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

The latest science, practice and public information updates from Idaho, NIMH, SAMHSA, and more.

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The Idaho State University Institute of Rural Health provides this twice-monthly ENews under our partnership with the National Institute of Mental Health.

The latest science, practice, and public information updates are available to you through ENews.

Sections in this ENews include:

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- Education & Events
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Russel Spearman, Director

In the News

CDC Emergency Department Data Shows Drastic Increase in Opioid Epidemic

A new report released by the CDC includes emergency department data which showcases the continual growth of the opioid overdose epidemic. The report shows a 30 percent increase in opioid overdoses in the United States from July 2016 through September 2017, affecting all ages and genders. The CDC report includes geographical data as well as details about the role that local health departments can play in responding to opioid overdoses.


VA Launches Telehealth Program for Rural Veterans with PTSD

In an effort to increase the availability of mental health care for Veterans living in rural areas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched a pilot telehealth program which will give access to psychotherapy and other related services to Veterans with PTSD. As part of the Telemedicine Outreach for PTSD (TOP) program, veterans who do not have easy access to VA facilities will be able to interact with health professionals via phone and interactive video contact.

https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=4018
Education and Events

Webinar: NACRHHS Policy Brief on Understanding the Impact of Suicide in Rural America

On Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 12:00 PM MST, the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS) will be hosting a webinar discussing the impact of suicide in rural America and their recommendations for an increased federal focus on at-risk populations. For more information and to register follow the link below:

https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/webinars/suicide-impact-rural-america

Alpha Xi Delta at Idaho State University Hosts 5K Color Run in Support of Autism Speaks

The Iota Kappa Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho will host a Step It Up 5K Color Run in support of Autism Speaks on Saturday, April 7th, 2018. Registration begins at 10 a.m. MST and the race begins at 11:00 a.m. In addition to the fun run, there will be guest speakers, family fun games, and a raffle. For more information and to register for the event follow the link below:

http://act.autismspeaks.org/site/TR?fr_id=3964&pg=entry

Clinical Trials

The Effects of Cholinesterase Inhibitor Discontinuation (CID)

The VA Office of Research and Development in conducting a study to determine if stopping certain medications that are used to treat dementia will cause worsening from the patient and family perspective. Eligible individuals include individuals over the age of 60, those taking stable doses of donepezil 10 mg or greater per day or galantamine 8 mg or greater per day for at least 1 year, individuals with a primary caregiver who can assume responsibility for medication compliance of a nursing home staff member who can provide information, must have had a primary care visit within the last 12 months, and must be willing to have CI medication discontinued. To find out if you are eligible or for more information follow the link below:
New Gene May Increase Understanding of Neurodegeneration Mechanisms

Scientists from the National Institutes of Health have identified a gene within flies which may help to increase understanding of the aging process. This gene, Cdk5, appears to play an important role in neurodegeneration when not functioning correctly. It has been linked to neurodegenerative disorders such as ALS, Parkinson’s, and Alzheimer’s disease. Scientists believe that this new discovery supports the idea that degenerative diseases disrupt the function of the brain, rather than degeneration as a result from aging itself. This is contrary to the common belief that aging predisposes individuals to degeneration of the brain.

Suspect Molecules Overlap in Autism, Schizophrenia, and Bipolar Disorder

A recent NIMH funded study has found that post mortem gene expression patterns are similar in individuals who had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, or alcoholism, revealing a similar molecular basis for dysfunction. This new discovery helps to advance understanding of how many risk factors associated with many different mental disorders may relate to one another.

Useful Links

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For more mental health updates, follow us on twitter!

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/

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