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Subject: APA Headlines: Relatives Who Care For Patients With Dementia Often Experience Frustration Due To Poor Communication, Study Suggests
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

September 6, 2016

Leading The News

Relatives Who Care For Patients With Dementia Often Experience Frustration Due To Poor Communication, Study Suggests.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Bluth) reported relatives who care for patients with advanced dementia often experience difficulty because they can no longer communicate with their loved ones, according to a [study](#) published in the American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias. Researchers found that many family caretakers were often frustrated with their relatives with dementia because they could no longer communicate what they needed or when they were in pain.

Psychiatric News Alert



[Review Finds Measurement-Based Care Improves Patient Outcomes](#)

[Important Changes in DSM-5 to Become Effective October 1](#)

2017 Annual Meeting Abstracts Submission Deadline Sept. 12

Now is your chance to submit a proposal for next year's Annual Meeting scientific program. Since space is very limited in San Diego, the addition of last-minute sessions will not be possible. So please take a moment to review the submission site with your co-workers, council chairs, or anyone else with whom you might be collaborating. The deadline for abstract submissions is 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Sept. 12. [Submit your abstract](#).



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Evidence Linking Loneliness To Physical Illness, Functional And Cognitive Decline Increasing.

On the front of its Science Times section, the [New York Times](#) (9/6, D1, Hafner, Subscription Publication) reports in a nearly 1,800-word article on the physical and mental effects of loneliness experienced by the elderly. In the UK and in the US, "roughly one in three people older than 65 live alone." Investigators "have found mounting evidence linking loneliness to physical illness and to functional and cognitive decline." Loneliness, "as a predictor of early death" even surpasses obesity. The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Zaraska) also provides coverage.

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Research Suggests How Memory Loss Associated With Alzheimer's Could Be Prevented, Reversed.

Contributor Kevin Murnane writes in a [Forbes](#) (9/6) piece that a recent [study](#) conducted by researchers at University College London explores “how molecular changes at the synapse damage memory and suggests ways that the memory loss associated with Alzheimer's may be prevented and possibly reversed.” They “examined the effects of elevated levels of Dkk1 in the hippocampus (a structure in the brain that plays an important role in long-term memory) of specially bred mice,” and found that “elevated levels of Dkk1 reduced the ability of a sending neuron to excite or activate a receiving neuron.” The researchers also identified “the specific metabolic pathways through which Dkk1 causes loss of function at the synapse.”

Patients With COPD Who Remain Physically Active May Be Less Likely To Experience Depression, Anxiety As Their Disease Progresses, Study Suggests.

[MedPage Today](#) (9/4, Boyles) reported that research indicated individuals “with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who remained physically active were less likely to experience depression and anxiety as their disease progressed.” In the large study, researchers found that “higher physical activity level at baseline was associated with an 11% reduced risk of developing anxiety over 5 years of follow-up, and a 15% reduced risk for depression.” Meanwhile, in a separate “study, a survey of hospital- and community-based exercise practitioners in Canada found that many programs were not following international guidelines for exercise therapy in a COPD patient population.” Both studies were presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress.

Government and Psychiatry

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Six “Simple Choice Plans” To Be Available To Consumers When ACA Enrollment Begins In November.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (9/2, Andrews) reported that despite all the worries about insurers exiting Affordable Care Act marketplaces, consumers will likely have several options when open enrollment begins in November. In an effort to make the selection process easier for consumers, the Federal government “is encouraging insurers to offer ‘simple choice plans’ as an option this fall.” The proposal includes “six new standardized plan designs” which “will eliminate many of the moving parts that have bedeviled consumers trying to make apples-to-apples comparisons between plans.” The article added that when this proposal was unveiled in April, Kevin Counihan, CEO of Healthcare.gov, “said the plans would ‘display prominently’ on the website and have ‘clear visual cues’ that would distinguish the simple choice plans from others.”



Psychiatry and Public Health

Research Examines Difficulty Of Finding Psychiatrists In The US.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/2, Humphreys) “Wonkblog” reported that despite efforts to make healthcare more accessible to Americans over the last decade, research indicates even those with healthcare coverage have trouble finding psychiatrists. A [study](#) led found that from 2003 to 2013, “adult primary-care physicians increased by 9.5 percent and the number of neurologists increased by 35.7 percent,” but the number of psychiatrists fell by 0.2 percent. Another [study](#) conducted by the same researchers revealed that most physicians accept private and public insurance, but just 50 percent of psychiatrists do so. The article said this is due to the fact that psychiatrists “are much in demand and can therefore often keep their practices full on a cash-only basis.”

APA in the News

NYTimes Praises Clinton's Mental Health Proposal.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/5, A18, Subscription Publication) highlights Hillary Clinton's “plan that offers hope for improving

mental health research, diagnosis and treatment,” writing that while “the plan has room for improvement,” her “ideas would make an important difference in the lives of people with mental illness, as well as paving the way for improved diagnosis and treatment in the future.” According to the Times, the main obstacle would be funding the proposal. The paper points out that the American Psychiatric Association projects that “integrating the mental and physical health care systems could save up to \$48 billion a year.”

Friday's Lead Stories

- **Some Children Of Parents With History Of Psychiatric Illness May Be At Higher Risk For Attempting Suicide, Engaging In Violent Behavior.**
- **Burwell Says ACA Exchanges Are Viable, Even Without Congressional Assistance.**
- **Antipsychotic Medications May Raise Pneumonia Risk In Patients With And Without Alzheimer's, Research Indicates.**
- **Patients With Cancer May Have Increased Risks Of Iatrogenic, Noniatrogenic Injuries Shortly Before And After Their Diagnosis, Study Indicates.**

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