



SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION NETWORK USA
Opening Minds. Changing Policy. Saving Lives.

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National Scientific Advisory Council to Guide Suicide Prevention Policies

*Suicide Prevention Action Network Names Eric Caine, M.D.
to Chair Scientific Advisory Council*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Oct. 2, 2006) — The Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA) today announced the formation of a National Scientific Advisory Council (NSAC), a committee of leading scientists and researchers who will inform SPAN USA's advocacy and public policy initiatives with the best scientific information available regarding the prevention of suicide, attempted suicide, and their contributing risk factors.

The NSAC will work closely with SPAN USA, the nation's leading grassroots advocacy organization working to advance public policies that prevent suicide, to ensure that its policy initiatives are evidence-based and originate from the most promising scientific and clinical information in the field.

The NSAC will be chaired by Eric Caine, M.D., chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. Caine is one of the nation's foremost researchers in the field of suicide prevention and an expert on mental illness and suicide among the elderly. Caine served as an expert consultant to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, and chaired the National Institute of Mental Health's China-Rochester Suicide Research Center, whose goal was to develop public health programs that prevent suicide. Dr. Caine has testified before Congress on suicide prevention and the elderly.

"We are pleased that many of the nation's leading experts on suicide prevention have agreed to serve on the council," said Jerry Reed, executive director of SPAN USA. "We are confident that this group of distinguished scientists and researchers will bring us a step closer toward achieving our mission of suicide prevention. The synergy the NSAC will create between advocacy and cutting-edge science will give SPAN USA a whole new dimension, adding significant credibility to our science-based policy initiatives," added Reed.

Dr. Caine will lead a group of distinguished scientists and researchers in the field of suicide prevention. Other members of the National Scientific Advisory Council include:

- **C. Hendricks Brown, Ph.D.**, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of South Florida; expert on prevention and early intervention techniques for treating mental illness and drug abuse, and in suicide prevention programs for schools and rural communities
- **Gregory Brown, Ph.D.**, Research Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania; Associate Director, Center for the Treatment and Prevention of Suicide; expert on cognitive therapy for those at-risk for suicide and those who have made suicide attempts
- **Kenneth Connor, Psy.D., M.P.H.**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Center; expert on the risk of suicide among alcohol and drug abusers
- **Yeates Conwell, M.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Center; expert on suicide and depression among the elderly
- **Lucy Davidson, M.D., Ed.S.**, Psychiatric Epidemiologist, Forensic Psychiatrist; expert on national public health initiatives addressing suicide
- **Madelyn Gould, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Professor in Child Psychiatry and Public Health, Columbia University; Research Scientist, New York State Psychiatric Institute; expert on youth suicide prevention

- **David Jobes, Ph.D., ABPP**, Professor of Psychology, Catholic University of America; expert on suicide prevention for military veterans
- **Thomas Joiner, Ph.D.**, Bright-Burton Professor of Psychology, Florida State University; expert on causes of suicidal behavior and the treatment of suicidal behavior and related conditions
- **Mark Kaplan, Dr.P.H.**, Professor of Community Health, Portland State University; expert on the risk of suicide among older adults and firearm suicide
- **Cheryl King Ph.D., ABPP**, Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, University of Michigan; expert on suicidal behavior and treatments among adolescents
- **Sherry Molock, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, George Washington University; expert on depression and suicidal behavior in the African-American community
- **Maria Oquendo, M.D.**, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University; expert on the risk of suicide among patients with bipolar, affective and psychotic disorders

SPAN USA Board member Sean Joe, M.S.W., Ph.D., and assistant professor of social work at the University of Michigan and expert on African-American youth suicide, will serve as the SPAN USA Board liaison to the NSAC.

“We look forward to collaborating with experts in the field of suicide prevention, including advocates, policy makers, scientists and researchers to further advance public health policies that prevent suicide,” said Dr. Eric Caine, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “SPAN USA is a leader in advancing policies that prevent suicide and in promoting mental health parity. By providing information on the most relevant scientific research impacting suicide prevention, we hope the NSAC will play a key role in ensuring that this country’s national strategy for suicide prevention is based on sound science,” added Caine.

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SPAN USA is the nation’s only suicide prevention organization dedicated to leveraging grassroots support among suicide survivors and others to advance public policies that prevent suicide. Since its founding 10 years ago, SPAN USA has led the drive to make suicide a public health priority by building political will and calling for the development and implementation of a national strategy for suicide prevention. Using its extensive grassroots network of survivors and advocates, SPAN USA has actively promoted the cause on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures. For more information, please visit www.spanusa.org.