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Subject: APA Headlines: Small Brain Scan Study Reveals Why Some Older Adults Retain Remarkable Memory Performance
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

September 15, 2016

Leading The News

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Small Brain Scan Study Reveals Why Some Older Adults Retain Remarkable Memory Performance.

The [Huffington Post](#) (9/14) reports the researchers who examined “brains of several older adults with remarkable memory performance” found that these so-called “super agers had brains with areas important for memory that did not show the typical shrinkage seen in most older adults.” In fact, brain scans “comparing super agers with typical older adults and young adults revealed that some brain areas remained youthful and thick in super agers,” including “the default mode network, which is involved in learning and remembering, and the salience network, involved in identifying important information that needs attention.”

[HealthDay](#) (9/14, Dallas) points out the [findings](#) of the small study were published Sept. 14 in the Journal of Neuroscience. The National Institute on Aging provided financial support to the study. Also covering the study are [Medical Daily](#) (9/14, Dovey) and [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/14).

Psychiatric News Alert



[Patient Expectations of Antidepressants May Mediate Placebo Effects](#)

[Researchers Propose Rethinking Fear May Advance Treatment of Anxiety Disorders](#)

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Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Study Of “Super Agers” Reveals Elderly Memory Loss Not Inevitable.

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/14) reports that according to a new study by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital, which was published in the Journal of Neuroscience, memory deterioration “is not an inevitable part of aging” as “a unique group of adults in their 60s and 70s,” so-called “‘super agers,’ performed just as well on memory tests as ‘youngsters’ a third of their age.” According to brain scans of the elderly group, “several parts of the brain’s memory machinery – including the anterior insula and orbitofrontal cortex and the

hippocampus – appeared thicker and healthier than normal for people of their age.” The study’s authors say the findings “could ultimately help with understanding the processes that lead to dementia and if there are ways to avoid them.”

Sertraline May Help Prevent Depression After TBI, Small Study Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (9/14, Dallas) reports the antidepressant sertraline may help prevent depression following a traumatic brain injury (TBI), researchers found after randomizing 94 patients with TBI to sertraline or placebo and then following them for six months.

[Healio](#) (9/14, Oldt) reports the [findings](#) were published online Sept. 14 in JAMA Psychiatry.

Postpartum Psychosis Most Frequently Occurs In Mothers With BD, But May Be Often Missed Due To Rarity, Lack Of Research, Review Indicates.

[Healio](#) (9/14, Oldt) reports, “Postpartum psychosis most frequently occurs in mothers with bipolar disorder [BD], but is often missed due to rarity and lack of research,” researchers found after reviewing “epidemiologic and genetic research and physiological postpartum triggers (i.e., endocrine, immunological, circadian) of psychosis,” and then evaluating “all systematic review and clinical studies to establish diagnostic recommendations, treatment options and prevention strategies.” The [findings](#) were published online Sept. 9 in the American Journal of Psychiatry, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association.

Government and Psychiatry

Remaining 19 States Facing Growing Pressure To Expand Medicaid Under ACA.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/14, Tracer) reports that Americans remain divided over the Affordable Care Act, and Republicans are still attempting to repeal it, but “as critics focus on the legislation’s insurance mandates and penalties, the biggest impact has come from Medicaid expansion.” The article says the 31 states which expanded Medicaid “are receiving billions of dollars in federal funds, enabling more patients to gain access to care and shoring up the finances of hospitals strained by unpaid bills.” That is in stark contrast to the 19 states which refused to expand Medicaid. But now, there is growing pressure on those states to take advantage of Federal funding in order to address budget shortfalls expand coverage to more residents. According to HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell, “This isn’t a question of if, it’s a question of when. ... Our job right now is to do everything we can to make that ‘when’ be faster.”

Insurers Worried About Impact Of ACA Grace Period.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/14, Leonard) says that on Monday, insurers told the Obama Administration that a provision for a grace period in the Affordable Care Act “is allowing exchange customers to dodge the [law’s] penalty, while also helping them get more out of their medical coverage.” During a meeting with Administration officials, insurers said “making changes to the grace period is one way to make it easier for them to continue to participate in Obamacare’s exchanges.” The article points out that physicians and hospitals “have also raised concerns in the past about what the grace period does to their finances.” As a result, the American Medical Association and other medical groups have “released guidance to help their members minimize financial losses.”

California Wants Obama To Approve Waiver Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Purchase Coverage On Exchange.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Wire) reports California will soon be the first state in the US to request that the Federal government allow undocumented immigrants to purchase healthcare coverage through its Affordable Care Act exchange. On Wednesday, California Democrats urged President Obama to approve the request. The article says California must “formally request federal permission for immigrants to pay for coverage through Covered California by submitting a waiver to the” ACA.

[The Hill](#) (9/14, Lillis) reports that while the ACA explicitly prohibits undocumented immigrants from purchasing “health plans on the state’s insurance exchange, the Democrats want the administration to approve a waiver – enacted this summer by California state lawmakers – to overturn that prohibition.” The piece adds that earlier this week, “California’s entire Democratic delegation wrote a letter to Jacob Lew, the Treasury secretary, and Sylvia Burwell, who heads the Health and Human Services Department, urging their approval.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/14, Crabtree) reports that on Wednesday, the White House indicated “it’s unlikely to grant a waiver to make California the first state in the country to allow illegal immigrants to buy healthcare on the Obamacare exchange.” The [Daily Caller](#) (9/14, Brufke) also covers the story.

Parents Of Children With Rare Illnesses Fighting Against Proposed Medicaid Changes.

On its website, [KXAN-TV](#) Austin, TX (9/14, Barnett, Ricke) reports that Texas is planning to make certain changes to its Medicaid program which “could pose some major challenges for children dealing with rare and complicated medical illnesses.” The state will unveil its STAR kids program in November. The program “requires children who are 20 years-old and younger to switch to a managed care program” that is supposed to “provide benefits like prescription drugs, medical equipment and a list of doctors and specialists.” This changes are expected to reduce Medicaid costs, but parents maintain that many of the physicians who currently treat their children are not part of the program. Therefore, they are protesting the changes.

Psychiatry and Public Health

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center CEO Says Healthcare System Layoffs Will Not

Affect State Psychiatric Hospital.

The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (9/14, Solomon) reports Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center CEO James Weinstein said in a written statement that recently announced healthcare system layoffs will not affect New Hampshire Hospital, a state psychiatric hospital. The article points out that state officials recently approved a \$37 million contract for Dartmouth-Hitchcock to run the state psychiatric hospital and other mental health facilities in the state.

APA in the News

More Outreach Needed To Engage Psychiatrists In Healthcare Reform, Survey Finds.

[Psychiatry Online](#) (9/14, Moran) reports the [findings](#) of “a cross-sectional survey of US psychiatrists” published online Aug. 15 appearing in *Psychiatric Services in Advance*. The survey, which received 1,188 responses, revealed that “many psychiatrists are prepared or are preparing to practice in service delivery models consistent with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – including the collaborative care model – but a substantial number are not, and more outreach is necessary to engage psychiatrists in health care reform.” Study co-author and American Psychiatric Association CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, MD, MPA, pointed out, “APA has a wide range of resources to help prepare psychiatrists for performance-based payment reforms and to train psychiatrists for participating in the collaborative care model of integrated care.”

Wednesday's Lead Stories

- [Schools' Practice Of Screening Students For Mental Health Issues Varies Widely Across The US.](#)
- [People With Cocaine Addiction Most Vulnerable To Drug Cues At Months One And Six Of Abstinence, Researchers Say.](#)
- [Senate Mental Health Legislation Vote Will Likely Have To Wait Until After Election, Cornyn Says.](#)
- [Patients Seeking Help For Mental Health Problems May Wait Hours Longer In The ED Than Other Patients Do, Study Indicates.](#)
- [EHR Data May Be Utilized To Help Predict Future Risk For Suicidal Behavior, Research Suggests.](#)
- [“Collaborative Care” May Reduce Post-Concussion Symptoms For Teenagers, Small Study Suggests.](#)

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