

# 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

- **2022-2023 RARC Annual Report** - The Rutgers Addiction Research Center launched in Spring 2022, with the goal of bringing together addiction-related researchers, clinical services, and training programs from across the Rutgers system. We invite you to view our 2022-2023 Annual Report for an overview of our accomplishments and activities from our first year. To view the 2022-2023 Annual Report, [click here](#).
- **Short RARC Feedback Survey** - We want to ensure that we continue working closely with you to build the RARC through a collaborative and inclusive process, toward a shared vision of Rutgers as one of the premier places in the world for addiction research. This **short** survey is intended to gather your input on both the initiatives we launched this past year and plans for the year ahead. We want to know what you like, what you don't like, what we're missing! To provide feedback, [click here](#).
- **RARC Town Hall Meetings** – We hope you will also consider joining us at one of two Town Hall meetings to get your feedback and ideas for the RARC. Dr. Danielle Dick will also be holding office hours from Wednesday, May 31 – Friday, June 2 and would welcome the opportunity to meet individually with anyone who is interested. For more information, [click here](#).
  - **5/25, 9am** – Zoom Meeting  
[https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/95119279484?pwd=cGdvN3RuVFIQVDA1ZoJ4anZZNzdpZz09](https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/95119279484?pwd=cGdvN3RuVFIQVDA1ZoJ4anZZNzdpZz09;);  
Meeting ID: 951 1927 9484; Password: rarc; Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
  - **5/31, 12pm** – In-Person & Zoom Meeting  
Dean's Conference Room #123, RWJMS Research Tower, 675 Hoes Ln. W. Piscataway, NJ  
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/93551147862?pwd=ZXgwMk5acmsvT3Q1SoNHK3VzQjVSZz09>  
Meeting ID: 935 5114 7862; Password: rarc; Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

## Rutgers News

- A huge congratulations to **Dr. Dipak Sarkar**, an distinguished professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, on being elected as a 2023 Fellow in the International Union of Physiological Sciences

(IUPS) Academy! The IUPS Academy represents the diversity and excellence of worldwide physiology. It celebrates and publicizes the important contributions made by physiologists globally to science and health. To learn more, [click here](#)

- RARC Director, **Dr. Danielle Dick**, was featured in a recent *BBC Future* article weighing in on how our genes influence the ways our brains form, and the impacts that has on how we think and interact with the world. To learn more, [click here](#).
- The ***Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*** has completed its search for a new editor. **Jennifer P. Read, Ph.D.**, of the University at Buffalo, will lead the journal beginning July 2023. Additionally, if you haven't checked it out already, *JSAD* has a database of free stock photos related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. To learn more, [click here](#).
- A new study in the ***Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*** suggests that a majority of adolescent and young adult e-cigarettes users may discontinue their use should regulatory policies only allow menthol and/or tobacco flavors in e-cigarette e-liquid products. To learn more, [click here](#). The journal is based at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies.
- Rutgers University in Camden nutrition expert **Juliann Nielsen** recently shed light on why certain foods trigger overeating, the role of dopamine in eating behaviors, and the best ways to beat back these cravings. 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

- **PAR-23-158: Exploratory Clinical Neuroscience Research on Substance Use Disorders** (R61/R33 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans (BESH) Required) - This NOFO invites clinical research applications that are exploratory and developmental in nature and focus on understanding the neurobiological mechanisms underlying SUD. For the first cycle, the Letter of Intent **due May 21, 2023** and Applications **due June 21, 2023**. Future cycles to follow. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RBHS-IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Advocacy Innovation Grants** program is designed to support action-oriented projects that promote an inclusive, diverse, and cohesive culture at RBHS and that show meaningful and measurable results. Faculty, students, trainees, and staff across RBHS are eligible to apply. Proposal submission **deadline is May 31, 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:

- [Cannabis Involvement and Demand in Frequent Concentrate Users Versus Predominantly Flower Users](#)  
Carillon J. Skrzynski, Alexander Napolitan, Leah Hitchcock, Meenu Minhas, James Mackillop, Angela D. Bryan, L. Cinnamon Bidwell
- [COVID-19–Related Changes to Drug-Selling Networks and Their Effects on People Who Use Illicit Opioids](#)  
David Frank, Noa Krawczyk, Joshua Arshonsky, Marie A. Bragg, Sam R. Friedman, Amanda M. Bunting
- [Characteristics of Nonfatal Opioid Overdose in Emergency Department Patients Surviving to Discharge or Hospital Admission](#)  
Dana L. Sacco, Silvia S. Martins

**Save the Dates!**

- NJPN Annual Addiction Conference 2023: Engage & Empower**  
**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. EDT**  
 The NJPN Annual Addiction Conference 2023: Engage & Empower educates prevention, treatment, and recovery support professionals about critical issues surrounding substance use disorders, while providing a unique forum for networking, collaboration and workforce development. For more information, [click here](#).
- BHI Addiction Neuroscience Seminar with Dr. Doo-Sup Choi**  
**Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. EDT**  
 Dr. Mi-Hyeon Jang, the Brain Health Institute, and RWJMS-Neurosurgery are hosting Dr. Doo-Sup Choi to share his talk, *Breaking the Addictive Habits: Molecular and Computational Approaches Focusing on Striatum-Pallidal Circuits*. For more information, [click here](#).
- RSA National Advocacy and Public Education Committee Webinar: Maximizing Online Recruitment for Substance Use Research**  
**Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. EDT**  
 Led by NAPE committee member, Kalina Fahey, this webinar will focus on utilizing social media platforms for participant recruitment, particularly with difficult-to-reach populations. For more information, [click here](#).
- 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](#).
- 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](#).

## Addiction in the News

- [The Drug That Saves Lives Even if It's Never Used](#) (*New York Times*)
- [Understanding How Alcohol Policies Impact Public Health](#) (NIAAA)
- [The Long-Term Effects of Fetal Alcohol Exposure on Brain Development](#) (*Neuroscience News*)
- [Portraits of a Crisis: A Cry for Help](#) (*NJ Advanced Media*)