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February 21, 2004

NIH Symposium to Explore Virtual Reality in Medicine

Presenters will speak about the uses of virtual reality in medicine at a one-day symposium sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Among the speakers will be Dr. Brenda Wiederhold discussing virtual reality and phobias, as well as Dr. Joann Difede discussing virtual reality in the treatment of stress related to 9/11 events. Continue reading for more information about the symposium.

"Virtual Reality: Opportunities for the NIH"
Tuesday, February 24, 2004

What: Virtual reality technologies are proving to be an important new tool in medical science. The National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, is hosting "Virtual Reality: Opportunities for the NIH" to highlight the latest scientific findings on the current and potential roles for virtual reality technologies in medicine.

This one-day symposium will feature presentations by multidisciplinary experts who will describe the theory and applications of virtual reality (computer-generated stimulus environments), emphasizing how this technology is being used in prevention and treatment therapies for drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, phobias, and pain.

When: Tuesday, February 24, 2004
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Lister Hill Auditorium
National Library of Medicine
Building 38A, National Institutes of Health
(Medical Center stop on the Metro's Red line)

Who: Featured Speakers Listed on the Agenda that follows.
NOTE: Each presentation will be followed by a brief question and discussion session.

Info: The media are encouraged to attend. For more information, please call the NIDA Press Office at 301-443-6245.

Agenda: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/Newsroom/04/NR2-19.html#agenda>

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports more than 85 percent of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to ensure the rapid dissemination of research information and its implementation in policy and practice. Fact sheets on the health

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effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at <http://www.drugabuse.gov>.

~ A [National Institutes of Health](#) press release

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