



- July 2012-



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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

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ENVI Committee includes references to mental health in the Health for Growth report

On the 20th June, the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament voted on the report “Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020”. Prior to this meeting, several MEPs had tabled amendments including references to mental health, as this topic had not been included in the initial proposal of the European Commission and the draft report of the European Parliament. The following are two extracts from the report which has direct relevance to mental health – “The general objectives of the Programme shall be to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States in order to improve physical and mental health etc.” and “The new Programme should also build on the activities and achievements carried out under the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being of 13 June 2008 and explicitly recognise the irrefutable link between physical and mental health.”



Public Health: Panel of independent experts to work on the improvement of health care systems

The European Commission recently adopted a Decision to set up an independent expert panel, to identify effective ways of investing in health and to make healthcare systems sustainable. The panel will support the reflection process recently initiated by Member States – at the request of the Council. Demographic changes, costly innovation, and rising patients' expectations put constant pressure on the financial sustainability of European health systems. For these reasons, as well as due to the fiscal constraints spawned by the financial crisis, many European Member States have embarked on health system reforms in order to ensure a sustainable provision of high quality care to their citizens. This panel will be made up of 17 experts, from several areas of expertise, such as primary care, hospital care, pharmaceuticals, research and development, prevention and health promotion, system financing, information systems and patient registers and health inequalities. They will be appointed by the Commission as a result of an open call for interest, which will be launched in the coming weeks. For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/healthcare/docs/dec_panel2012_en.pdf

European Patient Research Network Access Survey

Patients in the European Union may face difficulty when trying to access branded medicines to treat and/or to manage their illnesses. The European Patient Research Network and London School of Economics (LSE Health) seek to understand the types of barriers patients have faced in the recent past and how these barriers have impacted (or are likely to impact) access to medicines and quality of care. Understanding these barriers will help further research and policy to improve access to medicines in the European Union. You can offer your views by clicking the following link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dEE0dFVxQTJzWUZqZmFnTjBfWENN5KE6MQ>. Please submit your responses by Friday, 17th August.

Future of medical/healthcare education – New Book

Readers of the @Bulletin may be interested in a new book on the future of medical / healthcare education in the 21st century. The premise for the book is quite simple: in terms of health and social care, we need to learn to work differently in both the developed and developing worlds in this decade and beyond and that requires new approaches to training and education. Knowing what we know with approximately 5.7 billion in developing nations and 1.3 billion in the developed, we cannot go on as if we are still in the 20th century. The Foreword was written by Dr Manuel Dayrit, director of HRH at WHO (former Minister of Health in the Philippines) with commentaries by three distinguished Lancet Commissioners, including Nigel Crisp, UK House of Lords and previously Permanent Secretary of the NHS. The Epilogue on 'leadership' was written by Dr Ruth Collins-Nakai, formerly Chair of the Canadian Medical Association. <http://healthprofessionals21.org>.



UNICEF releases position paper

The Regional office of UNICEF for CEE and CIS countries has released a position paper titled “The Right of Children with Disabilities to Education: A Rights- Based Approach to Inclusive Education”. Using a human rights-based approach to education, this position paper address the long standing issues of discrimination and exclusion of children from education systems in the countries of the CEE/CIS region. More details can be found on the their regional website <http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/index.html>



Resource for persons affected by Bipolar Disorder (BPD)

We have received the following details of an online information resource for persons affected by BPD and we are passing it on to our readers - <http://www.healthline.com/health/bipolar-disorder>.

WHO and UNICEF report on adolescent mental health

On the 10th July, the WHO published a new report entitled “Adolescent mental health: mapping actions of non-governmental organisations and other international development organizations”. This new report undertaken by the WHO and UNICEF describes actions undertaken by a range of international development organizations to address adolescents' mental health needs at national level. Amongst the findings of the report as the following (a) in any given year, 20% of adolescents experience a mental health problem, most commonly depression or anxiety, (b) in many settings, suicide is among the leading causes of death among young people, (c) adolescent mental health is inadequately addressed and actions at country level appear to be fragmented and (d) interventions for promotion of psychosocial well-being and provision of mental health care to adolescents often have narrowly-focused, project-specific objectives, while opportunities to mainstream adolescent mental health in education, health and child protection programmes are still largely untapped.

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