gov. One of the first tasks is the development of a new Information Architecture for SAMHSA.gov. SAMHSA is asking anyone interested to help with a "card sort" exercise to help better understand how information should be categorized and organized on SAMHSA.gov. The exercise is completed online and takes between 15-20 minutes.

<http://blog.samhsa.gov/2011/11/14/project-evolve-transforming-samhsa-on-the-web/>

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR AHRQ EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM REPORTS

The AHRQ *Effective Health Care Program* encourages the public to participate in the development of its research projects. The Program uses these comments to help focus the research and ensure that the final comparative effectiveness reviews answer the most important questions that clinicians, patients, consumers, and policymakers have about a given treatment, test, or procedure. The Program is currently seeking comments for:

MEDITATION PROGRAMS FOR STRESS AND WELL-BEING (COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 28, 2011)

<http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=375&questionset=196>

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE GENERAL MEDICAL OUTCOMES IN PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS (COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 28, 2011)

<http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=377&questionset=198>

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF SCREENING FOR POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION (COMMENTS ACCEPTED UNTIL DECEMBER 6, 2011)

<http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-available-for-comment/comment-key-questions/?pageaction=displayquestions&topicid=379>

INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been authorized to continue to support the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) until September 30, 2014 and is seeking nominations for public membership on this committee. The HHS Secretary, who will make the final selections and appointments of public members, has directed the Office of Autism Research Coordination to assist HHS in conducting an open and transparent nomination process. Nominations of new public members are encouraged, but current members may also be re-nominated to continue to serve. Self-nominations and nominations of other individuals are both permitted. The call for nominations will be open from October 28, 2011 to November 30, 2011. <http://iacc.hhs.gov/call-for-nominations/2011/iacc-call-for-nominations.shtml>

FUNDING INFORMATION

FORMATIVE RESEARCH ON USE OF MOBILE APPLICATIONS TO INCREASE HIV TESTING BEHAVIOR AND HIV PREVENTION WITH POSITIVE PERSONS

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=HgdXTCGphrh8TsDF133yTJlkBvhqRPLzkbLjxtFD2T3WTTpZCQc5!-1824110270?oppld=130514&mode=VIEW>

IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN FOR HEALTH, WEALTH, AND WORK AT OLDER AGES

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-009.html>

NIH DIRECTOR'S EARLY INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-11-007.html>

INNOVATIVE PILOT STUDIES OF NOVEL MECHANISM OF ACTION COMPOUNDS FOR TREATING PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-007.html>

NIH COMPETITIVE REVISION APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH RELEVANT TO THE FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-010.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-12-011.html> (U01)



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.