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Subject: APA Headlines: Telepsychiatry Emerges As Practical Approach To Reaching More Young People In Underserved Or Rural Areas
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Good morning Ms Cathy Thompson

August 5, 2016

Leading The News

Telepsychiatry Emerges As Practical Approach To Reaching More Young People In Underserved Or Rural Areas.

[TIME](#) (8/4) reports, "Psychiatrists and mental health advocates say America today needs more than 30,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists, and has only 8,300," a need that continues to increase, particularly in rural or underserved areas. Telepsychiatry has now "emerged as a practical approach to reaching more young people." And, "despite any potential downsides...the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics all acknowledge its prominence and offer resources for patients and" healthcare professionals "on how to practice it."

Psychiatric News Alert



[Frequent Patient Contact May Reduce Risk of Relapse in Schizophrenia Patients](#)

[Patients With Binge-Eating Disorder, Bulimia May Be More Likely to Smoke Cigarettes](#)

Free Course of the Month: [Updates in Women's Health: Psychopharmacologic Approaches in the Perinatal Period](#)

Psychiatric disorders are common during pregnancy and the postpartum period. This course provides an overview of the current evidence for the use of mood stabilizers and antipsychotics during pregnancy and lactation. [Learn more](#) or [take the August course](#).

Free Course for September: Neuromodulation in the Treatment of Geriatric Psychiatric Disorders



Psychiatric Treatment/Disorders

Etanercept May Help Reduce Risk For Alzheimer's Disease, Study Suggests.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Bakalar) "Well" blog reports that a [study](#) published in CNS Drugs suggests that patients treated with etanercept for rheumatoid arthritis may see "benefits against Alzheimer's disease." In the study, researchers found that "patients who had been treated with etanercept showed a significantly reduced risk for Alzheimer's disease."

Tau Imaging Distinguishes Patients With Alzheimer's From Those Without In Small Study.

[MedPage Today](#) (8/4, Fiore) reports that in a 59-patient study, "tau imaging was able to distinguish patients with Alzheimer's disease from those without." In the study, "[¹⁸F]-AV-1451 PET imaging distinguished Alzheimer's patients from those with normal cognition (AUC 0.89 to 0.98), and elevated tau was tied to volume loss in the hippocampus and cerebral cortex," researchers found. The [findings](#) were published online July 25 in JAMA Neurology. The author of an accompanying [editorial](#) "noted that the results are 'consistent with

indications from neuropathologic studies that have demonstrated stronger associations between tau and cognition than between amyloid and cognition.”

Acupuncture May Benefit People With MCI, Review Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (8/4, Reinberg) reports, “Acupuncture may benefit people who have memory loss, but don’t yet have dementia,” researchers found. The [findings](#) of the five-study review encompassing some “600 people with mild cognitive impairment [MCI]” were published online Aug. 4 in *Acupuncture in Medicine*.

Government and Psychiatry

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New Jersey Mental Health, Addiction Facilities Concerned About Impact Of Medicaid Billing Reforms.

[NJ Spotlight](#) (8/4, Stainton) reports certain New Jersey behavioral health facilities are worried “an overhaul to the billing system designed to increase historically low Medicaid reimbursements may hurt their ability to provide treatment for” uninsured people who cannot afford to pay for their own care. The article says these concerns come “amid wider confusion for community health” professionals “and patient advocates about the widespread changes to the state’s Medicaid payment system that took effect a month ago.” According to state officials, the reform will result in more efficiency and flexibility, yet the overhaul “has another, less-publicized goal: to shift much of the financial burden to the federal government.”

Psychiatry and Public Health

Opinion Piece Calls For Reducing Inequalities In Mental Illness.

In an opinion piece for “The Conversation” reprinted in [Newsweek](#) (8/4), Owen Davis, a PhD candidate in social policy at the UK’s University of Kent, writes that “studies have repeatedly shown that mental health remains inversely associated with social class.” According to Davis, “the risk of developing a mental disorder rises alongside socioeconomic disadvantage and the odds of reporting depression are almost twice as high among those in the lowest socioeconomic groups, compared with the highest.” Davis calls for “reducing inequalities in mental illness.”

Other News

Brains Of Overweight People Appear “10 Years Older” Than Those Of Leaner Peers, Scan Study Indicates.

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (8/4) reports, “The brains of overweight people look ‘10 years older’ than those of leaner peers,” [research](#) published online in *Neurobiology of Aging* suggests. Researchers arrived at this conclusion after using magnetic resonance imaging to examine “the brains of 473 people aged between 20 and 87, dividing” participants “into lean and overweight categories.”

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/4, Davis) reports, “The difference” between the two groups, “scientists say, corresponds to a greater shrinkage in the volume of white matter.” The cause for that is unknown, however. It could be due “to genes causing both brain-shrinking and obesity, or it could be that changes occurring in the brain lead to overeating.” The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/4, Davies) and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (8/4, Donnelly) also cover the study.

Positive Attitude About Aging Helps Seniors Cope With Stress, Study Suggests.

[HealthDay](#) (8/3, Preidt) reports a small study published online in the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences* examining 43 people aged 60 to 96 by researchers at North Carolina State University suggests that “a positive attitude about aging can help seniors cope with stress.” Study participants were asked by researchers “how they felt about aging and then completed a daily questionnaire for eight straight days” that included questions on levels of stress, fear, irritability or distress.

Many Medical Professionals, Policy Makers Challenging Wisdom Of Asking Patients To Rate How Hospital Employees Manage Pain.

In a 1,500-word article, the [New York Times](#) (8/4, Hoffman, Tavernise, Subscription Publication) reports that as the US “struggles to control the epidemic of overdoses and deaths from prescription opioids, many medical professionals and policy makers are challenging the wisdom of asking patients to rate how hospital employees manage pain.” Doing this, “they argue, creates a dangerous incentive for doctors to prescribe powerful and potentially addictive painkillers.” While the debate about the pain question is ongoing, according to the Times, Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Kevin Griffin says “alternative approaches” to addressing the question “are being field-tested, and the new set may be included in future reimbursement formulas.”

Thursday’s Lead Stories

- [CMS Encourages States To Use Medicaid Funds For Home And Community-Based Care.](#)
- [Dementia Not A Specific Disease, Article Explains.](#)
- [Organizations Team Up To Offer New Massage Program To Treat Veterans With PTSD.](#)
- [Marriage Alters Alcohol Consumption Habits, Study Suggests.](#)

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