

# News RELEASE

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## APA Endorses *Stop a Suicide, Today!* Initiative

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has recently endorsed Screening for Mental Health, Inc.'s (SMH) new *Stop a Suicide, Today!* Initiative, a venture that seeks to educate and inform the public and clinicians on suicide prevention.

The kick off of this new initiative will include the launch of a new website ([www.StopASuicide.org](http://www.StopASuicide.org)) as part of Suicide Prevention Week (September 5-11, 2004) and World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10, 2004).

*Stop a Suicide, Today!* teaches Americans how to recognize the signs of suicide in their family, friends and co-workers, and how to respond to suicide-related emergencies. By providing the public with the tools they need, not only to recognize suicide risk factors, but to take action when necessary, *Stop a Suicide, Today!* empowers friends and family members to make a difference in the lives of their loved ones.

In expressing support for the initiative, James H. Scully, Jr., M.D., APA Medical Director said. "This new initiative is a great step toward addressing suicide prevention by providing tangible tips to the public as well as to clinicians, who form an important line of defense in suicide prevention. This is an important contribution to the treatment of mental illness."

Screening for Mental Health (SMH) is a non-profit organization that provides screenings for depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, eating disorders, and alcohol problems. Douglas G. Jacobs, MD, Founder and Executive Director of Screening for Mental Health says, "The tragedy of suicide is that it is a fatal, irreversible, response to a reversible, condition, usually depression, which can be treated. "*Stop a Suicide, Today!*" is aimed at the majority of suicidal persons not in treatment by empowering significant others to help them get the treatment they need."

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose more than 35,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. For more information, visit the APA Web site at [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)

Screening for Mental Health (SMH) is a national nonprofit organization based in Wellesley Hills, MA, whose mission is to promote mental health screening as an integral part of overall healthcare and contribute to professional training around issues of mental health assessment and treatment. The organization's Suicide Education and Research Division serves to educate academic and clinical professionals about the assessment and treatment of suicidal individuals. Visit [www.mentalhealthscreening.org](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org) for more information.

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