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Schizophrenia and Social Stigma: How Society Views Those With Mental Illness

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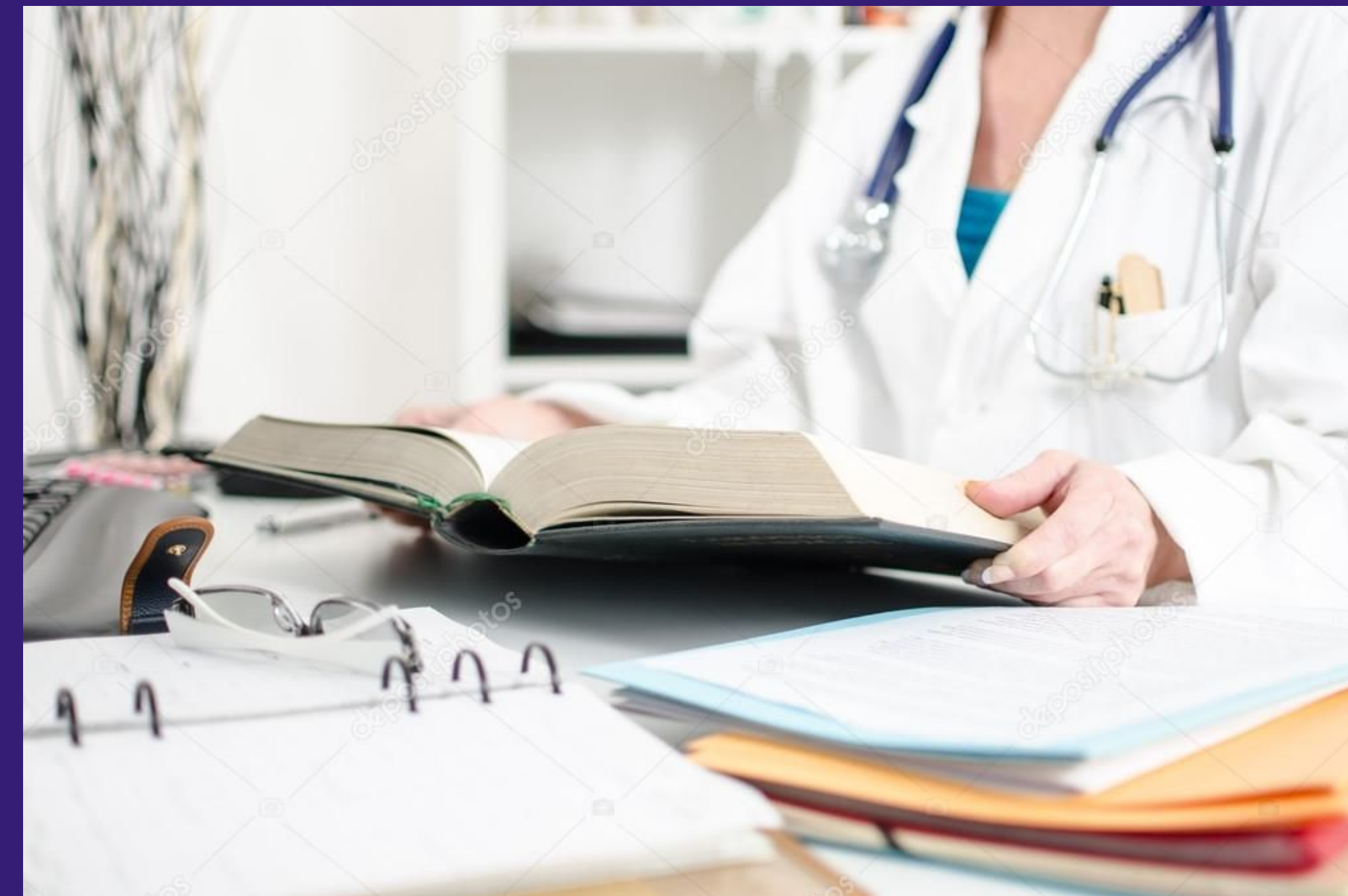
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Schizophrenia and Social Stigma: How Society Views Those With Mental Illness

Rebecca Littrel (Mentor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D)

Introduction:

- Schizophrenia is a mental disease which affects patients with disorganized thoughts, erratic behavior and hallucinations.
- The cause of Schizophrenia is unknown, but it is thought to be caused by a mixture of genetic and physiological factors such as trauma.
- Men are most typically affected by the disease, seeing symptoms develop in the mid to late twenties.



Mental health professionals are looking for new ways to help decrease the stigma behind mental illness.

Findings:

- 52% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia experience low self esteem caused by stigma surrounding the disease.
- 13% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia have committed suicide in the last year.
- 40% of those diagnosed with schizophrenia had a hard time finding work and getting insurance coverage.



Those who have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia often feel stigmatized in their everyday lives.

Conclusion

- Media and everyday life affects the way that society looks at mental illness.
- Asking questions and learning about mental illness can help eliminate stigma for those who are diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- People diagnosed with mental illness are much more than their mental disease.



Respect and understanding is a large part in being an advocate for those with mental illness.

Sources:

- Theocharis, Chr. Kyziridis, "Notes on the history of schizophrenia"
- Kim Nguyen-Finn, "History of Treatment Persons With Psychiatric Disabilities."
- Constance B Caldwell, Irving I Gottesmen, "Schizophrenics Kill themselves too: A Review of Risk factors for Suicide"