Research

Original Investigation

109 Disruption of Cortical Association Networks in Schizophrenia and Psychotic Bipolar Disorder
JT Baker and Coauthors

119 Suicide Attempt in Young People: A Signal for Long-term Health Care and Social Needs
SJ Goldman-Mellor and Coauthors

128 Neuroanatomical Correlates of Religiosity and Spirituality: A Study in Adults at High and Low Familial Risk for Depression
L Miller and Coauthors

136 Discriminating Risk and Resilience Endophenotypes From Lifetime Illness Effects in Familial Major Depressive Disorder
BS Peterson and Coauthors

149 Association Between Traumatic Brain Injury and Risk of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Active-Duty Marines
KA Yurgil and Coauthors

158 Elevated Plasma Inflammatory Markers in Individuals With Intermittent Explosive Disorder and Correlation With Aggression in Humans
EF Coccaro and Coauthors

161 Mitigation of Socioemotionalal Deficits of Autism Through Oxytocin-Induced Recovery of Medial Prefrontal Activity: A Randomized Trial
T Watanabe and Coauthors

176 Acceptance of Insurance by Psychiatrists and the Implications for Access to Mental Health Care
TF Bishop and Coauthors

182 The Structure of Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors for Dimensional Representations of DSM-5 Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders
B Monzani and Coauthors

190 Race/Ethnicity and Geographic Access to Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities in the United States
JR Cummings and Coauthors

Clinical Review & Education

Neuroscience and Psychiatry

197 Teamwork Matters: Coordinated Neuronal Activity in Brain Systems Relevant to Psychiatric Disorders
B Moghaddam and J Wood

Continuing Medical Education

216 Online CME Quiz Questions

LETTERS

Comment & Response

205 Does Self-medication Predict the Persistence or Rather the Recurrence of Alcohol Dependence?

206 Early Medication Discontinuation on Long-term Recovery Outcome in First-Episode Psychosis

209 Diabetes Risk Potentially Underestimated in Youth and Children Receiving Antipsychotics

210 Emphasize the Effect of Methylphenidate on Brain Function in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Research

210 Certainly Not the First Neuroimaging Treatment Selection Biomarker

211 Prolonged Exposure Therapy in Veterans Affairs: The Full Picture

HUMANITIES

Art and Images in Psychiatry

107 Green and Maroon: Mark Rothko
JC Harris

Issue Highlights and Continued Contents on page 103

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Research (continued)

Plasma Inflammatory Processes and Aggression 158
Coccaro and colleagues examined plasma levels of C-reactive protein and interleukin 6, markers of inflammation, in participants with intermittent explosive disorder and in healthy and psychiatric controls. Participants with intermittent explosive disorder demonstrated higher levels of both markers, which, in turn, were positively correlated with measures of aggression. These findings were not due to other confounding factors and suggest that chronic, low-level inflammation is a characteristic of human aggression.

Oxytocin and Autism Sociocommunicational Deficits 166
Watanabe and colleagues, in a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, within-subject crossover trial, demonstrate behavioral and neural effects of single-dose intranasal oxytocin on sociocommunicational deficits of autism spectrum disorders. Brain activities were examined with functional magnetic resonance imaging while 40 individuals with autism spectrum disorders were assessing others' hostility based on integration of their facial expression, prosody, and word content. Oxytocin mitigates sociocommunicational deficits through recovering originally diminished brain activity in the medial prefrontal cortes.

Acceptance of Insurance by Psychiatrists 176
Bishop and colleagues analyzed data from a national survey of office-based physicians to describe recent trends in the acceptance of insurance by psychiatrists compared with physicians of other specialties. They found that acceptance rates of all types of insurance were significantly lower for psychiatrists than for physicians of other specialties.

Risk Factors for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders 182
Using the twin design, Monzani and colleagues examine the extent to which obsessive-compulsive and related disorders conditions are etiologically related. Results suggest obsessive-compulsive and related disorders may be influenced by 2 distinct liability factors: one factor was common to all disorders and another was exclusive to trichotillomania and excoriation. The results offer a plausible explanation for both the similarities and differences between the disorders included in the new DSM-5 chapter.
Research

Disruption of Cortical Association Networks

Baker and colleagues used functional magnetic resonance imaging to examine functional connectivity of large-scale cortical networks in 100 patients with a history of psychosis, the majority of whom were experiencing psychotic symptoms at the time of assessment. They report reduced functional connectivity preferentially in the frontoparietal control network, regardless of whether patients carried diagnoses of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or bipolar disorder with psychosis.

Video jamapsychiatry.com

Suicide Attempt in Young People

Using longitudinal data from a representative birth cohort, Goldman-Mellor and colleagues report that young suicide attempters, compared with nonattempters, were at substantially increased risk for mental and physical ill health, violent behavior, and economic dependency. Risk continued into their late 30s. Suicide attempt signaled treatment need beyond psychiatric diagnoses.

Religiosity and Spirituality Correlates

Miller and colleagues used magnetic resonance imaging to show that adults with relatively high personal importance of religion or spirituality have thicker cortices in parietal and occipital regions bilaterally, left cuneus and precuneus, and right mesial frontal lobe, areas where thinning has been shown to constitute an endophenotype for risk of depression. The association was greatest in adults at high familial risk, suggesting religion or spirituality is associated with improved neural resilience that protects against depression.

Related Article 136

Familial Major Depressive Disorder

Peterson and colleagues studied brain functioning in persons who were either at high or low familial risk for developing depression. A risk endophenotype included greater activation of cortical attention circuits, a resilience endophenotype included greater activation of the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, and the effects of prior lifetime illness included greater deactivation of default-mode circuits.

Related Article 128

Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD in Active-Duty Marines

Using a prospective, longitudinal design, Yurgil and colleagues examined whether deployment-related traumatic brain injury predicted severity of posttraumatic stress symptoms experienced 3 months after a combat deployment. Deployment-related brain injury was a significant predictor of posttraumatic stress symptom severity, even when controlling for predetermination psychiatric symptoms, prior brain injuries, combat intensity, and other demographic factors.