NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for millions of Americans who are affected by mental illness. NAMI advocates for access to services, treatments, supports and research and is steadfast in its commitment to raising awareness and building a community of hope for all in need.

Today, NAMI is an alliance of more than 600 local affiliates and 48 state organizations working in your communities, building a strong movement toward a more inclusive culture that supports individuals and families when they need it most.
Welcome

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to NAMI's first-ever virtual Scientific Research Award presentation. Due to continued concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic, we have transitioned from our usual in-person event to a virtual environment for the health and safety of our communities. In the spirit of silver linings, this decision has ultimately provided us with the opportunity for increased nationwide participation, allowing us to spread even greater awareness about recent strides in mental illness research. NAMI remains deeply committed to research as part of our mission and we are eager to introduce you to the work of our 2020 Scientific Research Award honoree, David C. Henderson, M.D., during this special virtual program.

Dr. Henderson's research interests include treatment-resistant schizophrenia. During the past 25 years, he has conducted international research and training programs, including field studies, mental health policy development and strategic planning, mental health capacity building and skill-transfer program evaluation. In the United States, he has conducted more than 30 randomized clinical trials among populations with severe mental illness. Dr. Henderson's work shows a tireless dedication and commitment to improving the lives of those affected by mental illness. We are pleased to highlight his work and to recognize his outstanding contributions and achievements.

Scientific research brings us closer to ensuring that everyone affected by mental illness has access to the resources and support necessary to sustain a healthy life. Research can change the course for millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Once again, this year, we celebrate research, advocacy and the hope that our work can inspire the future.

As one of the strongest voices in mental health, we ask that you join us in this mission. Help us amplify this shared voice even further, engaging more diverse communities than ever before. We have the power, opportunity and responsibility to make mental illness visible, so people can get the care they need and deserve.

Remember, no matter how you are affected by mental illness, you are NOT alone.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters. Together, we will make a difference.

Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
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Chief Executive Officer, NAMI

REMARKS
Ken Duckworth, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, NAMI

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AWARD HONOREE
David C. Henderson, M.D.
“Moving Towards Equity in Health, Society, and Justice for People with Mental Illness”

AWARD PRESENTATION
Ken Duckworth, M.D.

ACCEPTANCE
David C. Henderson, M.D.

CLOSING
Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.
David C. Henderson, M.D., currently serves as Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Boston Medical Center, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, and Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at Boston University School of Medicine. He is an adjunct Professor of Epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Henderson also serves as Co-Director of the NIMH T32 Boston University Medical Campus-Massachusetts General Hospital Global Mental Health Clinical Research Fellowship. He previously served as Director of The Chester M. Pierce, MD Division of Global Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Director of the MGH Schizophrenia Clinical and Research Program, and Medical Director of the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma.

He is a community psychiatrist and worked in a community mental health center for 25 years caring for and conducting research among populations with serious mental illness. Dr. Henderson’s main research interests are psychopharmacological and antipsychotic agents in the treatment of schizophrenia, treatment-resistant schizophrenia, impacts of antipsychotic agents on metabolic anomalies and glucose metabolism, and ethnic and cultural psychiatry. His early research career focused on pharmacologic approaches to treatment-resistant schizophrenia, including trials of combination medications to improve symptoms and functioning. His group was one of the first to characterize the effects of atypical antipsychotic agents on weight, glucose, lipid metabolism, and cardiovascular risks and to develop clinical interventions to reduce or reverse these effects. In the United States, he has conducted more than 30 randomized clinical trials among populations with serious mental illness to understand and improve psychiatric and medical health outcomes. Dr. Henderson also studies trauma in areas of mass violence and develops programs to assist vulnerable populations.

Dr. Henderson has worked nationally and internationally for the past 25 years in resource-limited settings, and areas impacted by mass violence, disasters and complex emergencies. His work has consisted of field studies, needs assessments, mental health policy development and strategic planning, clinical trials, quantitative and qualitative studies, ethnopsychopharmacology, and developing psychiatry residency training programs. In addition he has focused on mental health capacity building programs and skill-transfer programs for specialized and primary health care professionals in Massachusetts and in several countries.

Dr. Henderson received his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, completed his residency at MGH, and trained as Chief Resident and Research Fellow of the Freedom Trail Clinic at the Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center in Boston.
The NAMI Scientific Research Award has been presented to an illustrious group of honorees, whose work exemplifies tireless dedication and commitment to improving the lives of people affected by mental illness. Their groundbreaking research has been making immeasurable contributions to the field. Since the award’s inception in 2005, 18 researchers have been honored. A list of the previous honorees appears on page 6.

The award is supported by the Peter Corbin Kohn Endowment, established in 2013 by Jutta and George Childs Kohn in loving memory of their son, Peter, an AIA-certified, licensed architect, whose slowly progressing illness morphed from psychotic depression to OCD to bipolar disorder then, finally, paranoia and psychosis. Peter knew he was sick, but he fought it, despite the help and input of many psychiatrists. Over time, he became more and more isolated until he died at age 38 in 2012.

The Kohns became involved with NAMI more than 20 years ago on the advice of their psychiatrist, who helped them navigate Peter’s many highs and lows. After his death, they struggled not only with his loss, but with how to make sense of mental illness and to accept their son’s suffering and isolation, as well as that of those close to him. This led to the establishment of the Endowment.

The Peter Corbin Kohn Endowment is part of a new era in research, leading to a more integrated approach that combines the mental and social components of mental illness, particularly in early intervention. Through the Endowment, the Kohns hope to expand research into the role of the family, to develop adequate approaches and treatments and to promote effective interventions. The Endowment is providing researchers with more and more opportunities to improve the lives of those affected by mental illness.
NAMI SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AWARD

FORMER HONOREES

2019
Matcheri Keshavan, M.D.

2018
Melvin G. McInnis, M.D., FRCPSYCH (UK)
K. Sue O’Shea, Ph.D.

2017
Sophia Vinogradov, M.D.

2016
Michael C. Carroll, Ph.D.

2016
Steven A. McCarroll, Ph.D.

2015
Marsha M. Linehan, Ph.D., ABPP
Lisa Dixon, M.D., M.P.H.

2014
Patrick McGorry, M.D.

2013
Nancy Andreasen, M.D., Ph.D.

2012
Jeffrey A. Lieberman, M.D.

2010
Robert M. Post, M.D.

2009
William Carpenter, M.D.
Judith L. Rapoport, M.D.

2008
A. John Rush, M.D.

2007
Charles Bowden, M.D.

2006
Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D.
Dear Friends and Colleagues:

On behalf of the NAMI Board of Directors, I want to welcome you to our virtual Scientific Research Award presentation. I am Shirley Holloway, President of the Board. We are proud to partner with you as we continue to move scientific research forward in understanding and treating mental illness. While there is still much to be done, every step we take brings us closer to finding the keys that can lead to improving the lives of people with mental illness.

Dr. David Henderson, our 2020 honoree, has spent the past 25 years focused on mental health policy and conducting clinical trials for populations with severe mental illness across the United States and internationally. We point with pride to his many achievements and the inspiration his work inspires in others. Since the inception of the NAMI Scientific Research Award, we have all witnessed the extraordinary accomplishments of each honoree. It is their collective work that continues to pave the way to new and better resources for those affected by mental illness. Today, Dr. Henderson joins this illustrious group.

My colleagues on the Board and I extend our deepest appreciation to our grassroots volunteers and advocates who are always available offering support and help. We also thank our sponsors for their consistent support and partnership. Together, we are building a better future and a larger movement. Thank you for sharing this virtual event with us.

Shirley J. Holloway, Ph.D.
President, NAMI Board of Directors
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James “Jim” Reiser, M.B.A., M.A.
NAMI is proud to launch **NAMI Frontline Wellness**: an initiative to support health care and public safety professionals on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more about the initiative, make a donation, or access life-saving resources visit www.NAMI.org/frontlinewellness.

Help take care of our frontline professionals so they can take care of us.

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#NotAlone
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For more information about Alkermes, please visit: www.alkermes.com

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Working together toward advancing mental health for all.

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“When a person living with serious mental illness relapses, it’s devastating and progressively makes it harder to achieve their potential. That’s why we continue to work tirelessly to provide medicines and conduct research that offer hope for the individual and their families, so they can live fulfilling and healthier lives.”

— Courtney Billington
President, Janssen Neuroscience

Janssen Neuroscience applauds those working together at the county, state, and federal levels, especially at the intersection of criminal justice and mental health reform, to champion a better future for individuals with serious mental illness, including schizophrenia and mood disorders.

We can and should continue to set a higher standard for how we support individuals with serious mental illness.

Janssen’s unwavering commitment to delivering innovative mental health therapies spans 50 years, and we will continue to champion treatments to improve the lives of those with serious mental illness.

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