



Mind Matters



Newsletter of CBDSM

Center for Behavioral and Decision Sciences in Medicine
University of Michigan and Ann Arbor VA

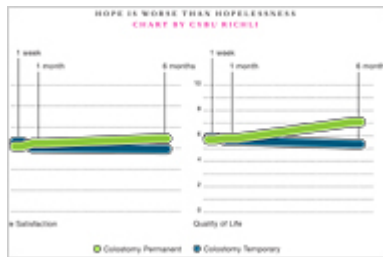
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Hope and Happiness

In its 7th Annual "Year in Ideas" issue, the New York Times Magazine cited the work of CBDSM researchers Peter Ubel, MD, and Dylan Smith, PhD, as among the best ideas of 2007. Here's an excerpt from the article, entitled *Hope Can be Worse Than Hopelessness*:

"The research team . . . tracked people who had portions of their colons removed or bypassed . . . It's surprising that the permanent-colostomy patients ended up happier six months after the operation than the temporary group, whose members were still holding out hope. Patients with a temporary colostomy experienced a significant drop in life satisfaction versus patients in the permanent group.



"It might seem strange that patients who are better off objectively were less satisfied with their lives, yet the finding makes sense: 'If your condition is temporary,' Ubel explains, 'you're thinking, I can't wait until I get rid of this.' Ubel says thoughts like these keep you from moving on with your

life and focusing on the many good things that remain. A scholarly article about this research is currently in submission by Dr. Ubel, Dr. Smith, and collaborators George Loewenstein, PhD (Carnegie Mellon University) and Aleksandra Jankovic, MS (CBDSM).

CBDSM Lab Meetings

CBDSM Lab Meetings are held 11:45 am - 1:00 pm on the **first** and **third Thursdays** of each month, with an announced break in summer. Bring your lunch to the North Ingalls Building on the University of Michigan campus and join the conversation. Coming up:

February 21 *The CBDSM Website: Cruising It and Using It as a Scholarly Tool* with Bob Burbach and Aaron Pearlman, CBDSM programmers

March 6 Update on research by CBDSM faculty member Dr. Reshma Jagsi

Decision of the Month

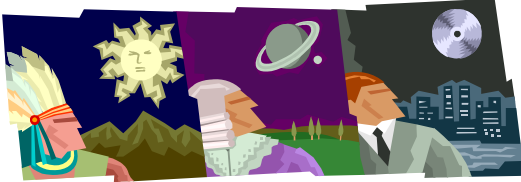
At www.cbds.org/dom you'll find our latest interactive decision. Each scenario turns a recent research finding into a decision that a patient or policy maker might face. Read, click, decide—and then see the research behind your decisions.



Speaker Series Integrating Psychology and Medicine

How Evolved Motivational Systems Influence Disease and Well-Being

Sponsored by the Evolution and Human Adaptation Program and CBDSM



University of Michigan central campus

For a complete and up-to-date schedule, please go to the EHAP website: www.rcgd.isr.umich.edu/ehap/lectures/
Speakers in the coming weeks include

Oliver Schulthies

(Friedrich-Alexander University, Germany)
Hormones, implicit learning, and dominance: A biobehavioral model of implicit power motivation

Jennifer Crocker

(University of Michigan)
The costly pursuit of self-esteem

David Buss

(University of Texas)
Sexual conflict in human mating

Sue Carter

(University of Illinois at Chicago)
Molecules and monogamy: What's love got to do with it?

Stephen Porges

(University of Illinois at Chicago)
Social Behavior: An emergent property of the phylogeny of the autonomic nervous system

Douglas Kenrick

(Arizona State University)
Evolutionary social cognition: How the mind warps

Julian Le Grand

(London School of Economics and Political

Science)

Motivation and medical professionals

Michael Numan

(Boston College)
Brain circuits regulating maternal motivation in mammals

Niall McLaren

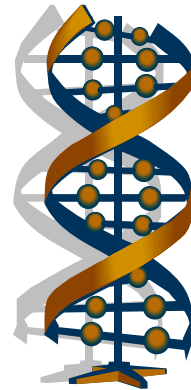
(Darwin, Australia)
Redefining the biopsychosocial model for the 21st century: Implications for clinical psychiatry

Mike Brown

(Pacific Lutheran University)
Evolved motivations for detecting burden: Implications for depression, suicide, and terrorism

Sheldon Cohen

(Carnegie Mellon University)
Stress, social networks, social status, and susceptibility to the common cold



Genomics Grant Awarded

CBDSM faculty member Brian Zikmund-Fisher is a co-principal investigator on a 2008 supplemental award to the Ann Arbor VA HSR&D Center of

Excellence. This grant program seeks to develop and establish a VA Health Services Genomics Program that will study the application of genomics to both preventive medicine (eg, by optimizing colorectal cancer screening recommendations) and therapeutic interventions (eg, by predicting variation in patients' response to psychopharmacologic agents). Dr. Zikmund-Fisher will lead a medical decision-making working group within the program that will address cross-cutting communication issues in genomic medicine that involve risk communication, ethics, privacy, and patient and physician decision-making.



Peter Ubel Named Collegiate Professor

The Regents of the University of Michigan have named Peter A. Ubel, MD, the

George Dock Collegiate Professor of Internal Medicine, effective December 13, 2007, through August 31, 2012. Collegiate professorships recognize faculty members whose work is of the highest quality. The titles honor former University of Michigan faculty members—in this case, Dr. George Dock, an early Medical School professor. An official inauguration ceremony for Dr. Ubel will be held in spring 2008.



*George Dock, MD
(1860-1951)*

Schwartz Center Rounds

The Schwartz Center Rounds are a multi-disciplinary forum at the University of Michigan where clinical caregivers discuss difficult emotional and social issues that arise in caring for patients and families. Bioethical topics are often on the agenda. Open to all faculty and staff. Local contact: Susan Urba, MD, *surba at med dot umich dot edu*. The national web site for the program:

<http://www.theschwartzcenter.org>

CBDSM Staff News

Aimee Stanczyk has joined Dr. Scott Kim's research group at CBDSM, working on the NIH-supported project *Ethics of Surrogate Consent for Dementia Research*. Aimee came to CBDSM from a local grant and project management firm; she's expecting to receive her master's degree in applied research in sociology from Eastern Michigan University in 2008.



Bob Burbach, who has worked part-time for CBDSM since fall 2006, moved to a full-time position in fall 2007. Bob is now officially the Center's Web Applications Developer, doing programming for the many CBDSM web surveys and for the CBDSM website.

On February 2, CBDSM research assistant **Julie Parow** competed in the 5th Annual International Yoga Asana Championship, the Bishnu Charan Ghosh Cup, in Los Angeles. To qualify for that competition she came in second at the regional qualifying competition held at the Bikram yoga studio in Ann Arbor on January 19. Congratulations to Julie!



Submit CBDSM News

Mind Matters is edited by Karis Crawford, CBDSM Center Manager, who welcomes ideas and comments. Email her at *karis at med dot umich dot edu*.

Recent Publications from CBDSM Investigators

"If I'm better than average, then I'm ok?" Comparative information influences beliefs about risk and benefits. Fagerlin A, Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Ubel PA. *Patient Education and Counseling*. 2007;69:140-144.

Becoming a doctor, starting a family--leaves of absence from graduate medical education. Jaggi R, Tarbell NJ, Weinstein DF. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2007;357(19):1889-1891.

Does labeling prenatal screening test results as negative or positive affect a woman's responses? Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Fagerlin A, Keeton K, Ubel PA. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2007;197:528.e1-528.e6.

Ethics of sham surgery: Perspective of patients. Frank S, Holloway RG, Zimmerman C, Peterson DR, Kiebertz K, Kim S. *Movement Disorders*. 2007;23(1):63-68.

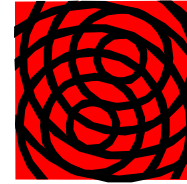
Mispredictions and misrecollections: Challenges for subjective outcome measurement. Smith DM, Brown S, Ubel PA. *Disability and Rehabilitation*. 2007 (e-publication ahead of print).

Validation of the subjective numeracy scale (SNS): Effects of low numeracy on comprehension of risk communications and utility elicitation. Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Smith DM, Ubel PA, Fagerlin A. *Medical Decision Making*. 2007;27:663-671.

Measuring numeracy without a math test: development of the subjective numeracy scale (SNS). Fagerlin A, Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Ubel PA, Jankovic A, Derry HA, Smith DM. *Medical Decision Making*. 2007;27:672-680.

Harnessing the power of default options to improve health care. Halpern SD, Ubel PA, Asch DA. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2007;357:1340-1344.

Interested in Faculty Affiliation with CBDSM?



University of Michigan faculty are affiliated with CBDSM at many different levels, while maintaining their faculty appointments in their home departments. Some faculty have office space at the Center, keep folders on the Center's research server space, and use Center staff for both pre-award and post-award grant activities. Other faculty run their grant proposals through their home departments but take advantage of the Center for management of research staff on a sub-account. Still other faculty collaborate with Center affiliates frequently and showcase the resulting research findings on the Center website (www.cbdsml.org). For more details, talk with Peter Ubel, Center Director, or Karis Crawford, Center Manager.



R-21 Award to Dylan Smith

CBDSM faculty member Dylan Smith is the principal investigator on an NIH R-21 grant beginning in spring 2008. Dr. Smith will be measuring health-related quality of life in older adults with chronic illnesses, evaluating existing recall-based approaches against two new tools that are designed to be robust to memory biases. Co-investigators with Dr. Smith are Peter A. Ubel, Norbert Schwarz, and Susan Murphy. Congratulations on this award!

