

# 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

- **Congratulations to the Spring 2023 RARC Pilot Grant Program Awardees!** We are proud to announce the first awardees of the **RARC Pilot Grant Program** designed to foster new collaborative, interdisciplinary addiction research among full-time faculty at Rutgers and to support pilot data that will lead to sustained funding from an external agency. Following external and internal reviews, each of the three MPI projects below will be awarded \$40,000 for a 1-year period and will be asked to share their results at next year's Annual RARC Fall Symposium. To learn more about our pilot grant program and the projects funded, [click here](#).  
**2023 Pilot Grant Awardees:**
  - **David Barker and Zhiping Pang**  
Title: Developing a targeted pharmacotherapy for pain without abuse liability
  - **Sarah Brislin and David Zald**  
Title: Identifying transdiagnostic versus specific genetic, environmental, and neural risk factors for addictive disorders
  - **Jiang Ye and Vanessa Routh**  
Title: A role for the habenula glucose-inhibited (GI) neurons in opioid addiction
- **RARC Faculty Candidate Chalk Talk with Dr. Stephen Mahler (March 28, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. EDT)** - Please join us for Dr. Stephen Mahler's "Chalk Talk." Dr. Mahler is a recruitment candidate for a senior faculty position in the Rutgers Addiction Research Center domain of Basic Science and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. During his presentation, he will provide an overview of his program of research as well as his ideas for growing the Rutgers Addiction Research Center. All are welcome to attend this hybrid seminar. Lunch will be provided to those who register to attend in-person (Piscataway) by 3/24. For more information and registration, [click here](#).
- **RARC Faculty Candidate Chalk Talks** – More information on upcoming hybrid recruitment candidate “Chalk Talks” coming soon. Mark your calendars!
  - 4/10, 12pm – Hedy Kober (Basic Science) – Dean’s Conference Room, RWJMS Research Tower
  - 4/24, 12pm – Anjali Rajadhyaksha (Basic Science) – Medical Science Building, Newark
  - 4/26, 12pm – Kristina Jackson (Prevention & Policy) – D201, UBHC Building
  - 4/28, 12pm – Jill Rabinowitz (Prevention) – D201, UBHC Building

- 5/4, 12pm – Alfred (AJ) Robison (Basic Science) - Dean’s Conference Room, RWJMS Research Tower

## Rutgers News

- RARC chair and director of the Center for Gambling Studies, **Dr. Lia Nower**, was featured in Newsweek’s cover story, highlighting how the rapid expansion of legal sports betting is linked to rising gambling addiction, depression, and suicide. Dr. Nower, along with other experts in the field, share how to reduce gambling harm and the dangers of not doing so. For access to the article, [click here](#).
- *The American Journal of Psychiatry* recently published, "Project Harmony: A Meta-Analysis with Individual Patient Data on Behavioral and Pharmacologic Trials for Comorbid Posttraumatic Stress and Alcohol or Other Drug Use Disorders" authored by Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies (CAS) Director **Dr. Denise Hien**, **Dr. Antonio Morgan-Lopez** from Research Triangle International and other researchers from [Project Harmony](#). For full access to the paper, [click here](#).
- *The American Journal of Preventative Medicine* recently published, “Buprenorphine After Nonfatal Opioid Overdose: Reduced Mortality Risk in Medicare Disability Beneficiaries” authored by RARC researchers from **Rutgers Institute for Health**. For access to the article, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies** announced that their **Annual Poster Session** will take place at the **CAS 2023 Summer Symposium** on June 14 at the Busch Campus Center, Piscataway NJ. Posters will be viewed all day and there will be a formal viewing starting at 3:30pm followed by an Awards Ceremony and Reception. They encourage submissions from Rutgers and TRACC students/scholars, faculty, community advisory board members, affiliates, and community partners. **Submissions are due April 17, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).

## Training Opportunities

- **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 Faculty Diversity Collaborative (FDC)** housed within the University Equity and Inclusion office announced their **2023 Mutual Mentoring Grant Program**. This program will offer funds to support faculty at any career stage, within and outside of Rutgers University, to combat isolation and ensure that all faculty have the resources they need to thrive and excel. Proposals due **March 30**,

2023. For more information, [click here](#).

- The **Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI)** and the **Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research (CAHBIR)** announced the availability of **Pilot Research grants** to fund RU-New Brunswick and RBHS faculty in initiating neuroimaging research at CAHBIR on Busch Campus, Piscataway. Applications are due **by April 1, 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* 84/1:

- [Single- and Cross-Commodity Delay Discounting of Cannabis](#)  
Ricarda K. Foxx, Hailey Taylor, Michelle Castro, Aaron P. Smith, Ali M. Yurasek, Richard Yi
- [Ecological Momentary Assessment of Cannabis Use and Affect Among Adolescents Following Psychiatric Discharge](#)  
Leslie A. Brick, Julia A. Gajewski-Nemes, Marisa E. Marraccini, Shaquanna Brown, Michael Armeiy, Nicole R. Nugent

### **Save the Dates!**

- **The Partnership for a Drug-Free NJ Learning Series: Alternatives to Opioids**  
**Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EDT**  
This free webinar will focus on the many alternatives that can be used instead of opioids for treating pain. Presenters will also touch on recent updates to CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Addiction Research Center One Year Anniversary Event**  
**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00-6:00 p.m. EDT**  
In honor of our one-year anniversary, the RARC will be hosting an event at The Rutgers Club to share what we've accomplished this past year and our plans for what is to come. Food and beverage will be provided. Registration coming soon!
- **Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies: 2023 Summer Symposium**  
**Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 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](#).