

# National Institute of Mental Health Outreach Partnership Program

## *Update*

September 1, 2009

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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>

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

## **Science and Service News Updates**

### **NIMH: Schizophrenia Linked to Over-expression of Gene in Fetal Brain: Excess of Shortened Forms Could Lead to Abnormal Brain Development**

A gene called DISC1, (for "disrupted in schizophrenia") has been a leading contender among possible genetic causes since it was implicated in schizophrenia in a large Scottish clan two decades ago. The DISC1 gene codes for a protein important for brain development, as well as for mood and memory - functions that are disturbed in schizophrenia. However, until now there have been few clues as to how DISC1 might increase risk. A new study suggests how impaired expression of DISC1 might wreak havoc during early critical periods as the developing brain gets wired up. NIMH researchers have discovered that previously unknown shortened forms of the gene were expressed 2.5 times more in the fetal brain than after birth. By contrast, other forms were expressed more evenly across development. The shortened forms were also over-expressed in brains of adults who had schizophrenia. Researchers report on their discoveries in postmortem brain tissue online, during the week of August 24, 2009 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)*. Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/schizophrenia-linked-to-over-expression-of-gene-in-fetal-brain.shtml>

### **NIMH: Focusing Efforts on Early-Stage HIV Interventions May Help Prevent Spread of Disease**

Screening and early intervention with people in the earliest stages of HIV infection may reduce the spread of the disease, according to NIMH-funded researchers. A series of five papers from a small, multisite study were published online ahead of print in June 2009 in the journal *AIDS and Behavior*. Science Update: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2009/focusing-efforts-on-early-stage-hiv-interventions-may-help-prevent-spread-of-disease.shtml>

### **VA Announces Expansion of Counseling for Combat Veterans: Additional 28 New Community Vet Centers**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that combat Veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the VA will establish Vet Centers in 2010. The community-based Vet Centers -- already in all 50 states -- are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing Veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder counseling.

Press release: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1744>

### **VA's Suicide Prevention Program Adds Chat Service New Service Expands Online Access for Veterans**

The Suicide Prevention campaign of the VA is expanding its outreach to all Veterans by piloting an online, one-to-one "chat service" for Veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet. Called "Veterans Chat," the new service enables Veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor.

Press Release: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1757>

## **HHS Announces \$25.7 Million in Grants to Expand, Improve Health Center Services**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced more than \$25.7 million in grants to increase and improve health and support services at the nation's health centers. A total of 180 grants worth more than \$21.9 million will give existing health centers the funds to add or increase mental health/substance abuse treatment, enabling (i.e., outreach, transportation, case management services), and oral health or pharmacy services. Additionally, 48 planning grants totaling more than \$3.8 million will be distributed to organizations in hard hit areas that do not have health centers to help them develop new service delivery sites. New health center sites must meet federal requirements for governance, community involvement, quality of care and financial feasibility.

Press release: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/08/20090823a.html>

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

### **New NIMH Online Resources**

#### *NIMH is on YouTube*

NIMH has posted several videos on its YouTube channel. These include a four-minute video on depression and Brain's Inner Workings I and II narrated by Leonard Nemoy and Tom Bosley. The two Brain's Inner Workings videos explore the biological function of neurons and neurotransmitters, and higher brain function. Other videos include short clips of MRI and fMRI that show changes in brain structure and function in the developing brain.

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

#### *Follow NIMH on Twitter*

Receive updates about the latest science news and publications.

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

### **New on the NIMH Website**

#### *Trastorno Bipolar*

NIMH's easy-to-read booklet on bipolar disorder is now available in Spanish online.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/espanol/trastorno-bipolar-facil-de-leer/index.shtml>

#### *Depresión*

NIMH's detailed booklet that describes depression symptoms, causes, and treatments is now available in Spanish online.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/espanol/depression/index.shtml>

#### *Suicide Prevention Week September 6 – 12*

The suicide prevention information on the NIMH website is highlighted during Suicide Prevention Week.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>

*Pamela Collins New NIMH Associate Director for Special Populations*

Pamela Collins, M.D., joined NIMH in July as Associate Director for Special Populations and Director of the Offices for Special Populations, Rural Mental Health Research, and Global Mental Health. As an assistant professor in the departments of epidemiology and psychiatry at Columbia University, Dr. Collins conducted research on the mental health aspects of the AIDS epidemic and worked to ensure access to HIV prevention and care for people with severe mental illness as well as access to mental health care services for people with HIV domestically and internationally. Under Dr. Collins, NIMH will increase its focus on disparities in mental health both inside and outside of the United States.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/updates/2009/pamela-collins-new-nimh-associate-director-for-special-populations.shtml>

**New SAMHSA Resources**

*Latest SAMHSA News available*

The latest issue of *SAMHSA News* features the Center for Mental Health Services grant program, Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Program for Children and Their Families, developed to coordinate care for children with serious mental health challenges.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/samhsaNewsletter/default.aspx>

*Helping Traumatized Children: Tips for Judges*

This new fact sheet from SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network for judges and other court personnel outlines the impact of trauma on children's development, beliefs, and behaviors. It is designed to help professionals in the juvenile justice and family court system become more effective in addressing the unique needs and challenges of the traumatized children and adolescents they work with.

[http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/JudgesFactSheet.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/JudgesFactSheet.pdf)

*Leveling the Playing Field: Practical Strategies for Increasing Veterans Involvement in Diversion and Reentry Programs*

This guide from SAMHSA's GAINS Center was designed to ensure that veterans with histories of incarceration are positioned to inform, support, and lead efforts to reform the criminal justice and mental health systems by identifying and addressing the obstacles that prevent meaningful veteran involvement.

[http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/veterans/levelingthefield\\_veterans.pdf](http://www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/veterans/levelingthefield_veterans.pdf)

*New SAMHSA Website Highlights Latest News in Behavioral Health Financing*

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) launched a new website that features up-to-date information on the financing of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services and delivery systems. The website will also provide relevant articles from across the behavioral health financing industry, reports, briefs, and other items.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/financing>

*SAMHSA's Weekly Financing News Pulse*

This new product contains information about national, state, and local behavioral health financing news, including upcoming hearings on Capitol Hill.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Financing/category/News-Pulse.aspx>

*Many Baby Boomers are Continuing Illicit Drug Use into Their Later Years According to New Analytic Publication*

Many baby boomers (Americans in the generation born between 1946 and 1964) are continuing to use illicit drugs as they grow older, causing the rate of illicit drug use to go up within the 50 to 59 year old age segment of the population. According to a new analytical publication, those aged 50 to 59 reporting use of illicit drugs within the past year has nearly doubled from 5.1 percent in 2002 to 9.4 percent in 2007 while rates among all other age groups are statistically staying the same or decreasing.

[http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/OlderAdults/OAS\\_data\\_review\\_OlderAdults.pdf](http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/OlderAdults/OAS_data_review_OlderAdults.pdf)

*Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Referred by the Criminal Justice System*

In 2007, the criminal justice system was the largest referral source for all treatment admissions in the US (37 percent of all admissions). These admissions were almost twice as likely to be employed either full or part-time as other admissions (42 percent v. 22 percent) and slightly less likely to drop out of treatment (22 percent v. 27 percent). Over the past 15 years, the fastest growth in criminal justice referrals has been among admissions younger than 18 and admissions for marijuana and methamphetamine abuse.

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/211/211CJadmits2k9.cfm>

**DOL: Occupational Suicides: Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Fact Sheet**

Preliminary data from the Department of Labor's (DOL) 2008 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program reported 251 workplace suicides, their highest level since the inception of the CFOI program in 1992. The 2008 count is 28 percent higher than the 196 suicides recorded in 2007.

<http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/osar0010.pdf>

**CDC: New Autism Website**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched a new autism website. Some of the new features of the site include: 1) updated and easy-to-read information on facts, screening, diagnosis, and treatments; 2) pages dedicated to data & statistics, research, and publications; 3) individualized pages for different visitors - people with ASD, families, healthcare providers, educators, and partners; and 4) An interactive autism quiz.

<http://www.cdc.gov/autism>

**AHRQ Research Summaries**

*Women Who Suffer Abuse Use Mental Health Care Services More than Women Who Have Never Been Abused*

Women who were abused by their partners use significantly more mental health services than women who have never been abused, regardless of how recently the abuse occurred, a new study finds. Researchers surveyed 3,333 women aged 18 to 64 in the Pacific Northwest and found that mental health service use was highest when the physical or nonphysical (verbal threats or controlling behavior) abuse was ongoing. However, women who experienced abuse recently (within 5 years) or remotely (5 years ago or longer) still accessed mental health services at higher rates than women who were never abused. This study was funded in part by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/sep09/0909RA24.htm>

*States Vary Greatly in Nursing Home Admissions for People with Mental Illnesses*

State variation in services for people with mental illnesses and how they are admitted to nursing homes may result in longer-than-average stays for those individuals, a new study finds. The authors suggest that the way Medicaid pays nursing homes may be one reason for State variations in admissions for people with mental illnesses. This study was funded in part by AHRQ.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/sep09/0909RA25.htm>

**HHS: Manual to Protect Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders**

The HHS Children's Bureau has released *Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders*. Part of the Bureau's Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series, the manual examines such topics as: 1) the nature of substance use disorders; 2) the impact of parental substance abuse disorders on children examination, screening, assessment; 3) and treatment for substance abuse disorders the role of child protective services caseworkers.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/substanceuse>

**Calendar of Events**

**Teleconference: Social Inclusion and Trauma Informed Care**

*September 10, 2009, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET*

SAMHSA's Resource Center to Promote Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion Associated with Mental Health invites is sponsoring this free teleconference training to: 1) provide an overview of trauma and its importance as a social determinant for mental health and social inclusion; 2) provide information on trauma informed care and effective strategies to educate the public on trauma informed care; and 3) share a consumer perspective trauma and its relationship to mental health and social inclusion, and on the importance of trauma informed care.

Please note: Registration for this teleconference will close at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on Friday, September 4, 2009.

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

**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/>

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### **Moving Into the Future: New Dimensions and Strategies for Women's Health Research for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

*September 21–23, 2009, Providence, Rhode Island*

The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health is convening the third in a series of public hearings and scientific workshops to update the Women's Health Research Agenda at the NIH for the coming decade. The ideas and recommendations emerging from this conference and other regional conferences will help inform future women's health research priorities at the NIH.

<http://www.orwhmeetings.com/movingintothefuture/BrownUniv/>

### **Fifth Annual NIH Director's Pioneer Award Symposium**

*September 24–25, 2009, Bethesda, Maryland*

This event will feature research talks by the first graduating class of Pioneer Award recipients as well as by the class of. Other highlights include a keynote address on inventiveness by the Smithsonian's Arthur Molella, poster sessions, a roundtable discussion on the interplay between technology development and hypothesis-driven research, and announcement of the 2009 Pioneer and New Innovator awardees. The NIH Director's Pioneer and New Innovator Award programs--key components of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research--support exceptionally creative scientists who take highly innovative, and potentially transformative, approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research. The symposium is free and open to the public, and registration is not required.

<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/symposium2009>

### **3rd Annual Julius Axelrod Lecture**

*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>

## **Calls for Public Input**

### **Comments Sought on VA PTSD Compensation Rules**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking steps to assist Veterans seeking compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The VA is publishing a proposed regulation in the *Federal Register* to make it easier for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD by reducing the evidence needed if the stressor claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity. A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received. Comments on this proposed rule must be received by October 23, 2009.

Press release: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1751>

Proposed rule: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-20339.pdf>

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**Invitation to Join Stakeholder Meeting with New NIH Director**

You are invited to a meeting with NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., where he will discuss his plans for the future of NIH and take questions and comments from leaders of scientific organizations and nonprofit voluntary and advocacy organizations. The event will be on September 9, 2009, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., in the Natcher Conference Center Auditorium on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Collins, a noted physician-investigator in the field of genetics and the former director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, is well known to many of the NIH's nonprofit organizations and professional medical and scientific societies. He will use the majority of the meeting time to present five major themes that together represent his vision for the NIH. There will, however, be time for open discussion and an opportunity for you to offer input. Because Dr. Collins has indicated that communication is a priority area, we recommend that one of your officers or board members attend with your communication director.

To RSVP for the event, please e-mail [od-events@mail.nih.gov](mailto:od-events@mail.nih.gov) by 5:00 p.m. ET September 7. If travel to the Greater Washington Metropolitan area is not possible, we suggest that you ask a local board member or another representative here to attend. So that Dr. Collins may be as responsive as possible to your interests, when sending your RSVP, indicate your broad areas of interest or specific questions that might be of help in preparing for the event.

**National Summit on Disability Policy 2010: ADA 1990–2010 Retrospective and Future Policy Directions: A comprehensive dialogue to shape the national disability agenda**

Hosted by the National Council on Disability (NCD), this Summit to be held in July 2010 commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with a reception, an ADA retrospective and a series of working meetings. The results of the meetings will help shape disability policy and programs for the next decade. NCD is seeking people with disabilities, individuals representing grassroots organizations and others to help shape disability policies and programs for the next decade.

Deadline for submitting application to attend the summit is October 15, 2009.

<http://www.neweditions.net/ncd2010/eventinfo.html>

## **Clinical Research Participation News**

### **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 (BP). 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 BP 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 also receive either riluzole or placebo (a “sugar pill”). Phase IV lasts for 6 weeks. During this time, 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 if you qualify or for more information, please call (301) 496-8381 or email us at [bipolarkids@mail.nih.gov](mailto:bipolarkids@mail.nih.gov).

## **Funding Information**

### **SAMHSA Accepting Applications for CSAP’s Prevention Fellowship Program**

SAMHSA is accepting applications for its Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s (CSAP) Prevention Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program, launched in 2006, is designed to build a workforce of highly competent substance abuse prevention professionals. Each Fellow will be assigned to a state, community, or local agency to work on projects that promote skills development and knowledge of state-of-the-art prevention practices needed for direct, hands-on substance abuse prevention service work. Web-based training and workshops conducted by leaders in the field will expose Fellows to advances in prevention science, new methods and approaches. Fellows will also have the opportunity to develop critical research, writing, evaluation, and presentation skills under the program’s structured training environment.

To apply for CSAP’s Prevention Fellowship Program, complete and submit the online application available at <http://application.PreventionFellowship.com>.

Applications due Friday, September 11, 2009.

For more information: <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0908282920.aspx>

## **NIH Seeks High Risk, High Impact Proposals through NIH Director's Pioneer, New Innovator, and Transformative R01 Initiatives**

NIH welcomes proposals for 2010 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and New Innovator Awards. Both programs are part of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov> and support exceptionally creative scientists who take highly innovative, potentially high-impact approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research.

Pioneer Awards provide up to \$2.5 million in direct costs over 5 years and are open to scientists at any career stage. New Innovator Awards provide up to \$1.5 million in direct costs over the same period and are for early stage investigators (ESI) who have not received an NIH regular research (R01) or similar NIH grant.

The deadline for submitting Pioneer Award applications is October 20, 2009. See the instructions in the RFA (RFA-RM-09-010) and <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer> for more information.

The deadline for submitting New Innovator Award applications is October 27, 2009. See the instructions in the RFA (RFA-RM-09-011) and <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/newinnovator> for more information. Send questions to [newinnovator@nih.gov](mailto:newinnovator@nih.gov).

The Transformative R01 (T-R01) supports exceptionally innovative, high risk, original and/or unconventional research projects that have the potential to create or overturn fundamental paradigms. Please check <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/T-R01> for more information about the program and upcoming funding opportunities.

## **Programmatic Funding**

### **AHRQ Small Grant Program for Conference Support (R13)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-231.html>

### **AHRQ Grant Program for Large or Recurring Conferences (R13)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-257.html>

### **HRSA: Traumatic Brain Injury Protection and Advocacy**

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/SFO.asp?ID=9BB690FB-2E27-4AC4-84C7-19FC40A7C05C>

## **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)]

### **Effects of Gene-Social Environment Interplay on Health and Behavior in Later Life (R01)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-10-006.html>

### **Healthy Aging through Behavioral Economic Analyses of Situations (R01)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-10-008.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)]

### **Exploratory Innovations in Biomedical Computational Science and Technology (R21)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-219.html>

### **Optimization of Small Molecule Probes for the Nervous System (R21)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-251.html>

### **Network Infrastructure Support for Emerging Behavioral and Social Research Areas in Aging (R24)**

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-233.html>



## **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.