

## RUTGERS ADDICTION RESEARCH CENTER MOCK GRANT REVIEW PROGRAM

The Brain Health Institute (BHI) and the Rutgers Addiction Research Center (RARC) are pleased to announce the mock grant review program at Rutgers University. The primary objective of this program is to increase the success of grant proposals submitted to NIH by Rutgers investigators connected to the BHI and/or the RARC.

1. **Step 1:** Send a title plus an abstract or short description to Paul Manowitz, Ph.D., RARC Chair of Special Programs ([manowitz@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:manowitz@rwjms.rutgers.edu); with CC to [rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu)) at least eight weeks before the deadline for grant submission to the granting institution/agency. Also include with this material a selection of up to five potential mock grant reviewers of your grant application from the enclosed list of Rutgers senior and/or NIH-funded investigators. Please do not contact these investigators directly. Where possible, the RARC will make an effort to solicit reviewers from those you selected.
2. **Step 2.** Submit your application as a SINGLE PDF file to Paul Manowitz ([manowitz@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:manowitz@rwjms.rutgers.edu); with CC to [rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu)) at least six weeks before the grant application is to be submitted to the granting institution/agency.

You should submit **Specific Aims** and **Research Strategy** for review, formatted according to NIH style application guidelines and including a cover sheet (see below). The proposal should be single-spaced and use font/size Arial 11 with 0.5 inch page margins, combined into one PDF document (13 pages for R01 and 7 pages for R21). If you are re-submitting a previously submitted grant, please include the NIH summary statement with your proposal submission, as well as your Introduction to the Resubmission. You should not submit applications that have already received NIH summary statements unless accompanied by proposed revisions. You may not make substantive changes once the applications have been circulated to the mock grant reviewers. The RARC and reviewers will observe confidentiality, and only the panel will access your grant information.

3. Mock reviews will be held approximately five weeks before the application is due at the funding institution/agency. This will allow you one month for revision prior to submission. All submissions will be reviewed by 2-3 reviewers who will provide specific comments on 1) Significance, 2) Innovation, and 3) Approach using a standardized set of criteria. After receiving the written comments, each applicant will be invited to attend a live mock review of his/her proposal, typically one hour long. One of the panel members will be able to offer help with the responses and modifications.

Please contact [rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu) with any questions.

Danielle Dick, Ph.D.  
Director, Rutgers Addiction Research Center  
Chair, Motivational & Affective Neuroscience Focus Area Working Group  
Brain Health Institute

Zhiping Pang, M.D., Ph.D.  
Vice Chair, Motivational & Affective Neuroscience Focus Area Working Group  
Brain Health Institute

**MOCK GRANT REVIEW PROGRAM COVER SHEET**

**Title of Project** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PI/MPI** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department/School Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institute or Foundation to which the grant will be submitted including any additional specifics, e.g., RO1, R21, etc.** \_\_\_\_\_

**New, Renewal or Resubmission (If resubmission, include summary statement)**

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**Response to PA/RFA?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Career / Early Stage Investigator eligible?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Submission date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Numbers of years of funding requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Co-investigators and their distinct /non-overlapping expertise (to determine potential conflicts for internal mock reviewers and to evaluate the team since bio-sketches are not included)**

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## Reviewers for the Mock Grant Review 2023-2024

**Victoria Abaira** <https://grad.rutgers.edu/faculty/victoria-abaira>

Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and Neuroscience  
School of Arts and Sciences-New Brunswick

Dr. Abaira's research centers on fundamental principles of sensory neurobiology and spinal cord circuits.

**Nicholas Bello** <https://animalsciences.rutgers.edu/faculty/bello/>

Professor & Chair of Animal Sciences  
School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Dr. Bello's research includes the validation of dietary supplements for weight loss and attentional and arousal processes of binge-eating.

**Kasia Bieszczad** <https://cleflab.myportfolio.com/>

Associate Professor of Psychology  
School of Arts and Science – New Brunswick

Dr. Bieszczad's research includes the study of neurobiological substrates of learning and memory.

**Miriam Bocarsly**

<https://njms-web.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=bocarsme>

Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience  
New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Bocarsly's research explores neural circuitry underlying rewarding behaviors such as food intake and drug use.

**Detlev Boison** <https://grad.rutgers.edu/faculty/detlev-boison>

Professor of Neurosurgery  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Boison studies the metabolism and disease modification in epilepsy and traumatic brain injury.

**Jennifer Buckman** <https://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/people/faculty/jennifer-buckman/>

Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Health  
School of Arts and Science - New Brunswick

Dr. Buckman's research explores the role of body systems and body-brain communication in substance use behavior.

**Christoph Buettner** <https://grad.rutgers.edu/https%3A//buettnerlab.org>

Professor and Chancellor Scholar of Medicine

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Buettner has a longstanding interest in metabolic regulation and diabetes.

**Tammy Chung** [https://ifh.rutgers.edu/faculty\\_staff/tammy-chung-ph-d/](https://ifh.rutgers.edu/faculty_staff/tammy-chung-ph-d/)

Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Director, Center for Population Behavioral Health

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research

Dr. Chung does research on adolescent and young adult substance abuse.

**Nina Cooperman** <https://addiction.rutgers.edu/researchers/nina-cooperman/>

Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Cooperman conducts clinical research on the development and evaluation of novel behavioral interventions for substance use.

**Kristina Jackson** <https://www.addiction.rutgers.edu/researchers/kristina-jackson/>

Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Jackson's research focuses on the etiology and course of substance use among adolescents and young adults.

**Mi-Hyeon Jang** <https://grad.rutgers.edu/faculty/mi-hyeon-jang-phd>

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Jang studies adult neurogenesis, oligodendrogenesis, regenerative neurobiology, brain development, brain aging and chemobrain.

**Denise Hien** <https://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/people/leadership/denise-hien/>

Distinguished Professor

Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Director, Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies

Dr. Hien's research involves clinical trials to treat and prevent traumatic stress and substance addiction.

**Yong Kim** <https://sites.rutgers.edu/rbhs-neurological-surgery/people/yong-kim->

Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Kim's research centers on signal transduction mechanisms in nerve cells.

**Steven Levison**

<https://njmsweb.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=levisosw>

Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience  
New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Levison's studies involve the deciphering of how brain development is affected by infections during pregnancy contributing to neurological and psychiatric disorders.

**Michael Lewis**      <https://patientcare.rutgershealth.org/provider/michael-lewis>

Professor Emeritus  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Lewis studies typical and atypical development involving children and their environment.

**Naomi Marmorstein**      <https://healthsciences.camden.rutgers.edu/advisory-board/>

Professor of Psychology  
Health Sciences Department, Rutgers University-Camden

Dr. Marmorstein studies the associations between internalizing disorders (depression and anxiety) and externalizing behavior and substance use disorders among youth.

**Jennifer Mulle**      <https://cabm.rutgers.edu/person/jennifer-gladys-mulle>

Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Mulle's research program employs a variety of modalities, including animal models, human cellular models, and clinical phenotyping studies to understand the etiology of schizophrenia.

**Lia Nower**      <https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/lia-nower>

Distinguished Professor  
School of Social Work  
Director, Center for Gambling Studies

Dr. Nower's research interests include disordered gambling, substance abuse, and other addictive disorders; forensic issues in mental health; psychometric measurement and research methodology

**Pingyue Pan**

<https://molbiosci.rutgers.edu/faculty-research/faculty/faculty-detail/86-o-p/702-pan-pingyue>

Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

The primary research interest in the Pan lab is to understand the function and the regulation of dopaminergic synapses, as well as the mechanisms of their deregulation in disease condition.

### **Ying-Xian Pan**

<https://njms-web.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=yp338>

Professor of Anesthesiology  
New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Pan's research utilizes multidisciplinary in vitro and in vivo approaches to understand opiate effects including addiction.

### **Zhiping Pang**

<https://molbiosci.rutgers.edu/faculty-research/faculty/faculty-detail/86-o-p/179-zhiping-pang>

Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Pang's laboratory studies the neural basis of the regulation of feeding, satiety, metabolism and obesity.

### **Christopher Pierce** <https://addiction.rutgers.edu/researchers/chris-pierce/>

Professor of Psychiatry  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Pierce's research focuses on the neuroscience of addiction using animal models.

### **John Pintar**

<https://molbiosci.rutgers.edu/faculty-research/faculty/faculty-detail/86-o-p/181-john-e-pintar>

Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Pintar's research focuses on genetic approaches to endogenous opioid system function.

### **Mark Rossi**

<https://molbiosci.rutgers.edu/faculty-research/faculty/faculty-detail/87-q-r/975-rossi-mark>

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
The Rossi laboratory studies how distributed neural circuits control feeding and motivation.

**Vanessa Routh**

<https://njms-web.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=routhvh>  
Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Neuroscience  
New Jersey Medical School  
Dr. Routh's research centers on the role of hypothalamic glucose sensing neurons in glucose and energy homeostasis.

**Jessica Salvatore** <https://sites.rutgers.edu/jessica-salvatore/>

Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
Director, Genes, Environment, and Neurodevelopment in Addictions Program  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Dr. Salvatore uses biopsychosocial approaches for alcohol and substance use disorders.

**Carolyn Sartor**

[https://ifh.rutger.edu/Associate Professor of os.edu/faculty\\_staff/carolyn-e-sartor-ph-d/](https://ifh.rutger.edu/Associate%20Professor%20of%20os.edu/faculty_staff/carolyn-e-sartor-ph-d/)  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
Center for Population Behavioral Health  
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research  
Dr. Sartor studies substance use, social determinants of health, trauma, adolescence and young adulthood, and behavior genetics.

**Marc L. Steinberg**

<https://psych.rutgers.edu/academics/undergraduate/undergraduate-research-labs/998-steinberg-marc>  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Dr. Steinberg's research focuses on tobacco / e-cigarette use and dependence, including tobacco / e-cigarette dependence treatment development, cigarette and e-cigarette use in those with psychiatric comorbidity, the relationship between tobacco use and task persistence/distress tolerance, and motivational interviewing in the context of tobacco cessation.

**Michael Steinberg\*** <https://globalhealth.rutgers.edu/directory/michael-steinberg/>

Professor & Interim Chair of Medicine  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Steinberg's research focus includes all aspects of comprehensive tobacco treatment from evaluating individual interventions, health system-based changes including EMR protocols, physician and provider attitudes, beliefs, and practices, public health tobacco policy, training and education of providers, novel tobacco products and use behaviors.

*\*Dr. Steinberg will not be able to review grants applications until after September 2024.*

### **Yuanxiang Tao**

<https://njms-web.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=yt211>

Professor of Anesthesiology

New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Tao studies the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying chronic pain and opioid addiction.

### **Andrew Westbrook**

<https://sites.rutgers.edu/cahbir/andrew-westbrook-ph-d-to-join-cahbir-faculty/>

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Westbrook's research combines neuroimaging skills with computational modelling, EEG recording, and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

### **Helene White**      [https://ifh.rutgers.edu/faculty\\_staff/helene-white/](https://ifh.rutgers.edu/faculty_staff/helene-white/)

Distinguished Professor Emerita of Sociology

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research

Her research involves studies of the developmental transition in substance use over the life course as well as the relationship of substance use and criminality.

### **Jill Williams**

<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/departments/psychiatry/divisions/division-of-addiction-psychiatry/message-from-the-director>

Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Williams researches ways to improve outcomes in people with mental illness and co-occurring addiction disorders.

### **Minge Xie**      <https://statweb.rutgers.edu/mxie/>

Distinguished Professor of Statistics

His research centers on statistics., e.g., studies of the foundation of statistical inference and data science



**Jiang Ye**

<https://njms-web.njms.rutgers.edu/profile/myProfile.php?mbmid=yejh>

Professor of Anesthesiology

New Jersey Medical School

Dr. Ye's research focuses on the neurobiological mechanisms of drug abuse and depression.

**Lei Yu**      <https://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu/people/faculty/lei-yu/>

Distinguished Professor of Genetics

School of Arts and Sciences – New Brunswick

Dr. Yu studies the genetics of substance abuse and compulsivity.

**David Zald**      <https://sites.rutgers.edu/cahbir/people/david-h-zald-ph-d/>

Professor of Psychiatry

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Director, Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research

His research uses a combination of MRI and PET imaging to examine the links between individual differences in brain structure and function and the risk for, and expression of, psychopathology.

**Huaye Zhang**

<https://molbiosci.rutgers.edu/faculty-research/faculty/faculty-detail/91-y-z/210-huaye-zhang>

Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

The Zhang lab is interested in the molecular mechanisms regulating dendritic spine morphogenesis and synaptic plasticity.