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To: lpmastaff@lpma.net
Subject: APA Headlines: Report Finds No Evidence To Support Or Refute Use Of Cannabinoids For Achieving Abstinence In Use Of Addictive Substances
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Leading The News

Report Finds No Evidence To Support Or Refute Use Of Cannabinoids For Achieving Abstinence In Use Of Addictive Substances.

On the front of its Science Times section, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, D1, Richtel, Subscription Publication) reports that studies performed in rats indicate “the idea that the use of cannabinoids can induce withdrawal from heavier substances.” In humans, however, “a [report](#) published in January from the National Academy of Sciences on the health effects of cannabis ‘found no evidence to support or refute the conclusion that cannabinoids are an effective treatment for achieving abstinence in the use of addictive substances,’ said Dr. Marie McCormick, a Harvard professor who was the chairwoman of the report committee.”

Psychiatric News Alert



[Duloxetine, Venlafaxine May Be Most Effective at Reducing Diabetic Nerve Pain](#)

[Brain Scan May Help Predict Treatment Outcomes, Study Suggests](#)

Latest Issue of *Mental Health Works*: [Why Anxiety Disorders Matter to Employers](#)

The latest issue of [Mental Health Works](#), the monthly publication from the APA Foundation's Partnership for Workplace Mental Health, focuses on anxiety disorders. The most common mental disorders in the U.S., anxiety disorders result in \$4.1 billion in indirect workplace costs. Employers can help employees with anxiety disorders to successfully maintain employment by creating an informed and accommodating work environment. [Read more.](#) [Subscribe to Mental Health Works.](#)



Government And Psychiatry

Ryan Insists GOP Will Continue Efforts To Overhaul Healthcare System.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Debonis) reports that on Monday, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) said he plans “to continue pushing for an overhaul of the nation’s health-care system by working ‘on two tracks’ as he also pursues other elements of President Trump’s agenda.” Ryan stated, “We’re not going to just all of a sudden abandon health care and move on to the rest. We are going to move on with rest of our agenda, keep that on track, while we work the health-care problem. ... It’s just that valuable, that important.” The article points out that Ryan provided no details of his plans.

GOP Could Hinder ACA By Resuming Suit Challenging Payments To Insurers.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Armour, Subscription Publication) reports that in the aftermath of the AHCA's failure, President Trump and Republican lawmakers could hinder the Affordable Care Act by stopping billions in payments which insurers are paid under the healthcare law. House GOP lawmakers had sued the Obama Administration, alleging the payments were unconstitutional because Congress had not approved the funds, but the Trump Administration halted the proceedings in anticipation of repealing the ACA. Now that the AHCA has been defeated, House GOP lawmakers could resume the suit, or the Administration could concede and simply cease making the payments.

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Psychiatry And Public Health

More Senior Women Expected To Drink And/Or Abuse Alcohol, Study Indicates.

[Medical Daily](#) (3/27, Dovey) reports "current trends suggest that the number of women aged 60 and older who drink and/or abuse alcohol is set to increase," researchers concluded after analyzing "data from the 1997 to 2014 National Health Interview Surveys, which included information from 65,303 individuals over the age of 60." The [findings](#) were published online March 24 in *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*.

Psychiatric Medication Update

Interest Growing In Ketamine As Treatment For Severe Depression.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/27, story 8, 2:00, Holt) reported on "growing interest in using" ketamine, "a medication best known as a club drug, as a treatment for the most severe kind of depression. The results can be life changing, but is it safe?" NBC News correspondent Rehema Ellis explained that for some patients with severe depression against which nothing else has worked, ketamine can be "a life saver." Physicians, however, "say they need more studies on how to prescribe it safely."

Guidelines Lacking On Discontinuation Of Cholinesterase Inhibitors For Alzheimer's Symptoms, Researchers Say.

[Medscape](#) (3/27, Melville) reports that even though "guidelines for initiating treatment of symptoms of Alzheimer's disease (AD) with cholinesterase inhibitors are well established, guidance and consensus as to when, how, and even whether to discontinue the treatment are lacking," researchers concluded in a presentation given at the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry's annual meeting.

Stimulant Medications For Treatment Of Childhood AD/HD May Inhibit Long-Term Growth, Research Suggests.

[MD Magazine](#) (3/27, Black) reports that stimulant medications for the "treatment of childhood attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder" (AD/HD) may "inhibit long-term growth." The [findings](#) of the large study were published online March 10 in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*.

Other News

Breastfeeding Appears To Have Little Impact On Long-Term Cognitive Development, Behavior, Study Suggests.

In "Science Now," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/27, Kaplan) reports, "The longer a mother nurses – and the longer she does so exclusively – the bigger the benefits," research indicates. One "perceived benefit of breastfeeding is the possibility that it boosts a baby's brain."

[CNN](#) (3/27, Kounang) reports a [study](#) published in Pediatrics, however, indicates "breastfeeding has little impact on long-term cognitive development and behavior." Researchers arrived at this conclusion after following "7,478 Irish children born full term, from the time they were nine months old," then evaluating them "at three years and again at five years of age."

Also covering the story are the [TIME](#) (3/27, Rhodan), the [NPR](#) (3/27, Aubrey) "The Salt" blog and "Morning Edition" program, the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, Pearson), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (3/27, Forster), [MedPage Today](#) (3/27, Wilson), and [Medical Daily](#) (3/27, Dovey).

Monday's Lead Stories

- **US Adolescents With Autism May Be Four Times More Likely To Visit An ED Than Teens Without Autism, Researchers Say.**
- **House GOP Leaders Pull AHCA, Acknowledging Defeat Of Efforts To Repeal ACA.**
- **Concern Growing Massachusetts Department Of Mental Health Is Releasing People With Serious Mental Illness To Live In The Community Without Proper Supervision.**
- **Former Governors: Death Penalty Not Intended For People With Severe Mental Illnesses.**
- **Lower Rates Of Psychological Distress May Be Associated With Moderate Daily Produce Intake In Middle-Aged And Older Adults, Study Indicates.**

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