



October 14, 2008

*Continued on page 3*

**Inside this issue:**

<i>RRTI Events</i>	2
<i>Model Transition Program (MTP)</i>	2
<i>Related Industry Conferences</i>	4
ediONLINE	4

REHABILITATION  
RESEARCH AND  
TRAINING INSTITUTE  
**RRTI**  
155 Washington Avenue  
Suite 410  
Albany, NY 12210  
518.449.2976  
518.426.2379 fax

**RRTI 2008 Training Program**

**Assuring Medicaid Payment for OMRDD Rendered Services**

**Kingston, NY - Thursday, Oct 30, 2008**

Hosted by Ulster Greene Arc in Partnership with RRTI

**Assuring Medicaid Payment for OMRDD Rendered Services**

RRTI is pleased to offer Assuring Medicaid Payment for OMRDD Rendered Services on Thursday, October 30, 2008. We will discuss the authorization process your agency must follow at the time an individual is admitted to one of your OMRDD programs, as well as, address the requirements that must be met before an individual is eligible to receive services.

You will learn the role of the DDSO, OMRDD Central Office and the Agency in ensuring that all necessary actions are carried out so that your Agency will be eligible to receive reimbursement for services you provide at the time of

billing. Through this RRTI seminar, you will be provided with at look at the interface between OMRDD statewide tracking system (TABS) and the Medicaid system (emed-ny).

This half-day seminar runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on October 30. It is hosted by RRTI partner, Ulster Greene ARC located at 471 Albany Avenue in Kingston, New York. NYSRA Members can register at the member rate. To learn more about this training and register today, contact RRTI at 518-449-2976.

**Are you Ready? Documentation Protocols for MH Medicaid Providers**

RRTI, in helping agencies providing services under the Office of Mental Health, offers this excellent seminar to ensure correct billing practices along with making sure documentation protocols comply with federal and state regulations, guidelines and policies. This full day RRTI seminar will provide an overview of an effective Proof of Service Process which will assist your agency in meeting high standards in accuracy, completeness and ethical business standards. Included with this seminar is a manual for every seminar participant to reference on the job. Secure your space at this training by signing-up today for the **November 18** seminar at Jawonio Inc. in New Hempstead, New York or the **December 2** seminar at Hutchings Psychiatric Center in Syracuse. Contact RRTI at 518-449-2976 and we will be happy to assist you with registering.

**RRTI 2008 Training Program**

**"Are You Ready?"  
Documentation Protocols for MH Medicaid Providers**

Mid - Hudson  
November 18, 2008

## Research finds some benefit in use of St. John's Wort in treating Depression

*Courtesy ScienceDaily*

New research provides support for the use of St. John's wort extracts in treating major depression. A Cochrane Systematic Review backs up previous research that showed the plant extract is effective in treating mild to moderate depressive disorders.

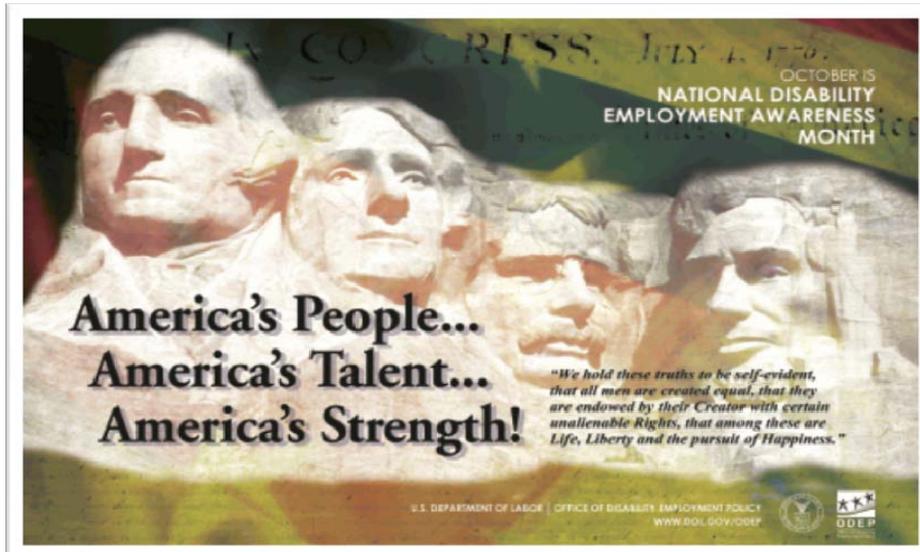
"Overall, we found that the St. John's wort extracts tested in the trials were superior to placebos and as effective as standard antidepressants, with fewer side effects," says lead researcher, Klaus Linde of the Centre for Complementary Medicine in Munich, Germany.

Extracts of the plant *Hypericum perforatum*, commonly known as St. John's wort, have long been used in folk medicine to treat depression and sleep disorders. The plant produces a number of different substances that may have anti-depressive properties, but the whole extract is considered to be more effective.

Cochrane Researchers reviewed 29 trials which together included 5,489 patients with symptoms of major depression. All trials employed the commonly used Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression to assess the severity of depression. In trials comparing St. John's wort to other remedies, not only were the plant extracts considered to be equally effective, but fewer patients dropped out of trials due to adverse effects. The overall picture is complicated, however, by the fact that the results were more favorable in trials conducted in German speaking countries, where St. John's extracts have a long tradition and are often prescribed by doctors.

Despite the favorable findings for St. John's wort, researchers are anxious not to make generalizations about the plant's use as an anti-depressant and recommend consulting a doctor in the first instance, especially as the extracts can sometimes affect the actions of other beneficial drugs.

"Using a St. John's wort extract might be justified, but products on the market vary considerably, so these results only apply to the preparations tested," says Linde.



## RRTI Events

**October 28, 2008 & November 5, 2008**

**MTP Community Agency Partner  
Conference Day—Assessing where  
you are with MTP**

10/28-Batavia, NY - 11:00am - 3:00pm

11/5-New York, NY-11:00am- 3:00pm



**October 30, 2008**

**Assuring Medicaid Payment for  
OMRDD Rendered Services**

Ulster Green ARC, Kingston NY

9:00am - 1:00pm

**November 18, 2008 & December 2, 2008**

**"Are You Ready" Documentation**

**Protocols for MH Medicaid Providers**

11/18-Jawonio Inc., New Hempsted, NY

12/2-Hutchings Psychiatric Center,

Syracuse, NY

Both offerings are 9:00 am - 4:00pm

Trainer's Council Meeting  
NYSRA/RRTI, Albany, New York

10:30am - 2:30pm

RRTI offers *The Training & Research Resource* to professionals in the field. This publication highlights products and services available to you. It also focuses on research presented in the field. If your agency has news that fits this venue, please feel free to share it with RRTI. Submit articles and other news directly to Jennifer Ivery at [Jennifer@nyrehab.org](mailto:Jennifer@nyrehab.org).

## Scientist study brain immaturity in detecting Schizophrenia

*Courtesy ScienceDaily*

The underdevelopment of a specific region in the brain may lead to schizophrenia in individuals. According to research published in BioMed Central's open access journal Molecular Brain, dentate gyrus, which is located in the hippocampus in the brain and thought to be responsible for working memory and mood regulation, remained immature in an animal model of schizophrenia.



Professor Tsuyoshi Miyakawa of Fujita Health University, National Institute for Physiological Sciences (NIPS), and Kyoto University led a research team in Japan, with support from the CREST program of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

First, the team investigated behaviors by conducting a systematic and well-defined behavioral test battery with alpha-CaMKII mutant mice, an animal model of schizophrenia. These mice showed abnormal behaviors similar to those of schizophrenic patients.

Next, the team found the dentate gyrus neurons in hippocampus of the brain of these mice were not matured morphologically and physiologically. By a gene expression analysis, changes of gene expression related to the maturation of dentate gyrus neurons were also found in the brains of schizophrenic patients.

Taken together, the immaturity of the dentate gyrus may be an underlying cause for schizophrenia.

Among their findings, mice heterozygous for a null mutation of the alpha-isoform of calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II show profoundly dysregulated behaviors, including a severe working memory deficit and an exaggerated infradian rhythm (cycle of increases and decreases in locomotor activity in their home cage; 2-3 weeks/cycle), which are comparable to the symptoms observed in patients with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other psychiatric disorders.

Despite extensive research, the brain mechanisms of schizophrenia remain largely unknown. According to Professor Miyakawa, one reason for this is that clinical diagnosis in the area of psychiatry is based solely on subjective observations and not on biologically or objectively solid criteria, "As a result of this limitation, most of the psychiatric disorders currently diagnosed as a single disorder are likely to comprise several biologically distinct heterogeneous populations. Therefore, the identification and investigation of more reliable biomarkers that characterize a single subpopulation of a specific psychiatric disorder are essential for increasing the understanding of the pathogenesis/pathophysiology of such disorders."

The authors note that, "'Immature dentate gyrus' could provide a basis for such biomarkers that may help produce new diagnosis and treatment for schizophrenia patients".

## Grant Opportunities

RRTI through a contract with SUNY Buffalo for the VESID's Model Transition Program gears up to provide Job Readiness Training to Students with Disabilities

RRTI seeks rehab professionals from across New York State to instruct students participating in the Model Transition Program. These part-time/on-call Instructors will be provided the necessary training in the use of the newly developed MTP Job Readiness curriculum in November 2008, and it is anticipated that student instruction will commence in January 2009. NYSRA has asked RRTI to engage these Instructors by contractual arrangements with NYSRA Member agencies. \*Please see the below for this professional development opportunity for qualified staff. Send Resume, letter of interest and the contact person at your agency if other than yourself to Barbara Berberich, Director of Training and Research, at [Barbara@nyrehab.org](mailto:Barbara@nyrehab.org) or mail to RRTI, 155 Washington Ave, Suite 410, Albany, NY.

### MTP Job Readiness Instructor's Criteria

- \* Experience working with school district personnel,
- \* Group facilitation skills,
- \* Familiarity with careers/ job options, employers, and community-based organizations in the local area
- \* Familiarity with the Vocational Rehabilitation process and VESID,
- \* Basic computer skills (email, internet, downloading resources, sharing on-line resources with students),
- \* Strong communication, organization, and planning skills, and
- \* Demonstrated ability to relate to high school students with disabilities in a supportive and enthusiastic manner.

***NYSRA learned that state & Federal budget cuts are drying up dollars for grants. Take caution in applying for grants by ensuring available funding.***

## Related Industry Conferences and Events

10/23-26/08

*The Gateway to Rehab's Future Through Leadership, Teamwork, and Action*

2008 NRA Annual Training Conference  
Sheraton St. Louis City Center; St. Louis, MO  
www.nationalrehab.org or 888 258-4295

10/24/08

**MHANYS' 2008 Conference**

**Children's Mental Health Issues**

Albany Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY  
MHANYS Contact: 518-434-0439

11/4,18,25,/08 & 12/2,9,16/08

**Common Sense Parenting**

Families Together in Albany County & CDPC  
747 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY  
For more information: 518-436-5437

11/14-16/08

**NAMI 26th Annual Educational Conference  
Champions of Change**

The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany, NY  
For more information: 518-462-2000 or 1-800-950-3228

11/19/08

**The Social and Emotional Development & Well Being of  
Children & Families**

HVCC—Bulmer Telecommunications Center, Troy, NY  
Questions: Lynn Tubbs 518-447-4550

11/21/08

**The 2nd Annual Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders  
Conference**

The York College Performing Arts Center  
Queens, NY  
www.fassn.org



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