

News RELEASE

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Leading Medical Groups Endorse Public Clinical Trials Registry

Arlington, Va. - The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) told Congress today that they strongly support the establishment of a “comprehensive registry for all clinical trials conducted in the United States.” The AACAP and APA said the registry should be set up by the federal government and be free and open to the public.

In a joint statement delivered to members of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, part of the House of Representatives’ Energy and Commerce Committee, the organizations explained why they have been at the forefront of calling for a clinical trials registry.

“Research is key to understanding the cause of depression, especially in children and adolescents, and access to negative and positive research findings will help clinicians develop the most effective treatment plans,” the statement said.

The AACAP and APA said it was that principle that led them to urge the American Medical Association, the nation’s largest physicians group, to join their call for a registry, which it did earlier this summer. While the organizations are primarily concerned with psychiatric medications, they recognized that a registry would impact all of medicine. Moreover, they recognized that there is a bias toward the publication of positive research findings, which affects all of medicine.

The AACAP and APA are also encouraged by this week’s announcement of a voluntary clinical trials registry established by PhRMA, as that registry will begin in October – far sooner than a government-established registry could be up and running. Both organizations have urged full disclosure of data, including from negative and unpublished studies, and PhRMA’s move is an important step in that direction.

To see the full text of the AACAP/APA statement, follow this link:

http://www.psych.org/advocacy_policy/leg_res/apa_testimony/apa_aacap_clin_trials.pdf

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The AACAP is a medical membership association established by child and adolescent psychiatrists in 1953. Now over 7,000 members, the AACAP is the leading national medical association dedicated to treating and improving the quality of life for the estimated 7 - 12 million American youth under 18 years of age who are affected by emotional, behavioral, developmental and mental disorders. The AACAP supports research, continuing medical education and access to quality care. Child and adolescent psychiatrists are the only medical specialists specially trained in the treatment of mental illnesses in children and adolescents. For more information, visit www.aacap.org.

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

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