

Epidemiology of Mental Disorders Research

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Overview

The Epidemiology of Mental Disorders Department houses diverse research activities including studies of factors affecting the onset and course of mental illness, mental health services, homelessness and community impact. In addition it provides technical services including data coordination, psychometrics and statistics.

Current Research

Dr. Struening, the department chairperson, continued to collaborate on measurement in the NYS OMH study Community outcomes of Assisted Outpatient Treatment. Collaboration and consultation with Mary Guardino of the Freedom from Fear Foundation on the assessment of the effects of multiple anxiety disorders on well-being; with Dr. Perry Hoffman of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine to develop procedures for training and assessment of caregivers of individuals with borderline personality disorder; with Dr. Carol Caton, P.I., Center for Study of Homelessness on the collection and construction of assessment protocols for research on homeless persons with psychiatric and substance abuse disorders; with Dr. Rein Lepnurm on studies of Canadian physician job satisfaction.

Dr. Andrews continued to direct the Data Coordinating Center which provides comprehensive data management services to studies in diverse health fields.

Dr. Barrow continued research on homelessness, housing and mental health services. She is planning a pilot study under the auspices of the new Columbia Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies to examine pathways to homelessness in Upper Manhattan.

Dr. Cohen and her team had over 20 new publications based on the on-going Children in the Community Study. Dr. Kasen continued analyses of data from the mothers of the study participants (funded by NICHD), with a publication relating to effects over time of working status and marital support on positive personality aspects of femininity and masculinity. Dr.

Johnson showed that parenting quality mediated the relationship between parental and offspring mental disorders. Dr. Chen pursued his long-standing interest in Quality of Life measures and examined the longitudinal trajectories of these measures, showing more negative long-term effects of mental illness on QOL than from physical illness. Dr. Crawford began examination of issues relating to attachment in this longitudinal sample.

Dr. Herman continued research on effective service delivery models for adults with severe mental illness. He is completing a 5-year randomized trial of a psychosocial intervention (Critical Time Intervention) designed to prevent homelessness among severely mentally ill men and women following discharge from state hospitals. He served as Co-Director, Summer Institute on Behavioral and Social Intervention Research, Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research/National Institutes of Health, 2005

Drs. Link and Castile continued work on a NYS Department of Mental Health funded study of the implementation of Kendra's Law that mandates participation in outpatient treatment for people with serious and chronic mental disorders. Dr. Link serves as the Director of the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention.

Dr. Wallace continued his development of mathematical models in cognitive neuroscience.

Education and Training

Dr. Link continued as Director of the Psychiatric Epidemiology Training Program (NIMH) and Program Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program.

Awards/Honors

Rodrick Wallace's 2005 book, *Consciousness: A Mathematical Treatment of the Global Neuronal Workspace Model*, Springer, NY. (ISBN-0-387-25242-8) received the following comments in a review by Harald Atmanspacher in *Acta Biotheoretica*: To formulate a serious, clear-cut and transparent formal framework for cognitive neuroscience is a challenge comparable to the early stage of physics four centuries ago. Only very few approaches worth mentioning are visible in contemporary literature. I think that Wallace's book presents an appreciable step in the right direction.

A major new center, the Columbia Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies, was funded by NIMH. Dr. Barrows will serve as a co-investigator and Associate Director. Drs. Link and Herman will co-direct the research core of the new center.

Dr. Link received a grant from NIMH to study the stigma in people experiencing their first hospitalization for psychosis.

Several existing studies and programs obtained new funding: Dr. Cohen's 23-year longitudinal study of the onset and course of Axis I and Axis II mental disorders in the general population will continue for another 5 years funded by NIMH. Current collection includes saliva samples, which will be analyzed for DNA correlates of mental illness.

The Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, Bruce Link, Director, was funded for an additional 5 years from the Centers for Disease Control.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provided five additional years funding for the Health and Society Scholars Program, Bruce Link, Director.

The Vitamin E multicenter grant was renewed. Dr. Andrews provides comprehensive data management services for this study.

Publications

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