

Robert K. Heinssen, Ph.D., ABPP Director, Division of Services and Intervention Research National Institute of Mental Health

Dr. Robert Heinssen is Director of the Division of Services and Intervention Research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). He is widely recognized as a scientific leader in the areas of prodromal schizophrenia research, first episode psychosis, and neuroscience approaches for improving assessment and remediation of cognitive deficits in schizophrenia. From 2008 to 2010, Dr. Heinssen played a pivotal role in launching the NIMH-Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service members (Army STARRS), the largest study of mental health factors ever conducted among military personnel.

He has won several awards, including the Department of Health and Human Services' Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Service to America, the National Institutes of Health Director's Award, and the NIMH Supervisor of the Year Award. In 2014, Dr. Heinssen received a Special Presidential Commendation from the American Psychiatric Association for championing research on early psychosis and translating it into policy and programs that established a new standard of care.

Dr. Heinssen earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Catholic University of America. He completed a clinical fellowship at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School and residency at Chestnut Lodge Hospital; he is a board certified, licensed clinical psychologist. Before joining NIMH, he worked for 12 years as a mental health practitioner and researcher at the Chestnut Lodge Research Institute in Rockville, MD. While there, he studied the diagnosis, course, and treatment of schizophrenia, and developed several science-based treatment programs for persons with serious mental illness. Dr. Heinssen is the founder and past president of the Schizophrenia Special Interest Group within the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. Between 2004 and 2012, he served as a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 as a member of the U.S. Army Joint Mental Health Advisory Team. Dr. Heinssen has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters, and is a regular presenter at major scientific meetings.