

RARC DIGEST

Dear RARC Community,

Please see below for our weekly round-up of addiction-related news and events across Rutgers. Have news or events you'd like us to highlight in an upcoming digest? Send the details to RARC Communication Specialist, Ricki Arvesen ([ricki.arvesen@rutgers.edu](mailto:rickette.arvesen@rutgers.edu)).

RARC News

- **Registration is now open!** The **annual RARC Fall Symposium** is scheduled for **Friday, September 8, 2023** in the Busch Student Center in Piscataway. This one-day event will feature an opening plenary, showcase the breadth of addiction research, and provide opportunities to connect with clinical services across Rutgers. Poster session and reception to follow. All faculty, staff and students with interest in addiction are encouraged to attend. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Welcomes New Associate Director of Epidemiology, Etiology, and Prevention, Kristina Jackson** - We are incredibly excited to welcome **Dr. Kristina Jackson** to the RARC leadership team. Starting October 1, 2023, Dr. Jackson will assume the position of Associate Director of Epidemiology, Etiology, and Prevention in the RARC, and tenured Professor of Psychiatry in Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Brain Health Institute Trainee Travel Awards** - The Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) has announced their Fall 2023 trainee travel award for Rutgers neuroscience PhD, MD/PhD students and post-docs. BHI will provide \$500 awards to help offset the cost of attending a national or international conference that will be held during the current fiscal year (i.e., by June 30, 2024). **All materials are due by September 1, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- Researchers at the **Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies**, recently published a study in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, examining the effects of pandemic-related emotional, physical and economic stressors on substance use frequency. The study encourages that rather than turn to vices such as alcohol and drugs, many people turned to new pursuits to cope with pandemic-related stresses. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Equity Alliance for Community Health (REACH)**, seeded through a \$10 million grant from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, puts research into practice through community residents and leaders working on innovative approaches to bring about long-lasting systemic change and

achieve health equity by addressing issues of inequity that include structural and systemic racism. REACH is designed to support Rutgers faculty, students, and staff to engage in equitable and sustainable community-based research in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick. For more information, [click here](#). For information on the REACH, Community-Academic Grants Program, [click here](#).

- According to a new report in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, despite the harm that excessive alcohol consumption can cause in a community, use of some alcohol-related enforcement strategies remained low or decreased from 2010 to 2019. In particular, researchers found a drop in enforcement of underage drinking laws. For more information, [click here](#).

Correction from last week:

- **Dr. Travis Baker**, from Rutgers University–Newark’s **Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience (CMBN)** was promoted to Associate Professor. **Dr. Denise Hien**, Director of the **Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies**, was promoted to Distinguished Professor. Sending huge congratulations to both researchers on these exciting achievements.

Opportunities

- **Post-doctoral Position in Neuroimaging and Stimulation for Addiction Research** - A Postdoctoral Research Associate position is available within the Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroimaging and Stimulation (CNS: www.neurostimlab.com) directed by Travis E. Baker, PhD. The goal of the CNS Lab is to develop new brain-based interventions aimed to correct the aberrant reward processes that sustain substance use disorders. The lab currently seeks a Postdoctoral Research Associate with strong interest and background in addiction neuroscience, neuroimaging, and brain stimulation to contribute to these studies. For more information, [click here](#).
- The **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry** is seeking a part-time research assistant to assist with the implementation of research projects in addictions and mental health, with a focus on recruiting, consenting and interviewing research subjects. To learn more about the role, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **RFA-DA-24-028: Advancing Psychedelics Research for Treating Addiction (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)** - The purpose of this project is to support research to improve our understanding of psychedelic drug mechanisms in the context of substance use disorders (SUDs). This NOFO will also support the design and synthesis of chemical biology tools and probes to aid basic research on psychedelics and their translational pharmacology. Letter of Intent due **Oct 2, 2023**. For more

information, [click here](#).

- **PAR-23-157: Exploratory Clinical Neuroscience Research on Substance Use Disorders** (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional) - The purpose of this award is to support clinical research applications that are exploratory and developmental in nature and focus on understanding the neurobiological mechanisms underlying substance use disorders (SUD), including fundamental circuitry and behavior relevant to substance use. Applications due **Oct 9, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RFA-DA-24-021: Mechanistic Studies to Investigate the Interrelationship Between Sleep and/or Circadian Rhythms and Substance Use Disorders** (R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required) - The purpose of this project is to support basic science experimental studies involving humans to expand our knowledge of the interrelationships between sleep/circadian rhythms and substance use disorders (SUDs). These mechanistic studies will offer insights into the fundamental processes that link SUDs to sleep/circadian rhythms and vice-versa, and may also have implications for managing risks associated with developing SUDs and/or identifying new targets for prevention and therapeutics. Letter of Intent due **Oct 13, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- The **International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG)** is looking to grow its portfolio of researchers and offers a variety behavioral addictions research opportunities including funding for dissertation grants, seed grants, and large grants. Current funding opportunities are focused on research on lottery gambling and online gambling, with applications due in **September 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NIH HEAL Initiative Partnerships to Advance INterdisciplinary (PAIN) Training in Clinical Pain Research: The HEAL PAIN Cohort Program** (RFA-NS-24-015) will support interdisciplinary postdoctoral training to promote the next generation of independent clinical pain researchers. The HEAL PAIN Cohort Program, will fund up to four T90/R90 institutional postdoctoral training programs in clinical pain research, and foster a cohort experience among programs at different institutions through the HEAL R24 Coordinating Center for National Pain Scientists. Letter of Intent due **August 11, 2023** and Applications due **September 27, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).

Save the Dates!

- **Combating fatal overdoses: A data-driven and multidisciplinary approach to addiction response Webinar**
Tuesday, July 25th at 3:00 p.m. EDT
The National Center for Complex Health & Social Needs is hosting a webinar about the innovative methods used in Hamilton County, Ohio that led to a 24% decrease in overdose deaths. Presenters will highlight innovative methods to identify and catalog services in target areas and how to create a coordinated pathway to care by sharing and maximizing outreach data. The presenters will walk through the development of the initiative, the data collection, and talk about the key metrics of success for the work. For more information, [click here](#).

- NJ Cares Webinar: Public Health Barriers in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic**
Thursday, July 27th at 11:00 a.m. EDT
 As the opioid epidemic intensified in recent years, more experts have acknowledged that the crisis is a public health emergency that will require a comprehensive strategy to address. While increased focus on public health has produced positive results, there are still many barriers within the system that limit prevention, treatment and recovery. Experts will discuss these barriers and how they are being addressed. For more information, [click here](#).
- NIH-NIAAA Workshop: “Role of Alcohol Misuse in the Onset and Progression of Alzheimer’s Disease and Its Related Dementias”**
Wednesday and Thursday, July 26th –27th at 10:00 a.m. EDT
 This workshop will be held in a hybrid virtual/in-person platform. The goal of this workshop is to discuss the role of alcohol misuse in the onset and progression of Alzheimer’s disease and its related dementias (AD/ADRD). This workshop will present a lifespan perspective of prenatal, adolescent, and late-life alcohol exposure on the development of AD/ADRD. For more information, [click here](#).
- "Genetic heterogeneity across dimensions of alcohol use and misuse" with Dr. Jeanne Savage**
Friday, August 4th at 10:30 a.m. EDT
 The *Genes, Environments, and Neurodevelopment in Addictions (GENA)* program looks forward to hosting Dr. Jeanne Savage. Dr. Savage is a Research Associate in the Department of Complex Trait Genetics, Center for Neurogenomics and Cognitive Research, Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam, Netherlands). Location details coming soon!
- CAHBIR 2nd Annual MRI Methods Workshop**
Tuesday and Wednesday, August 29th –30th at 1:00 p.m. EDT
 The *Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research* is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual MRI Methods Workshop. This workshop provides an introduction to MRI methods in neuroscience research. The 10-hour workshop will include the following topics: basic principles of MRI scan acquisition, MRI safety, data quality control, data handling/preprocessing, and experimental design. For more information, [click here](#).
- New Jersey Prevention Network 7th Annual peer Summit**
Wednesday, September 27th at 9:00 a.m. EDT
 This exciting one-day LIVE & FREE event will include keynote speakers, interactive workshops, and recovery-oriented activity events brought together exclusively for everyone working in the peer recovery support services field. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [New Tool for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails](#) (MedPage Today)
- [Only 1 in 4 adolescent treatment facilities offer buprenorphine for opioid use disorder](#) (NH/NIDA)