

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).

RARC News

- 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 keynote speaker, [Dr. Rohan Palmer](#), 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 an interest in addiction are encouraged to attend. For full event schedule and registration, [click here](#).
- As we enter the new semester, the RARC wants to ensure our website is showcasing the work of all of Rutgers' incredible addiction researchers. Our website hosts a researcher directory whereby individuals can search for researchers by domain, school, keyword, etc. and we would love to direct people to you and your work. If you are not yet included on our website, please [click here](#) to join us!
- **RARC Welcomes Jill Rabinowitz** - We are incredibly excited to welcome new hire and core member, **Dr. Jill Rabinowitz** to the RARC. Starting today, September 1, 2023, Dr. Rabinowitz will assume the position of Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Psychiatry in Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. To view our video interview and learn more about Dr. Rabinowitz's work, [click here](#).
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Meet and Greet (September 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.)** - Please join us for the first Rutgers TARP Monthly Meeting in the Deans Conference Room (first floor of the RWJMS Research Tower). This event is for all TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators. Food and drinks will be provided!
- **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](#).
- **Brain Health Institute Postdoc Recruitment Event (November 29, 2023)** - Apply to explore post-doc training opportunities in basic, translational, and clinical neuroscience research at Rutgers

University. The BHI will select up to 20 PhD or MD/PhD students and current post-docs to attend the all-expenses-paid event. **The application deadline is September 30th!** For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- Congratulations to all the honorees of the **2023 Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Chancellor Awards!** A special shoutout to **Eldo Kuzhikandathil**, executive director of administration in the **Brain Health Institute** on receiving the well-deserved **Leadership Award!** Additional congratulations to RARC researchers, **Stephanie Shiau** and **Olivia Wackowski** from the **School of Public Health** on receiving the **Excellence in Clinical or Health Sciences Research Award**.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Caroline Dorsen**, professor and associate dean of clinical partnerships at the **School of Nursing**, on her appointment to the Board of Psychedelic Medicine and Therapies, a non-profit creating a board certification process for psychedelic medicine practitioners. For more information, [click here](#).
- Congratulations to **Dr. David Barker**, a professor in the Department of Psychology, **School of Arts and Sciences**, on receiving the 2023 Grossman Innovation Prize from SAS! The award which provides up to \$50,000 to faculty members developing research with commercial potential, allows researchers to advance their work to the proof-of-concept stage when they would be eligible for venture capital funding and/or spin-off as an independent business. For more information, [click here](#).
- A warm welcome to **Dr. Elizabeth Stone**, who starts today, September 1, 2023, as an instructor in the **Center for Health Services Research** with a joint academic appointment with the Department of Psychiatry in **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**. Her research focuses on policy and services for people with mental illness, substance use disorder, and disability. Welcome, Elizabeth!

Opportunities

- **Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship Announcement** - This is a two-year endowed post-doctoral clinical research fellowship available to clinical psychologists and other social scientists (e.g., from health related fields such as sociology, social work, public health, psychiatric rehabilitation) from an accredited institution interested in developing their professional trajectory towards translational research on interventions and treatments for traumatic stress and addictions and wellness promotion. **Applications due by November 15, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH): Alcohol and Other Substance Use Research Education Programs for Health Professionals (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) (PAR-23-240)** - The NIH Research Education Program (R25) program is to support educational activities that foster a better understanding of biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research and its implications. To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this NOFO will support educational activities with a primary focus on Outreach. For more information, [click here](#).
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH): Opportunity to Advance Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder: NIAAA Alcohol Pharmacotherapy Evaluation Program (NOT-AA-23-016)** is seeking letters of interest (LOIs) for promising medications (both novel compounds and repurposed medications) to evaluate their efficacy and safety in Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials for the treatment of alcohol use disorder (AUD). **LOI due by Sept 15, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **International Center for Responsible Gaming invites applications for online gambling research** - The ICRG invites investigators to apply for a two-year Large Grant in support of online gambling in the US and potential health harms. Applicants may request a total of \$172,500. This initiative is funded by a grant from the Boyd Gaming Corporation, one of the founding donors of the ICRG. **Application Deadline: Sept. 29, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Developmental/Pilot Projects Program of the Rutgers Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies (CAS)** started in 2019. The Program aims to support new and innovative interdisciplinary research relevant to the advancement of treatments for individuals with traumatic stress and addictions of all kinds. Letter of intent due **Sept 30, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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](#).
- **HEAL Initiative: Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness (N CREW): Addressing Overdose, Substance Use, Mental Health, and Pain Program** ([ROA OTA-23-007](#)) solicits applications from Tribes and Native American Serving Organizations (T/NASOs) for the planning, development, piloting, and/or implementation of research and/or data improvement projects. Projects must explicitly include a focus on overdose, substance use (including opioids or stimulants), or pain management. Applications are due **Nov 1, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BHI-CAHBIR Pilot Grants for RU-NB faculty** - The BHI and CAHBIR are pleased to announce the availability of pilot grants for Rutgers-New Brunswick faculty to facilitate research at the Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research. Two different awards are available this fall. The full research pilot is for \$100,000 spread over two years and is designed to encourage ambitious projects. These proposals require an R21-style application. Smaller mini-grants for \$35,000 are also available and utilize a brief 3-page proposal format. Funds for both types of grants can be used for a combination of scanning fees, TMS, EEG, technical support for analyses, subject participation fees, with a percentage of funds can also be used toward nonfaculty staff effort. Applications of both types of awards are **due by November 1st, 2023**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Supporting Recovery-Oriented, Family-Centered Care for Pregnant, Postpartum, and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder (NOT-DA -24-008)** This NOSI seeks applications that test innovative models of service delivery to address maternal and family needs for mothers experiencing OUD during pregnancy and in the post-partum period, with an emphasis on reducing mortality and providing recovery-oriented, family-centered care. Applications are due **Nov 15, 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* 84/4:

- [Trends in Young Adult Alcohol and Cannabis Use Through the First 1.5 Years of the COVID-19 Pandemic From a Community Cohort Sample](#)
Scott Graupensperger, Brian H. Calhoun, Charles B. Fleming, Christine M. Lee

- [Risk Factors for Binge Drinking in Young Adulthood: The Roles of Aggregate Genetic Liability and Impulsivity-Related Processes](#)

Séverine Lannoy, Jon Heron, Matthew Hickman, Alexis C. Edwards

New in JSAD 84/3:

- [Birth, Expansion, and Contestation of Alcohol Per Se Laws: A Global Data Set of Policies Regulating Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol](#)

José Ignacio Nazif-Munoz, Pablo Martínez, Marcelo Balboa, Thomas G. Brown

- [Factorial Structure and Diagnostic Accuracy of a Digital Version of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test \(d-AUDIT\) to Detect Hazardous and Problematic Drinking in Primary Care](#)

Nicolas A. Barticevic, Fernando Poblete, Soledad M. Zuzulich, Victoria Rodriguez, Jaime San Pedro, Laura Bradshaw, Pablo Norambuena

- [Links Between Romantic Relationship Dysfunction and Drinking Behaviors Are Moderated by Gender and Age](#)

Sherry H. Stewart, Lindsey M. Rodriguez, Sean P. Mackinnon, Catrina G. Brown, Raquel Nogueira Arjona, Tessa Cosman, Simon B. Sherry

- [Termination From Substance Use Disorder Treatment in the United States: Residential and Outpatient Settings](#)

Madeline R. Stenersen, Kathryn Thomas, Cara Struble, Kelly E. Moore, Catherine Burke, Sherry McKee

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Save the Dates!

- **RWJMS Psychiatry Grand Rounds - Ready or Not: Here Come the Nitazenes; Plus a Xylazine Update**
Tuesday, September 5th at 11:00 a.m. EDT

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Department of Psychiatry is hosting their first Grand Rounds Lecture with Dr. Edwin A. Salsitz, associate clinical professor at Mount Sinai Beth Israel. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Knock Out Opioid Use Day Learning Series Webinar – A Road to Recovery**
Thursday, September 14th at 11:00 a.m. EDT

This interactive session will explore ways healthcare professionals and trainees can apply wellness using an 8 Dimension model to bolster strengths to meet challenges related to a range of work life stressors. Participants will engage with a wellness tool to consider how this model can be personally and professionally applied. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Wellness: A model for Personal & Professional Practice featuring Margaret Swarbrick, PhD**
Thursday, September 21st at 12:00 p.m. EDT

This webinar will recognize National Recovery Month by focusing on many aspects of the process. Experts will discuss recovery from a clinical standpoint and a personal perspective, as well as key

elements of recovery support and barriers that exist. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Supportive Communication for Learner Well-being and Success featuring Chantal Brazeau, MD and Margaret Swarbrick, PhD**
Tuesday, September 26th at 12:00 p.m. EDT
Have you ever wondered how to respond to a student who is stressed or distressed? How to offer supportive feedback? If so, join us to learn how you can strengthen your communications skills to enhance learner well-being and success. 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](#).
- **15th Annual Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop**
Tuesday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. EDT
The Rutgers Endocrine Program is hosting its 15th 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. To register for the event and/or to submit an abstract for the poster presentation, [click here](#). The registration deadline is Monday, September 18, 2023.
- **Emerging Addiction Seminar Series: Dr. Renee Goodwin**
Thursday, October 12th at 12:30 p.m. EDT
The *Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies* is hosting Dr. Renee Goodwin as she presents her work “Implementing a human ecology and equity framework to develop multi-level interventions for cannabis, alcohol and tobacco use”. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Annual NIDA-NIAAA Frontiers in Addiction Research Mini-Convention**
Tuesday and Wednesday, November 7th-8th at 11:00 a.m. EDT
This FREE Mini-Convention will be held as a 2-day virtual meeting and will provide a forum for presentations and discussions of current topics in neuroscience and addiction research. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Counterfeit Pills Fuel Rising Number of Fatal Drug Overdoses](#) (US News)
- [Routinely drinking alcohol may raise blood pressure even in adults without hypertension](#) (Science Daily)
- [Zoom- and smartwatch-based mindfulness intervention shows promise in treatment of opioid cravings and chronic pain](#) (PsyPost)