

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**

Announcing the **2023-2024 RARC-BHI Pilot Grant Program**: The RARC has launched its 2023 pilot grant program to foster new collaborative, interdisciplinary addiction research among Rutgers faculty and affiliated clinical services, and to support pilot data that will lead to sustained funding from an external agency (e.g., NIH). **Letters of Intent due 11/20/2023**. For the full request for proposals, [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. The application deadline is **November 1**. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Dr. Perry N. Halkitis**, dean and professor at **Rutgers School of Public Health**, recently shared insights on NJ Spotlight News, shedding light on the limited effectiveness of "Just Say No" programs in curbing substance use. Dr. Halkitis advocates for more impactful alternatives, including harm reduction strategies and comprehensive programs addressing the underlying mental health factors contributing to addiction. For more information, [click here](#).
- A new study published in *Neuron* led by RARC researcher, **Dr. Anna Konova**, from **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, used neuroimaging to demonstrate how cocaine addiction reshapes the brains' reward system, impacting decision-making. The findings shed light on the enigmatic nature of addiction behavior and may pave the way for new strategies for treating addiction. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The RWJMS Office of Research** announced that they are now offering an extra layer of grant preparation assistance for large and complex submissions. They have recently hired a grants coordinator, Erin Dunkley, with extensive experience with editing and writing. Examples of services include but are not limited to timeline development/adherence, NOFO (FOA) checklists, document solicitation and review, general copy-editing, specific Aims review, and grant writing tips. If you are interested in exploring how they might support your planned submissions, please reach out to RWJMS Associate Dean for Research, Paul R. Copeland (ed525@rwjms.rutgers.edu).

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

- **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:

- [Adolescent Advertising Exposure to Cannabis Products in Rural Oklahoma via Medical Dispensaries](#)
Melvin Livingston, Caroline Barry, Andrew Walker, Bethany Livingston, Sierra L. Talavera-Brown, Megan Harmon, Alexander Wagenaar, Terrence Kominsky, Kelli A. Komro
- [Experimental Test of Abstaining-and-Drinking Social Media Content on Adolescent and Young Adult Social Norms and Alcohol Use](#)
Dana M. Litt, Zhengyang Zhou, Anne M. Fairlie, Katja A. Waldron, Femke Geusens, Melissa A. Lewis

- [Legal Drinking Age Laws and Alcohol Consumption: Evidence From South Korea](#)
Yoosik Shin
- [Associations Between Social Context and Mood During Alcohol Consumption in Young Adult Smokers](#)
Julia M. Brooks, Donald Hedeker, Robin J. Mermelstein

Just accepted in JSAD:

- [Characterizing alcohol consumption and positive and negative consequences during simultaneous alcohol and cannabis use events](#)
Holly K. Boyle, Kristina M. Jackson, Kate B. Carey, and Jennifer E. Merrill
- [Intellectual Property of Psychedelics for Addiction Treatment: Enabling Access and Protecting Innovation Opportunities Through Preserving the Public Domain](#)
Sisi Li, Taylor Kurtzweil, Shahin Shams, Amanda Pratt, and Sean Rudi

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!

- **NIDA/CCTN Webinar: Addictions Research Meets Lived Experience: Lessons Learned, Opportunities and Challenges**
Monday, October 30th 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 31st 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 2nd 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 8th 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 7th-8th 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 9th 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

- [Drug-Linked Disciplinary Actions by Schools Spiked After Oregon Legalized Marijuana](#) (US News)
- [Treating Amphetamine Use Disorder With Stimulants: An Encouraging New Approach](#) (Medical XPress)
- [Is Social Media Addictive? Here's What the Science Says](#). (The New York Times)
- [How Cocaine Rewires Brain's Reward System](#) (Neuroscience 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).
- **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](#).