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Subject: APA Headlines: Intense Vascular Risk Management Fails To Prevent Dementia, Study Indicates
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

July 29, 2016

Leading The News

Intense Vascular Risk Management Fails To Prevent Dementia, Study Indicates.

[MedPage Today](#) (7/28, Fiore) reports, "Intense vascular risk management failed to prevent dementia," investigators found. The [findings](#) of the 3,526-patient study were simultaneously presented at the Alzheimer's Association Annual Conference and published online July 26 in *The Lancet*.

Psychiatric News Alert



[No Response to Lurasidone at 2 Weeks? Study Suggests Dose Escalation May Help](#)

[Low Scores on Odor Identification Test May Predict Early-Stage Alzheimer's Disease](#)

[Take Action](#) to Encourage Passage of Mental Health Reform

The House of Representatives passed the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646) in early July by an overwhelming majority of 422 to 2! We now have the momentum to see this legislation passed into law this year, but we need your help!

Voicing your support for Senate passage of the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 (S. 2680) will go a long way to ensure that mental health reform goes to the President's desk for a signature this year. Call or write your Senators now! Email your Senators at [Take Action](#).

[Learn more about the Mental Health Reform Act.](#) For more information, contact advocacy@psych.org.



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Scientists Growing Frustrated With Perceived "Missteps" In Alzheimer's Research.

[STAT](#) (7/28, Begley) reports that Alzheimer's researchers "expressed frustration and even anger that their field has not made more progress toward a cure" as another experimental Alzheimer's medication reported disappointing results in a clinical trial this week. A "growing number of scientists" believe "the problem isn't that there's been too little time to make meaningful progress against a hugely complicated disease that strikes an organ unrivaled for its complexity," but that "the field has made many missteps, that its leaders stifled research that deviated from the dominant theory of what caused Alzheimer's, and that it was too easy to count as progress journal papers rather than advances that help patients."

Government and Psychiatry

Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities To Receive \$100 Million Medicare Raise Next Year.

[Modern Healthcare](#) (7/28, Dickson, Subscription Publication) reports inpatient psychiatric facilities will see a 2.2 percent increase in Medicare reimbursement, a "\$100 million raise" that exceeds the 1.5 percent or \$80 million increase they received this year. According to the most recent federal data available, Medicare payments to inpatient psychiatric facilities were estimated to be \$4.4 billion in 2012, up from \$3.9 billion in 2008. Facilities should expect an increase in Medicaid payments in 2017 "now that a 50-year ban on mental health institutions was successfully repealed earlier this year."

Psychiatry and Public Health

Insurers Accused Of Finding Ways To Avoid Covering Mental Health Conditions.

[Kaiser Health News](#) (7/28, Dembosky) reports that some 43 million people in the US "suffer from depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions," according to data from the Federal government, but more than 50 percent of those "who felt like they needed help last year, never got it." Even those with insurance "complained of barriers to care." The article says the 2008 Mental Health Parity Act and the Affordable Care Act were supposed to address this problem. Under the laws, insurers must provide comparable benefits for mental health and physical health conditions. Yet, "advocates say insurance companies are still finding ways to keep people who need care from getting it."

Psychiatric Medication Update

Signaling Problems Between Important Nerve Cell Membranes May Explain Why SSRI Antidepressants Take Some Time To Work, Rat Study Suggests.

[Medical Daily](#) (7/28, Dovey) reports that a [study](#) published online July 18 in the Journal of Biological Chemistry suggests selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants may take weeks to work in patients "partly due to signaling problems between important nerve cell membranes, called G proteins." Researchers arrived at this conclusion after "bathing rat glial cells, a type of brain cell, with different SSRIs," then locating "the G proteins within the cell membrane."

Other News

Real Changes Occur In Brains Of People In A Hypnotic State, Small Study Indicates.

[STAT](#) (7/28, Zimmer) reports, "Psychiatrists have been using hypnosis on patients for decades – to help them reduce their pain or kick a smoking habit, among other reasons." Recently, a team from the Stanford University School of Medicine "decided to scan patients' brains and see if hypnosis left a mark. It did."

[HealthDay](#) (7/28, Thompson) reports that the research, which used MRI, indicated changes take place in the brains of people who are in a "hypnotic state." Investigators found that "people in a trance experienced a decrease in activity in an area called the dorsal anterior cingulate." Additionally, individuals who were hypnotized "experienced an increase in connections between the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the insula." The study also indicated that "people in hypnosis...have reduced connections between the task-oriented dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and the brain's default mode network." The [findings](#) of the 57-participant study were published in online July 28 Cerebral Cortex.

Exercising After Learning New Information May Improve Retention, Study Suggests.

The [New York Times](#) (7/28, Reynolds) reports exercise may help people retain new information better, according to a new study published in Current Biology. Researchers had adult subjects undergo a visual and spatial learning test, follow different routines involving exercise or physical inactivity after the test, and then take the same test two weeks later. The researchers found that a group of subjects who exercised four hours after the first test performed better on the second test than those who exercised immediately after the first test, or not at all.

People With Vision Problems May Face Higher Risk Of Unemployment, Poverty, And Mental Health Problems, Research Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (7/28, Dotinga) reports, "People with vision problems may face a higher risk of unemployment, poverty and mental health problems," [research](#) published online July 28 in JAMA Ophthalmology suggests. Researchers arrived at that conclusion after examining the "health of more than 112,000 volunteers in the" UK. Commenting on the study, Mary Frances Cotch, PhD, chief, epidemiology branch, division of epidemiology and clinical applications, US National Eye Institute, said, "Our focus has mostly been on severe visual loss and treating the eye diseases that cause it." Cotch added, "This study is saying we probably shouldn't wait until that time since people with mild visual loss are being affected by their condition." Cotch was not involved in the study.

Poison Control Centers Getting More Calls About Kratom, CDC Says.

[STAT](#) (7/28, Boodman) reports poison control centers are getting more calls about problems stemming from people ingesting kratom, an Asian plant that can be used to make tea, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Kratom can cause side effects such as "nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, and agitation," but when combined with other substances it can cause more serious side effects.

Thursday's Lead Stories

- [Thinning Retina May Be A Sign Of Declining Cognitive Function, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Changes Occurring In Teens' Brains As They Mature May Help Explain Why First Signs Of Mental Illness May Appear During This Time, Scan Study Indicates.](#)
- [Army Secretary Highlights Importance Of Mental Health.](#)
- [Experimental Alzheimer's Medication Fails In Clinical Trial, But May Be Effective As Monotherapy.](#)

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