

# 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

- **RU Communicating Science? Workshop (October 27, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.):** Join the RARC Science Communication Working Group for our kickoff event, featuring interactive activities and presentations to introduce the foundations of science communication and the different approaches and modalities (e.g., podcasts, op-eds, infographics, & social media). The workshop will be accompanied with an “hour of action” the following month to apply skills towards sharing your research. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Treatment & Recovery Talks** - We will be hosting two VIRTUAL talks in the area of Treatment & Recovery in November. Mark your calendars!
  - External Speaker: **Dr. Jennifer Edelman**, November 6, 2023 @1:00 p.m. EDT – *Addressing the intersection between substance use and HIV: Leveraging interdisciplinary collaborations to move the needle*
  - Recruitment Candidate: **Dr. Ethan Cowan**, November 7, 2023 @10:00 a.m. EDT – *Emergency Department Innovations for Opioid Use Disorder: The Inseparability of Research, Program and Social Justice*
- **Ninth Annual Rutgers Brain Health Institute Symposium (November 30, 2023):** This year's symposium will be held at the Douglass Student Center, featuring talks by Rutgers faculty, student/postdoc poster presentations, and keynote speaker Dr. Michael Shadlen. Register early by Nov. 3! For more information, [click here](#).
- **Now Hiring:** The **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Department of Emergency Medicine, BHI,** and **RARC** are recruiting a tenure track faculty member at the Associate or Assistant Professor level with expertise in addiction, substance use, or overdose. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BHI-CAHBIR Research Pilot Grants for RU-New Brunswick Faculty:** The BHI and CAHBIR are pleased to announce the availability of two different pilot grant awards for Rutgers-New Brunswick faculty to facilitate research at the Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research. For more information, [click here](#).

## Rutgers News

- **Dr. Lewis Nelson**, director of the division of medical toxicology at **New Jersey Medical School** discussed current barriers to Narcan access, including its placement behind pharmacy counters, which can be uncomfortable and a deterrent for those in need. Dr. Nelson further highlights potential barriers related to stigma, accessibility, and affordability. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Petros Levounis**, President of the **American Psychiatric Association (APA)** and associate dean at **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**, opening session at APA's Mental Health Services Conference, included a journey through the evolution of addiction understanding, from the biopsychosocial origins to the modern neurobiological framework. For more information, [click here](#).
- A new study coauthored by **RARC Associate Director of Epidemiology, Etiology, and Prevention, Dr. Kristina Jackson** and accepted in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, explores the differences in consequences experienced when mixing alcohol and cannabis, compared to when they are used separately. Findings from this study point to simultaneous use as both reinforcing and high risk. For more information, [click here](#).
- A study led by Rutgers researchers, published in *Preventive Medicine Reports*, looked at how to best support people who use drugs stay safe from overdosing. Findings encourage that overdose prevention efforts should consist of peer driven, community-level education that emphasize stigma reduction and increase prevalence of naloxone in central community locations beyond even standard medical settings to engage at-risk social networks and ensure effective overdose response. For more information, [click here](#).
- Multiple Rutgers researchers including **Drs. Danielle Dick, Jessica Salvatore, Sarah Brislin, Zhiping Pang, Ronald Hart, Jay Tischfield, and Sally Kuo** contributed to a newly published open access special issue in *Genes, Brain, and Behavior* outlining the structure, goals and findings of The Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA). For more information, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

- **Application for Postdoctoral Research Associate, Notterman Lab** - A postdoctoral or more senior research position is available in the **Department of Molecular Biology** and the **Office of Population Research** at **Princeton University** to study the social determinants of young adult cardiovascular health as well as genetic, epigenetic and environmental interactions. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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 Nov 15, 2023**. For more information, [click](#)

[here.](#)

- **Training Opportunity for SUD Researchers from Racial/Ethnic Minoritized Groups** - The Learning for Early Careers in Addiction and Diversity (LEAD) program, a NIDA-funded science education program focused on addictions research training is recruiting a new cohort of scholars. The program trains early career substance use disorder researchers from racial/ethnic minoritized groups that are underrepresented as NIH funded investigators. **Applications due by Nov 30, 2023.** For more information, [click here.](#)
- The **Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies** is seeking a full-time Research Teaching Specialist V to conduct specialized research in the area of tobacco studies. For more information, [click here.](#)

### Funding Opportunities

- **RSA Doctoral Student Small Grants Program** – A total of five (5) MD, PhD, or MD/PhD students will each receive \$5,000 to support their projects. At least one of these awards will be for support of a diversity applicant’s project. Funding will be for one year, beginning promptly after the application has been awarded. Submission deadline is **Oct 27, 2023.** For more information, [click here.](#)
- **The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Advocacy (IDEA) Innovation Grants Program** – These grants offer a way for creative, innovative, and grassroots efforts to join in the larger institutional strategy. Two tracks available: partnership track and development track. The partnership track is for any project where at least two units/departments across the New Brunswick campus (excluding RBHS) are working collaboratively. The development track is for one department/unit that can demonstrate ongoing EDI capacity-building. Applications are due **Oct 27, 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.](#)
- **Crisis Diversion Homes:** This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for the development of four (4) Crisis Diversion Homes (CDH). The goal is to provide stabilization, to divert hospital admissions and reduce emergency department (ED) visits. Proposals are due by **Nov 13, 2023.** For more information, [click here.](#)
- **NIDA 2023 “\$100,000 Start an SUD Startup” Challenge: Testing novel ideas addressing SUD that can be fostered into biotech startups** - NIDA is looking for research ideas that can potentially be commercialized as products for use in the area of substance use disorders (SUDs). Ideas may have originated in another research field as long as it is applicable to SUD, and NIDA is encouraging those

with ideas for products that would address social determinants of health to submit their ideas to this Challenge. Submissions are due **Nov 15, 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* 84/5:

- [The Relationship Between Drinking Patterns and Chronic Health Conditions: New Evidence From Two U.S. National Alcohol Surveys](#)  
Cheryl J. Cherpitel, Libo Li, William C. Kerr
- [Contagious Transmission in a Swedish National Sample of Alcohol Use Disorders as a Function of Geographical Proximity Among Siblings and Propinquity-of-Rearing Defined Acquaintances](#)  
Kenneth S. Kendler, Henrik Ohlsson, Jan Sundquist, Kristina Sundquist
- [Naloxone Online Information Exceeds the Recommended Reading Level for Patient Education Materials](#)  
Nhu Dang, Mihir Khunte, Anthony Zhong, Avik Chatterjee
- [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, David H. Jernigan

Just accepted in *JSAD*:

- [Self-Reported Substance Use With Clinician Interviewers Versus Self-Administered Surveys](#)  
Lauren Gorfinkel, Malki Stohl, Dvora Shmulewitz, and Deborah Hasin
- [Telehealth-Based Contingency Management Targeting Stimulant Abstinence: A Case Series from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)  
Sarah E. Forster, Taylor M. Torres, Stuart R. Steinhauer, and Steven D. Forman
- [Alcohol-Related Problems as Moderators of PTSD Symptom Change During Use of a Web-Based Intervention for Hazardous Drinking and PTSD](#)  
Craig P. Polizzi, Rebecca E. Sistas, Nicholas A. Livingston, Deborah Brief, Scott Litwack, Monica Roy, Marika Solhan, David Rosenbloom, and Terence M. Keane

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For JSAD's free photo database of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug images, visit:

<https://www.jsad.com/photos>

### Save the Dates!

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual No More Dead Ends on the Road to Recovery Conference**  
**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. EDT**  
This conference will feature topics focused on harm reduction, exploration of barriers, strategies for building strong rapport with clientele/target populations, and more; this conference will provide in-depth exploration, quality information, and discussion on the aforementioned topics and various methods of preventative action that can be utilized. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NIDA/CCTN Webinar: Addictions Research Meets Lived Experience: Lessons Learned, Opportunities and Challenges**  
**Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EDT**  
The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Center for the Clinical Trials Network (CCTN) is hosting a webinar to share lessons learned in conducting trials with persons with lived experience -peers-participating as an integral component of the intervention. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NJ ACTS Special Populations Seminar with Dr. Cynthia Santos**  
**Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EDT**  
NJ ACTS Special Populations Seminar will feature Dr. Cynthia Santos from the New Jersey Medical School for the presentation, "Improving Pain Strategies in the Emergency Department." For more information, [click here](#).
- **NJMS's Eleventh Annual Conference on Urban Mental Health**  
**Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. EDT**  
The Department of Psychiatry and The Northern NJ MAT Center of Excellence are hosting the Eleventh Annual Conference on Urban Mental Health with topics covering religion and spirituality and their impact on mental health. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NIDA Diversity Scholars Network Program Pre-Application Webinar**  
**Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. EST**  
The program connects scholars with NIDA Program Officers and coaches, provides three separate meetings to focus on grantsmanship, demystifying the NIH grant review process, and other professional development talks, and ends with a mock review meeting. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Annual NIDA-NIAAA Frontiers in Addiction Research Mini-Convention**  
**Tuesday and Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**  
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](#).

- **Knock Out Opioid Use Day Learning Series Webinar – Evidence-Based Programs for Prevention, Treatment and Recovery**  
**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**  
Experts will share information about successful prevention, treatment and recovery methods and programs that exist in New Jersey and nationally. For more information, [click here](#).

### Addiction in the News

- [Pregnant and Addicted: Homeless Women See Hope in Street Medicine](#) (Los Angeles Times)
- [The Roots of the North American Opioid Crisis, and Three Key Strategies for Stopping It](#) (Medical XPress)
- [Telehealth Supports Retention in Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#) (NIH News Releases)

**RARC Resources** - *Don't forget the RARC has collated addiction-related resources for Rutgers addiction researchers.*

- **Do you need administrative support?** – The RARC would be happy to work with you to budget part of the RARC Program Assistant, Priscille Myrthil-Harder's efforts into your grants as a project coordinator. If you are interested in exploring this option, please reach out to RARC Program Manager, Emily Balcke ([emily.balcke@rutgers.edu](mailto:emily.balcke@rutgers.edu)).
- **Grant Writing Resources for Early Career Investigators** – The RARC has curated a comprehensive list of grant tools and writing resources designed to support you through the process of writing a grant.
- **Researcher Directory** – The RARC 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 join us [here](#).