

The President [proclaimed](#) May 2016 as National Mental Health Awareness Month to recognize Americans who live with mental illness and substance use disorders, and to pledge solidarity with their families and caregivers.

SCIENCE ADVOCACY NEWS

- Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Rep. Thomas MacArthur (R-NJ) have joined the [Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease](#), which supports the policy needs of the Parkinson's community by introducing Parkinson's-specific legislation, supporting federal funding for Parkinson's research, and championing other legislative priorities.
- A package of bills focused on biomedical innovations, including S. 849, the Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act, is expected to make its way to the Senate floor for a full vote in the coming weeks.

IN THE NEWS

- The International Bipolar Foundation ([IBPF](#)) will be awarded the [Child Mind Institute's](#) Outstanding Organization Change Maker Award. This award is presented to a nonprofit organization that has worked to transform the way mental health is viewed in their community.
- Study investigators from [One Mind](#) recently met with the FDA to accelerate the approval process for biomarkers for traumatic brain injury (TBI). These efforts will pave the way for new treatments for TBI.
- There is a recent [article](#) and a [Letter to the Editor](#) in the New York Times about increase in suicide rates.
- Research shows that aerobic exercise and meditation may help [alleviate depression](#). Another [study](#) showed the beneficial effects of exercise on the brain.
- Another study in mice [showed](#) that ketamine might be useful in treating depressive symptoms after alcohol withdrawal.
- In the coming days, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to make an official ruling on [Nuplazid](#), a drug for Parkinson's disease psychosis. The Parkinson's Action Network submitted a [letter](#) in its support.

FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- Attend a Congressional briefing sponsored by The Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism entitled '*Alcohol, Stress, and the Brain: Implications for Treatment and Recovery*' to be held on May 5, 2016. Details are [attached](#).
- The International Bipolar Foundation ([IBPF](#)) is holding its 2nd Annual Climb the Hill for Recovery Breakfast in Washington, D.C on June 8, 2016. Please spread the word in your circles about this event!
- [Register](#) for the 2016 [ASCP](#) (American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology) meeting to be held in Arizona in May/ June 2016.
- The National Science Foundation's Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) [invites](#) you to attend as an observer the SBE Advisory Committee meeting on May 23-24, 2016 at NSF headquarters.
- [Register](#) for the [AAAN](#) (American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry) annual meeting to be held in Florida in December 2016.
- [Attend](#) a webinar entitled "Primary Prevention in Child Psychiatry: The Transformative Power of Children and Families" to be held in May 2016.
- [Attend](#) another webinar entitled "Merit, Incentives, Use and Quality: The Alphabet Soup of Value-based Care" also to be held in May 2016.
- [Nominate](#) individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to science advocacy for research by building an outstanding scientific research institution for a Research!America Advocacy Award.
- [Register](#) for the Partners in Parkinson's Online Event.
- [Register](#) for a symposium entitled "Obesity: From Biology to Policy" to be held in June 2016.