

# 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

- **RARC Interest Group on Cannabis (Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m):** The next RARC Interest Group on Cannabis meeting will be held virtually and is open to all Rutgers-affiliated individuals. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please reach out to [rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu) for the meeting details.
- **Faculty Candidate Chalk Talk with Dr. Ethan Cowan, (January 31, 2024):** Please save the date for a Chalk Talk presentation by **Dr. Ethan Cowan**. Dr. Cowan is a recruitment candidate for a faculty position in the area of Treatment & Recovery at the RARC. Presentation details coming soon!
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Dr. Yavin Shaham (February 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.):** Please join us for the Rutgers TARP Monthly Meeting in the Dean's Conference Room (first floor of the RWJMS Research Tower) or on zoom. This event will feature Dr. Yavin Shaham, from NIDA-NIH Intramural Research Program. All TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators are invited. Food and drinks will be provided!
- **Now Hiring: The Department of Psychiatry at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** is seeking a full-time Research Project Coordinator. This position involves the conduct of research across several large-scale studies on alcohol and cannabis use and the surrounding context (messaging, media influences). The employee will serve as an active contributor to data collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination along with senior project investigators, project staff, and trainees. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Now Hiring: Two Post-Doc Positions at the RARC.** Two full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate positions are available in Dr. Kristina Jackson's laboratory at the Rutgers Addiction Research Center (RARC). Candidates will have the opportunity to make contributions to ongoing grant-funded studies focused on substance use at Rutgers and collaborating sites while also developing their own research careers. For more information, [click here](#).

## RARC Resource Spotlight

- [New Jersey Department of Health New Jersey Overdose Data Dashboard](#) - Did you know this dashboard uses interactive data visualizations to display opioid and other drug-related overdose indicators for public health practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and the public? Leverage the data for grant submissions, publications, and informed decision-making!

## Rutgers News

- Join **Dr. Lewis Nelson** from the **New Jersey Medical School** in a crucial discussion on "The Opioid Crisis: An Overview", part of the Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day Learning Series on **Jan 25, 2024**, at 11 am EST. Participants will gain insights into safe prescribing for medical practitioners, including physicians, dentists, and nurses, dealing with opioid-based painkillers. This webinar aims to inform all prescribers of the local laws that pertain to the prescribing of opioids. For more information, [click here](#).
- As part of the **Emerging Addiction Science Seminar Series**, hosted by **Rutgers University Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies**, Dr. Joseph Palamar will be giving an in-person presentation titled, "**Investigating the Current Ketamine Landscape in the United States**" on **Thursday, February 8th, 2024** from 12:30-1:30pm EST. Dr. Palamar's research unveils a 350% surge in ketamine seizures by law enforcement from 2017 to 2022, indicating a potential rise in nonmedical and recreational use. The study underscores the risks, including exposure to substances like fentanyl. For more information and registration, [click here](#).
- Congratulations to RARC researcher **Dr. Mark Rossi** from **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, on receiving a new five-year R01 grant, "Lateral Hypothalamic circuit dysfunction underlying the development of diet-induced obesity," sponsored by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for \$2,191,233.

## Opportunities

- **HHMI Opens \$1.5M National Competition for Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program** - The Hanna H. Gray Fellows program seeks to increase diversity in the professoriate by supporting early career researchers who show exceptional promise of becoming academic scientists, which includes the potential to build and contribute to an equitable and inclusive scientific culture. Application deadline ends **February 28, 2024**. Any postdoctoral fellows that are interested can reach out to Hailey Lemasters (hailey.lemasters@rutgersfoundation.org). For more information, [click here](#).
- **2024 Biomedical Data Science Innovation Lab – Now accepting applications** - The goal of the 2024 Biomedical Data Science Innovation Lab (BDSIL) is to foster the formation of new interdisciplinary collaborations which will generate creative strategies on the use of data science approaches for creating new strategic partnerships between AI developers, biomedical researchers, and educators. The Lab is designed as an extended, exciting, hybrid program of online team-building activities, a series of scientific and mentor presentations, and lectures by guest speakers, all culminating in a five-day in-person intensive event in June 2024. Applications due **January 26, 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 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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:

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Measuring Exposure to the Hazardous Drinking of Others and Perceived Opportunity to Intervene as a Bystander](#)  
Nancy P. Barnett, Michelle Haikalis, Matthew K. Meisel, Jennifer E. Merrill, Richard N. Jones, Rochelle K. Rosen, Kate B. Carey, Lindsay M. Orchowski, and Kelli Bradley
- [Hesperidin Protects Alcohol-induced Mitochondrial Abnormalities via the Inhibition of Oxidative Stress and MPT Pore opening in Newborn Male Rats as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Model](#)  
Zhaleh Jamali, Ahmad Salimi, Behzad Garmabi, Saleh Khezri, and Mehdi Khaksari

- [Moving beyond trench warfare: the need for further hypothesis testing about whether observed health benefits from alcohol consumption are genuine](#)  
Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao, James M. Clay, Adam Sherk and Timothy Naimi
- [A Descriptive Analysis of a Popular Pregnancy Forum: Comments on the Developmental Consequences of Cannabis use on Offspring](#)  
Lauren Micalizzi, Elizabeth R. Aston, Jacqueline Nesi, Dayna Price, and Rachel L. Gunn

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!

- **RU External Speaker Virtual Seminar - Increasing Access to Care: Addressing Critical Gaps in the Prevention and Treatment of Eating Disorders and Obesity**  
**Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. EST**  
*The Departments of Psychiatry and University Behavioral Health Care are hosting **Dr. Denise Wilfley**, to present on her work, “Increasing Access to Care: Addressing Critical Gaps in the Prevention and Treatment of Eating Disorders and Obesity”. For more information, [click here](#).*
- **RWJMS & RAND Webinar - Charting Your Course: A Guide to Analyzing State Policy Studies**  
**Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Workshop - Harm Reduction Services for People Who Use Drugs: Exploring Data Collection, Evidence Gaps, and Research Needs**  
**Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. EST**  
*The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use 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](#).*

- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual New York City Epidemiology Forum**  
**Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

- [Facts About Teen Drinking](#) (NIAAA)
- [Reduced Drug Use Is a Meaningful Treatment Outcome for People With Stimulant Use Disorders](#) (NIH News Release)
- [Cannabis Use in Pregnancy May Impair Placental Function, Suggests NIH-Funded Study](#) (NICHD Science Update)
- [Residential Addiction Treatment for Adolescents Is Scarce and Expensive](#) (NIDA News Release)
- [Xylazine Not Just a Problem in the Northeast, Study Finds](#) (MedPage Today)

**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)).
- **Open Access Publishing Opportunities for Rutgers Researchers:** Explore a growing list of publishers whose journals offer reduced Article Processing Charges (APCs) – some down to \$0 – for Open Access articles. To view this resources, [click here](#). To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!