

# 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

- **Fighting Addiction From All Angles.** The Rutgers Addiction Research Center has been spotlighted as part of the Rutgers Excellence Campaign. This campaign aims to increase awareness of Rutgers' excellence and support a presidential initiative to enhance Rutgers' reputation. To check out the RARC spotlight video and learn more about our multidisciplinary approach to tackle addiction, [click here](#).
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Dr. Mathieu Wimmer (March 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. Mathieu Wimmer, from Temple University. All TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators are invited. Food and drinks will be provided. Stay tuned for more info!
- **RARC Interest Group on Cannabis (March 12, 2024 at 4:00 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 [rac@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rac@bhi.rutgers.edu) for the meeting details.
- **The Brain Health Institute (BHI) Spring Trainee Travel Awards:** The BHI has announced their Spring 2024 trainee travel awards for Rutgers neuroscience PhD, MD/PhD students and post-docs. BHI will provide \$500 awards to help offset the cost of attending a national or international conference e. Submit all materials by **March 15, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).

## RARC Resource Spotlight

- **RARC Media Relations: Experts Available to Comment** - The RARC has curated a list of Rutgers-affiliated researchers and practitioners who are readily available to offer insightful commentary and expertise to the media. This presents an opportunity for us to disseminate our knowledge to the public and promote awareness about addiction issues. If you wish to be included in our media relations contact list, kindly fill out the brief form provided by [clicking here](#).

## Rutgers News

- **Dr. Michael B. Steinberg** from **Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program**, recently shared insights with *Yahoo Life* regarding the growing popularity of Zyn nicotine pouches, emphasizing that while they may be less harmful than traditional tobacco products like cigarettes, their long-term safety remains uncertain. Furthermore, Dr. Steinberg underscores the addictive nature of nicotine, highlighting that any product containing nicotine carries a potential risk for dependence, as nicotine is one of the most addictive substances in our society. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Christopher Counts** from the **New Jersey Poison Control Center** at **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** has cautioned *WHYY* about the prevalence of tianeptine, also called “gas station heroin,” throughout the country. Marketed often as a remedy for anxiety and chronic pain, tianeptine can induce effects resembling the sedation associated with opioid use - thus, incorrectly considered a “safer” alternative. New Jersey has seen 38 exposures since June, nearly doubling from the baseline of two or fewer exposure calls since November. For more information, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

- **The New Jersey State Policy Lab 2024 Summer Internship** - NJSPL is now seeking undergraduate and master's level students for their Summer 2024 Internship Program. This paid, 10-week internship will take place three days a week (Tuesdays-Thursdays) in-person from June 4th to August 8th at 33 Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick. Students who are selected for this opportunity will research a public policy topic of their choosing. No prior experience in public policy research is required, but applicants must be passionate about a particular public policy topic and eager to conduct research. All applications must be submitted by Friday, March 22, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).
- **University of Vermont Postdoctoral Research Fellowship** - The Vermont Center on Behavior and Health (VCBH) located at the University of Vermont (UVM) Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) announces a postdoctoral research fellowship opportunity funded by NIH in their internationally-recognized center of excellence for substance use disorder research. Working with Sarah H. Heil, PhD, and Kelly R. Peck, PhD, this postdoctoral fellow will help to lead research among people with substance use disorders and posttraumatic stress disorder, including pregnant women. Their more than 30-year training program has an exceptional track record of helping fellows establish successful careers as independent investigators. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Diversity Specialized Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Advancement in Neuroscience Award** - This two-phase award aims to facilitate the completion of the doctoral dissertation and transition of talented graduate students to strong neuroscience research postdoctoral positions by providing 1-2 years of graduate support and up to 4 years of postdoctoral support. The D-SPAN award is intended to support a defined pathway to independent research positions for talented graduate students from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that are underrepresented in neuroscience research. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Rita Allen Foundation Open Position: Program Research and Communication** - The Rita Allen Foundation is seeking a versatile early-career professional with excellent analytic, communication, and coordination skills to support grantmaking, learning, and collaboration in discovery science,

civic science, and philanthropic practice. Working closely with their highly collaborative team, this role will be central to our efforts to support innovative leaders and networks through philanthropic excellence, engaged knowledge-development, and thoughtful connection across ideas and opportunities. 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](mailto:hailey.lemasters@rutgersfoundation.org)). For more information, [click here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

- **RFA-DA-24-038 R41/42 STTR: Developing Regulated Therapeutic and Diagnostic Solutions for Patients Affected by Opioid and/or Stimulants use Disorders (OUD/StUD):** This NOFO encourages Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) applications from small business concerns (SBCs) proposing research projects, directed towards commercialization, for the development of novel, evidence-based, FDA-regulated medical products addressing the needs of patients suffering from opioid use disorders (OUD) and/or stimulant use disorders (StUD). **Due dates: August 13, 2024; February 14, 2025.** For more information, [click here](#).
- **RFA-DA-25-053 R41/42 STTR: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Polypharmacology to Discover Pharmacotherapeutics for Substance Use Disorders:** This NOFO encourages Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) applications from small business concerns (SBCs) proposing research projects directed towards commercialization to harness artificial intelligence (AI), including machine learning (ML), tools, and polypharmacology to identify pharmacotherapeutics with lower toxicity and higher efficacy to prevent or treat substance use disorders (SUDs). **Due date:** July 25, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).
- **PAR-20-249: NIDA Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Program Award in Substance Use and Substance Use Disorder Research (K12 Clinical Trial Optional):** This NOFO encourages applications for institutional research career development (K12) programs that propose to support intensive, supervised research and career development experiences leading to research independence for clinician scientists (Scholars) conducting substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) research. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RFA-DA-25-032: NIH Mechanistic Studies on Social Behavior in Substance Use Disorder (R01 Clinical Trial Optional):** This NOFO is to solicit applications proposing mechanistic, transdisciplinary research on social behavior and its relationships with the onset, trajectory, and impact of Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and comorbidities. LOI due July 14, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Funding Opportunities:** The RARC keeps a running list of funding announcements from multiple organizations, including the NIH, that may be of interest to Rutgers addiction researchers. To view this resource, [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 85/1

- [The Impacts of Selling Alcohol in Grocery Stores in Ontario, Canada: A Before–After Study](#)  
Naomi Schwartz, Brendan T. Smith, Sze Hang Fu, Daniel Myran, Erik Loewen Friesen, Erin Hobin
- [Estimating the Effects of Hypothetical Alcohol Minimum Unit Pricing Policies on Alcohol Use and Deaths: A State Example](#)  
Lauren Bertin, Gregory Leung, Michele K. Bohm, Jennifer LeClercq, Elizabeth L. Skillen, Marissa B. Esser
- [Apologizing for the Alcohol Industry? A Comment on ISFAR's Defense of Alcohol's Purported Health Benefits](#)  
Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao, Tim Naimi

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [How do Bystanders Help in Drinking Situations: The Bystanders to Alcohol Risk Scale – Strategies](#)  
Matthew K. Meisel, Jennifer E. Merrill, Rochelle K. Rosen, Richard N. Jones, Michelle Haikalis, Kate B. Carey, Lindsay M. Orchowski, Kelli Bradley, Hannah Doucette, Nancy P. Barnett
- [Threat, Distract, and Discredit: Cannabis Industry Rhetoric to Defeat Regulation of High THC Cannabis Products in Washington State, USA](#)  
Beatriz H. Carlini, Lyndsey B. Kellum, Sharon B. Garrett, Lexi N. Nims
- [Alcohol and Substance Use Among the Working Age Population: A Nationwide Study of Fall-Related Emergency Department Visits](#)  
Akshaya Srikanth Bhagavathula, Wafa A. Aldhaleei
- [The Modern History of Alcohol Research: Introducing the Rutgers Digital Alcohol Studies Archives](#)  
J. H. Ward, T. F. Babor, N. Allred, W. Bejarano

-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!

- **Knock Out Opioid Use Learning Series – Emerging Threats Within the Opioid Crisis Webinar**  
**Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**  
Hosted by the *Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey* as part of their Knock Out Opioid Use Learning Series, this free webinar offers educational sessions on safe prescribing practices tailored for physicians, dentists, nurses, and other authorized medical practitioners who prescribe opioid-based

painkillers. It aims to update all prescribers on relevant local laws governing opioid prescription. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Rutgers Psychiatry Grand Rounds with Dr. Christine Vinci, “Mindfulness-based Interventions for Smoking Cessation”**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**

Please join virtually for the Department of Psychiatry’s next Grand Rounds session featuring Dr. Christine Vinci, presenting on the topic "Mindfulness-based Interventions for Smoking Cessation". For more information, [click here](#).

- **The College on Problems of Drug Dependence Webinar – Media Training with Reporting on Addiction**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EST**

Hosted by the Communications Committee and led by Jonathan Stoltman and Ashton Marra, co-directors of Reporting on Addiction, this webinar aims to offer insights into effectively communicating science and collaborating with the media to accurately and succinctly share research. It will cover tips for engaging with journalists, including strategies for pitching ideas and writing op-eds. 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

- [Watchdog Finds Widespread Abuses in New Jersey’s Addiction Recovery Industry](#) (New Jersey Monitor)
- [Does Beer Before Liquor Actually Make You Sicker?](#) (The New York Times)
- [Is It Time To Abandon the ‘Tough Love’ Approach to Addiction?](#) (WBUR)

**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)).
- **Are you looking to hire a postdoc?** A coalition of postdoc offices from 17 institutions, its majority Big Ten institutions, has created the [Postdoc Opportunities Board](#) to promote postdoc recruitment. You may use this free resource to recruit exceptional candidates for your open positions.

