



School of Medicine

David R. Rosenberg, M.D.
Professor & Chair
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Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Detroit Medical Center



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Keith Famie
Executive Producer
Visionalist Entertainment Productions

Dear Keith:

I am honored and humbled to be able to participate in your documentary, "Death is not the Answer". As we discussed, children and adolescents are the diagnostic and therapeutic orphans in mental health care. As a child and adolescent psychiatrist, one of the hardest parts of my job is convincing good teenagers and pre-teens and their parents that they are not to blame for their depression and illness. So many cases of depression and anxiety have their onset in childhood and adolescence but are often underdiagnosed and treated or not diagnosed or treated at all during youth. In this era of modern biological psychiatry, we are beginning to elucidate potential brain mechanisms and the genetic underpinnings of depression and anxiety which may lead to enhanced diagnosis and more effective treatment. Some of these brain abnormalities appear to be reversible with effective treatment. Almost all causes of suicide are associated with underlying depression and anxiety. Knowledge heals and I believe that many of these tragedies are preventable and documentaries such as yours will shed light on suicide and mental health and help our efforts to defeat the stigma associated with psychiatric illness. I am also especially intrigued by your approach including happiness at a person at both personal and social levels. As we discussed, given this epidemic confronting our society, we need to put everything on the table and use "every tool in the toolbox".

I am Chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences at Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center and Chief of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at the Children's Hospital of Michigan and am delighted to share in my expertise in mood and anxiety disorders in children and adolescents. I completed my medical training at the University of Michigan and trained in General and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. I also completed a National Institute of Mental Health post-doctoral fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry. I have been here at Wayne State University for the past 16 years.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Rosenberg', written over a horizontal line.

David R. Rosenberg, M.D.
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