

National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership Program

Update

December 15, 2009

- I. [Science and Service News Updates](#)
 - II. [Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources](#)
 - III. [Calendar of Events](#)
 - IV. [Calls for Public Input](#)
 - V. [Funding Information](#)
 - VI. [Programmatic Funding](#)
 - VII. [Research Funding Opportunities \(PAs and RFAs\)](#)
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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: National Survey Tracks Rates of Common Mental Disorders Among American Youth

Only about half of American children and teenagers who have certain mental disorders receive professional services, according to a nationally representative survey funded in part by the NIMH. The survey also provides a comprehensive look at the prevalence of common mental disorders. The results are part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, a collaboration between NIMH and the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey conducted from 2001 to 2004 had 3,042 participants. These most recent results include data from children and adolescents ages 8 to 15, and were published online ahead of print on December 14, 2009, in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/national-survey-tracks-rates-of-common-mental-disorders-among-american-youth.shtml>

NIMH: Non-Invasive Technique Blocks a Conditioned Fear in Humans—Recalling Emotional Memory Opens Window of Opportunity to Re-Write It

Scientists have for the first time selectively blocked a conditioned fear memory in humans with a behavioral manipulation. Participants remained free of the fear memory for at least a year. The research builds on emerging evidence from animal studies that reactivating an emotional memory opens a 6-hour window of opportunity in which a training procedure can alter it. "Our results suggest a non-pharmacological, naturalistic approach to more effectively manage emotional memories," said Elizabeth Phelps, Ph.D., of New York University, an NIMH grantee. Phelps and colleagues reported on their discovery online on December 9, 2009 in the journal *Nature*.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/non-invasive-technique-blocks-a-conditioned-fear-in-humans.shtml>

NIMH: Behavioral Training Improves Connectivity and Function in the Brain

Children with poor reading skills who underwent an intensive, six-month training program to improve their reading ability showed increased connectivity in a particular brain region, in addition to making significant gains in reading, according to a study funded in part by the NIMH. The study was published in the December 10, 2009, issue of *Neuron*.

Press Release: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/behavioral-training-improves-connectivity-and-function-in-the-brain.shtml>

NIMH: Substance Use Associated with Low Response to Depression Treatment Among Teens

Depressed teens who report low levels of impairment related to drug or alcohol use tended to respond better to depression treatment than depressed teens with higher levels substance-related impairment, according to an analysis of data from the NIMH-funded Treatment of SSRI-Resistant Depression in Adolescents study. However, it is unclear whether less substance-related impairment allowed for better response to depression treatment, or if better treatment response led to less substance-related impairment. The study was published in the December 2009 issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/substance-use-associated-with-low-response-to-depression-treatment-among-teens.shtml>

NIMH: Major Databases Link Up to Advance Autism Research

Researchers studying autism spectrum disorders (ASD) will soon have access to a vast range of data and research tools through the NIH National Database for Autism Research (NDAR). Different labs often collect the same kinds of data. But they are often described differently, making it difficult to pool those data in any meaningful way. The NDAR research portal was designed to specifically address these differences by providing tools to define and standardize the complex data landscape that characterizes ASD research. By spring 2010, NDAR will make available the data from more than 10,000 participants enrolled in ASD research studies. Investigators will be able to perform a single query in the NDAR portal to view results across multiple datasets.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/major-databases-link-up-to-advance-autism-research.shtml>

NIMH: Autism Intervention for Toddlers Improves Developmental Outcomes

Children with autism who receive a high intensity developmental behavioral intervention starting by age 18-30 months show major improvements in IQ, language, adaptive behavior, and severity of their diagnosis, according to an NIMH-funded study.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/autism-intervention-for-toddlers-improves-developmental-outcomes.shtml>

NIMH: Silenced Gene for Social Behavior Found in Autism—Epigenetic Mark in Blood Could Serve as Biomarker for Disorder

For the first time, inherited disruption of gene expression in a brain system for social behavior has been implicated in autism. NIMH grantee Margaret Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., at the University of Miami and Simon Gregory, Ph.D., at Duke University, and a multinational team of researchers found evidence for such epigenetic effects on the gene for the oxytocin receptor — part of a brain system that mediates social behaviors disturbed in autism. The findings suggest a potential genetic biomarker for the disorder. The researchers report on their findings online October 22, 2009 in *BMC Medicine*. Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/silenced-gene-for-social-behavior-found-in-autism.shtml>

NIMH: Symptoms in Mice Lacking a Single Receptor Type Mimic the Development of Schizophrenia

Deleting one type of neurotransmitter receptor in a specific population of brain cells can induce schizophrenia-like behavior in mice, but only when the receptor is deleted early in development, according to a study by NIMH intramural scientists. The work provides strong support for previous observations implicating these receptors in psychosis; further, the mice provide a model of how psychotic symptoms can arise from a disruption in neuronal development, consistent with observations of how schizophrenia emerges in humans.

Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/symptoms-in-mice-lacking-a-single-receptor-type-mimic-the-development-of-schizophrenia.shtml>

NIMH: One Subtype of HIV Increases Risk of HIV-associated Dementia—Other Subtypes May Affect Disease Outcomes Too

In a study of HIV-related cognitive impairment in Uganda, people with HIV subtype D were more likely than those with the other subtypes to have HIV-associated dementia (HAD), according to NIMH-funded researchers. This study, published in the September 1, 2009, issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, is the first to show that HIV subtype may affect a person's risk for developing HAD. Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/one-subtype-of-hiv-increases-risk-of-hiv-associated-dementia.shtml>

NIDA: Teen Methamphetamine Use, Cigarette Smoking at Lowest Levels in NIDA's 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey—Downward Marijuana Trend Stalls and Prescription Drug Abuse Worrisome

Methamphetamine use among teens appears to have dropped significantly in recent years, according to National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) annual Monitoring the Future survey. However, declines in marijuana use have stalled, and prescription drug abuse remains high, the survey reported. The Monitoring the Future survey is a series of classroom surveys of eighth, 10th, and 12th graders. Press Release: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/newsroom/09/NR12-14.html>

NIA: Amyloid Deposits in Cognitively Normal People May Predict Risk for Alzheimer's Disease

For people free of dementia, abnormal deposits of a protein associated with Alzheimer's disease are associated with increased risk of developing the symptoms of the progressive brain disorder, according to two studies from researchers at Washington University in St. Louis. The studies, primarily funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), linked higher amounts of the protein deposits in dementia-free people with greater risk for developing the disease, and with loss of brain volume and subtle declines in cognitive abilities.

Press Release: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/PressReleases/PR20091214-PiB-amyloid.htm>

SAMHSA: New Study Highlights How National Mental Health Parity Law Can Benefit from California's Experience

A new article published in the journal *Psychiatric Services*, examines experiences with implementing California's mental health parity law, and discusses implications for the implementation of the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. This act is designed to ensure that insurance plans offer mental health coverage as part of the overall health benefit packages and to eliminate disparities between the coverage for mental health and more traditional physical health conditions. The report's central finding is that maximizing the effectiveness of these parity efforts may depend heavily on educating the public about their insurance benefits.

Press Release: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/091203parity2511.aspx>

Resources: Publications, Toolkits, Other Resources

New NIMH Vodcast Series: Speaking of Science

NIMH is pleased to present a new vodcast series, *Speaking of Science*. NIMH staff speak with innovative scientists in a wide variety of fields about the exciting work they are doing. The first three vodcasts in the series cover:

- Stress and the Animal Kingdom—Lessons Learned: Can we learn to handle stress by observing animals in the wild? In trying times, the answers may be with the life and death decisions made by these animals and their predators.
- Bees and Socialization—Ultimate Sharing: What is the most altruistic animal? What can we learn from the small, but complex bees?
- Personalized Medicine: The Model of Cancer Genomics: As the field of mental health strives to find genetic markers for mental illnesses, we look to the field of cancer research which has made enormous strides in personalized genomic medicine.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/speaking-of-science-nimh-vodcast-series.shtml>

NIH Research Matters: Technique Blocks a Conditioned Fear in Humans

Scientists have for the first time selectively blocked a conditioned fear memory in humans by using a behavioral technique. The advance represents a safe, easily implemented way to prevent the return of a fearful memory. <http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/december2009/12142009fear.htm>

New AHRQ Publication Highlights Recent Mental Health Research Findings

Nearly 7 percent of U.S. adults suffer from major depression each year. The impact of depression on work, school, quality of life, and overall health is enormous. In 2006, nearly \$58 billion was spent on mental disorders, making it one of the five most costly conditions in the United States. A new publication released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) of the Department of Health and Human Services looks at a number of studies addressing the challenges of diagnosing and treating mental health in America. <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mentalth.htm>

AHRQ: Screening for Depression in Adults—Updated

This document is an update to the May 2002 recommendations on screening for depression in adults. <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspstfdepr.htm>

AHRQ Research Activities

Common Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder Drugs Have Similar Risk for Emergency Visits for Cardiac Problems

Amphetamines and methylphenidate are the two most common stimulants used to treat attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In 2007, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required that all patient medication guides for ADHD medicines contain information about the risks of taking these medicines, including cardiac events. To determine if the two stimulants were associated with cardiac events, researchers funded in part by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) studied data from Florida's Medicaid program. <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/dec09/1209RA7.htm>

More Antipsychotic Medications are Being Prescribed for Youth and Nursing Home Residents, Despite Lack of Evidence

Antipsychotic medications are commonly being prescribed for children, adolescents, and nursing home residents for a variety of conditions not originally intended, despite a dearth of

good evidence to warrant their use. The widespread use is due to the availability of newer agents called "atypical antipsychotics." According to researchers funded in part by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), atypical antipsychotics are considered safer than older agents and have all but replaced them. They have also become the most costly drug class for Medicaid programs, far surpassing antidepressants.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/dec09/1209RA8.htm>

DCoE: Outreach and Prevention Staff Focus Guide: Building Bridges: Supporting the Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Needs of Military and Veteran Families

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) created this guide as part of its Building Bridges project to assist all those involved in outreach and prevention efforts with their work in promoting healthy military and veteran families. The guide pulls together relevant resources and organizes them in a user-friendly format for quick reference.

http://www.dcoe.health.mil/Content/Navigation/Documents/Outreach%20and%20Prevention%20Staff%20Focus%20Guide_FINAL.pdf

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010: Women's and Men's Health: A Comparison of Select Indicators

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health commissioned this literature to provide an up-to-date review of women's and men's health. This report examines progress by females and males toward 18 *Healthy People 2010* objectives, including treatment of depression. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/owh/healthy-people/index.cfm>

Report Identifies Shortcomings in Disaster Preparedness

A new report presents preliminary findings from a comprehensive study assessing the needs of children when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from major disasters and emergencies. The report, *National Commission on Children and Disasters Interim Report*, identifies several shortcomings in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This report provides specific recommendations on a range of issues, including disaster management and recovery, mental health, and child physical health and trauma. <http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/home.html>

Calendar of Events

Teleconference: Eliminating Disparities in Mental Health Care: Practice Level Interventions

December 17, 2009, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET

SAMHSA's National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health is sponsoring this teleconference series on the elimination of disparities in mental health care. This call will focus on the role of evidence-based practices, culturally defined evidence, culture-specific practices and other considerations that can facilitate successful engagement and appropriate and acceptable interventions. <http://gucchdtcenter.georgetown.edu/resources/calls.html>

Teleconference: The History of the Mental Health Consumer Movement

December 17, 2009, 2:00 PM – 3:30PM ET

SAMHSA's ADS Center (Resource Center to Promote Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion Associated with Mental Health) is sponsoring this free teleconference training. This teleconference will provide a context to help consumers and others understand the origins of the movement, the challenges that members of the movement have encountered and overcome, and the societal advances gained through effective advocacy.

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

Blending Addiction Science and Practice: Evidence-Based Treatment and Prevention in Diverse Populations and Setting

April 22-23, 2010 Albuquerque, New Mexico

NIDA's 8th Blending Conference presents innovative, science-based approaches that have been proven to be effective in the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. The conference objectives are to: 1) discuss and disseminate science-based, drug abuse prevention and treatment practices across diverse populations and settings; 2) provide additional resources to enhance knowledge and skill development of science-based practices; 3) appreciate the value of bi-directional communication to advance the exchange of ideas among drug abuse and addiction researchers and community treatment providers; 4) recognize NIDA's research and its role in the development of science-based practices; 5) and identify Blending Team Products and discuss their utilization in drug abuse and addiction treatment. <http://www.seiservices.com/blendingalbuquerque/>

Calls for Public Input

NIH Announcement: Consumer Health Information Request for Information (RFI)

The NIH Office of Communication and Public Liaison and the NIH Director's Council of Public Representatives have partnered to develop a Consumer Health Information RFI in response to a Directive by President Barack Obama to all Federal agencies calling for greater transparency, public participation and collaboration. In conjunction with the NIH goals for public input and effective dissemination of science-based health resources and information to the public, the RFI will provide insight and better understanding of the health information needs and information-seeking behaviors of NIH health consumer audiences. Information gathered will assist the agency in developing and disseminating health, medical and scientific information to a broader array of audiences. The RFI may be completed online in English or downloaded from the Web site in Spanish.

Response deadline: December 30, 2009. <http://nihhealthinfoRFI.nih.gov>

Input Sought for Healthy People 2020 Objectives

Public participation is shaping Healthy People 2020, its purpose, goals, organization and action plans. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking input on the proposed objectives for Healthy People 2020 from communities and stakeholders through public meetings across the country and public comment periods. Comments will be accepted through December 31, 2009. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020/Comments/default.asp>

Funding Information

SAMHSA: How to Write a Winning Grant Proposal

This *SAMHSA News* article features grant writing tips for those seeking SAMHSA funding.

http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/Volume_17_Number_5/WinningGrantProposal.aspx

Programmatic Funding

IHS: The Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative for American Indian and Alaska Native Urban Programs

<http://www.ihs.gov/NonMedicalPrograms/gogp/index.cfm?module=HHS-2010-IHS-METHU-0001>

SAMHSA: Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment for Juvenile Treatment Drug Courts

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/TI-10-004.aspx>

SAMHSA: Suicide Prevention Resource Center

<http://samhsa.gov/grants/2010/sm-10-007.aspx>

SAMHSA: National Technical Assistance Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Cooperative Agreement

<http://samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/SM-10-006.aspx>

Research Funding Opportunities

Selected NIH Requests for Applications (RFAs)

NCMHD Health Disparities Research on Minority and Underserved Populations (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MD-10-003.html>

Cognitive Remediation Approaches to Improve Drug Abuse Treatment Outcomes

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-006.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-007.html> (R21)

Support Opportunity for Addiction Research (SOAR) for New Investigators (R03)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-10-015.html>

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers 2010 (P30)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-09-012.html>

Blueprint Program for Enhancing Neuroscience Diversity through Undergraduate Research Education Experiences (R25)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-10-070.html>

Membrane Protein Production for Structure Determination (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-012.html>

Developing Technologies for Improved In Vivo Epigenetic Imaging or Analysis (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-016.html>

Development of New tools for Computational Analysis of Human Microbiome Project Data

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-020.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-09-021.html> (R21)

Selected NIH Program Announcements (PAs)

Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-038.html> (R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-039.html> (R03)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-040.html> (R21)



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.