



# BRAINSTORMING

Volume 3, Issue 2

March/April 2018

Brainstorming is an on-line publication of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Wichita Affiliate. It is made up of articles encompassing the topic of mental illness. Information provided in this e-magazine is for informational purposes only, has not been researched or independently verified and is not intended as medical advice. Views published in Brainstorming are those of the individual authors and contributors and do not reflect and are not endorsed as local, state or national NAMI positions. To read the full articles, right click on the "Read more" link following the introduction to each article and open the hyperlink. To submit articles and other material to be considered for inclusion in this e-magazine, contact Lynn Kohr at [lkohr@cox.net](mailto:lkohr@cox.net).

## Relieving Treatment–Resistant Depression by Treating Metabolic Deficiencies

An important discovery has been made at the University of Pittsburgh. It raises the prospect that there may be an entirely new way of relieving major depression in people who repeatedly have failed to respond to existing treatments—people at elevated risk for suicide whose lives are often unrelentingly dark and full of anguish.

[Read more](#)

## Neuron Activity May Reveal Future Susceptibility to Depression in Response to Stress

Chronic stress can cause some people to become depressed, potentially through stress-induced changes to certain neurons in reward-related regions in the brain such as the nucleus accumbens. But it has been difficult to determine whether susceptibility to the effects of stress are pre-existing in these neurons, or if repeated stress creates this susceptibility. Chronic stress can cause some people to become depressed, potentially through stress.

Now, a team of researchers reports in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology* that the activity in at least one type of neuron predicts whether socially stressed mice will develop depression-like symptoms, prior to that stress. This predictive activity signature could be used in the future to identify people at greater risk for developing depression after significant life stress, and may point to future drug targets to treat stress-induced depression.

[Read more](#)

## High Dopamine May Cause Psychosis Patients to Focus More on Expectations

A new study finds that schizophrenia patients with auditory hallucinations often hear what they expect to hear. In fact, the hallucinations may be an extreme version of a perceptual distortion quite common among healthy people.

[Read more](#)

## Backers of Kansas Medicaid Expansion Pack Hearing, But Can They Change Policy?

When it comes to packing Statehouse hearings, few groups fill a room more reliably than those pushing for Medicaid expansion.

What they're less good at, at least so far, is convincing lawmakers and a governor to expand Medicaid eligibility to another 150,000 low-income Kansans.

[Read more](#)

## New Antipsychotic May Relieve Psychosis in Dementia Patients

A new atypical antipsychotic, known as pimavanserin (Nuplazid), has been shown to help relieve the terrifying symptoms of psychosis in Alzheimer's disease without the devastating side effects often seen with current antipsychotics, according to new findings published in the journal *Lancet Neurology*.

[Read more](#)

## Treating Disruptive Behavior Disorders in Children: Q&A with Peter Parry, MD

**CCPR (The Carlat Child Psychiatry Report):** Dr. Parry, what sort of experience do you have working with children with disruptive behavioral disorders (DBDs)?

**Dr. Parry:** Beyond 20 years of general child psychiatrist clinical experience, my current role is with a preadolescent child and family inpatient unit in a large pediatric hospital in Brisbane, Australia, where we specialize in disruptive behavior disorders.

[Read more](#)