

Rise in Poor Patients Is Tearing Medical Safety Net

BY JOEL B. FINKELSTEIN
Contributing Writer

WASHINGTON — Community health centers, public hospitals, and other safety net providers are seeing a steadily growing number of low-income patients, while specialty care for these patients is becoming scarce, according to the results of a biennial national survey conducted by the Center for Studying Health System Change.

"The saga continues with rising demands and expectations on safety net providers. They have, lucky them, solidified their lock on the uninsured market in most of our communities," Robert Hurley, Ph.D., of the department of health administration at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, said at a conference sponsored by the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC).

For example, despite strong growth in the capacity of community health centers, many still are overwhelmed not only by uninsured patients and immigrants but also, increasingly, by insured patients.

The number of "private insurance pa-

tients [is] growing at twice the rate of the general population growth in health centers," said Daniel Hawkins, senior vice president at the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Health centers have absorbed a 60% increase in patients since 2001 and are now seeing 16 million patients a year. "The privately insured patient population is over 2.1 million out of those 16 million," he said.

Community health centers are also struggling to meet the demand for spe-

cialty care, which has grown scarce for low-income patients in the 12 communities surveyed by HSC.

"If you took away the employed positions in safety net hospitals and the faculty positions in the academic health centers, specialty care would not be available," Dr. Hurley said at a conference to release the findings of the most recent center survey.

The lack of other sources of care is especially acute in the area of mental health. The number of such visits to communi-

ty health centers has more than doubled over the past 5 years.

"Wellness care [and] well-child care immunizations are the most common reasons for visits to a health center, but diagnostically, it's diabetes, hypertension, and mental health," said Mr. Hawkins. "It's not schizophrenia; it's not psychoses; it's all the stress, anxiety, and depression that goes with trying to keep a roof over the family's head ... when you're making seven bucks an hour," said Mr. Hawkins. ■

Call For Papers

BRAIN STIMULATION:

*Basic, Translational, and Clinical
Research in Neuromodulation*

BRAIN STIMULATION aims to be the premier journal for publication of original research in the field of neuromodulation. The journal's scope extends across the entire field of brain stimulation, including noninvasive and invasive techniques and technologies that alter brain function through the use of electrical, magnetic, radiowave, or focally targeted pharmacologic stimulation. This includes investigations that study the effects of brain stimulation on basic processes, such as gene expression and other aspects of molecular biology, neurochemical regulation, functional brain activity, sensorimotor function, and cognitive and affective processes at the systems level.

BRAIN STIMULATION seeks the highest level of research on the biophysics and biopsychophysics of stimulation paradigms as well as the use of these techniques as a probe to outline patterns of neural connectivity. As an equal partner with this basic emphasis, the journal will have strong representation of research on the therapeutic potential and adverse effects of the stimulation technologies. The inclusion of research in therapeutics will represent not only clinical trials, but also conceptual pieces, discussions of ethics as they pertain to this field, services research, etc.

Subscriber Information:

2008 Subscription Rates:	Domestic	Int'l
Personal:	\$249	\$315
Institutional:	\$550	\$635
Resident:	\$125	\$175

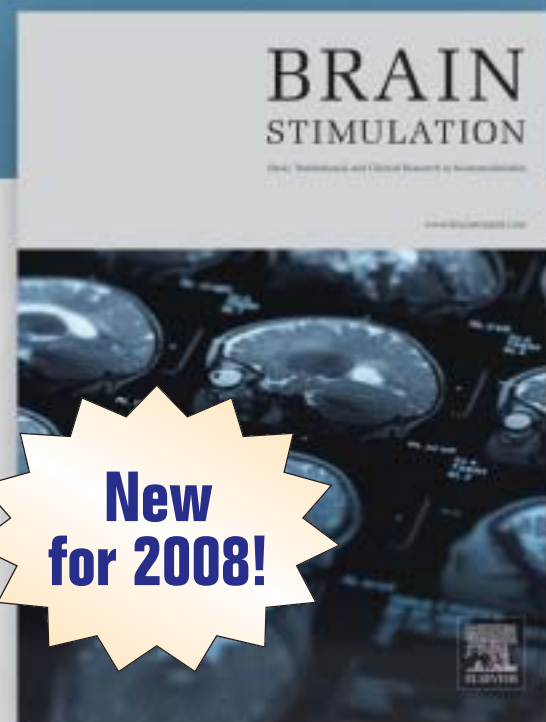
2008 Frequency: Quarterly

To order:

Fax: All orders +1 407-363-9661
Phone: +1 407-345-4000
1-800-654-2452 (US and Canada)

Submit Manuscripts

<http://EES.elsevier.com/BRS> or go to
www.BrainStimJrnl.com



Editor-in-Chief

Mark S. George, MD

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA

Founding Editor

Harold A. Sackeim, PhD

Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

Deputy Editors

Clinical Neurophysiology

John Rothwell, PhD, University College, Queen Square, London, England

Cognitive Neuroscience

Vincent Walsh, PhD, University College London, London, England

Neurology

Mark Hallett, MD, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD, USA

Pharmacology

Ulf Ziemann, MD, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany

Theory and Modelling

Cameron C. McIntyre, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH, USA

Neurosurgery

Andres Lozano MD, PhD, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Elsevier • Health Sciences Division

Subscription Customer Service

6277 Sea Harbor Drive • Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Phone (US): 1.800.654.2452

Phone (Outside US): 1.407.345.4000

Fax: 1.407.363.9661 • elspcps@elsevier.com



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685). 1. Publication title: CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY NEWS. 2. Publication No. 0270-6644. 3. Filing date: October 1, 2007. 4. Issue frequency: Monthly. 5. No. of issues published annually: 12. 6. Annual subscription price: \$90.00. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: International Medical News Group, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960. 8. Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: International Medical News Group, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960. 9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Group Publisher/General Manager, Alan J. Imhoff, IMNG, 60 Columbia Rd., Bldg. B, Morristown, NJ 07960; Executive Director, Editorial, Mary Jo M. Dales, IMNG, 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852; Editor, Gina Henderson, IMNG, 5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 6000, Rockville, MD 20852. 10. Owner: Elsevier Inc. Stock is owned 100% by Harcourt Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887. 11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None. 12. For completion by non-profit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. 13. Publication name: CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY NEWS. 14. Issue date for circulation data below: September 2007. 15. Extent and nature of circulation: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: a. Total number of copies (net press run) 43,374; b. Legitimate paid and/or requested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Individual paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 22,059 (2) Copies requested by employers for distribution to employees by name or position stated on PS Form 3541 0. (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid or requested distribution outside the USPS 0, (4) Requested copies distributed by other mail classes through the USPS 0; c. Total paid and/or requested circulation 22,059; d. Nonrequested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Nonrequested copies stated on PS Form 3541 21,108; (2) Nonrequested copies distributed through the USPS by other classes of mail 0; (3) Nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail 0; e. Total nonrequested distribution 21,108; f. Total distribution 43,167; g. Copies not distributed 207; h. Total 43,374; i. Percent paid and/or requested circulation 51%. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date a. Total numbers of copies (net press run) 42,883; b. Legitimate paid and/or requested distribution (by mail and outside the mail) (1) Individual paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 23,907; (2) Copies requested by employers for distribution to employees by name or position stated on PS Form 3541 0; (3) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid or requested distribution outside the USPS 0; (4) Requested copies distributed by other mail classes through the USPS 0; c. Total paid and/or requested circulation 23,907; d. Nonrequested distribution (1) Nonrequested copies stated on PS Form 3541 18,802; (2) Nonrequested copies distributed through the USPS by other classes of mail 0; (3) Nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail 0; e. Total nonrequested distribution 18,802; f. Total distribution 42,709; g. Copies not distributed 174; h. Total 42,883; i. Percent paid and/or requested circulation 56%. 16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2007 issue of this publication. 17. Signature and title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Alan J. Imhoff, President, IMNG.