eSynapse

April 2013

Editor’s Comments

James Flax, MD, MPH, DFAPA

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all those who have contributed to this issue of eSynapse! Please scroll through everything below as there are many items you will find interesting and useful throughout.

We are including a synopsis of our meetings so all readers will have an idea of district branch business. But, it’s only a synopsis. You have got to come to a meeting to appreciate the rich discussions. PLEASE JOIN US May 10th @ 12 Noon. See below.

Syed Abdullah, MD once again sent us an erudite article. The APA has sent information that is relevant to psychiatric practice in any setting. There are ads for a job in Orange County, offices for rent in Rockland, Depression Support Groups, research subjects at NKI, meetings, and insurance that may interest you. Please scroll all the way to the end to see it all. And, if you are not receiving the MSSNY eNews, here’s a link where you can read about issues of interest to all of medicine in New York State:

LIST-SERV

I have written in previous issues about the creation of a list-serv where a member can notify the entire list of a patient needing care, their requirements (location, insurance, expertise, etc) and any one who is a member of the list can reply (on or off list) if they have an opening. Ivan Goldberg, MD (of Psycho-Pharm listserv fame) graciously agreed to host this list at Psycho-pharm.com and we are going to try it out but need enough of our clinicians (private practice and clinics) to participate to make it work. This list-serv could work for other communication as well. So far 12 have indicated an interest. We don’t have a “critical mass” for this list-serv to work well. If you want to be included in this listserv and keep this project alive, please email me at drflax@aol.com.

Email allows us to communicate with you more efficiently and in a timely fashion. You are receiving this publication because we have your email address. All the other
members whose email addresses we don’t have are not getting this news. Please ask every APA member you know to **SEND THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS TO** Liz Burnich at westhudsonpsych@gmail.com. Please ask every psychiatrist you know who is not an APA member to please join and **SEND US THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS.**

**COME ON, ALL YOU MEMBERS. SOME OF YOU BESIDES THE REGULARS MUST HAVE NEWS**

My goal in publishing this electronic newsletter is to increase communication between and among all of our members. I can only do this with your participation. I want a psychiatrist from every organization, clinic and institution in the counties of Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Delaware to send me an article, of any length, describing any events, news, changes, presentations or opinion. That means that YOU can contribute by designating someone at your place of employment, or volunteering yourself, to send me something about where you work, how you practice, opinions about anything of relevance to psychiatrists, promotions, births, recipes, accomplishments, summer vacations, new hires, new programs, case observations.

There are a *myriad of opportunities* for you to become involved in your community through your district branch. The advantages are numerous in addition to the pleasure of giving back. There is the true pleasure of working with your colleagues in psychiatry and/or in other mental health fields. There is the opportunity to be creative in developing a program around your interests. There is the joy of learning something new.

**IT’S A FREE LUNCH!**

West Hudson Psychiatric Society
Next Executive Council Meeting
Il Fresco Restaurant, Orangeburg, NY
Journal Club (15 minutes) **PROMPTLY** at 12 Noon
Followed immediately by Business Agenda
**Date:** Friday, May 10th, 2013 @ 12 Noon at Il Fresco in Orangeburg, NY.

Please contact Dr. Mavromatis (marymavromatismd@gmail.com or at 845-358-7219) if you are planning to attend.

If you speak to your colleagues who are not members of the APA, remind them to become members. If members, tell them you’ve received your eSynapsee and ask if they received theirs. If not, tell them to email Liz Burnich at westhudsonpsych@gmail.com with their email address so they can be added to the list.

While some have indicated it is too costly to join the APA, the link below will remind you of the many benefits. The West Hudson Psychiatric Society Membership is one of the least costly in the nation and we hope to keep it that way. The benefits are numerous. [http://www.psych.org/Resources/Membership.aspx](http://www.psych.org/Resources/Membership.aspx)
As I discussed last month, we have had many changes to adapt to in the last few months and even more to come in the next few months. We have, of course, switched over to the new CPT codes, but there are numerous reports of insurance companies that have denied patient claims despite the coding changes put in place to insure parity. The New York State Psychiatric Association (NYSPA) has joined a class action suit against United Health Group for alleged violations (such as limiting outpatient psychotherapy for patients who were suicidal!). The APA is also investigating abusive and illegal practices and is requesting its members to document any abuse or failure on the part of insurance companies in providing appropriate reimbursement to patients or physicians. At the end of this letter you will find directions and a website for reporting and documenting your experiences (even if they are positive). I encourage you to do so. We will also receive more instruction and updates on the new CPT coding from Seth Stein at our dinner meeting on April 19th. Mr. Stein will also take questions on other medico-legal issues that have been of immediate concern to our members such as the NY SAFE Act and how it affects us.

The major upcoming change is of course the introduction of the DSM V at the APA meeting. APA is sponsoring 2 of our branch members, Dr. Nigel Bark and Dr. Russell Tobe (our president-elect), to take a course in DSM V designed to train them to return to our membership and train us. By the way, if you receive any solicitations for courses that will be given before the official debut of the DSM V at the APA meeting, the APA asks that you notify them about this. We are hoping to bring this information and training to our membership as an additional educational program, hopefully sometime in June. We are exploring whether this could be done as a lunch program(s) for those of you who are unable to attend our dinner meetings. We are also exploring whether there would be any interest in presenting this program in a location other than Rockland County. Please let us know if there is any interest out there!

I am very pleased to announce recent honors awarded to our members. Congratulations to Dr. Richard Brand on his advancement to Life Member status, Dr. Mukesh Jhaveri on attaining Life Fellow status, and Dr. Lawrence Levitt on being entered on a special list of 50 Year Distinguished Life Fellows and Life Members! Dr. Jhaveri and Dr. Levitt will be honored at the 2013 Convocation of Distinguished Fellows at the APA Annual Meeting in San Francisco on Saturday, May 18th.

This will be my last letter to the membership as WHPS president. My term will be officially up at the start of the APA meeting in San Francisco. Our new nominated president, Dr. Russell Tobe, will be officially elected at our dinner meeting on April 19th and will represent us at the APA meeting as district branch president. I am very excited about his leading our branch for the next term. I will be introducing him at the dinner meeting and also in our next issue of e-synapse. I feel it has been a privilege and a pleasure serving our membership over the last 2 years. It was more personally rewarding than I could have imagined. It has given me the opportunity to form friendships and relationships that I hope to continue. We are fortunate to have so many bright, talented, innovative, dedicated, and forward thinking members on our executive board. My special thanks to them for having made my job so easy-Dom Ferro, Lois Kroplick, Jim Flax, Raj Mehta, Nigel Bark, Russ Tobe, Marc Tarle, Jane Kelman, Mona Begum, and last but certainly not least, Liz Burnich, our executive director. My thanks also to past
Summary from Executive Council Meeting  
Friday, April 5, 2013

Attendees Present: Mary Mavromatis, Raj Mehta, Nigel Bark, Mona Begum, Lois Kroplick, Jim Flax, Dom Ferro, Robert Sobel, Marc Tarle, John Fogelman and Liz Burnich

Journal Club – Dr. Mary Mavromatis presented an article on Methylfolate as Adjunctive Therapy for SSRI-Resistant Major Depression and results of two randomized, double-blind, parallel-sequential trials were discussed.

President’s Address – We need to fill the following positions: President-Elect and Legislative Representative. Dr. Mary Mavromatis mentioned that as her WHPS President term comes to an end, she would like to become the Legislative Rep. Dr. Jim Flax nominated Mary and she accepted. Liz will let APA and NYSPA know of this change. A nominating committee of Dr. Dom Ferro, Dr. Lois Kroplick and Dr. Mary Mavromatis was formed to find a candidate for the position of President-Elect.

CME Offerings – Dr. Raj Mehta invited Dr. Robert Sobel to join us to give us an idea on the NYU Guidelines that we must adhere to in order to offer CME credit(s) at our biannual dinner educational meetings. It can be a detail-oriented and time-consuming process for sometimes as little as 1 CME credit but after much discussion, the general consensus was that we will continue to offer CME but increase the credits for our dinner meeting to 1.5 credits moving forward.

Coalition Update – The next Public Forum will take place on Oct 16 on the topic of depression. Dr. Lois Kroplick is looking for a patient who suffers from depression and would be willing to speak about his/her experiences. Please see Lois if you have a patient who might be interested. The next Mental Health Coalition Board Meeting is Thursday, April 11 at 12noon and the next General Meeting is will take place in May. Also, Lois is looking for a volunteer to help her act as advisor for four Sundays a year (from 3-5pm at Good Samaritan Hospital) at the DBSA Board Meetings. Mary, Mona and Jim all volunteered so they will each be able to do 1 meeting/year – Lois was grateful for the help! Two upcoming walkathons are the 9th Annual Mental Awareness Walk & 5k Run on Saturday, April 20 at Rockland Lake State Park and the NAMI National Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday, May 11. These are both great events and Lois encourages all psychiatrists to participate if they are able. Lastly, Lois reports that she attended the NYSPA Public Affairs session on March 16th and is proud to report that we are one of the more involved district branches.

DSM-5 Training – As was previously discussed, Dr. Nigel Bark and Dr. Russell Tobe will be attending the DSM-5 training at the APA Annual Meeting in San Francisco this May. Drs. Bark and Tobe will then put on a DSM-5 Training session at RPC after the Satellite Program that RPC is offering. We would like to do this in June (possibly June
19) but may have to wait until September depending upon when the satellite program is scheduled. Liz will keep in touch with Bob Sobel regarding this. We also discussed putting on an additional educational meeting this year with DSM-5 being the topic in Orange County to make it more convenient for our members in Orange, Sullivan and Delaware counties to attend.

**New York State Psychiatric Association** – Dr. Nigel Bark attended the NYSPA meeting on March 16th at the LaGuardia Marriott. He filled us in on the hot topics at the meeting including CPT Codes, DSM-5 and two very important new laws that psychiatrists must abide by: the SAFE Act and I-STOP. See Dr. Bark’s detailed synopsis of the NYSPA meeting below.

**APA Feedback** – The APA is committed to help fight against abusive implementation of the CPT code changes and are requesting that members go to the website [www.psychiatry.org/cptparityabuses](http://www.psychiatry.org/cptparityabuses) to report information requested. Liz will email the APA message to all members and reply to the APA that we will support their initiative in the area.

**Private Practice Update:** Dr. Jim Flax advised that he is bringing up the topic of access to care per the request of Dr. Scott Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence suggests that we put out a press release on this subject to the Journal News and invite them to write an article. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of doing this.

**Equipment Purchase:** We readdressed the possibility of purchasing equipment such as a projector and possibly other A/V equipment for our educational meetings. Dr. Bark generously said that he doesn’t mind lending us his projector so it was decided that we would continue down that avenue for the time being.

**Next Executive Council Meeting** - Friday, May 10th, 2013 at 12 noon at Il Fresco, Orangeburg, NY. Dr. Jim Flax will present at the next Journal Club.

**New York State Psychiatric Association (NYSPA) Spring Meeting**

March 16, 2013 Marriott Hotel, LaGuardia Airport

Nigel Bark, MD

As if the new DSM 5 and new CPT codes were not enough, psychiatrists in New York State have two very important new laws to abide by: the SAFE Act, which went into effect on March 16, and I-STOP which goes into effect on August 27 and will have a major impact on everyone who prescribes benzodiazepines, stimulants or any controlled drugs.

Fortunately NYSPA is on top of these developments as it was with the new CTP codes and at this meeting we learned all about them – and how NYSPA has been very involved with the legislature to make these two acts more appropriate and their implementation easier for psychiatrists.

**I-STOP**

As always the day starts with Committee meetings and this time was followed by a talk “I-STOP Implementation Update” by Terence O’Leary, Executive Director, Bureau of Narcotics.
Enforcement, which sounds a bit threatening but was in fact most enlightening. He explained why this burdensome change to the New York State’s Controlled Substance Act was necessary:
1. there has been an enormous increase in drug induced deaths in the past ten years, especially from opioid analgesics
2. an enormous increase in Oxycodone and Hydrocodone consumption and prescriptions in New York.
3. Prescription related overdoses are 75% Opioid, 30% benzodiazepines, 20% stimulants (many taking both).

I-STOP increases the State’s ability to detect fraud, abuse and diversion of controlled substances. Beginning August 27, 2013 Practitioners must consult the registry of the NYS Prescription Monitoring Program prior to prescribing controlled substances, which will show if the patient has obtained any prescriptions from other practitioners. Exceptions are Methadone Programs (but OASAS is strongly encouraging their doctors to check) and inpatients. It is within HIPPA regulations because of compliance statutes.

We also heard: about e-prescribing – mandatory in two years; that controlled drugs can now be e-prescribed in New York; all hydrocodone is now schedule II; tramadol is schedule IV; there is a Prescription Pain Medication Awareness Program aiming to improve pain management education for practitioners and pharmacists; there are safe medication disposal drop boxes in State and local Police Departments.

Mr O’Leary was very knowledgeable and came across as very sympathetic to the problems of doctors and patients. He pointed out that there are unfortunately a lot of doctors grossly overprescribing but in fact very few ‘close calls’ – the ordinary conscientious prescriber is not going to be accused – especially with I-STOP.

SAFE Act: full name: The Secure Ammunition and Firearms Security Act

This was New York State’s very rapid response to the Sandy Hook shootings. It was mentioned in January and published two days later – too late for NYSPA input and even for most legislators to read it – signed into law on January 15, 2013 and became effective the day of this meeting, March 16.

NYSPA issued an excellent press release which was sent to members as an E-Bulletin, that summarized very well the issues: supporting gun control measures and the strengthening of Kendra’s Law (the State assisted outpatient treatment statute), but with concerns about confidentiality and HIPPA, about the conflict with the accepted practice of alerting the potential victim or law enforcement when there is serious and imminent potential harm, particularly about reporting to the local Director of Community Services and most of all that it could adversely impact the willingness of people who need it to seek treatment.

NYSPA worked very hard to make the Regulations derived from this act better. The act mentioned serious but not imminent danger. The Regulations add “imminent” and also make clear that the police and victims should be contacted in addition if necessary. Reporting is done on the OMH website (http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/safe_act/) and automatically goes to the local Community Services Director. And the Act does not make reporting mandatory. Richard Gallo, NYSPA’s Government Relations Advocate, was not at this meeting because he was in Albany trying to get some of the provisions of the SAFE act changed by the Budget Act that was being negotiated that weekend – but that did not happen.
Dr Barry Pearlman, Chair of NYSPA’s Committee on Legislation also reported on other legislative issues: reduced need for Medicaid prior authorization; the 2012 “physician prevails” law applying to antipsychotics and antidepressants survived the Governor’s attempt to remove it in the budget. There are many other issues affecting psychiatrists and our patients before the State legislature and it is essential that NYSPA’s excellent Government Relations Staff have the back up of the New York State Psychiatric Political Action Committee to educate and influence our politicians to do the right thing for us and our patients. Please make sure you contribute. NYSPA continues to be active in trying to get Insurance Companies to follow the parity laws, for example by leading the class action law suit against United Health Care and filing a formal complaint with the NYS Department of Financial Affairs against Emblem Health and its affiliate GHI for not paying for the E/M portion of the new psychotherapy codes, in violation of HIPPA and its regulations and of the Federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act (MHPAEA), and for drastically reducing the reimbursement for these codes.

From the APA we heard these from Jeff Lieberman, incoming President: the search for a new CEO/ Medical Director to replace Dr Scully is nearly complete and there will be an overlap for the rest of the year; DSM-5 is on time and less contentious with the final reviews by Dr Jeste going on now (There is an action paper form Roger Peele that every member of the APA should be given a copy of DSM-5 free as a member benefit.); there is a need for APA to improve its communication: to be proactive rather than reactive, to alter the public’s perception of psychiatry, to increase communication with members; the APA must be very involved with Health Care Reform as it is implemented, to ensure there is parity, to develop models of service delivery and bring in top level consultants to help the APA staff.

Two Action Papers from New York for the Assembly Meeting in May were introduced: “That the APA applies for non-governmental status at the United Nations” to “provide a much needed voice for psychiatry and psychiatric patients worldwide”; and “Reinstatement of the Committee on Persons with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System” as there are an estimated 350,000 inmates with serious and persistent mental illness in jails and prisons, 1,100,000 under correctional supervision (probation or parole) and the “APA should have an active and dynamic voice in efforts to provide and improve the care and treatment” of these people.

There was lots more of interest at this meeting, and a very good lunch and chance to chat and make friends, so become active in your local District Branch, join a committee and come and see for yourself at the next NYSPA meeting, Saturday, October 26 at La Guardia Marriott Hotel.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Editors note: I vowed when I started this publication to publish anything sent to me. Please send me announcements, news, notices, rumor, recipes, innuendo, ads etc).
My Compulsion To Cook

Syed Abdullah, MD

“Cooking is easy. If you can read at fifth grade level, you can cook.” With these words my friends removed my fear of cooking. Very soon I found that you don’t even need a cookbook to be a chef. The packets of ready-made spices and herbs carry detailed instructions about how to prepare tasty Indian dishes in minutes. All I had to do was go to the ethnic food stores and buy a variety of spice mixes and follow the instructions in the package inserts.

I was very pleased with my productions, which looked like and had the flavor of the professionally cooked dishes. To me they even tasted like the best meals I had eaten in the restaurants around New York City. I felt assured that I could handle making meals on the occasions of my wife’s days off from cooking. Why waste time and money when I could set the dinner table with the most delectable fare? I thought.

But there was one problem. Nobody wanted to eat what I cooked. When our children visited us, they first inquired who cooked the food. The moment they found out that I did, they would declare they were not hungry or that they had just eaten. “We will just have a cup of tea,” they would say.

I kept learning new things from many different people who took it upon themselves to advise me about the fine art of gourmet cooking. One of my patients told me that she did all her cooking in the microwave oven. She assured me: “It is a no-fuss-no-mess way of cooking delicious dinners.” I was so gullible, I put the idea to test the very next day. I cooked beef stew in the microwave! The stew came out steaming hot and flavorful. Only the meat had an unchewable rubbery texture that was inedible even to me. “Heaven sends us good meat, but the devil sends us cooks.” David Garrick (1717-1779).

My darling wife, seeing all the trouble I would go through, tried to eat without making faces or protests. But I could sense the agony with which she swallowed. She tried gently to discourage me from being in the kitchen. “Why don’t you do some writing today. Let me cook” she would suggest lovingly. It took a long time for the message to sink in. She continued to throw other hints to divert me from the compulsion to cook.

One day when I had prepared a particularly complicated recipe she took one look at it, her jaw sagged, she turned pale and said “I have an urge to have pizza today. Let’s go to the local pizzeria.” My heart sank as I knew how much she hated pizza. Finally the realization dawned on me that cooking was among one of my many failures in life.

Thereafter I stopped thrusting my culinary creations on people. I still cook occasionally but only under the watchful eyes of my wife incorporating her suggestions every step of the way. I do the dishes and mop the kitchen floor. “If there hadn’t been women we’d still be squatting in a cave eating raw meat.” (Orson Welles, actor, director, writer 1915-1985).
CPT Coding

APA’s Committee on RBRVS, Codes, and Reimbursements invites you to submit questions on CPT code changes to the Practice Management Help Line. Send your questions by email to hsf@psych.org and please include “CPT Coding Webinar Questions” in the subject line.

There is little information available about how these codes should be or will be interpreted by Medicare or private insurance companies. Each company will have its own rules and interpretation of the codes, and APA recommends that you consult with the carrier in question.

STOP CPT CODING ABUSES

ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY NOW

APA IS WORKING FOR YOU

CPT code changes were intended to more accurately reflect the work psychiatrists do and improve patient access to care, but instead have been used as an excuse by some payors to discriminate against psychiatric patients and their psychiatrists in violation of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (2008). The issues differ from state to state and from carrier to carrier. The APA Board of Trustees has committed significant APA resources, both financial and staff, to understand the situation and use all reasonable means, including litigation, to correct the abuses taking place.

GET PAID, ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY
APA staff and attorneys have already begun implementation of a solid plan of action to combat this abuse. However, you, the psychiatrists who contract with the payors, have the specific information we need to cause a change. The situation cannot be improved unless every one of you helps.

Click here and help us help you and your patients.

American Psychiatric Foundation Announces 2013 Call for Applications: Helping Hands Grant Program

The American Psychiatric Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2013 Helping Hands Grant program. This program awards medical schools grants of up to $5,000 for mental health and substance use disorder projects that are created and managed by medical students. These projects can be conducted in partnership with community agencies or in conjunction with ongoing medical school outreach activities.

Applications must be postmarked by May 31. For more information on the program, or to download the application, please visit us online.

APA Joint Membership Campaign with Royal College of Psychiatrists

The American Psychiatric Association and the Royal College of Psychiatrists are continuing their partnership in 2013 to offer discounted memberships to members of each other’s organizations. Royal College of Psychiatrist members who join the APA as a new International Member are eligible to receive a one-time 25% discount off 2013 APA International Membership dues, and APA members who do not currently belong to the Royal College of Psychiatrists are eligible to receive a one-time reduction of 25% off their 2013 International Associate membership subscription fee.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the professional and educational body for psychiatrists in the United Kingdom. Their goal is to improve the understanding of psychiatry and mental health and to remain at the forefront in setting and
achieving the highest standards through education, training and research. The College publishes books, reports and educational material for professionals and the general public. As part of this special offer, arrangements will be made by the Royal College to identify two members to support your International Associate application.

Subscription fees are banded according to World Bank classifications which are accessible on the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ website.

Listed below are the four income categories and the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ International Associate membership subscription fees before and after the 25% discount is applied:

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Visit the Royal College of Psychiatrists’ website for information on how to join.

**Apply to Become an APA Fellow**

Are you ready to take the next step in your professional career? Being a fellow of APA is an honorary designation to recognize early career members who have demonstrated allegiance to their profession and commitment to the work of the APA. Members who pursue fellow status perceive it as one of the first steps to enhancement of their professional credentials. Members who apply and are approved this year for fellow status will be invited to participate in the Convocation of Fellows and Distinguished Fellows during the 2014 APA Annual Meeting in New York City. The deadline for submitting a fellowship application is September 1. Revised guidelines make it even easier to apply.

If you are an international member, you can apply to become an international fellow. The deadline for international fellow applications is August 1.

**Follow APA on Facebook and Twitter**

Did you know APA’s main Twitter [@APAPsychiatric](https://twitter.com/FPAPsychiatric) was named by [HUFFINGTON POST](https://www.huffingtonpost.com) as a top mental health expert to follow? [@APAPsychiatric](https://twitter.com/FPAPsychiatric) has more than 12,750 followers and tweets daily on breaking news and the latest dialogue within the psychiatric community. APA’s [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com) page, another resource for members, is updated daily with medical news, member interviews in the media, and the latest on APA meetings, and other events.
APA PSYCHIATRIC and APA’s patient/public education Twitter @APAHEALTHYMINDS (which has more than 9,150 followers) made the top 50 best Twitter feeds for psychology majors by BESTCOLLEGESONLINE.COM. APA social media enhances the exchange of ideas and research to provide the best patient care.

Annual Meeting Mobile Event App

The APA Annual Meeting Mobile Event App will provide APA 2013 attendees with all of the information they need to navigate the event via their mobile device. The App launches on April 8 and updates will occur up until the start of the meeting. The App has served as an essential guide and provides valuable up-to-date information to attendees.
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Call Lorraine Schorr, MSW 354-5040

Depression Support Group
Depression support group meets 2 times a month in Pomona, NY. We are inviting new members at this time. We are moderated by a clinical social worker. This is not a therapy group but social support for people fighting depression. Call Kathy for more information (914) 714-2837.

Rockland County Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
is a peer-to-peer run support group for people with depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder or any related mood disorder and their friends and family. The support group meets every Thursday night from 6:30 - 8:30 at St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 365 Strawtown Road in New City. Reservations are not required, you just need to show up. There is no fee for attending the support group meetings. This is a very warm and welcoming group run by people who have been there and can help. Any questions please call Leslie or Leonard at 845-837-1182.
Research Opportunity for Your Child or Teenager

If your child or teenager is healthy and at least six years old, they may be able to volunteer for a research opportunity at the Nathan Kline Institute. By participating, you and your child or teenager can learn about the tools scientists use to understand how the brain works.

This study includes questionnaires, MRI scanning, and more. You and your child or teenager will be compensated up to $200 and will get to see pictures of your child’s brain.

Located in Orangeburg, NY
(exit 6W off the Palisades Parkway)
Also accessible via Red and Tan and Coach bus services.

For more information or to participate call
845.398.2183 or email us at
rocklandsample@nki.rfmh.org
Does your child or teenager often feel nervous or worried?

We are currently inviting children and teenagers, between the ages of 9 and 16 to participate in a research study to better understand how children pay attention to emotional faces. We hope to better understand how changing attention may reduce anxiety.

Participation in the study involves ONE visit to the Nathan Kline Institute for approximately 2 hours. The visit will include questionnaires, computer attention games, and an fMRI scan (a non-invasive way to look at the brain).

We will provide a financial compensation of $50 for your time.

Located in Orangeburg, NY (exit 6W off the Palisades Parkway)
For more information call:

Alexis Moreno
845-398-2184
vrp@nki.rfmh.org

Catherine Stewart
646-754-5105
catherine.stewart@nyumc.org
Free Psychiatric Research Evaluations
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Our psychiatric research evaluation may help diagnose emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorders.

We will evaluate children or adolescents eligible for approved programs, ages 6 and up, that may be experiencing problems with school, sleeping, relationships, substance abuse, attentiveness, or any other problem suspected.

Evaluation includes a thorough psychiatric research interview completed by a trained professional that will discuss present and past behaviors and symptoms, medical history, family history, interactions with others and an IQ screen.

Once the evaluation has been completed, you will receive feedback regarding your child’s diagnosis as well as an opportunity for your child to participate in other research studies, if your child qualifies.

You will also be provided with a referral listing of Rockland County mental health clinicians and agencies.

Located in Orangeburg, NY (exit 6W off the Palisades Parkway) Also accessible via Red & Tan (#92)

For more information call:
Alexis Moreno
845-398-2184 vrp@nki.rfmh.org