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Mental Health ENews
A service of Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health

In the News

Emergency Departments May Play an Important Role in Reducing Suicide Attempts

New research funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) suggests that hospital emergency departments may play a vital role in lowering the number of suicide attempts among adults. A study was conducted in which individuals who had been admitted to emergency departments for suicide attempts were provided safety planning guidance and phone check-ins periodically after their visit. Results showed that suicide attempts were reduced by as much as 30 percent due to these preventative measures.


The VA, VFW, and Walgreens Collaborate to Improve Access to Mental Health Resources for Veterans

On May 6, 2017 it was announced that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Walgreens will collaborate to help improve the mental health resources available to veterans in America. Measures proposed by the organizations include improving educational opportunities, public perspective, and healthcare employee training related to mental health illness.

https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2901
Education and Events

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Physical fitness benefits individuals of all ages, from children and adolescents to older adults. Physical fitness is a great way to help prevent disease, lower risk factors, and promote healthfulness. Please help spread awareness of the benefits of physical fitness by educating and motivating those around you. To find out more about how you can support national physical fitness and sports month follow the link below:

https://healthfinder.gov/NHO/MayToolkit.aspx

Webinar: Treating PTSD and Suicide Risk: Separating Myth from Fact

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presents Craig Bryan, PsyD, on May 17, 2017 at 12 p.m. MST. This webinar is part of a monthly lecture series directed at health professionals who treat or are interested in the treatment of veterans affected by PTSD. For more information and to register, follow the link below:

https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/consult/lecture-series.asp

Clinical Trials

Investigating the Genetics of Bipolar Disorder in those Affected and Their Family Members

A current NIMH study is investigating the genetics behind bipolar disorder. Participants must be over 18 years old, have a bipolar diagnosis, or have a family member who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The study will include a telephone interview and a blood sample taken by the participant’s physician. For more information and to find out if you qualify follow the link below:

Science Update

Buprenorphine More Effective Than Morphine for Treatment of Opioid Withdrawal in Newborns

Research funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) shows that the drug buprenorphine is more effective than morphine in treating newborns who have withdrawal symptoms as a result of prenatal opioid exposure. This study complements a similar study from 2010 which showed buprenorphine’s effectiveness in treating opioid addicted mothers compared to another drug previously used for treatment.


New Study Suggests Thalamus Plays Vital Role in Working Memory

A new study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has found that the thalamus has the ability to distinguish categories and hold memories. Through the study and manipulation of mice, researchers found key evidence that the thalamus is a much more important structure than originally believed. This study is pivotal in the research behind aiding individuals with schizophrenia, who often have working memory problems.


Useful Links

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Clinical Trial Participation

Information regarding clinical trials, how to participate in a study, and study records can be found using the link provided below.

https://clinicaltrials.gov/