



National Public Radio interviews Dr. Rachel Pruchno in a hour-long discussion of mental illness and her memoir *Surrounded By Madness*

The gripping and empowering memoir by Rachel Pruchno, Endowed Chair & Professor of Medicine at Rowan University, telling of her experiences with mental illness in her family continues to attract media attention.

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VOORHEES, NEW JERSEY – National Public Radio today broadcast an hour-long interview of Dr. Rachel Pruchno, author of *Surrounded By Madness: A Memoir of Mental Illness and Family Secrets*.

Interviewer Mary Cummings-Jordan, the occasional guest host of *Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane*, a popular show broadcast from NPR's Philadelphia-based affiliate WHYY, engaged Dr. Pruchno on a variety of topics relevant to mental illness and America's mental health care and legal systems. Much of the interview focused on her recently published memoir *Surrounded By Madness*, a book that has been lauded nationwide by mental health professionals and thought leaders. However, Dr. Pruchno and Cummings-Jordan also talked extensively about the stigmas that still surround mental illness and the challenges that families face in getting treatment for their adult children.

Early during the interview, the magnitude of the problem society faces vis-à-vis combating mental illness – a disease estimated to ravage the American economy by nearly \$400 billion annually in terms of lost worker productivity – became clear when Cummings-Jordan astutely asked whether stigma stymies progress in America's efforts to support families and effectively treat and care for people with mental illness. Dr. Pruchno responded with great passion: "I think it does. Stigma makes people keep secrets. If people keep secrets, then we can't even count the number of people who are affected [by mental illness]. If we can't count the numbers, how do [our legislators] allocate money? We don't understand how huge this problem is."

To hear the full interview, please visit the WHYY website at <http://whyy.org/cms/radiotimes/2014/08/11/rachel-pruchnos-surrounded-by-madness/> or <http://tinyurl.com/p6jl5qk>.

Since its release, ***Surrounded By Madness*** has attracted the attention of leaders in the field and glowingly positive reviews.

“Penned in a vivid, literary style that bleeds anguish, Pruchno’s story is a mother’s worst nightmare. Since the book centers on a young person and leaves such a powerful impression, it would make a solid supplementary text for a college psychology course. Pruchno’s feelings of desperation and powerlessness speak more to the reality of mental illness than an academic case study ever could,” from **Kirkus Reviews**.

“An important, poignant voice rooted in one family’s experience. Will help move communities beyond dialogue to action,” from **Michael J. Fitzpatrick, M.S.W., Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness**.

“Reading *Surrounded By Madness* is like watching the inevitable train crash that you can’t stop from happening. Poignant, vivid, tragic, yet ultimately resilient,” from **Stephen P. Hinshaw, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychology, University of California at Berkeley and Vice-Chair for Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, University of California at San Francisco**.

“A report from the front lines of the daily battles of mental illness and a first-hand account of loss, this is a compelling book for clinicians, scholars, and family members trying to understand chronic mental illness,” from **Michael A. Smyer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology & Provost, Bucknell University**.

For more information about the author, please visit Dr. Pruchno’s official website at www.RachelPruchno.net.

For more information about ***Surrounded By Madness*** and to watch the book trailer, please visit the book’s official website at www.SurroundedByMadness.net or go to YouTube.com at <http://tinyurl.com/nozgcwv>.

Surrounded By Madness: A Memoir of Mental Illness and Family Secrets is available exclusively at Amazon.com (<http://tinyurl.com/k5xvmsz>) and other online booksellers.

About the Author:

Rachel Pruchno is Endowed Chair & Professor of Medicine at Rowan University’s School of Osteopathic Medicine and Director of Research at the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging (<http://www.rowan.edu/som/njisa/>). She earned her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State University. Dr. Pruchno has been the Principal Investigator on numerous research grants funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Aging, the National Institute of Nursing Research, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Retirement Research Foundation, and the Cleveland Foundation. She has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, 10 invited book chapters, and co-edited *Challenges of an Aging Society: Ethical Dilemmas, Political Issues*. She has served as Editor-in-Chief of the leading scientific journal *The Gerontologist* (<http://gerontologist.oxfordjournals.org/>) since 2011.

As a weekly blogger since January 2014, Dr. Pruchno has been contributing to PsychologyToday.com, the website of the magazine *Psychology Today*. The blog, “All in the Family: Mental Illness and Caregiving Across the Generations,” may be viewed at www.PsychologyToday.com/blog/All-in-the-Family.

She is married with four children, two of whom are dogs.

If you would like more information about Dr. Pruchno’s academic work, including her CV and publications, please visit her personal website at www.RachelPruchno.net.

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