

From: [APA Communications](#)
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Subject: APA Headlines: Depression Now Leading Cause Of Ill Health, Disability Around The Globe, WHO Says
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

Friday, March 31, 2017

Leading The News

Depression Now Leading Cause Of Ill Health, Disability Around The Globe, WHO Says.

[Reuters](#) (3/30, Kelland) reports, "Depression is now the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO)" announced on March 30, "with more than 300 million people suffering" from the disorder. In fact, "rates of depression have risen by more than 18 percent since 2005, but a lack of support for the mental health combined with a common fear of stigma means many do not get the treatment they need to live healthy, productive lives." The organization is now "running a mental health campaign to tackle stigma and misconceptions called '[Depression: Let's Talk](#).'"

The [New York Daily News](#) (3/30, Jagannathan) reports the WHO campaign "urges sufferers to both seek and get help for depression." Currently, the WHO "estimates depression and anxiety fuel a global loss of roughly \$1 trillion associated with lost productivity, people being unable to work and health care expenses...said" Dr. Shekhar Saxena, director of the WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Even in countries with higher incomes and "advanced health care systems," almost "half of people suffering from depression aren't properly identified or treated."

Psychiatric News Alert



[Antidepressants, CBT Found to Be Equally Effective as Initial Therapy for MDD Patients](#)

[More Needs to Be Done to Address Physician Burnout, Says Group of Health System CEOs](#)

Free Webinar: Treating Substance Use Through Collaborative Care

APA is offering a free webinar with CME on April 4. The webinar, "Treating Substance Use Disorders Through Collaborative Care," will focus on core principles of collaborative care that could be leveraged to effectively work with patients with substance use disorders in primary care settings. Mark Duncan, M.D., with the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine, will facilitate the session. [More information](#) (PDF). [Register](#).



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Migraine Attacks May Double Risk Of Developing General Anxiety Disorders In

Men, Study Suggests.

[Medical Daily](#) (3/30, Borrelli) reports research reveals that “migraine attacks double the risk of developing generalized anxiety disorders in men.” The [findings](#) of the large study were published in the March issue of *Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain*.

Study To Evaluate 3q29 Deletion Syndrome, Risk For Schizophrenia And Other Neuropsychiatric Disorders.

[Healio](#) (3/30) reports Emory University researchers “received a \$3.1 million grant from the” National Institute of Mental Health “to study associations between 3q29 deletion syndrome and risk for schizophrenia and other neuropsychiatric disorders, such as intellectual disability, autism and anxiety.” The study will “will identify and quantify behavioral and clinical symptoms of 3q29 deletion in children and adults and establish a public repository of biomaterials from 3q29 deletion carriers at the Rutgers University Cell and DNA Repository.”

Scientists Use Robot, Other Gadgets To Advance Autism Research In Young Children.

On its website, [ABC News](#) (3/31, Weinstein) reports researchers at Vanderbilt University’s Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders have developed a robot named RASL, or “Russell,” to research autism. The research center’s goal “is to explore how robotics and technology could help development in children diagnosed with ASD.”

Government And Psychiatry

Shriver Urges Senators To Boost Research For Alzheimer’s.

[MedPage Today](#) (3/30, Basen) reports on a hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging at which Maria Shriver urged the senators “to oppose the Trump Administration’s proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health budget.” Instead, she urged them to boost research funding by \$414 million for fiscal year 2018. Shriver founded the Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement and she was joined by Kristine Yaffe, MD, of the Alzheimer’s Association’s Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee. She said that with the aging of the population, the disease is “expected to triple by 2050 and associated costs to quadruple.”

Ryan Says Government Should Continue Paying ACA Subsidies.

The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Pear, Abelson, Subscription Publication) reports House GOP leaders “said Thursday that they expected the federal government to continue paying billions of dollars in subsidies to health insurance companies to keep low-income people covered under the Affordable Care Act for the rest of this year,” and most likely through 2018 as well. The article says such a move “would be a curious twist for Republicans who have spent seven years battling President Barack Obama’s health law only to fail last week to repeal it.” House GOP members had sued the Obama Administration over the payments, alleging they were unconstitutional because Congress had not approved them. The court ruled in the plaintiffs’ favor, but the previous Administration appealed the decision.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Peterson, Subscription Publication) reports that the failure of the American Health Care Act, which was meant to replace the ACA, cast doubt as to whether the Administration would continue to pay these subsidies. On Thursday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said the Administration ought to continue them.

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APA In The News

Report Recommendations Aim To Rectify Severe Shortage Of Psychiatrists In The US.

[Medscape](#) (3/30, Anderson) reports a panel of experts has “released a new [report](#) [pdf] containing recommendations to rectify the severe shortage of psychiatrists and the dearth of mental health services in the” US. Contained in the report are “a wide-ranging set of recommendations that touch on every area of the specialty, including training, funding, and models of care delivery.” American Psychiatric Association (APA) CEO and Medical Director Saul M. Levin, MD, joined the report’s lead authors to discuss “the report’s recommendations at a press briefing on March 28.” The experts “recommended new and advanced forms of treatment, such as collaborative care and telepsychiatry. ‘We should all be advocating for new, innovative models of care, such as telepsychiatry, which can increase access to specialty psychiatric services across the country,’ said Dr Levin.” The APA now “has a toolkit to help educate psychiatrists and other healthcare” professionals “on how to practice telepsychiatry, said Dr Levin.”

Patients With Depression Matched With Their Preferred Treatment Method May Be More Likely To Complete A Randomized Trial, Study Suggests.

[Healio](#) (3/30, Oldt) reports, “Treatment-naïve individuals with depression who received their preferred treatment method were more likely to complete a randomized trial but not more likely to reach remission,” researchers found after conducting a “randomized study” of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) “and two antidepressants, escitalopram and duloxetine, among 344 individuals with treatment-naïve major depression.” The [findings](#) were published online March 24 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association. [Psychiatric News](#) (3/30) also covers the study.

Other News

Climate Change May Cause Mental Health Issues, Report Indicates.

[TIME](#) (3/30, Worland) reports a psychologists’ group working with ecoAmerica has issued a [report](#) finding that “climate change doesn’t just affect people’s physical health by exacerbating problems like asthma – it can also cause mental health issues like anxiety and depression.” The report also “offers a number of potential steps to help people and communities combat the mental health effects of climate change, including building social connections and fostering confidence in people’s own resilience.” The report goes so far as to suggest that “communities should include mental health considerations in their preparations for climate-related disasters.”

[HealthDay](#) (3/30, Mozes) points out, “The report comes on the heels of controversial moves by the Trump Administration to undo US environmental protections put in place by the Obama White House.”

Thursday's Lead Stories

- [Heroin Use Increased Five-Fold Over Past Decade, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Trauma, Stress In Teen Years May Be Associated With Greater Risk Of Mid-Life Depression In Women, Study Indicates.](#)
- [New Jersey Governor To Chair Trump Administration Panel To Address Opioid Epidemic.](#)

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