Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health, the programmatic arm of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Thanks to your support, to the time and talent of our many volunteers, and to the generosity of our colleagues at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) our research and education programs at the recent AOTA Annual Conference and Exposition were a great success. The proceedings of our Research Colloquium, "Life in Space: Research on Occupational Performance and Reflections of a NASA Astronaut," are now available on the new AOTF web site.

On the heels of our programmatic accomplishments at the AOTA conference is our new Cooperation Spotlight on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Commission to Build a Healthier America. We are grateful to our RWJF colleagues for their time and their assistance in designing this spotlight in mutual support of the RWJF Commission and its recent recommendations for enabling everyone - but particularly those who face the greatest barriers to good health - to lead healthy lives.

Thank you again for subscribing to Research Resources and for encouraging your colleagues to connect to AOTF through this monthly publication and its associated news alerts. We appreciate your support as we help to advance occupational therapy through innovative programs of research, education and leadership, and as we help to raise public awareness of the importance of enabling individuals to participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Reznick, PhD
Director, AOTF Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health
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AOTF Institute Cooperation Spotlight: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America

Introduction

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America believes that there is more to good health than health care. More than anything, health is connected to how and where people live, learn, work, and play.

On April 2, the Commission issued ten recommendations for enabling everyone - but particularly those who face the greatest barriers to good health - to lead healthy lives. The recommendations are rooted in a twin philosophy: Building a healthier America requires individuals to make healthy choices for themselves and their families and a societal commitment to remove the obstacles preventing too many Americans from making healthy choices.
Background
Why aren't Americans healthier? That question prompted the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2008 to establish the Commission to Build a Healthier America, enlisting national leaders in business, labor, education, community development, health services, philanthropy, media and research and public policy to find solutions outside the traditional medical care system for advancing the nation's health.

The Commission spent a year exploring how health is shaped by how and where we live our lives. From this process, the Commission identified a range of interventions for improving health at the local, state and federal levels that are working on the ground. These practical, feasible and effective solutions -- often hiding in plain sight - informed the Commission's recommendations.

Next Steps
The Commission believes that building a healthier America will hinge on actions taken outside the traditional medical care system. This means changing policies that influence education, early childhood development, housing, the workplace, community design and nutrition.

Currently the Commission is reaching out to policy makers, philanthropists, business and community leaders, educators, professionals and the public for their immediate support and action in making its recommendations a reality.

Resources from the Commission
· Beyond Health Care: New Directions to a Healthy America, describes the Commission’s work and provides its recommendations
· Reaching America's Health Potential Among Adults: How Do States Compare?
· America's Health Starts With Healthy Children: How Do States Compare?
· A series of issue briefs on the links between health and early childhood, housing, neighborhoods, work and race and socioeconomic status.
· An education and health "calculator tool" that predicts mortality rates in counties and states based on levels of educational attainment.

In addition, RWJF's report to the Commission, Overcoming Obstacles to Health, details the substantial role that social factors play in shaping health behaviors and health.

These resources are available on the Commission web site.
for Two Awards
The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is now accepting nominations for the 18th annual Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health. This award presents a medal and $20,000 for outstanding achievement in improving mental health and contributions that demonstrate at least one of the following: improvements in the understanding of, or treatment for, mental disorders, innovations in mental health services, or public policy changes that foster science and/or improve mental health services.
Nominations will be accepted through June 19, 2009.

The Institute of Medicine is also accepting nominations for the 24th annual Gustav O. Lienhard Award. Support for the award, which includes a medal and $25,000, is provided by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This award honors individuals whose creative or pioneering efforts have appreciably improved personal health services as opposed to the science base of health care. Nominations are due June 5, 2009.

First International Symposium on Quality of Life Technology - Intelligent Systems for Better Living (June 30 - July 1, 2009, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Ways to support people’s ability to live independently are increasingly demanded throughout the world as demographics shift to an older society and the prevalence of disability increases. In this symposium, key opinion leaders in Quality of Life Technology will present their most recent concepts and results and engage in open discussion. The symposium will showcase emerging technologies, their motivations and applications from around the world.

Disasters Roundtable of the National Academies and the National Commission on Children and Disasters (June 25, 2009, Washington, DC)
This workshop will strive to identify key areas in need of research, address opportunities and challenges, and facilitate conversations about children and youth in disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery among practitioners, academics, and policymakers. Conference is free, open until filled.

New Centers Begin Recruiting for National Children's Study
The National Children's Study, the federal government's comprehensive study of how genes and the environment interact to affect children's health, has activated five additional centers to begin recruiting prospective volunteers in five new communities. These Vanguard Centers join two centers activated previously to recruit volunteers for the feasibility phase of the study, in which the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) will review the size, scope, and cost projections for the full study. The data gleaned from the feasibility phase will be used to inform the final research design.

18th Annual Conference of the International Society for Anthrozoology (ISAZ) and the 1st Conference for The Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) (October 20-25, 2009, Kansas City, Missouri)
The ISAZ/HAI sequential conferences will provide an opportunity for those working in HAI research and practice to share their latest findings and program outcomes. A special symposium will focus on how human animal interaction may help fight obesity across the lifespan. Abstract submission closes June 1, 2009

29th International Lilly Conference on College Teaching November 19 - 22, 2009, Miami, Ohio)
This conference on Evidence-based Learning and Teaching invites proposals for paper presentations on any topics related to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of college teaching and student learning. Proposals are due June 15, 2009.

ISSOTL Annual Conference October 22 - 25, 2009, Bloomington, Indiana
The goal of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (ISSOTL) is to foster inquiry and disseminate findings about what improves and articulates post-secondary learning and teaching. Their annual conference, "Solid Foundations, Emerging Knowledge, Shared Futures" invites scholars of teaching and learning
and capacity building, building and sustaining novel partnerships, training, innovative basic biomedical and behavioral clinical, or population-based research and intervention and prevention studies contributing to either the improvement of minority health, the elimination of health disparities, or both. Closing date for applications is June 19, 2009. Funding Opportunity Number: RFA-MD-09-005 Estimated total program funding: $7,500,000. Award ceiling: $950,000.

Research Funding for Equine-Assisted Activities
Horses and Humans Research Foundation will accept research proposals in support of projects that investigate the therapeutic effects of horses on humans. Basic research projects as well as clinical studies whose aim is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities who participate in equine-assisted activities or therapies will be considered. Proposals will be accepted through May 15, 2009. Grants of up to $50,000 will be awarded.

AAHD Launches Scholarship Fund
The American Association on Health and Disabilities (AAHD) Scholarship Fund will support students with disabilities who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate work in the field of disability research, disability policy, health promotion, or public health.

Web-Based & Related Resources

GINA Information Online
The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) fact sheet and guidance instructions for the research community are now posted online.

Women with Disabilities Health Equity Coalition (WowDHEC)
WowDHEC consists of women with disabilities representing the diverse disability community at large, as well as organizations serving people with disabilities predominantly in the Portland, Oregon area. WowDHEC was founded in 2006, though a seed grant from the Johnson and Johnson Foundation, in response to a need in our community for a coalition dedicated to decreasing health disparities among women with disabilities. WowDHEC’s mission is to improve the health of women with disabilities and serve as a force for social change though community building, leadership development, and education.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)
CCPH is a nonprofit organization that promotes health through partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions. Founded in 1996, CCPH is a growing network of over 1,800 communities and campuses across North America and the world collaborating to promote health through service-learning, community-based participatory research, broad-based coalitions and other partnership strategies. These partnerships are powerful tools for improving higher education, civic engagement and the overall health of communities.

Videocasts of recent NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Lectures are Online
Videocasts recently posted are: Aging Well: Promoting Cognitive and Functional Health, Tuesday, April 28, 2009 Margie Lachman, PhD, Brandeis University and Risk, Resilience, and Gene X Environment Interactions in Primates Wednesday, March 18, 2009 Stephen J. Suomi, PhD, NICHD.

Publication Announcements
The Center for Rehabilitation Outcomes Research (CROR) of the Research Institute of Chicago's First 2009 Newsletter Edition
The April 2009 edition of CROR Outcomes (Traumatic Brain Injury Innovations) celebrates the newly designated Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model System at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC). An archive of previous editions is also available online.

The Idea of Creativity
Seventeen philosophers, scientists and artists consider questions about the intriguing idea of creativity: Is creativity essentially mysterious? Is creativity essentially inspirational or rationalistic? What role does skill play in creativity? What are the criteria of creativity? Should we assign logical priority to creative persons, creative processes, or creative products? How do forms of creativity relate to different domains of human activity? How does creativity relate to self-transformation? How does our knowledge of the circumstances of creativity effect our
Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Organizations

The Rainbow Endowment supports LGBT organizations that promote awareness of LGBT mental and physical health issues, develop public policy for equal health care treatment for LGBT individuals, or advocate for the prevention of further HIV/AIDS transmission. The community focus supports national efforts that develop policies in support of LGBT youth and/or children of LGBT families, promote coalitions to strengthen LGBT advocacy efforts, or protect LGBT rights. Grants range from $5,000 to $20,000. Applications are due May 22, 2009.

CVS Caremark Trust Fund Supports Children in its Communities

The Trust’s funding priorities include organizations that make differences in the lives of children with disabilities (physical, mental, developmental, sensory) and organizations that focus on providing healthcare to the uninsured. Applications will be accepted until June 15, 2009.

Remember AOTF

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For more information about the American Occupational Therapy Foundation and its Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health see our web site: www.aotf.org.