

## NEWS BRIEFS

**New Web site on anxiety disorders**

The National Institute of Mental Health has launched a Web site on anxiety disorders at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/anxiety>. The site provides Internet users with immediate access to information about the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment of panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, phobias, and generalized anxiety disorder. The Web site is a component of NIMH's Anxiety Disorders Education Program, which provides free information about the disorders to the general public and medical and mental health professionals through a toll-free number, 88-88-ANXIETY.

**Minority research training:**

The American Psychiatric Association's program for minority research training in psychiatry is seeking to increase the number of minority psychiatrists entering the field of psychiatric research. The program provides stipends, travel expenses, and tuition for medical students and psychiatric residents for an elective or summer experience in a research environment, with special attention to their career development in research. Stipends are also available for a limited number of one- or two-year postresidency fellowships. The program, funded through a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, is directed by APA deputy medical director Harold A. Pincus, M.D. Ernesto Guerra is project manager. For more information, call 800-852-1390 or 202-682-6225 or write Dr. Pincus at APA, 1400 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

**Fellowships in mental health journalism:**

Five journalists have been selected by the Carter Center's mental health program as the first recipients of Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism. The \$10,000 fellowships, for studies of specific mental health issues, are designed to enhance accurate reporting about mental health and to encourage

journalists to expand their knowledge about related subjects. The fellowships are funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation as part of a national effort to reduce stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness. Fellowship recipients are Joel Kaplan, associate professor of the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, who will head a team of 12 graduate students in an investigation of the mental health care delivery system in Onondaga County, New York; Joyce Newman, director of Consumer Reports Television, who will study mental health services in managed care settings; Andrew A. Skolnick, associate editor of *JAMA*, who will study treatment of mental illness in the criminal justice system; Leslie Sowers, health reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*, who will examine the role biology plays in children's mental illness; and Leslie A. Winokur, a freelance writer who will study mental health and the workplace.

**Consumer training in managed care:**

A grant to two mental health advocacy organizations is funding training in managed care issues for 300 mental health consumers in the District of Columbia, which has begun to restructure its Medicaid and mental health and substance abuse programs from fee-for-service to managed care. The initial trainees will, in turn, train other consumers and their families to advocate for access to high-quality mental health and addiction treatment services. The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and the D.C. Mental Health Consumers League received the grants from the Consumer Health Foundation. Two consumers are conducting the training programs, which began in May and will end in December. Workshops are being held in drop-in centers, community-based programs, shelters, feeding programs, and other locations. Consumers are being informed about the dramatic changes anticipated in the present system and are being asked about their needs and preferences so that they can be considered as the new system is developed.

## PEOPLE &amp; PLACES

**Appointments:** *Scott H. Nelson, M.D.*, has been appointed as receiver to administer the District of Columbia's public mental health system. The appointment became effective October 15. The District's system was placed in receivership last June by U.S. District Court Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., after 22 years of failure to comply with his order to provide appropriate community services for persons with mental illness (see the September 1997 issue, page 1215). Dr. Nelson was previously chief of mental health and social services programs for the Indian Health Service of the U.S. Public Health Service. He is a former state mental health commissioner in Pennsylvania and New Mexico.

**Award: Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter**

was presented with the National Mental Health Association's "Into the Light" award at the association's annual tribute dinner in September in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Carter was honored for her decades of dedication to mental health advocacy. The award was presented by **Tipper Gore**, wife of Vice-President Al Gore and last year's recipient of the award.

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