

# 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

- **TODAY – All are Invited to the Rutgers Addiction Research Center One Year Anniversary Event - Friday, May 5th at 4:00 to 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. **All are welcome to join, no need to register!** For more information, [click here](#). We hope to see you there!
- Congratulations to Distinguished Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, **Dr. Lia Nower**, who was promoted to Distinguished Professor!
- **RARC Undergraduate Research Bootcamp - May 22-26, virtual** - Our research bootcamp aims to promote a working understanding of the basics of research and data science. In the course of one week, students will learn to read scientific papers, formulate scientific hypotheses, and learn the basics of secondary data analysis (looking at data that is already collected). No prior research experience is needed and participation is free. Applications close May 12. For more information, [click here](#).

## Rutgers News

- Please join us in congratulating all the recipients of the 2022-23 Faculty Year-End Excellence Award Recipients, some of whom were RARC researchers:
  - *The Presidential Outstanding Faculty Award - Zhiping Pang*
  - *The Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research – Christine D. Delnevo*
- **Dr. Margaret Swarbrick**, RARC researcher and associate director of the Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies, shares wellness tips for substance use and mental health recovery in her “Journey to Wellness,” an easy-to-use 20-page guide co-created with people in recovery. To learn more, [click here](#).

- Based on his research on emotion dysregulation and emotional cascades and his experience with mental health research projects, **Dr. Edward Selby**, a faculty member at Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, led the development of an app to better understand mental illness and its causes. 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 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. Live sessions and virtual mentoring will occur from August 28 - October 16, 2023. The in-person visit with expert panels, community building, SUD clinic visits, and a pitch competition will take place October 17 - October 20, 2023. All participants will have their airfare, meals, and accommodations covered by the sponsoring grant. 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

- **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](#).

- **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](#).

**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:

- [Cross-Lagged Analyses Across Middle-Adulthood of the Bidirectional Associations Between Substance Use Disorders and Psychosocial Dysfunction](#)  
Kenneth S. Kendler, Henrik Ohlsson, Jan Sundquist, Kristina Sundquist
- [Associations of Adolescent Alcohol Use and Self-Reported Alcohol Tolerance With Risk of Self-Harm and Suicide in Early Adulthood: A Birth-Cohort Study](#)  
Jonna Levola, Alexander Denisoff, Antti Mustonen, Anni-Emilia Alakokkare, Jouko Miettunen, Jørgen G. Bramness, Solja Niemelä
- [Acute Consequences Associated With Co-use of Alcohol and Cannabis: A Daily Survey Analysis](#)  
Megan M. Drohan, Angela K. Stevens, Rachel L. Gunn, Alexander W. Sokolovsky, Helene R. White, Kristina M. Jackson

Just accepted in JSAD:

- [Associations Between Social Context and Mood During Alcohol Consumption in Young Adult Smokers](#)  
Julia M. Brooks, Donald Hedeker, and Robin J. Mermelstein
- [Cannabis use for medical reasons among patients in a large California health care system after legalization of non-medical use](#)  
Ruchir Karmali, Monique B. Does, Nancy Gordon, Stacy A. Sterling, Kelly Young-Wolff, Stephen Sidney, and Cynthia I. Campbell

**Save the Dates!**

- **BHI Plenary Seminar with Dr. Lauren Dobbs**  
**Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. EDT**  
The Brain Health Institute's Junior Faculty Working Group is hosting Dr. Lauren Dobbs to share her research, *Dopamine D2 receptors bidirectionally regulate striatal enkephalin: Implications for cocaine reward and polysubstance abuse*. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Athletics Behavioral Health & Sport Psychology Team Spring Didactic Series – Substance Use: Marijuana and Performance**

**Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. EDT**

The RU Behavioral Health & Sport Psychology team is committed to spreading awareness and knowledge about athlete mental health to the community at large through this didactic series. For more information, [click here](#).

- **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](#).*

- **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](#).*

## **Addiction in the News**

- [Recreational Cannabis Use a Negative for Adolescent Mental Health](#) (*MedPage Today*)