Introduction:
As we write and deliver this newsletter (4/5.6.23) we note that it is the ‘50th World Environment Day’ (on 5.6.23). We’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the UN – see: https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day - and all psychologists working on our behalf to develop environmental initiatives that help to counteract the damage done to our Earth as a consequence of human activity: e.g. https://www.apadivisions.org/division-34/leadership/executive and https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologist/psychologists-environmental-action (see item below in ‘Resources of Professional Interest).

It is also astonishing to note that, after months of preparation, at exactly this time next month, a number of our Executive will be gathered at the European Congress of Psychology in Brighton, UK (3-6.7.23), some for the IAAP Board meeting and all for the ECP and our symposium on ‘Integrated Care’. We look forward to including a Report on the Congress in our next edition.

Division 17 Activities: to June, 2023

- **Monthly Division Executive Meetings:** (this month: to be held tomorrow on 5th/6th June):
  Focus: preparation for ECP and APA (see below); Division website (ongoing); other initiatives (next meeting will be ‘partially face-to-face’ with others on-line’ in Brighton during the ECP).
- **Congresses/Conferences**
  - Division 17 ‘Invited Double-Symposium’ at the European Congress of Psychology: ‘The Role of Psychology in integrated health care: International Innovations in Collaborative Integrated Care’ (See attached flyer for topics and presenters) [LINK]
  - **APA 2023 Convention:** our Division 17 Secretary, Dr. Diana Prescott is convening a symposium at the APA 2023; **Sponsoring Division:** 31 - State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs. [https://convention.apa.org/]: “Think Globally, Act Locally:
Overcoming Barriers to Integrated Healthcare around the World; Date: August 03, 2023; Time: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

- **IAAP Board Meeting:** July 1st and 2nd in Brighton (prior to the ECP); our President: Susan McDaniel and Secretary: Diana Prescott (Board ‘Member at Large’) will represent us there. This is the first full Board Meeting since ICAP in Montreal in 2018; next full meeting: Florence, 2026.

- **Division 17 Annual Report:** being prepared by Susan and Tim in time for submission for IAAP Board Papers. Copies of all Annual Reports will be included in the ‘new design website’ when ready.

- **Division 17 Website re-design/social media policy:** ongoing item

- **Integrated Care:** the 30th annual Medical Family Therapy/Integrated Care Intensive is being held at the University of Rochester, New York State this week (Mon 5th - Fri 9th June). Two of our Division Executive: Professors Susan McDaniel and Nancy Ruddy are key to its ongoing success and a core part of the teaching faculty for this program (see attached information [LINKS]).

- **Monthly E-News:** ongoing, plus six-monthly Division Newsletter development.

- **Early Career Marathon:** several of our Executive members are on the examining team. We recommend that the IAAP Board consider bringing forward submission dates for abstracts from Early Career Psychologists to October of the previous year (rather than January) to enable practitioners in the Southern Hemisphere to submit at the conclusion of their post-graduate degrees (Nov/Dec).

- **APA Division 42 (Independent Practice) International Committee Fireside Chat:** several of our Div 17 Executive members have joined this group – ongoing. We will circulate information in advance about these events and are working on closer links with similar internationally-focused groups.

**DIVISION EXECUTIVE MEETING in JUNE: Zoom: 5.00pm, 5th June (NYC time); 7.00am, 6th June (Sydney time).**

**JUNE, 2023: Items/resources of professional interest:**

*with special thanks to the APA, APS, PBS, ABC, etc – and other sources:*

*(For previous ‘items/resources of interest’ from Division 17 E-News, see Appendix below)*

**GENERAL ITEMS:**

**50th World environment day:**


- The real dangers of plastic pollution: As UN delegates meet in Paris with the aim of agreeing a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, new research shows that plastic recycling could actually make things worse. So what needs to be done to save our environment? Guest: Dr Denise Hardesty, Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Environment and a leading expert on plastic pollution (Broadcast: 4.6.23) [https://www.abc.net.au/radiationprograms/sundayextra/the-real-dangers-of-plastic-pollution/102415620](https://www.abc.net.au/radiationprograms/sundayextra/the-real-dangers-of-plastic-pollution/102415620)

**Integrated Care:** the 30th annual Medical Family Therapy/Integrated Care Intensive is being held at the University of Rochester, New York State this week (Mon 5th - Fri 9th June) – as mentioned in Division 17 “Activities” above: [https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/psychiatry/institute-for-the-family/family-therapy/mfti.aspx](https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/psychiatry/institute-for-the-family/family-therapy/mfti.aspx)

**Clinical, Lifestyle and social interventions:** INTEGRATED CARE/LIFESTYLE MEDICINE
Recommendations for Adolescent Social Media Use


To guide educators, parents, policymakers, mental health practitioners, tech companies, and youth, APA has released research-based recommendations for healthy social media use among kids and teens. The recommendations emphasize minimizing the chances for harm and maximizing the benefits that social media can provide. See APA’s tips for parents, based on the recommendations, and a Q&A with APA Chief Science Officer Mitch Prinstein, PhD, on how to provide social media literacy for children that will maximize the chances for balanced, safe, and meaningful experiences.

The Promise of Brain Stimulation Treatments for Depression


Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) used to treat major depression is not new, but in recent years, brain stimulation treatments have become more effective and more available. TMS is now also used to help people quit smoking and to treat obsessive compulsive disorder and anxiety. Sarah Lisanby, MD, director of the Noninvasive Neuromodulation Unit at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to talk about how TMS works and recent treatment advances, as well as other brain stimulation treatments such as electroconvulsive therapy. Writer Diana Daniele also offers her perspective on how TMS helped her overcome treatment-resistant depression.

Loneliness Poses Profound Public Health Threat

A recent advisory from U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy likened the health risks of loneliness to those of smoking and obesity. “This isn’t just people feeling good or bad about their social life,” said Juliane Holt-Lunstad, PhD, professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University and lead science editor of the advisory. “It truly has an impact on our physical health,” Holt-Lunstad said in a Washington Post article.

ADHD clinics capitalise on diagnosis explosion


A new kind of ADHD clinic is cashing in on surging demand for diagnoses — and promising salaries of more than $900,000 to recruit psychiatrists. As the need for services has grown, so have waitlists. Patients who might otherwise choose to wait longer for affordable care are being forced to choose between fees as high as $3,000, or no care at all. For more, listen to Part 1 and Part 2 of the”Schmeitgeist” investigation.

Credits: Angela Lavoipierre, Presenter; Broadcast Mon 29 May 2023

JUNE, 2023: ‘The world in spotlight’

As we write (5.6.23: USA time) – key items:
• **The war in Ukraine:** the ongoing resilience of the Ukrainian people continues to astonish the world as the war approaches the 18 month mark (from 24.2.22)
Conflict continues unabated with new waves of escalation and mounting deaths on both sides. **As in each edition of our E-News for the past year since the outbreak of the War, we continue to endorse and reiterate our IAAP statement on Ukraine** indicating our: "deep concern about the military and humanitarian offenses the Russian Federation is carrying out in Ukraine, resulting in ongoing devastating loss of life and attack on innocent civilians. We strongly condemn this unjustified aggression and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine". ([https://iaapsy.org/about/human-rights-statement/ukraine/](https://iaapsy.org/about/human-rights-statement/ukraine/))

• **Train crash in India:** At least 275 people were killed and hundreds of others injured in Friday’s accident in Odisha state, involving two passenger trains and a goods train. [https://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia-india-65805709](https://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia-india-65805709)

• **Escalating conflict in the South China Sea:**

As we continue to state each month: world events continue to affect our patients and ourselves. Our role as psychologists/health practitioners is to instil hope, empowerment and some sense/semblance of control and efficacy in those we aim to help. It continues to be a difficult time for us all during this time of ongoing global turbulence.

**The World in the Time of COVID-19:**
(see: [https://covid19.who.int/](https://covid19.who.int/))

The WHO Coronavirus Disease ‘dashboard’ indicates that there are now (31.5.23)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.9.21</td>
<td>228,394,572</td>
<td>4,690,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.6.21</td>
<td>178,202,610</td>
<td>6,324,112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 22.7.22    | 565,207,160| 19.12.22: 649,038,437 confirmed cases and 6,514,397 deaths; 19.8.22: 223,487,381 confirmed cases and 6,850,594 deaths; 19.6.22: 181,203,100 confirmed cases and 5,570,163 deaths; 18.4.22: 139,027,819 confirmed cases and 4,543,962 deaths; 17.2.22: 97,847,538 confirmed cases and 3,570,364 deaths; 16.1.22: 56,670,198 confirmed cases and 2,543,962 deaths; 15.12.21: 35,437,058 confirmed cases and 1,523,962 deaths; 14.11.21: 24,287,435 confirmed cases and 890,766 deaths; 13.10.21: 13,170,638 confirmed cases and 490,000 deaths; 12.9.21: 9,362,037 confirmed cases and 390,000 deaths; 11.8.21: 5,986,766 confirmed cases and 290,000 deaths; 10.7.21: 3,770,620 confirmed cases and 190,000 deaths; 9.6.21: 2,403,962 confirmed cases and 100,000 deaths; 8.5.21: 1,316,459 confirmed cases and 50,000 deaths; 7.4.21: 657,250 confirmed cases and 20,000 deaths; 6.3.21: 323,000 confirmed cases and 10,000 deaths; 5.2.21: 152,535,452 confirmed cases and 3,198,528 deaths; 4.1.21: 99,363,697 confirmed cases and 2,135,959 deaths; 3.12.20: 539,893,858 confirmed cases and 6,274,323 deaths; 2.11.20: 350,433,724 confirmed cases and 4,941,039 deaths; 1.10.20: 243,260,214 confirmed cases and 4,814,572 deaths; 30.9.20: 192,848,754 confirmed cases and 4,709,186 deaths; 29.8.20: 142,188,754 confirmed cases and 4,639,643 deaths; 28.7.20: 96,078,766 confirmed cases and 4,543,962 deaths; 27.6.20: 47,378,754 confirmed cases and 4,410,039 deaths; 26.5.20: 243,260,214 confirmed cases and 4,369,186 deaths; 25.4.20: 121,373,303 confirmed cases and 4,244,341 deaths; 24.3.20: 76,474,387 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,915,286 deaths; 23.2.20: 761,409 confirmed cases and 1,761,381 deaths; 22.1.20: 68,234,754 confirmed cases and 1,647,039 deaths; 21.12.19: 58,433,962 confirmed cases and 1,523,962 deaths; 20.11.19: 48,766,766 confirmed cases and 1,416,518 deaths; 19.10.19: 39,079,052 confirmed cases and 1,309,039 deaths; 18.9.19: 29,389,052 confirmed cases and 1,201,579 deaths; 17.8.19: 19,709,039 confirmed cases and 1,093,039 deaths; 16.7.19: 10,479,052 confirmed cases and 984,039 deaths; 15.6.19: 5,239,052 confirmed cases and 874,039 deaths; 14.5.19: 2,731,039 confirmed cases and 764,039 deaths; 13.4.19: 1,483,039 confirmed cases and 654,039 deaths; 12.3.19: 893,039 confirmed cases and 544,039 deaths; 11.2.19: 523,039 confirmed cases and 434,039 deaths; 10.1.19: 313,039 confirmed cases and 324,039 deaths; 9.12.18: 133,039 confirmed cases and 214,039 deaths; 8.11.18: 63,039 confirmed cases and 104,039 deaths; 7.10.18: 33,039 confirmed cases and 94,039 deaths; 6.9.18: 13,039 confirmed cases and 84,039 deaths; 5.8.18: 4,039 confirmed cases and 74,039 deaths; 4.7.18: 1,039 confirmed cases and 64,039 deaths; 3.6.18: 339 confirmed cases and 54,039 deaths; 2.5.18: 139 confirmed cases and 44,039 deaths; 1.4.18: 43 confirmed cases and 34,039 deaths; 31.3.18: 13 confirmed cases and 24,039 deaths; 30.2.18: 4 confirmed cases and 14,039 deaths; 29.1.18: 1 confirmed case and 4,039 deaths.

It is estimated that the true prevalence is likely to be at least double this, with these figures representing a gross underestimate due to being based on ‘formal testing and reporting’ which continues to diminish.

These latest figures indicate a **decline in rate of growth**; after a massive surge in December, 2022; however, it is predicted that new waves are likely to be forthcoming. - **See: WHO Coronavirus Dashboard**: [https://covid19.who.int/](https://covid19.who.int/)


See: WHO Coronavirus Dashboard: [https://covid19.who.int/](https://covid19.who.int/)

**WHO News:** Following the 15th meeting of the WHO Emergency Committee for COVID-19 (convened by the Director General under the International Health Regulations: IHR 2005) forthcoming on 4th May, 2023, advice will be provided to the WHO Director-General as to whether the COVID-19 pandemic still constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This is potentially a significant milestone. See: [https://worldhealthorganization.cmail20.com/t/d-e-zutdiy-ijiisfdy-y/](https://worldhealthorganization.cmail20.com/t/d-e-zutdiy-ijiisfdy-y/)

Please contact us if you have additional information, items to share, questions to ask, ideas to put forward in relation to Division 17 activities. We welcome contact from all our Members and those interested in joining.

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Immediate Past-President
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(June, 2023)

See:
Division Website: [https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/](https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/)
Longer Division Newsletters:
- October, 2020: [https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf)
- December, 2019: (End of Year Summary: 2019) [https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/DB562312D9AFD69D2540E23F30FEDDED](https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/DB562312D9AFD69D2540E23F30FEDDED)

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED CARE INITIATIVE:
See: [Integratinghealthintoprimarycare_pdf.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf)
Also: [Integratingmhintoprimarycare2008_lastversion.pdf](https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/DB562312D9AFD69D2540E23F30FEDDED) (who.int)
APPENDIX:  PREVIOUS ITEMS/RESOURCES of interest:
(from previous editions of Division 17 E-News:
December, 2021 - February, 2023 newsletters)
(with special thanks to the APA, APS, PBS, ABC – and other sources):
Items of interest:

MAY, 2023: Items resources of professional interest:
Lifestyle and social prescriptions: INTEGRATED CARE/LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

- The World Obesity Federation warns (BBC: 1.5.23): More than half the world's population will be classed as obese or overweight by 2035 if action is not taken.,
  More than four billion people will be affected, with rates rising fastest among children, its rises. The report predicts the cost of obesity will amount to more than $4tn (£3.3tn) annually by 2035.

- Mental health and wellbeing for practitioners:
  A new resource for better mental wellbeing - www.aapbooks.com :
  Life can be full of challenges rocking our boat so strongly that we risk drowning in a sea of stress and mental ill-health. That’s why self-care is such a vital skill.
  Dr Nadine Hamilton has spent over 17 years in her psychology practice helping professionals and businesses get on top of stress and psychological fatigue to avoid burnout, depression and self-harm. Her 2019 international best-seller Coping With Stress and Burnout as a Veterinarian targeted a profession with a suicide rate almost four times higher than the general population.
  Now, after two years of social, personal, and financial impacts from a global pandemic, she has found herself working with her clients (and herself) more and more on self-care — how to use self-understanding and practical psychological tools to attain and maintain better mental wellbeing.
  Time then, to release a new book to help anyone who is finding life at work and home a tough ask at times. Nadine gives us a clever guide to self-care covering topics such as setting boundaries, dealing with stress and anxiety, self-esteem, coping with grief, resilience, compassion fatigue, mentally healthy workplaces, and the imperative to build more hope and optimism into our daily lives.
  Its a great little resource for personal use or, or those you know could do with a little practical help to take back control of their life.

GENERAL ITEMS: (see next page)

Politico examines the shift in culture toward mental health demonstrated by the positive response to Sen. John Fetterman’s treatment for clinical depression. “In the ‘50s and ‘60s, nobody said the word cancer. We talk about cancer now. We need to get to that point where we talk about depression. We talk about bipolar disorder. We talk about PTSD. We talk about schizophrenia, and acknowledge that these are illnesses for which there is treatment, and people can have satisfying, fulfilling lives,” said Lynn Bufka, PhD, APA’s associate chief of practice transformation.
Effective Learning: There Are Better Ways to Study That Will Last You a Lifetime

(Guest Essay in the New York Times):
https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/20/opinion/studying-learning-students-teachers-school.html?unlocked_article_code=PoZksy1iuu2e-R6ESbeelukKMEY-70jbyN3b-p3qTITX1ncCSTPNoNdHeQT53V9EpBn1nSyPz2rVS8Y-8QMB9thf-sVWS2H53dgrJNnxGu7JufEPNf936Ac5VhYXw88UDBu6gtteHbQzu5MoF8yiIWOdYyhtsvx39df8ImALgQrGPRVQylljujiXtvkgRiympiBC-EZUV8kCuyhBbCRCaO5Zj_ukyr1f1yn73yN5ZGqNBZEXxxkyFw6jiiPvu6YGVQcwF1XePreq5LUOGQ0Ofv1riltTAK1sz2pFWSqgtx_dW9H8Bu9tmapEvboV80_N7ckyDuX2xopCuGxkBh-s3QVjfhNm25Iu0C9mjkXm&giftCopy=1_CurrentCopy&smid=url-share

Most students aren’t studying in the most effective ways—they’re doing what feels easy and what seems to be working in the moment, says Daniel T. Willingham, PhD, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia in an opinion essay for The New York Times. Educational psychologists’ research shows why some commonly used methods like highlighting and rereading aren’t helpful in the long run, and why strategies like practicing how much information you’ve retained work better. Willingham advocates for wider dissemination of the most effective strategies, such as by requiring a study skills class in high schools.

How Do You Build a Successful Team?

Very few people do their jobs entirely on their own. For most of us, doing our job well means being part of a well-functioning team. Eduardo Salas, PhD, of Rice University, joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to talk about the key ingredients for highly effective teams, the difference between team training and team building, what to consider when working on a remote team, the role of team leaders, and how industries such as aviation and medicine—where breakdowns in teamwork can have dire consequences—have evolved in their approach to teamwork.

Want to Make a Change? Conjure Your ‘Possible Selves.’

Imagining our possible future selves, either positive or negative, can motivate us toward action. Social psychologists Hazel Markus, PhD, and Paula Nurius, PhD, coined the concept of possible selves and found that our ideas of what we might become inform our current self-concepts. Psychologists share in a New York Times article about how we can bridge the gap between our present and future selves, including by taking small steps toward our envisioned future, enlisting a trusted companion, sharing our goals, and more.

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/19/well/mind/reinvent-yourself.html?unlocked_article_code=eJGGMhQStgek4RgIi5W0fg2DjMQQf8XVAG4eniEMTzeLsKzE2z69azaxmLXZ7dhj8J8tj2KXOuCz64bLU8Ca-sXmpgbaAJx27rN5ph6k8ABfBjxYx9WVMNz_ORLirXc7xTv4CUULNgmrj_ppp8P6v0WNwzAok4nuoObjYMRS5wMScb1M_hcgnom8M9SiGjw06OL6GJ-7O5iw_DNq-YiyaE8NznujaOeeBoO2CmKjmM25I_dhltimyYF0ts7OCnVrijx60AumbdQtT7cAOJ_bcvCvYCNCSFlEdVVwctT71PLCZeb9D1nc5SOZPpgS4UUQfQopqmnEv8pViY38WV9GLXQtw9L&giftCopy=1_CurrentCopy&smid=url-share

APRIL, 2023: Lifestyle and social prescriptions: INTEGRATED CARE/LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

- Will future generations turn away from alcohol? (ABC: 2.4.23)
  https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/will-future-generations-turn-away-from-alcohol/102119836

Could alcohol go the way of cigarettes and become socially unacceptable? (AAP: Daniel Munoz)

Are attitudes towards drinking changing as we learn more about the impact alcohol can have on our bodies?
Drinking has been part of our social and cultural activities for centuries. But cultural norms appear to be shifting.

**Guests:**
- Terry Slevin - CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia
- Professor Steve Allsop - National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University
- Ruby Warrington - author and editor
- Carl Erik Fisher - addiction physician and a person in recovery
- Clare Hughes - Chair of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Committee, Cancer Council Australia
- Sarah Milov - Associate Professor of history at the University of Virginia, author of The Cigarette: A Political History
- Dr Ineka Whitema - neuroscientist, Director of Dynamic Thought Consulting

**Credits**
- Jennifer Leake, Presenter and Producer
- Jennifer Leake, Producer

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**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AS MEDICINE:**

- Exercise brings benefits for treatment of cancer

**ABC: 1 Apr 2023: Guest: Robert Newton;** Professor of Exercise Medicine; Edith Cowan University;

The old approach was to prescribe bed rest after surgery. Now patients are told to get out of bed and to move. Robert Newton leads research at Edith Cowan University in Perth into the benefits of exercise in preventing and treating conditions such as cancer. He says there are important molecules released when our muscles work. These molecules suppress cancer and reduce tumour development. They also reduce the toxicity effects of chemotherapy allowing full doses to be administered. Robert Newton says exercise is a medicine bringing highly coordinated biochemical changes within the body with no side effects.

**Presenter:** Robyn Williams; Broadcast 1 Apr 2023 1 Apr 2023

- **Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of systematic reviews:** ([See LINK2](https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2022-106195))
  Published in British Journal of Sports Medicine online, pp. 1-10
  Authors:
  - Ben Singh (Allied Health & Human Performance, University of South Australia) – et al

**Subjects:** depression; anxiety; psychological distress; systematic reviews; physical activity adult; chronic disease

- **The Limerick Declaration on Rural Healthcare**
  The 19th World Rural Health Conference (17-20.6.22), hosted at the University of Limerick in rural Ireland (with 650+ participants from 40 countries and 1600 engaging online), considered how best to empower rural
communities to improve their own health and the health of those around them. The conference focused on the role of national health systems and other stakeholders, to keep their commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to reach the ‘highest attainable standard of health as one of the fundamental rights of every human being’. This conference issued ‘the Limerick Declaration on Rural Healthcare’, designed to inform rural communities, academics and policymakers about how to achieve the goal of delivering high quality health care in rural and remote areas most effectively. Based on current evidence and best international practice, participants of the conference endorsed a series of recommendations for the creation of high quality, sustainable and cost-effective healthcare delivery for rural communities both in Ireland and globally. The recommendations focused on several major themes:

- rural healthcare needs, delivery and equity of access.
- rural workforce, advocacy and policy, and
- research for rural health care.

The Declaration calls on all governments, policymakers, academic institutions and global communities to commit to providing rural dwellers with equitable access to properly-resourced, patient-centred health care as a crucial marker of democracy.

Keywords: family medicine, general practice, health inequities, health policy, multidisciplinary, nursing recruitment, primary care, retention, rural healthcare research, rural-proofing.

(See attached Article: LINK3)

- Half of world on track to be overweight by 2035 (See attachment LINK 4 & 5) More than four billion people will be affected, with rates rising fastest among children, its report says. Low or middle-income countries in Africa and Asia are expected to see the greatest rises. The report predicts the cost of obesity will amount to more than $4tn (£3.3tn) annually by 2035. The president of the federation, Prof Louise Baur, described the report’s findings as a clear warning to countries to act now or risk repercussions in the future.


Counteracting obesity

March, 2023:

Psychologists share advice for Managing distress about earthquakes from afar:
https://www.apa.org/topics/disasters-response/distress-earthquake

Death Toll Climbs to 33,000 people in Turkey-Syria Earthquake, Groups Provide Support:
The death toll has risen to 33,000 people from the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and is expected to continue to rise. CNN details some of the efforts of rescue and recovery, including work by the Palestinian Red Crescent. The group has a psychosocial support team that is providing mental health services to children and their families in hospitals and shelters.

Earthquake recovery operations:
These Radically Simple Changes Helped Lawmakers Actually Get Things Done

It’s generally agreed that the US Congress could function better. The Washington Post shares the story of a congressional committee at a standstill of hostility. They asked I/O psychologist Adam Grant, PhD, and other experts to help them work together more effectively, and the new strategies were met with success. “We learned by conversation—not confrontation. It was the most profoundly meaningful and gratifying time I’ve spent in Congress,” said Rep. Dean Phillips (D-Minn.).

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/02/09/house-modernization-committee-bipartisan-collaboration-lessons/?pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJzdWJpZCI6IjEzNTU5MTgiLCJyZWFzb24iOiJiNjIyZmM4MDAtZTk2YWYzNS00YSpjYzZjLTkzZTQ5MzY5MC0yZDk2ZTQ2NDMwOGExN2Q4Iiwib3JpZCI6IjEzNDkxZGQ0NjctM2E1Mi00MmZkLThmZGQ4ZjhhYzE2YzJmIiwiaGVpZCI6IjEzMTg3OTg1MzYxIiwib3V0d2FyZCI6NzkyMDAwMDIzLjI4Mi50b298Iiwicm9vdCI6IjE2MDUzMzg4OTMzOCJ9.WKo0uu8JFRRaaftGkPa08LlyfTMrRq4haya75g4jH8U

How To Add the Voice of Psychological Research to Current Events

Op-eds are a vehicle to publicize research and data that is often held hostage by the peer-review process. Op-eds have the power to persuade—research suggests that they can influence readers immediately, 10 days later, and 30 days later. Psychologists with expertise share their tips for writing op-eds, including avoiding an excess of data, making it personal, and including a clear call to action.

https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/04/op-ed-psychology-research
Why Our Attention Spans Are Shrinking

Most of us live our lives tethered to our computers and smartphones, which are unending sources of distraction. Research has shown that over the past couple of decades people’s attention spans have shrunk in measurable ways. Gloria Mark, PhD, of the University of California Irvine, joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to talk about how the internet and digital devices have affected our ability to focus, why multitasking is so stressful, and how understanding the science of attention can help us to regain our focus when we need it.


How To Stop Ruminating

The mental loop that plays after an embarrassing moment, tough breakup, or tense conversation can sometimes be hard to interrupt. In a New York Times article, experts share tips for breaking the cycle, such as setting a worry timer. By dedicating a specific amount of time for worrying, you can avoid the feedback loop in which you feel bad about ruminating and relieve pressure and guilt.

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/01/well/mind/stop-ruminating-worry.html

What Psychologists Are Talking About …

Why we need to decolonise psychology:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Db6U7qOm7IM
Thema Bryant, PhD, APA’s 2023 president and director of the Culture and Trauma Research Lab at the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University, presented at a TEDx event in Nashville. Bryant spoke about ‘why we need to decolonize psychology’ and the context of our lives that influence our psychology.

What to do when your child hates school:
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-to-do-kid-hates-school_l_63e12803e4b0c8e3fc866572
Anjali Ferguson, PhD, a clinical psychologist in Virginia, was featured in a HuffPost article about what to do when your child hates school and when common dislike of school crosses over into school anxiety. Ferguson offered tips for talking with your child about school, teaching them coping strategies, enlisting help, and more. Ferguson also explained how anxiety about school often presents as physical symptoms. “They still are developing a way to connect their thoughts and their physical sensations and their feelings,” she said. “Developmentally, they’re not there yet. So you see it play out really physiologically for kids.”

Protecting Children on-line:
https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/protecting-our-children-online
Mitch Prinstein, PhD, APA’s chief science officer, testified at a Senate hearing on protecting children online and the harms of social media. “Social media offers the ‘empty calories of social interaction’ that appear to help satiate our biological and psychological needs, but do not contain any of the healthy ingredients necessary to reap benefits,” Prinstein said in his testimony.

February, 2023:
Reviewing our Professional Competencies:
At the beginning of each calendar year, it is crucial that we review our professional competencies and develop a Learning Plan for our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) during the forthcoming year. Competencies are a ‘set of benchmarks that describe the knowledge, skills, abilities, behaviours, values and other attributes needed to perform safely and effectively in our profession as psychologists’. We are all
required to meet, at a minimum, the ‘competency thresholds’ defined by our national professional regulation authorities.

Requirements for both Competencies and CPD vary slightly from country-to-country. Hence a good reference point/set of guidelines for our International Association (and for our own learning goals over the coming year), is provided by the ‘International Declaration on Core Competences in Professional Psychology’ (finalised by the IAAP and ICP in 2016 – see: file:///C:/Users/61477/Downloads/IPCP+-+THE+DECLARATION+Final+27+07+16%20(3).pdf)

It is important that we re-familiarise ourselves with this crucial document (together with our own specific national guidelines) in planning our professional lives for the coming year.

**Other items of interest:**

**Scientists Are Reaching a Wider Audience**


Communicating psychological science to the public is vital, and an increasing number of psychologists are reaching beyond their patient base, academic circles, research labs, and other traditional workplaces to broaden their impact.

Psychologists are hungry for this immediacy—to deliver psychology and psychological research to the public themselves and often during their personal time.

**Artificial Intelligence:**

**A Mental Health Tech Company Ran an AI Experiment on Real Users. Nothing’s Stopping Apps from Conducting More.**


Koko, an online mental health support chat service, ran an undisclosed experiment in which GPT-3 (a popular new artificial intelligence chatbot) wrote the responses to users writing in for help. While groups that receive federal support are required to follow rules of institutional review boards, private corporations and nonprofit groups are not held to this standard.

Experts discuss in an NBC News article the need for informed consent and responsible use in a time of rapidly advancing technologies.

Evolving technologies continue to raise questions of whether AI might help those dealing with isolation and depression.

**Laughter Really Is Contagious—And That’s Good**

Laughter’s numerous benefits include lessening depression and anxiety symptoms, increasing tolerance for pain, lowering stress levels, and strengthening friendships. A *Washington Post* article highlights psychologists’ work in studying laughter contagion—such as how it’s like yawn contagion because people are wired to mirror one another, how we’re more likely to laugh with those we know, and how the brain responds to sounds of laughter by preparing our facial muscles to join in.

See: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2023/01/15/laughing-is-contagious/?pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJzdWJpZCI6IjEzNTU5MTgiLCJyZWFzIjoxNjc1NjYyMTE5LCJpc3MiOiJzdWJzY3JpcHRpb25zb3JrcmFjdGJvbmNlcyIsIm9uIjoxNTI3NzI1NjgxLCJfX19pZCI6IjEzNTU5MTgiLCJfX190eXAiOjE2NzQxOTI1NTk0fQ.Xzfb7Talyv9NF02vW6ep4t1rXKPSG0A821os8GCc_A](https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2023/01/15/laughing-is-contagious/?pwapi_token=eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJzdWJpZCI6IjEzNTU5MTgiLCJyZWFzIjoxNjc1NjYyMTE5LCJpc3MiOiJzdWJzY3JpcHRpb25zb3JrcmFjdGJvbmNlcyIsIm9uIjoxNTI3NzI1NjgxLCJfX19pZCI6IjEzNTU5MTgiLCJfX190eXAiOjE2NzQxOTI1NTk0fQ.Xzfb7Talyv9NF02vW6ep4t1rXKPSG0A821os8GCc_A)
Can a Pathological Liar Be Cured?

Almost everyone lies occasionally, but for a small percentage of people, lying isn’t something that they do every once in a while—it’s a way of life. Drew Curtis, PhD, of Angelo State University, and Christian L. Hart, PhD, of Texas Woman’s University, authors of a new book on pathological lying, joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to talk about what drives “big liars” to lie, why they believe pathological lying should be classified as a mental health disorder, whether liars really are more prevalent in professions such as politics and sales, and how you can recognize lies and protect yourself from being duped.

December, 2022-January, 2023
How Some Therapists Are Tackling Structural Racism in Their Practice:
NPR highlights efforts from therapists to help patients heal with acknowledgement of structural racism amid a field that is predominantly White and caters to a White lens. Therapists share their perspectives on how they use culturally responsive techniques and how they can make therapy more inclusive.

The Opposite of Schadenfreude Is Freudenfreude. Here’s How to Cultivate It
Psychologists share the reasons why we sometimes revel in others’ failures and how we can instead respond with genuine joy for their successes. In a New York Times article, experts share evidence-based tips, such as viewing success as a community achievement: “No one gets to the top alone, and when we elevate others, we’re often carried up with them,” said clinical psychologist Emily Anhalt, PsyD, cofounder of Coa, a mental health app.

The New Sex Talk to Have With Teens — Why It’s More Important Than Ever
In Everyday Health, psychologists share advice for conversations with teens in a post-Roe era. They highlight the importance of overcoming qualms about having difficult conversations about sex, acknowledging that abstinence-only sex education is typically not based in reality, and continuing the conversation past the first talk. People “need to stop thinking of this as a conversation you have once and start thinking of it as a conversation you have often and in bite-size pieces,” said Julie Bindeman, PsyD, a reproductive psychologist and co-director of Integrative Therapy of Greater Washington in Rockville, Maryland.

Drug Overdose Deaths Among Seniors Are Rising
Overdose deaths have more than tripled in the past two decades among people age 65 and older, as highlighted by CNBC. Some deaths were accidental as older adults tempted to cope with chronic pain, life changes, and more, but many were suicides. APA’s Monitor on Psychology shares how psychologists can help a greater number of patients struggling with drug use amid stress and uncertainty.
See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/03/substance-use-pandemic
The Science of Comfort Food
Why do some foods evoke certain feelings, such as comfort or a twinge of nostalgia? In *The New York Times*, experts share the reasons behind the associations we make with our food and research on how early experiences shape our cravings later in life.


Research in Brief
See the latest peer-reviewed studies within psychology and related fields. Research includes: Fewer youth attempt suicide in states with hate crime laws that protect LGBTQ individuals; misinformation requires less cognitive effort to process and appeals to emotions more than information from reliable sources; caffeinated shoppers seem to spend more money and buy more items; virtual reality can make users feel like they have extra limbs; and more.

https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/11/humanlike-robot-research

October- November, (2022) (with thanks to the APA, APS, PBS, ABC – and other sources)


Anxiety levels ramped up during the pandemic around the world. In the US, over 40 million people show symptoms, leading to a recommendation that all US adults under 65 be screened for the mental health condition. Should the same be done in Australia? And what can we learn from the ancient Stoics about handling anxiety?

Duration: 17 minutes 7 seconds17m

Social determinants of health and wellbeing:
Slouching towards Utopia:
https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/slouching-towards-utopia/101492544

Economic historian and former Clinton adviser, Brad DeLong’s new book "Slouching towards Utopia" explores the economic history of the period 1870-2010 which he calls the long 20th century. Previous generations would have thought such wealth to be a guarantee of utopia, but has it really turned out this way? Duration: 18 minutes 8 seconds18m
Lifestyle Factors:

General Health and Wellbeing:
“Being physically inactive is expensive” (27.10.22)
WHO highlights high cost of physical inactivity in first-ever global report
World Health Organization: worldhealthupdates@campaign.who.int

“Health in Australia today — what will increase our chance of a healthy life?”
ABC Interview (1.11.22): https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/healthreport/1730-magdas-big-health-check-guests/101591876
Magda Szubanski talks about her own reaction to the extent of chronic illness in Australia and why it’s not just a failure on the part of the individual.
The ABC series ‘Magda’s Big National Health Check’: see: https://iview.abc.net.au/show/magda-s-big-national-health-check

Substance Use Disorders:
• The shocking rise in alcohol-induced deaths (1.11.22): The latest statistics on causes of deaths in Australia show that deaths caused by alcohol rose by 6% last year. For some of the alcohol-related conditions the levels were the highest in about ten years. This is avoidable and, in fact, advocates for greater alcohol control measures have been warning for years that we’re not doing enough to prevent harm.
  Guest: Caterina Giorgi CEO of FARE (Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education)

• ‘Delivering a message: alcohol causes breast cancer’ (24.10.22): Authored by BELINDA LUNNAY; SAMANTHA MEYER; PAUL WARD
  ‘Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women in Australia and alcohol accounts for 10% of diagnoses. Alcohol is a Class-1 carcinogen. However, we live in an “alcogenic” society in Australia where alcohol is everywhere.’
  Contact: editorinsight@mja.com.au

• Drug and Alcohol/Substance Use Disorder: Six Revelations From Matthew Perry’s Diane Sawyer Interview
  The ‘Friends’ star talks about drug abuse, addiction and his book ‘Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing’. He reveals just how bad his struggle with addiction was, how many times he’s had to have surgery as a result of it and how his ‘Friends’ experience was shaped by it.
  During the hour-long interview on ABC, Perry elaborated on his drug abuse, how he wants to settle down

Talking About Grief with Anderson Cooper: New Yorker Interview
“All There Is”: by Amanda Petrusich
‘After my husband died unexpectedly this summer, I found comfort in Cooper’s podcast about death and loss’

Americans have become accustomed to tragic headlines of mass shootings in schools, grocery stores, and other public places. These shootings still shock, but they no longer surprise. Jillian Peterson, PhD, of Hamline University, joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to talk about research on what drives most mass shooters, why thinking of mass shootings as suicides as well as homicides can suggest new ways to combat them, and what can be done in schools, workplaces, and elsewhere to make the next mass shooting less likely.

Rwandan Narrative Therapy and Community Work”

“This unique and powerful book shares stories of original work by Rwandan narrative practitioners as they search for local ways of responding to profound social sufferings and mental health struggles. From the early work of the counsellors of Ibuka (the national genocide survivors association) to current decolonising and culturally congruent forms of practice, these stories from the land of a thousand hills will move, challenge and inspire. From Beata Mukarusanga's preface: ’This book conveys a journey that started with the Ibuka workers in response to the profound trauma of the genocide against the Tutsi, a trauma that continues to affect our lives individually and collectively in so many ways. It is a journey that moves also through territories and landscapes of resilience, new hopes, new ways of living. It’s a journey through both the painful past and the preferred story of Rwandans.’ …. ‘Throughout Rwandan history, our people have always searched for local ways to comfort and alleviate pain and sorrow. This is true in the cities and also in rural areas... In this book you will read of the contemporary search to find local solutions and create culturally resonant ways of working, in the quest for decolonising practices that inspire a search for cultural healing in all communities.’

September-October, (2022)

Suicides from firearms prompt movement to address mental health stigmas
When it comes to gun deaths in America, suicide is still the leading cause. A new poll finds that most Americans, 71 percent, believe gun laws should be stricter, one in five now say that they, a family member or a close friend has experienced gun violence or been threatened by it in the past five years. Among Black Americans, that number jumps to more than 50 percent. At the same time, 60 percent say it’s still important that people can own guns for personal protection. When it comes to gun deaths in America, suicide is still the leading cause.

William Brangham recently went to Wyoming, the state with the highest suicide rate, to look at a movement trying to change the conversation around mental health and firearms.

August-September, 2022:

For items/resources of interest from previous Division 17 E-News, see Appendix below)

○ How Psychology Can Help Fight Climate Change—And Climate Anxiety
  Speakers at APA 2022 made it very clear (as reported by ‘TIME’): Psychology is crucial to addressing the climate crisis, both in identifying ways to change human behavior and helping people with mental health challenges brought on by extreme weather. The speakers offered tips such as harnessing anger for action and connecting with meaningful dialogue about climate change denial.
  See: https://time.com/6204083/climate-change-mental-health-psychology/

○ Why Tween Girls Especially Are Struggling So Much
  Children’s mental health is not a new issue (although it is worsening), and many psychologists are concerned for tween girls in particular, as highlighted by the Washington Post. The middle school years can be especially rough for girls, as puberty often sets in just as increases in pressures in appearance, friendship, academics, and sports are occurring. Young girls are more likely to use social media than boys and more likely to be negatively affected by it. See: https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/08/08/tween-girls-mental-health/

○ For Psychologists of Color, Self-Care is Much More Than That
  Living in a world that is not just, equitable, or safe has reinforced why many psychologists of color choose to think deeply and be more intentional about how they practice self-care. Among their new ideas: Self-care should incorporate one’s community, values, and culture; it involves setting boundaries; and it’s about claiming joy, pleasure, and rest despite a legacy of oppression.
  See: https://www.apa.org/ (Reference: For psychologists of color, self-care is much more than that)

○ Alzheimer’s Researchers Are Looking Beyond Plaques and Tangles for New Treatments
  Past research on Alzheimer’s disease has looked at plaques and tangles in the brain, which are a “hallmark” of the disease, said Maria Carrillo, PhD, chief science officer of the Alzheimer’s Association, but that research hasn’t pinpointed how the plaques and tangles kill brain cells. Carrillo and other neuroscientists are rethinking the approach to study the changes in the brain and develop new treatments, as highlighted by NPR.
  See: https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/08/01/1113825311/alzheimers-researchers-are-looking-beyond-plaques-and-tangles-for-new-treatments

○ APA Adopts Racial Equity Action Plan
  At APA 2022, APA outlined next steps the association and psychology should take to prioritize and operationalize the commitments made in the association’s 2021 apology for its role in contributing to racism. Among the steps recommended: Ensure equitable representation of scholars of color in leadership positions; redesign traditional research
methodologies to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion; implement efforts that mitigate barriers to graduate training completion; and more. The newly created Racial Equity Fund, developed to move this work forward, will be seeded by a $1.1 million grant from APA. See: [https://www.apa.org/](https://www.apa.org/) (Reference: APA adopts racial equity action plan)

- **Workplace Well-Being Survey:** A new survey reveals 71% of workers believe their employer is more concerned about mental health now than in the past. See: [https://www.apa.org/](https://www.apa.org/) (Reference: “Workers appreciate and seek mental health support in the workplace”)

- **APA resources for coping with mass shootings, understanding gun violence:** A Cascade of Collective Traumas: The regularity of mass shootings is razing Americans’ mental health—heightening stress and dulling compassion in ways that demand broader concern, engagement, and change. “Just because we can’t fix a problem in its entirety doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t do what we can do to make a difference,” said Paul Slovic, PhD, a professor of psychology at the University of Oregon. “We cannot afford to let our minds deceive us into underreacting.” See APA resources for coping with mass shootings and understanding gun violence. See: [https://www.apa.org/](https://www.apa.org/) (Reference: “APA resources for coping with mass shootings, understanding gun violence”)

- **How to Forgive Ourselves for What We Can’t Change**
  Our feelings of regret sometimes lead to change, but sometimes simply simmer for years. What’s behind action or inaction, and how can we live with our choices either way? Psychologists Shai Davidai, PhD, and Everett Worthington, PhD, experts on regret and forgiveness, spoke with The Atlantic on what sticks with us and how we can process those feelings.
Lack of adequate mental health care places heavy burden on young people (PBS Newshour: Jun 29, 2022 10:40 PM EDT)

... some information from you, OK? Is he currently safe right now? ‘Youth Villages’ funds its crisis hot line through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health. And for many families, these intensive in-home services are funded through the State’s Medicaid program.

See: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/lack-of-adequate-mental-health-care-places-heavy-burden-on-young-people

Rollout of new national mental health hotline in the USA faces obstacles (PBS Newshour: Jun 29, 2022 10:35 PM EDT)

“... because they know they can't get the response. The worst thing is when people take that brave step. You're struggling with your mental health. It takes a lot to step forward and to call. And we want to make sure, when people call, they get connected and ...”

See: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/rollout-of-new-national-mental-health-hotline-faces-obstacles

July-August, 2022

WHO’s MENTAL HEALTH REPORT: released 1st July, 2022

Press Release and REPORT (LINKS)

Media Advisory

World Health Organization

Science in 5: Mental Health
WHO’s World Mental Health Report says that Mental Health is the leading cause of disability. How did the pandemic impact our mental health? What are the signs and how can we keep ourselves mentally healthy? Dr Mark Van Ommeren explains in Science in 5. Refer to the full Report.

- Ken Burns Film Explores Youth Mental Health: “Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness:
  See PBS Newshour: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/ken-burns-film-explores-youth-mental-health
  Awareness of mental health across all spectrums of the population has been growing after years living in the COVID pandemic. But there are particular concerns about the youngest generations. Those topics are explored in Ken Burns’ film, “Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness,” which airs Monday night on PBS. Student Reporting Labs’ Matt Suescun and Faiza Ashar spoke to Burns to learn more.
  (PBS NEWSHOUR: June 27th, 2022)

- Psyched Up: The race to make psychedelic drugs part of mainstream medicine
  In Australia and overseas there’s a push to make psychedelic drugs part of mainstream medicine for the treatment of trauma and other mental health conditions.
  Results from clinical trials are promising for PTSD sufferers where conventional treatments have failed.
  Four Corners investigates the world of psychedelic drugs, including the underground supply which is being sourced by increasing numbers of people who don’t want to wait for the clinical trials to be concluded.
  25th July, 2022: 48 minutes
  See: https://www.abc.net.au/4corners/

- A Post-Roe Future: articles about the Supreme Court Decision to overturn Roe vs Wade
  - Speaking of Psychology: A Post-Roe Future
    Antonia Biggs, PhD, a social psychologist at the University of California San Francisco, talks about the results of the Turnaway Study, which examined how receiving an abortion—or being denied one—affects mental health and well-being and what a post-Roe future might look like.

- The Facts About Abortion and Mental Health
  More than 50 years of international psychological research shows that having an abortion is not linked to mental health problems, but restricting access to safe, legal abortions does cause harm. Research shows people who are denied abortions have worse physical and
mental health, as well as worse economic outcomes than those who seek and receive them.

See:

- **Title IX: 50 Years Later**

  The landmark law has helped improve equity, safety, and wellness on college campuses since its passage in 1972, but there’s still plenty of work to do.

**SLEEP HYGIENE:**

**Stop Doomscrolling and Get Ready For Bed. Here’s How To Reclaim a Good Night’s Sleep.**
Psychologists share in an NPR article why delaying our sleep in favor of stressing about the next day’s work or problems can be an attempt to assert control over our time—and what to do if you want to get a better night’s sleep.

See: https://www.npr.org/2022/06/14/1105122521/stop-revenge-bedtime-procrastination-get-better-sleep

**The Impact of Misinformation on Public Health**
Join us July 13 for a virtual national conversation between journalists, psychology and public health officials, and the public to discuss misinformation’s effects on public health and psychology’s potential for impact on solutions to address the pervasive issue.

See: https://input.apa.org/f/rebuilding-trust
14% of Students Say They Dropped Out of College Because of Mental Health Challenges
And nearly a third say it was at least a contributing factor to not finishing their degree. Students who left college for mental health issues were less likely to indicate they are planning to return than students who left for financial issues, as highlighted in a *Fortune* article.

See: https://fortune.com/well/2022/06/15/college-students-drop-out-of-college-mental-health-challenges/

**June-July, 2022: (with thanks to the APA, APS, PBS, ABC – and other sources)**

- **APA STATEMENT: Reaction to Texas Mass Shooting**
  Statement by Frank C. Worrell, PhD, president of the American Psychological Association: in response to the mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, that left at least 21 people dead, 19 of them children.
  “It is long past time to act to ensure that schools are safe havens for our children”, says APA’s president.

- **The Science Behind Creativity:** Psychologists and neuroscientists are exploring where creativity comes from and how to increase your own.
  [https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/cover-science-creativity](https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/cover-science-creativity)

- **How to Assess and Intervene With Patients at Risk of Suicide:**
  Suicidal ideation is on the rise. Recent advances in clinical research have identified critical and effective treatments.
  [https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/continuing-education-intervene-suicide](https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/continuing-education-intervene-suicide)
  APA Sponsored Webinar: **Caring for Suicidal Patients:** A look at how to support clinicians and family members caring for those struggling with suicidal behavior.
  [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EJ33-wWzRQ6yo-eVN7Kq2Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EJ33-wWzRQ6yo-eVN7Kq2Q)
  (June 10th, 2022 – accessible via APA website)
Loneliness, the costly silent killer: Julian Morrow on ‘The Roundtable’
https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-roundtable/13942606
Health advocates are calling on the new Albanese Government to appoint a Minister of Loneliness.

The title Minister of Loneliness almost sounds comedic but the UK and Japan each have a Government Minister to address what’s now being described as a global epidemic of social isolation and loneliness.

The World Health Organisation has taken up the cause saying loneliness is a major contributor to ill health and it’s not just an issue for older people.

A study by researchers at Curtin University in WA puts the economic cost of poor health outcomes due to loneliness at nearly 3-billion dollars each year in Australia.

Guests:
- Alana Officer, Head World Health Organisation Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing Unit
- Dr Michelle Lim, Clinical Psychologist, Chief Scientific Advisor, Ending Loneliness Together organisation
- Phil McAuliffe, Creator, The Lonely Diplomat website

Unraveling the Mystery of Lyme Disease:
Research shows the oft-misdiagnosed tick-borne disease can lead to serious mental health problems that can erode a person’s quality of life.
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/feature-lyme-disease

Standing Tall: A New Stage for Incompetency Cases:
A growing number of people with serious mental illness are entangled in the legal system instead of receiving proper mental health care.
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/feature-incompetency-cases

Improving Traffic Safety:
U.S. traffic fatalities started rising 2 years ago after several years of declines. Psychologists around the world are looking for ways to make driving safer for everyone:
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/feature-traffic-safety

“In brief”: The latest peer-reviewed studies within psychology and related fields https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/06/dementia-studies-research

May-June 2022
- BPS May, 2022 – New report calls for more psychologists to be embedded into GP practices
- USA: Restricting Access to Abortion Likely to Lead to Mental Health Harms
  https://www.apa.org/topics-abortion
- Mental Health in the Workplace
  Most adults will spend a large amount of their lives at work and organizational support for employees’ mental health is imperative.
• **Canadian Doctors Are Prescribing Free Passes to National Parks to Treat Patients**
A new evidence-based initiative in Canada called PaRx encourages health care providers to prescribe spending time in nature to improve people’s mental and physical health, as reported by CNN.

• **How To Get Comfortable Talking With the Media**
A critical lesson of the COVID-19 pandemic has been seeing the importance of scientists communicating their findings to the public in an engaging and accessible way. 
https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/career-talking-media

• **7 Podcasts to Support Your Mental Health**
Podcasts about mental health can deliver research to a wider group of people in an accessible way and can be a helpful addition for those in therapy or a resource for people with barriers to treatment.
https://www.livestrong.com/article/13771942-best-mental-health-podcasts/

• **How Many Friends Do You Really Need?**
Loneliness is associated with an increased risk for mental and physical health issues, but what does it take to not be lonely?
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/07/well/live/adult-friendships-number.html

**April–May, 2022**

Prolonged Grief Disorder recognised as a mental health condition

The age-old saying “time heals all wounds” may be relevant for some, but for others grief is an ongoing and debilitating disorder. This year American Psychiatric Association has recognised ‘Prolonged Grief Disorder’ as an official psychiatric illness in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Guest: Dr Katherine Shear, Director of the Center for Prolonged Grief and Marion E. Kenworthy Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University Producer - Katie Fuller; **Duration:** 12min 30sec **Broadcast:** Sun 3 Apr 2022, 7:36am
**The Burden of Weight Stigma:** The increase in weight gain linked to the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a psychological toll, because weight stigma—bias against individuals because of their body size—is also on the rise. Weight stigma increases a person’s risk for mental health problems and undermines health behaviors and preventive care, causing disordered eating, decreased physical activity, health care avoidance, and weight gain. Psychologists are researching interventions for disrupting the pattern. See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/03/news-weight-stigma

**How To Keep Anger From Getting the Best of You:** How do you keep anger from rising to a level that interferes with your health and happiness? Howard Kassinove, PhD, of Hofstra University, and Raymond “Chip” Tafrate, PhD, of Central Connecticut State University, joined APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast to discuss the difference between healthy and harmful anger, strategies to cope with anger, and why primal scream, rage rooms, and other forms of anger catharsis can do more harm than good. See: https://www.apa.org/news/podcasts/speaking-of-psychology/anger

- *Where creativity comes from and how to increase your own.* Listen to APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast episode on creativity and “eureka moments”: See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/cover-science-creativity
- **The Need for Paid Parental Leave:** Psychological research shows why employers and policymakers should consider doing more: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/feature-parental-leave
- **More Psychological Growth in Less Time:** Psychologists are researching interventions to improve patients’ symptoms in one visit. See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/feature-growth-patients
- **Discussing firearm safety:** Providers can help reduce injuries and deaths by talking with patients about safe storage and temporary transfers during high-risk periods. See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/ce-firearm-safety

**Supporting Parents Via Instagram:** Psychologists have become the go-to parenting gurus of Instagram. Can their reach impact families for the better? See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/career-instagram

**Research In brief:** How funny memes help us cope with the stress of COVID-19, and other research: The latest peer-reviewed studies within psychology and related fields – see: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/04/inbrief-memes-research

**March-April, 2022**

- What’s driving the dramatic rise in alcohol-related deaths during the pandemic?
  During the first year of the pandemic, alcohol-related deaths increased dramatically by 25 percent, according to a new study. In 2020, deaths jumped from about 79,000 a year to 99,000, with the spike seen across all drinking-age groups. Katherine Keyes, an epidemiologist at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, joins William Brangham to discuss. PBS Newshour: 23.3.22: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/whats-driving-the-dramatic-rise-in-alcohol-related-deaths-during-the-pandemic#transcript

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** (in light of recent floods, fires, and other disasters world-wide)

- **Psychological First Aid:** This psychological first aid guide is for people working in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. It provides an overview of best practice in psychological first aid following disasters and traumatic events: https://psychology.org.au/for-the-public/psychology-topics/disasters/recovering-from-disasters/psychological-first-aid-supporting-people-disaster?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=220324_APSU_DRN&utm_content=220324_APSU_DRN+CID_2764159e348b5688207e3397759d80d7&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Psychological%20First%20Aid%20%20guide%20to%20supporting%20people%20affected%20by%20disaster
  - Preparing and recovering from floods: https://psychology.org.au/for-the-public/psychology-topics/disasters/floods?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=220324_APSU_DRN&utm_content=220324_APSU_DRN+CID_2764159e348b5688207e3397759d80d7&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Preparing%20for%20and%20recovering%20from%20floods
  - Guidelines for provision of psychological support to people affected by disasters (APS members and affiliates only): https://psychology.org.au/membership/member-login?returnurl=%2ffor-
COPING WITH TRAUMA:

- **As a Crisis Hotline Grows, So Do Fears It Won’t Be Ready**: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (USA) will have its own three-digit number, 988, starting in July—a shift that is expected to grow exponentially the number of callers over the next few years. The increased access is important, but experts say that more funding is needed to effectively staff the line. Roughly 17% of the lifeline’s two million calls last year were abandoned before a caller could get help, as reported by The New York Times. Read more from APA about crisis lines during the pandemic. [https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/13/us/suicide-hotline-mental-health-988.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/13/us/suicide-hotline-mental-health-988.html)

  Even when COVID-19 recedes, Americans will still be left with the trauma the virus has left in its wake, including more than 140,000 children who have lost a parent or caregiver. APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, spoke with CBS News about the need to address the ongoing mental health crisis. “Because what we know from research is that when people experience these kinds of traumas—after 9/11, or Hurricane Katrina—we expect to see people experiencing problems for at least another seven to ten years out,” Evans said.

- **American’s Stress is Spiking Over Inflation and War in Ukraine**: The APA’s newest ‘Stress in America’ survey found that over 80% of Americans said inflation, global uncertainty, and issues related to invasion of Ukraine are significant sources of stress. This is the highest number of people who have said they’re significantly stressed about any issue in the 15 years APA has conducted this survey. “Typically, our highest levels of stress have been in the mid-60%s, so hitting, for example, 87% for inflation as a source of stress is truly astounding,” said psychologist Vaile Wright, PhD, APA’s senior director of health care innovation in an NPR article: [https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/stress/2022/march-2022-survival-mode](https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/stress/2022/march-2022-survival-mode)

**OTHER:**

- **Navigating Thorny Topics in Therapy**: Clinicians and ethics experts share guidance on maneuvering disclosures about politics, religion, and other hot-button topics that can affect the therapeutic relationship: [https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/03/career-navigating-therapy](https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/03/career-navigating-therapy)

- **Improving Sibling Relationships**: Eight in 10 children in the United States are growing up with a sibling—more than the number of kids living with a father. Over a lifetime, siblings are often the people with whom an individual will ultimately share the most years. Psychologists’ research can help to improve these important relationships. Hear more about how our siblings influence our lives on APA’s Speaking of Psychology podcast: [https://www.apa.org/news/podcasts/speaking-of-psychology/siblings](https://www.apa.org/news/podcasts/speaking-of-psychology/siblings)

**February-March, 2022:**

A number of members have expressed a wish to know what practitioners are doing around the world with regard to COVID in their practices. We would be grateful if you could let us know what issues have arisen (including those outlined by the APA below) and how practitioners are dealing with them. Feedback appreciated.

- **The Anatomy of a Misinformation Attack**
• Fighting Fake News in the Classroom
  https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/01/career-fake-news
• Why Teens Need More Sleep, and How We Can Help Them Get It
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/parenting/2022/01/18/kids-teens-more-sleep/
  https://www.apa.org/monitor/2020/07/ce-corner-sleep
• Healing Pain by Treating the Mind
• The Top 10 Journal Articles of 2021
  https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/01/top-journal-articles

January – February, 2022
• Two years into the pandemic, students still struggle with their mental health: (Jan 25, 2022; PBS Newshour): https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/two-years-into-the-pandemic-students-still-struggle-with-mental-health
• IAAp Webinar: “Economic Behavior and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cooperation, Consumption, and Entrepreneurship” (available on the IAAp Website)
• 14 emerging trends for 2022: The pandemic era has changed attitudes toward science and mental health; See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/01/special-emerging-trends
• “Do Your Own Research”: It’s Not That Simple. See: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/03/opinion/do-your-own-research.html

Events, Webinars and New Research:
• Social Media for Psychological Research in Ethical, Productive, and Prosocial Ways
  https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6437901583821128720
• Essential Science Conversations: Mixed Feelings and Mixed Methods in Psychological Science: See: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8316517256834408717
• Understanding the No Surprises Act: How to provide estimates for your services
  See: https://www.apaservices.org/practice/legal/managed/no-surprises-act

SES and Health: For new mothers, feeling low in social status poses risk to health, according to new research published by APA:

December, 2021 - January, 2022
• How can we minimize Instagram’s harmful effects?
  See: https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/03/feature-minimize-instagram-effects
• Coping with Seasonal Affective Disorder During Another Pandemic Winter
• Holidays: It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Holiday Social Anxiety
• Re-thinking Work: The Great Resignation:
  See: https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/bcnews/nation-world-society/education/q-a-the-great-resignation.html
• Essential Science Conversations: Anti-Racism in Psychological Science
• Ideas re: facing current uncertainties: “Embracing Uncertainty: Achieving peace of mind as we face the unknown”: by Susan Jeffers

November – December, 2021:
• The promise and challenges of AI
• Veterans Struggle With Issues That Are Often Invisible to Others
• Reenvisioning Self-Care:
• Creating a Better Holiday: https://files.constantcontact.com/ac06501c401/8c72f84a-8acc-4856-9c8f-569810e95314.pdf
• Anticipating Difficult Holiday Interactions https://files.constantcontact.com/ac06501c401/b35d5901-008c-45c6-a545-ceb627eda965.pdf
• Coping with Difficult Days After a Loss https://files.constantcontact.com/ac06501c401/132f1d7e-272f-4ad2-bc2b-fdb51c3f35d9.pdf

(March, 2023)