



## ERIMETER LETTER 8.23.05

The recent increase in patient autonomy has been a burden to patients and doctors, according to the first of a series of news stories on patient care (*NY Times*. 2005 Aug 14). Another story in the series described how being a patient has always been a dehumanizing, harrowing experience and how patients are often afraid to advocate for themselves (*NY Times*. 2005 Aug 16). Clinics and emergency rooms are trying to find ways to reduce the time patients spend waiting, but, according to a third news article, little progress has been made (*NY Times*. 2005 Aug 20). A systematic review summarized the results of 14 meta-analyses and 48 systematic reviews pertaining to the psychological effects of physical illness and its treatment, somatoform disorders, and self-harming behavior and specified the areas of liaison psychiatry that are in need of systematic reviews (*Br J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;187:109-20). A review stemming from the 2002 Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance Conference delineated the role of depression in a number of medical illnesses (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 1;58:175-89). Among 112 outpatients over age 60 with major depression who were treated with citalopram (target dose 40 mg daily) for 8 weeks, the 68 patients whose HAM-D score fell 50% or more from baseline had performed better at baseline on the initiation/perseveration subscale of the Dementia Rating Scale (effect size  $d=0.5$  [95%CI 0.1 to 0.9]) and on the Stroop Color-Word test ( $d=0.5$  [0.1 to 0.9]) than the 44 patients whose HAM-D score did not decrease by 50% (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 1;58:204-10). Diagnostic criteria should be modified to better reflect the presentation of psychiatric illness in the geriatric population, according to a review (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 15;58:265-71). The contribution of psychosocial factors to late-life depression was reviewed (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 15;58:277-82). The 12-month prevalence of being a victim of violent crime, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, among 936 outpatients with psychosis or a major affective disorder, according to the Composite International Diagnostic Interview, was 25% (95%CI 23 to 28) compared to 2.8% (2.5-3.1) among 32,449 demographically-matched participants in the Survey (prevalence ratio 12 [10-14]), and the annual incidence per 1000 of violent crime victimization in the patients was 168 (149-188) versus 40 (38-42) in the matched Survey participants (incidence ratio 4.2 [3.6-4.9]) (*Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;62:911-21). Two hundred fifty-five of 1057 (24%) residents of Cali, Colombia, aged 15 to 25 had a probable mental disorder, determined by the Self-Reporting Questionnaire, and risk factors included female gender (odds ratio 3.2 [95%CI 2.3 to 4.4]), not completing high school (OR 1.6 [1.2 to 2.3]), and experiencing violence (*Br J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;187:161-7). Maternal anxiety, assessed by the Crown-Crisp index, at 32 weeks' gestation was directly correlated ( $r=0.25$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) with the child's awakening salivary cortisol level at age 10, after controlling for obstetric and demographic factors of 74 children participating in a prospective cohort (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 1;58:211-7). In contrast, of 38 one-year-old infants whose mothers were pregnant when they witnessed the World Trade Center attacks, those whose mothers had probable PTSD, according to the PTSD Checklist, had lower awakening and bedtime salivary cortisol levels ( $p=0.008$ ) than infants whose mothers did not have probable PTSD (*J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2005 Jul;90:4115-8).

Of 2,207,862 persons in a Danish population register born between 1952 and 1987, 1925 were admitted for schizoaffective disorder, as defined by ICD-8 or -10, and their adjusted relative risk of admission for the diagnosis if a parent or sibling had been admitted for any psychiatric diagnosis was 2.8 (95%CI 2.5 to 3.1) relative to persons admitted for schizoaffective disorder who did not have an immediate family member who had been admitted for a psychiatric diagnosis (*Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;62:841-8). The adjusted relative risk of suicide versus 1,195,191 Danes who did not purchase lithium between 1995 and 1999 was 4.9 (95%CI 3.2 to 7.4) for 1348 patients who purchased lithium once during the time period and 2.1 (1.7 to 2.7) for 11,838 patients who purchased lithium more than once in the time period, after combining data from the Medicinal Product Statistics population register and the Danish Medical Register on Vital Statistics (*Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;62:860-6). There was no correlation between hippocampal volume and duration of untreated new-onset psychosis in 105 patients, and there was no association between the two when the hippocampal volumes of 57 patients with fewer than the median 13 weeks of untreated psychosis were compared with the hippocampal volumes of 48 patients who were untreated for more than 13 weeks (*Am J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;162:1527-9). Seventeen adult patients with autism had larger right caudate nuclei ( $p=0.04$ ) on MRI than 17 matched healthy control subjects and, in 12 of the patients, higher Autism Diagnostic Interview Repetitive Behavior scores correlated with larger right caudate volumes ( $r=0.6$ ,  $p=0.04$ ) and larger total putamen volumes ( $r=0.7$ ,  $p=0.02$ ) (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 1;58:226-32). There was an approximate 30% reduction in orbitofrontal cortex pyramidal neuron density, as assessed by cell morphology, in postmortem samples from 15 elderly patients who had major depression, by medical records and family response to Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV, when compared with samples from 11 age-matched healthy subjects (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 15;58:297-306). A review asserted that persistent drug seeking in patients with so-called end-stage addiction was due to dysregulation of glutamatergic projections from anterior cingulate and orbitofrontal cortex to the nucleus accumbens (*Am J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;162:1403-13). In the brains of 28 suicide victims versus 21 subjects who lacked psychiatric illness, less nerve growth factor (NGF), neurotrophin-3 (NT-3), and NT-4/5 mRNA and protein were seen in the hippocampus, and less protein of NGF and mRNA and protein of NT-4/5 were seen in the frontal cortex (Brodmann's area 9), using quantitative reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 15;58:315-24). Some haplotypes of three polymorphisms of the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) gene were associated with major depression in 465 patients when compared to 1097 healthy subjects (Bonferroni-corrected global  $p=0.00065$ ) (*Biol Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug 15;58:307-14). An editorial outlined the genetic variants associated with ADHD, including alleles of the dopamine D4 receptor and dopamine transporter genes (*Br J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;187:103-5). Nicotine dependence, its treatment, and pharmacogenetic approaches were discussed in a review (*Am J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;162:1441-51). The treatment of substance abuse with contingency management, skills training, motivational interviewing, and other behavioral therapies was reviewed (*Am J Psychiatry*. 2005 Aug;162:1452-60).



## UKE RESEARCH

### MED-PSYCH

**Impaired endothelial function in coronary heart disease patients with depressive symptomatology.**

Sherwood A, Hinderliter AL, Watkins LL, Waugh RA, Blumenthal JA.

[J Am Coll Cardiol. 2005 Aug 16;46:656-9.](#)

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**Polymorphism in the serotonin transporter gene and response to treatment in African American cocaine and alcohol-abusing individuals.**

Mannelli P, Patkar AA, Murray HW, Certa K, Peindl K, Mattila-Evenden M, Berrettini WH.

[Addict Biol. 2005 Sep;10:261-8.](#)

### PHARMACOLOGY

**Extended-release carbamazepine capsules: a viewpoint by richard h. Weisler.**

Weisler RH.

[CNS Drugs. 2005;19:717-8.](#)

### TRANSPLANT

**Fetal hippocampal CA3 cell grafts enriched with FGF-2 and BDNF exhibit robust long-term survival and integration and suppress aberrant mossy fiber sprouting in the injured middle-aged hippocampus.**

Rao MS, Hattiangady B, Shetty AK.

[Neurobiol Dis. 2005 Aug 12](#)

### PSYCHOLOGY

**Selective attention and multisensory integration: multiple phases of effects on the evoked brain activity.**

Talsma D, Woldorff MG.

[J Cogn Neurosci. 2005 Jul;17:1098-114.](#)

### PAIN

**Assessing Health-Related Quality of Life in Children with Recurrent Headache: Reliability and Validity of the PedsQLTM 4.0 in a Pediatric Headache Sample.**

Connelly M, Rapoff MA.

[J Pediatr Psychol. 2005 Aug 17](#)

### BIOLOGY

**Dendrite development: a surprising origin.**

Ehlers MD.

[J Cell Biol. 2005 Aug 15;170:517-9.](#)

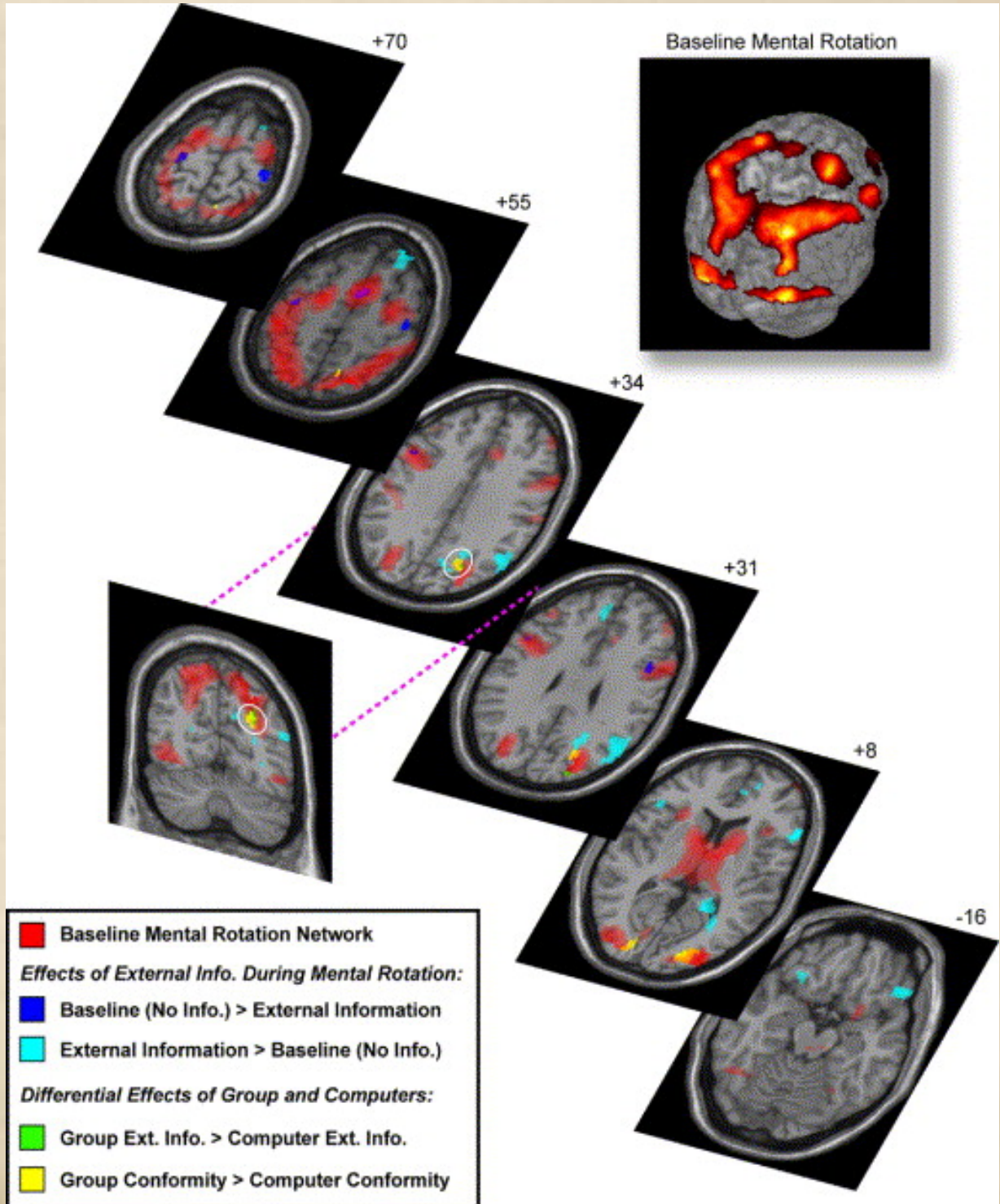
**The physics and neurobiology of magnetoreception.**

Johnsen S, Lohmann KJ.

[Nat Rev Neurosci. 2005 Aug 15](#)



FIGURE OF THE WEEK



Biol Psychiatry. 2005 Aug 1;58:245-53.