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To: lpmastaff@lpma.net
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

December 27, 2016

Leading The News

Albuminuria May Be Modestly Associated With Risk For Dementia, Research Suggests.

[Medwire News](#) (12/22, Piper) reported, "Albuminuria is modestly associated with the risk for dementia," researchers found after conducting "a systematic review of 22 prospective studies examining associations between different markers of renal dysfunction and cognitive decline." Their "pooled analysis of 27,805 individuals in five studies assessing albuminuria showed a 35% increased risk of cognitive impairment or dementia in affected patients compared with their peers without the condition." Their [findings](#) were published online in Neurology.

Psychiatric News Alert



[MH Parity Law Successful at Reducing Quantitative Treatment Limits](#)

[DEA Announces Update to Renewal Application Policies](#)

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Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Seven Studies Expound Upon Key Areas Of Concern Regarding Borderline Personality Disorder.

[HCP Live](#) (12/23, Lutz) reported, "Recent findings published in the Harvard Review of Psychiatry included seven papers that" expounded upon "key areas of concern regarding borderline personality disorder." The studies, which were published in the September/October issue, can be seen [here](#). The authors of a guest [editorial](#) wrote, "We hope these articles will help clinicians understand their borderline personality disorder patients, encourage more optimism about their treatability, and help set a stage from which the next generation of mental health professionals will be more willing to address the clinical and public health challenges they present."

Two Or More Of Certain Behaviors May Predict Suicide Attempts In Public Transit Stations, Researchers Say.

[Healio](#) (12/22, Oldt) reported that two or more of certain behaviors may predict “suicide attempts in public transit stations, suggesting that observing” closed-circuit television (CCTV) “monitors may identify individuals at risk for attempting suicide.” Behaviors that may predict suicide attempts include “leaving objects on the platform, frequently looking down the tunnel, standing for long periods of time on the yellow line or continually walking on the yellow line, looking physically agitated, staring at the tracks or the tunnel for long periods of time and seeming depressed.” The [findings](#), which pooled the results of two small studies, were published online Dec. 15 in BMC Public Health.

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In Small Study, Researchers Develop Blood Test For Detecting Brain Tau Protein In Blood Platelets.

[Medical Daily](#) (12/23, Dovey) reported investigators “recently published their research on developing a blood test for diagnosing Alzheimer’s using biomarkers for the disease found in the blood.” Specifically, researchers “developed technology that detects brain tau protein...in the blood platelets of patients.” Next, they used “the ratio between this anomalous tau and the normal tau protein to help distinguish...patients” with Alzheimer’s “from normal controls.” The [findings](#) were published online in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease. The abstract explains that 53 patients with Alzheimer’s and 37 cognitively normal controls took part in the research.

Government and Psychiatry

GOP United On Repealing ACA, But Divided Over Replacing Or Improving It.

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (12/26, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that while Republicans “are united on repealing” the Affordable Care Act, they are divided over replacing the law, and uniting the various factions will be difficult. Although some would “revise and rebrand” the law, scrapping “unpopular provisions” and keeping “well-liked parts,” others would eliminate the law entirely and not replace it. The challenge for President-elect Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Congress will be uniting “the groups on complicated changes affecting the financial and physical well-being of millions of people.”

GOP Vow To Repeal ACA Taxes May Make It Difficult To Fund A Replacement. [Kaiser Health News](#) (12/23, Rovner) reported that GOP leaders “have vowed that even if they repeal most of the Affordable Care Act early in 2017, a replacement will not hurt those currently receiving benefits.” They have promised “no one is worse off.” Yet, “that may be difficult for one big reason – Republicans have also pledged to repeal the taxes that Democrats used to pay for their health law,” and if that funding is eliminated, “Republicans will have far less money to spend on whatever they opt for as a replacement.”

Psychiatry and Public Health

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US Job Exodus Parallels Increase In Suicides, Researchers Say.

The [Boston Globe](#) (12/27, Fernandes) reports that “the US job exodus parallels an increase in suicides,” research suggests. In fact “a one percentage point increase in unemployment correlated with an 11 percent increase in suicides, according to Peter Schott, a Yale University economist who coauthored the report with Justin Pierce, a researcher at the Federal Reserve Board.” The study authors theorize that “workers who lost their jobs may have been pushed over the edge and turned to suicide or drug addiction, lacking financial resources or community connections to get help.”

WPost Analysis: Crackdown On Opioid Prescribing May Limit Beneficial Use.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/23, Achenbach) “To Your Health” blog says that despite the “massive opioid epidemic” in the US, “opioids can be an effective treatment for chronic pain, and too many people around the world have limited access to them.” Princeton historian Keith Wiloo warned that “some patients may be denied opioids because doctors are not convinced their described pain is real or fear the pills will be diverted to the illegal market.”

Vermont Convicts Benefit From Drug Treatment-Oriented Sentences. A nearly 3,000-word “In Depth” front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/23, A1, Levitz, Calvert, Subscription Publication) article examines Vermont’s experimental program that steers low-level drug offenders into treatment, rather than sentencing them to jail time, in order to focus on rehabilitation.

Other News

Growing Number Of Scientists, Clinicians Focusing On “Late Effects” Of Cancer

Treatments.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/25, A1, McGinley) reported in a front-page article that many individuals who survive cancer as children “are turning up years or even decades later with serious and sometimes life-threatening complications, including second cancers, heart disorders, cognitive problems and infertility.” Now, an increasing “number of scientists and clinicians” are “focusing intently on ‘late effects’ of cancer treatments.” According to the Post, “Many of these researchers work in clinics designed specifically to monitor the health of childhood cancer survivors and alert them to potential risks.”

Thursday's Lead Stories

- **About Two-Thirds Of Women With Anorexia Nervosa Or Bulimia Will Eventually Recover, Study Suggests.**
- **Study Reveals Complex Etiology Of MDD In Han Chinese Women.**
- **Data Show 6.4 Million Consumers Have Enrolled In ACA Plans Thus Far.**
- **Majority Of Opioid Addicts Given Buprenorphine For Home Use Tested Free Of Illicit Opioids After 12 Weeks, Small Study Finds.**
- **Anti-Tau Vaccine For Alzheimer's Elicits Well-Tolerated, Strong, Specific Immune Response In Small Phase I Study.**
- **Brain Abnormalities That Cause Dyslexia May Be Deeper And More Pervasive Than Previously Thought, Study Suggests.**

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