

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

- **RARC Recruitment Candidate Virtual Seminar with Dr. Benedikt J. Fischer (December 19, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. EST):** Please save the date for a virtual research presentation by Benedikt J. Fischer, a recruitment candidate for a faculty position in the area of Public Policy at the RARC, entitled “An overview and select examples of addiction policy issues, research, and evidence-translation.” For more information, [click here](#).
- **BHI/CAHBIR Faculty Candidate Virtual Seminar with Rui Zhang, PhD (December 20, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. EST):** Please save the date for a research presentation by Dr. Rui Zhang, “Towards a neurobiological understanding of how sleep links with drug use”. For more information, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Appointments with Health Sciences Librarians:** Did you know that if you have research inquiries or require in-depth assistance from the library, you have the option to [Ask a Librarian](#) through chat or email. Additionally, you can request a [Systematic Review Consultation](#) and/or schedule an online meeting with a Health Sciences librarian at a time that suits your schedule! To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!

Rutgers News

- A huge congratulations to RARC researchers, **Drs. Santiago Cuesta, Mark Rossi, and Elizabeth Tricomi** on receiving Busch Biomedical Grants. This grant mechanism aims to boost biomedical research at the university while supporting faculty members in their pursuit of external research funds. A total of \$780,000 is provided across Rutgers, furthering our commitment to advancing research excellence. For more information on their projects, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Christoph Buettner, professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** published a paper in *Molecular Metabolism*, elucidating molecular mechanisms underlying the development of alcohol-associated liver disease. For more information, [click here](#).

- A pilot study led by **Dr. Suchismita Ray, an associate professor at Rutgers School of Health Professions**, reveals that Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE) may be a pivotal intervention for preventing relapse in women undergoing medically assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. The study, published *Explore*, is the first to explore the neural changes associated with emotion regulation and craving in women after an eight-week MORE intervention. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **NIDA Diversity Scholars Network (NDSN) Program** - Calling all early-stage investigators (ESIs) to submit a letter of interest for the 2024 NIDA Diversity Scholars Network (NDSN) Program! The goal of the NIDA Diversity Scholars Network Program is to enhance the funding success of ESIs from diverse backgrounds, including investigators from underrepresented groups. The program provides workshops and supportive coaching as participants prepare a complete research or career development award application for NIDA funding consideration. LOI due January 12, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).
- **SGS University & Louis Bevier Dissertation Completion Fellowship Competition** - The School of Graduate Studies University & Louis Bevier Dissertation Completion Fellowship is designed to provide support during a doctoral candidate's final year of dissertation research and writing. They anticipate awarding up to 15 Fellowships for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Fellowship provides a stipend of \$25,000, health insurance, and tuition remission for up to 2 research credits per semester. Application deadline ends January 22, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NIH Grant Writing Mini-Course** - New Jersey Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS) is hosting a **NIH Grant Writing Mini-Course** in February 2024. This 5-week mini-course is intended for novice grant writers planning to submit a K or R grant in the next year. Enrollment closes **January 12th**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **Request for Applications for Research on Gambling Among Under-served Communities:** The International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) invites investigators to apply for a two-year grant in support of research on the impact of gambling on under-served groups in the U.S. or Canada. Applicants may request up to \$75,000 per year for a two-year Large Grant with no more than 15% of direct costs for Facilities and Administration. Total requested may not exceed \$172,500. **Application due Jan 22, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).

- **RFA-DA-25-058: Psychedelics Treatment Research in Substance Use Disorder (UG3/UH3 Clinical Trials Optional)** The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to support the development of classic psychedelics (e.g., psilocybin, LSD), empathogens (e.g., MDMA), dissociatives (e.g., ketamine and related compounds), and other hallucinogens (e.g., ibogaine and its analogues) (henceforth “psychedelics”) as new treatment options for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). There is an urgent need to develop novel treatments for SUD in light of the escalating rates of substance use, addiction, and overdose. Lett of Intent due **Jan 28, 2024**. 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 84/6:

- [A Longitudinal Analysis of Monthly Changes in Substance Use in Relation to Negative Consequences From Alcohol and Cannabis Use in a Community Sample of Young Adults](#)
Charles B. Fleming, Katherine Walukevich-Dienst, Brian H. Calhoun, Christine M. Lee

Just Accepted:

- [ISFAR Reiterates Its Defence of Moderate Alcohol Consumption’s Health Benefits](#)
Creina S. Stockley, Henk F.J. Hendriks, and R. Curtis Ellison
- [Are Health Levies From Unhealthy Commodities a Good Way to Fund Harm Reduction Initiatives](#)
Peter J. Adams
- [A Response From Friends of NIAAA to Babor \(2023\) and Mitchell and McCambridge \(2023\)](#)
William F. Wieczorek

Follow JSAD on Threads/Instagram/Twitter/Facebook: [@JSADjournal](#)

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

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

Save the Dates!

- **RWJMS & RAND Webinar - Charting Your Course: A Guide to Analyzing State Policy Studies**
Tuesday, January 23rd at 12:00 p.m. EST
This workshop will provide an overview of the myriad of analytic methods available for state policy evaluation studies, including details on key decision points for an analysis that helps identify which methods are most appropriate for different analytic contexts. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NASEM Health and Medicine Workshop - Harm Reduction Services for People Who Use Drugs: Exploring Data Collection, Evidence Gaps, and Research Needs**
Tuesday, January 30th to Wednesday, January 31st at 10:00 a.m. EST
The National Academies is hosting a 2-day virtual public workshop to explore data collection efforts, evidence gaps, and research needs on harm reduction services for people who use drugs

(PWUD). Discussions will cover services that prevent overdose & infectious disease transmission and assist PWUD's access to social services. For more information, [click here](#).

- **CAS Emerging Addiction Seminar Series - Investigating the Current Ketamine Landscape in the United States**

Thursday, February 7th at 12:30 p.m. EST

The Center of Alcohol and Substance Studies invites you to join their in-person seminar with Dr. Joseph Palamar, an associate professor of Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, and Deputy Director of the National Drug Early Warning System. Dr. Palamar focuses on the epidemiology of use of new psychoactive substances and party drugs both in the general population and in high-risk scenes. This important work helps inform prevention and harm reduction efforts. For more information, [click here](#).

- **10th Annual New York City Epidemiology Forum**

Thursday, April 4th

Co-hosted by NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU School of Global Public Health, this conference will include oral presentations, posters, and discussion sessions and is expected to lead to new collaborative activities, such as networks with shared resources and joint educational programs. Please register before **Monday, March 25, 2024. Attendance is free and includes lunch. For more information, [click here](#).**

Addiction in the News

- [Reported Drug Use Among Adolescents Continued To Hold Below Pre-Pandemic Levels in 2023](#) (NIH News Release)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Calls on Housing Community to Help Expand Access to Life-Saving Opioid Overdose Reversal Medications Like Naloxone](#) (SAMHSA Press)
- [New Syndrome in Newborns Exposed to Fentanyl Possibly Found](#) (NBC News)

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).
- **Working with the Media:** Did you know that R-Comm offers direct support to Rutgers-New Brunswick and RBHS researchers looking to publicize their research using multiple forms of media to bring their research to new audiences, advance their careers, and promote their departments, schools and centers? To view this resource, [click here](#).