

# 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:ricki.arvesen@rutgers.edu)).

## RARC News

- **Rutgers Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP)** - We are thrilled to announce a new NIDA-funded T32 Pre/Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Neuroscience! We are now accepting applications for the 3 Pre-Doctoral and 3 Post-Doctoral positions available. For interested applicants, please send your CV to [Dr. Chris Pierce](mailto:Dr.Chris.Pierce@rutgers.edu) at [chris.pierce@rutgers.edu](mailto:chris.pierce@rutgers.edu).
- **RARC DEI Needs Assessment** - The RARC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) working group has developed a **short** survey to determine needs and preferences related to DEI in the RARC community of faculty, staff, and students. Survey responses are confidential and will solely be used to gather information and develop programs over the 2023-2024 academic year. For access to the DEI Needs Assessment Survey, [click here](#).
- **RARC Town Hall Feedback** – Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and to those who were able to attend one of the RARC Town Hall Meetings held in May 2023. We have prepared a summary of some of the topics that came up during these two sessions. For access to the summary, [click here](#).
- The **Brain Health Institute** plans to hold its next **Post-Doc Recruitment Day** on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They will select up to 20 high-qualified post-doc candidates to visit Rutgers and meet prospective faculty mentors. The BHI is requesting that faculty please submit responses to this [google survey form](#) assessing faculty interest in participating in and supporting this event by June 15.
- Save the Date - The **annual RARC Fall Symposium** is scheduled for Friday, September 8, 2023 in the Busch Student Center in Piscataway. More details coming soon.

## Rutgers News

- **Dr. Lewis Nelson**, Professor and Chair of the NJMS Department of Emergency Medicine, discusses how the widely-available drug fentanyl could be weaponized and used for terroristic mass poisoning and plans for minimizing vulnerability to fentanyl attacks. To learn more, [click here](#).
- A recent study published in *Addiction*, led by **Dr. Olivia Wackowski**, an associate professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health, found that most adults who smoke cigarettes and young adult non-smokers do not appear to think that e-cigarettes have fewer harmful chemicals than cigarettes, and many are uncertain about how these levels compare. To learn more, [click here](#).
- **Peter Treitler**, a research project manager for the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research and lead author of a recent analysis published in *JAMA Network Open*, discusses how policies and programs like the New Jersey Medicaid initiatives expanded buprenorphine treatment availability and access but that there is still the need for further efforts to support long-term prescribing and retention. To learn more, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Danielle Dick**, RARC Director and senior author of a new study published in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, shares insight on utilizing genetic test results to improve addiction prevention and treatment strategies. To learn more, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

- **Innovations for Substance Use Disorders (I4SUD) Applications Open** - A newly launched Executive Education certificate program for participants to work individually or in teams to assess if their ideas and inventions can be transformed into innovations to address problems in substance use disorders (SUDs). The virtual program features asynchronous and synchronous online activities; a multi-day visit to Carey's Baltimore - Inner Harbor location for workshops, clinical site visits, and community building. All participants will have their airfare, meals, and accommodations covered by the sponsoring grant. **Applications are due by June 30**. To learn more, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Mark Leeds**, the producer of the **Rehab Podcast on the Mental Health News Radio Network** is seeking members who would be interested in speaking in their areas of expertise on his show. To learn more about his podcast, [click here](#). If you would be interested in speaking on his podcast, please email the RARC at [rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu).
- **The Hart Laboratory** at the Department of Cell Biology & Neuroscience is seeking a **Postdoctoral Research Associate** with experience in neuroscience, addiction, cell biology, genetics/genomics and/or bioinformatics for an NIH-funded study of alcohol use disorder (AUD) risk-associated genetic variants using human iPSC-derived neurons. To learn more, [click here](#).
- **Enhancing Diversity in Alcohol Research (EDAR) Training Program** – *Information provided from the desk of Dr. Denise Hien*: EDAR is a two-year, fully virtual, NIAAA-sponsored training program, open to psychology doctoral trainees from underrepresented backgrounds (per [NIH NOT-OD-20-031](#)). No

prior alcohol research experience is required! More details about eligibility, program structure and content, and available mentors can be found on their [website](#). Please contact Dr. Julianne Flanagan (Director) at [hellmuth@musc.edu](mailto:hellmuth@musc.edu) with questions. **Applications are due July 3, 2023** and include a brief online survey, a 1-2 page statement of interest, and current CV. For more information, [click here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

- 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. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Prevention Services Evaluation Partnerships: Building Evidence for Mental Health, Substance Use, In-home Parent Skill-based, and Kinship Navigator Programs and Services** - These three-year grants aim to support summative (i.e., impact) randomized control trial or quasi-experimental evaluations of a mental health, substance abuse prevention and/or treatment, in-home parent skill-based, or kinship navigator program or service. The grants will support collaborations among evaluators and partnering Title IV-E agencies, community entities, and/or other researchers to conduct well-designed and rigorous summative evaluations of programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families, including pregnant and parenting youth in foster care, as well as prevent child abuse and neglect and foster care placements. Applications due **July 11, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT)** program is seeking proposals that explore ways for graduate students in research-based master's and doctoral degree programs to develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. Proposals are requested that address any interdisciplinary or convergent research theme of national priority. Proposal submission **deadline is September 6, 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](#).

## News from the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (a publication of the Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies):

New in JSAD 84/2:

- [COVID-19 and Fidelity to the Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams Model](#)  
Martin T. Hall, Garrett C. Hardy, Sarah E. Bryant
- [Initiation of Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder for Inpatients with Alcohol Withdrawal Syndromes](#)  
Raman Krimpuri, Cathrine Youngs, Charles Emerman
- [How Are Retailers Describing Delta-8 THC? A Mixed-Methods Study in Fort Worth, Texas](#)  
Cassidy R. Loparco, Sofia E. Olsson, Kaylin M. Greene, Melvin Doug Livingston, Doug Henry, Pamela J. Trangenstein, Andrew Walker, Matthew E. Rossheim

Just accepted in JSAD:

- [Adolescents' views on preventing youth cannabis marketing exposure: A concept mapping approach](#)  
Megan A. Moreno, Marina C. Jenkins, Pamela J. Trangenstein, Jennifer M. Whitehill, Zoe E Stratman, and David H. Jernigan
- [The relationship between cigarette dependence and cessation methods: Implications for smoking cessation among people with HIV](#)  
Megan R. Wirtz, Amelia M. Stanton, Rohin Manohar, Allison K. Labbe, Michael J. Zvolensky, Jasper A. J. Smits, Bettina Hoepfner, and Conall O'Cleirigh

**Save the Dates!**

- **Mental Health America Conference: Next Gen Prevention**  
**June 6-10th at 9:30 a.m. EDT**  
This conference offers free virtual attendance options and will cover topics from youth mental health and technology to substance use and prevention. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NJ ACTS Special Populations Core Seminar Series: The Role of Confidence in the Hard Problem of Addiction with Dr. S. Matthew Liao**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. EDT**  
Many people who have a substance use disorder sincerely want to give up their addiction or not relapse, but they often struggle to do so. Dr. S. Matthew Liao, Director of the Center for Bioethics, calls this the Hard Problem of addiction because the explanation for this problem seems difficult to find. He proposes that paying closer attention to the confidence levels of those with addiction gives us a fuller explanation of the Hard Problem. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies - 2023 Summer Symposium**  
**Wednesday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m. EDT**  
The symposium will be held at Rutgers Busch Campus Center and will address inequities and social determinants of addiction through creative and collaborative efforts in science practice, community engagement and advocacy. For more information, [click here](#).

- **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop**

**Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. EDT

Save the date for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop. This year's theme is Early-Life Stress and the Endocrine System. Featuring scientific presentations, a luncheon, and a poster presentation, this is an event you will not want to miss. More information coming soon!