Assessing Depression in Vulnerable Populations: A Round Table Discussion

Thursday, March 15, 2018
Light lunch • 12-1 p.m., Room 241
VKC/One Magnolia Circle Bldg.

Register by March 9 at:
vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/events/6049

Depression is a common human experience. Symptoms include sadness, hopelessness, and irritability; decreased energy; lack of enjoyment in pleasurable activities; feelings of worthlessness; changes in eating and sleeping patterns; attentional difficulties; and increased risk of self-injury or suicide. In typically developing populations, clinicians generally assess depression by interviewing individuals about these features or by having them (or a caregiver) complete questionnaires or rating scales. The diagnostic challenge becomes even greater when individuals have intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or chronic health conditions. How does one make reliable judgments about depression when individuals have significant cognitive or communication limitations and cannot describe their feelings or provide insight into their own internal states? What assessment methods are used? Please join us for an interactive discussion with researchers and clinicians with expertise in neurodevelopmental disabilities and chronic health conditions, including autism; Down, Rett, Prader Willi, and Williams syndromes; and cancer.

Panel Participants:
*Evon Batey Lee, Ph.D., Moderator, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Psychology and Psychiatry; VKC Neurobehavioral Phenotypes Coordinator
*Elisabeth Dykens, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, and Pediatrics; Co-Director, VKC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
*Katherine Gotham, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
*Sar Peters, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Michelle Reising, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

*VKC investigators/members

The VKC welcomes participants with disabilities. Contact kc@vanderbilt.edu for disability access information.