Scientists Develop Technology to Observe Neural Activity in Relation to Brain Disease

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health have recently developed a new technology, spectrally resolved fiber photometry (SRFP), which helps to indicate the level of activity in neuron groups. As a result of this innovation, these scientists have discovered how two different sets of neurons work together to control movement. While the NIH scientists who made this discovery were particularly interested in the neuron effects of Parkinson’s disease, they believe that understanding and use of this technology can be applicable to a wide range of other brain conditions, including stroke, multiple sclerosis, and more.


SAMHSA Releases Data Related to Children with History of Mental Health Challenges and Trauma

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a report titled “Helping Children and Youth Who Have Traumatic Experiences” which reveals that 46 percent of the United States’ youth have experienced a traumatic event. With the help of this supporting data, a network of experts can help to create evidence-based clinical interventions and provide optimal care for individuals who have experienced trauma.

Education and Events

Webinar: An Overview of the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Health Equity Council will host a webinar on June 21, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. This webinar will provide an overview of the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program, which supports research of human biology, behavior, genetics, environment, data science, computation, and more. For more information and to register follow the link below.


Webinar: Veteran’s Experienced Barriers to Engagement in PTSD Psychotherapy

This webinar will be hosted on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MDT. This seminar will use interview data from Veterans with PTSD to examine barriers to engagement in evidence based psychotherapies for PTSD. Reasons for Veterans’ refusal of psychotherapy and reasons for dropout from psychotherapy will be explored and implications for healthcare delivery will be discussed.

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1694546819814382338

Clinical Trials

Breast Cancer MRI Clinical Trial

A clinical trial performed by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology will test whether patients undergoing a breast MRI before breast surgery will have better results after surgery. Adult females (age 18 and older) with breast cancer are eligible for this study. There are many study locations, including sites in Idaho. For more information follow the link below.

https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01805076?term=Behaviors+andMental+Disorders%5BCOND%5D&BROWSE-BRANCH%5D&recrs=abc&map_entry=US&map_state=US%3AID&fund=01&rank=2

Science Update

NIDA Funded Researchers Find New Details Behind Opioid Mechanism
Researchers funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) have recently discovered more details about the way in which opioid pain medications act on human neurons. Researchers discovered that opioids used to treat pain not only bind to receptors which are meant for endogenous opioids, but also to receptors that are not targeted by naturally occurring opioids. This new discovery may help to identify methods by which pain medications can be created without causing addiction and/or other adverse effects.


**Scientists Discover Valuable Information about the Fight or Flight Response**

Researchers funded by the National Institutes of Health have discovered more about the fight or flight response by experimenting on the ventral midline thalamus (vMT) in mice. These researchers believe that new discoveries related to this topic may lead to greater understanding of generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder in humans.


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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/