

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

- **Faculty Candidate Chalk Talk with Dr. Ethan Cowan, (January 31, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. EST):** Please join us for a hybrid Chalk Talk presentation delivered by Dr. Ethan Cowan, a recruitment candidate for a tenure-track position in the Rutgers Addiction Research Center domain of Treatment & Recovery and NJMS Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Cowan's research interests are in HIV/HCV/STF testing and substance use interventions, particularly medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Dr. Yavin Shaham (February 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. EST):** 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! For more information, [click here](#).
- **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

- **Office of Statistical Consulting:** The Office of Statistical Consulting provides researchers, faculty, students, and administrators throughout the university support with collecting and interpreting

data. Researchers from a broad range of disciplines, such as the biological sciences, computer science, education, library science, and the social sciences, can receive expert assistance from the consulting office either on an hourly basis or through long term, collaborative projects.

Rutgers News

- A recent publication in *BMJ Journals*, led by Andrea Villanti, Deputy Director of the **Rutgers Institute for Nicotine & Tobacco Studies**, assesses the substitutability of a menthol roll-your-own cigarette, a menthol filtered little cigar, or a non-menthol cigarette in comparison to the typical brand of menthol cigarettes. For more information, [click here](#).
- A recent research study, featured in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* and led by researchers from the **Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research**, indicates that providers of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in NJ support making temporary regulatory flexibilities permanent to allow for more adaptable & individually tailored patient care. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **The Health Neuroscience Lab is recruiting participants for research study on how slow breathing may affect coordinated heart and brain function** - The Health Neuroscience Lab is recruiting participants between the ages of 18-35 interested in being invited to attend two lab sessions, complete surveys about your health and behavior, and complete breathing and computer tasks while they monitor your heart and brain responses. Participants can earn **\$100** in Amazon gift cards by completing the study! If you are interested in participating, please contact the lab at Expsychlab1@gmail.com to initiate the screening process and determine your eligibility. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Early-Stage Investigators (ESI) Paper Competition is Now Open** - The NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) has opened submissions for their Early Stage Investigators (ESI) Paper Competition. Each year they honor up to five (5) ESIs whose work expands upon Dr. Matilda White Riley's vision of research excellence in health-related behavioral and social sciences. Submission deadline ends **January 28, 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](#).
- **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](#).

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:

- [Does Reducing the Size of the Tobacco Power Wall Affect Young People’s Risk of Future Use of Tobacco Products? An Experimental Investigation](#)
Steven C. Martino, Claude M. Setodji, Michael S. Dunbar, Desmond Jenson, Jody CS Wong, Abigail Torbatian, and William G. Shadel
- [Applications of Immersive Virtual Reality for Illicit Substance Use: A Systematic Review](#)
Jake Samora, Haelim Jeong, Fiona N. Conway, and Kasey R. Claborn
- [Canada’s Alcohol Deficit, 2007-2020: Social Cost, Public Revenue, Magnitudes of Alcohol Use and the Per-Drink Net Deficit for a Fourteen-Year Period](#)
Adam Sherck

- [Where Do Adults in the United States Obtain Cannabis? A Nationally Representative Study Examining the Relationships Between Sociodemographic Factors, Cannabis Use Characteristics and Sources of Cannabis.](#)

Matthew G. Myers, Mari A. Dowling, and Kipling M. Bohnert

- [Relationships Between Alcohol and Cannabis Policies in U.S. States, 1999-2019](#)

Timothy S. Naimi, Marlene C. Lira, Seema Choksy Pessar, Rosanna Smart, Jason Blanchette, and Rosalie Liccardo Pacula

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](#).

- **Rutgers Psychiatry Grand Rounds with Dr. Amesika Nyaku - Interventions to Improve the Engagement in Care of People Who Use**

Tuesday, January 23rd at 11:00 p.m. EST

The *Rutgers Department of Psychiatry* is pleased to invite you to join us for their Grand Rounds session. Dr. Nyaku will highlight neuropathological contributors to psychiatric illness, cognitive dysfunction, and neurological dysfunction. She will discuss new therapeutic strategies that incorporate social and psychological factors affecting psychiatric illness. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day Learning Series - The Opioid Crisis: An Overview featuring Dr. Lewis Nelson**

Thursday, January 25th at 11:00 a.m. EST

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. 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](#).

- **NASEM Health 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](#).

- **New Jersey State Policy Lab Panel - Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Government Agencies**
Thursday, February 1st at 9:00 a.m. EST
The *New Jersey State Policy Lab* will be hosting a new panel, which will be presented by Elizabeth Bell and Aaron Deslatte, Ph.D.. Each will discuss their experiences handling researcher-practitioner partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and provide recommendations for better tailoring research incentives in universities with research needs in communities. 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 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](#).
- **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

- [Neurosurgeon Works to Slow Alzheimer's Progression, Treat Addiction with Cutting-Edge Technology](#) (CBS News)
- [Can Childhood Trauma Prime Brain Dynamics for Nicotine Dependence?](#) (MedPage Today)
- [Marijuana Has No Role in Taking Up or Quitting Opioids: Study](#) (US 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).
- **[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!