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**To:** [lpmastaff@lpma.net](mailto:lpmastaff@lpma.net)  
**Subject:** APA Headlines: Research Suggests Association Between Chronic Pain, Depression in Couples  
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

August 17, 2016

### Leading The News

#### Research Suggests Association Between Chronic Pain, Depression In Couples.

[HealthDay](#) (8/16, Preidt) reports, "If your significant other is depressed, you are at increased risk for chronic pain," researchers found after analyzing "data from more than 100,000 people in the UK." Investigators "found that chronic pain is caused partly by genetics and partly by still-unknown risk factors shared by partners or spouses." The [findings](#) were published online Aug. 16 in PLOS Medicine.

#### Psychiatric News Alert



#### [Early Improvement in Work Productivity May Predict Treatment Success in Depression](#)

#### [First Suicide Attempts More Lethal Than Prior Estimates](#)

#### Understanding MACRA

A webinar and a Q&A are available to help explain payment reform and quality reporting under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The webinar, presented in June and now available online, provides psychiatrist with a basic understanding of the key features of MACRA and how they may impact their practices. View the [MACRA presentation](#). See also an easy-to-understand [Q&A on MACRA](#) from Psychiatric News.



### Psychiatry and Public Health

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#### European Aviation Safety Agency Proposes Better Mental Health Assessments For Pilots.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Moulson) reports that in light of the March 24, 2015 Germanwings crash in France in which co-pilot Andreas Lubitz deliberately flew an airliner into a mountainside, killing all aboard, "the European Aviation Safety Agency (EVAS) on Tuesday proposed tougher medical examinations for pilots, including better mental health assessments." The EVAS "recommended strengthening pilots' initial and subsequent medical examinations 'by including drugs and alcohol screening, comprehensive mental health assessment, as well as improved follow-up in case of medical history of psychiatric conditions.'"

#### Dallas PD Partners With Mayor's Office, Mental Health America Of Greater Dallas To Provide Long-Term Counseling For Police Officers.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/16, Tsiaperas) reports that in the month since "a lone gunman opened fire on" police "officers as a protest



was ending" in downtown Dallas, TX, in which five people were killed and 11 injured, "the trauma response has shifted toward creating a long-term counseling plan for police officers grieving those killed in the downtown ambush." To provide "counseling services to police officers and their families," the Dallas Police Department has entered into partnership "with the mayor's office and Mental Health America of Greater Dallas." In addition, "the Dallas Police Association's Assist the Officer Foundation also offers counseling services to officers and their families."

## **Expert Urges Texas To Increase Reimbursement Rates To Increase Number Of Practicing Mental Health Professionals Willing To Take Medicaid Patients.**

In The Blog for the [Huffington Post](#) (8/16), Colleen Horton, policy program officer for the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, writes, "Last year, 185 Texas counties out of 254 did not have a single psychiatrist, which left more than three million Texans without access to a psychiatrist." Currently, just "half of Texas psychiatrists accept private insurance, compared with nearly 90 percent of other physician types," and just "21 percent of Texas psychiatrists will accept Medicaid patients, according to the Texas Medical Association." Horton urges the state to "increase reimbursement rates to increase the number of practicing mental" healthcare professionals "willing to provide services to consumers with Medicaid."

### **Other News**

## **Psychiatrist: FDA Making It Harder To Save The Lives Of Smokers.**

[Forbes](#) (8/16) contributor, psychiatrist, and W.H. Brady Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute Sally Satel writes that the CDC "refuses to acknowledge the steep risk reduction for smokers who switch to non-combustible tobacco," and "overlooks evidence of immediate gains in respiratory health when e-cigarettes are used as an alternative to smoking." She claims that instead, the agency is more interested in over-dramatizing the yet unrealized harm e-cigarettes pose to children. She also suggests particular states, parts of the press, special interest groups like the American Lung Association, and anti-tobacco advocacy groups are deceiving the public with alarmist claims. She argues the FDA has placed "undue regulatory burden and cost on vaping manufacturers" by subjecting them "to the same regulatory regime as combustible cigarettes." She concludes that health agencies "are making it more and more difficult to improve and save the lives of smokers."

## **Push-Up Challenge Seeks To Raise Awareness Of Suicides Among Veterans.**

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 11, 1:55, Pelley), correspondent Jim Axelrod said, "There's a new challenge rippling through social media: push-ups. Twenty-two, in fact, knocking them out, then challenging someone else to do it." The idea behind the "22-push-up challenge" is "to focus attention on a tragedy. For years, it was estimated 22 veterans committed suicide each day," although more recent research has estimated that number to be 20. The group behind the challenge, "22Kill, says its primary goal is to raise awareness, not money." The [CBS News](#) (8/16) website also covers the story.

### **Tuesday's Lead Stories**

- **[Maternal Acetaminophen Use In Pregnancy May Be Associated With Behavioral Problems In Offspring.](#)**
- **[Prescription Medication Abuse May Be Associated With A Greater Risk For Suicide Attempts In Teens.](#)**
- **[Analysis Indicates Insurers Seeking Average Hike Of 24 Percent For ACA Plans.](#)**
- **[APA Reiterates Breaking The Goldwater Rule Is "Irresponsible" And "Definitely Unethical."](#)**
- **[Elderly Getting Too Many Prescriptions For Chronic Illnesses, Raising Chance Of Serious Side Effects, Studies Suggest.](#)**

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