

# 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

- **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 featuring Dr. Yavin Shaham, Chief of Behavioral Neuroscience Research Branch of the NIDA Intramural Research Program. Dr. Shaham will present on "Animal models of relapse after voluntary abstinence: mechanisms and implications for addiction treatment". Join us in person at the Dean's Conference Room (first floor of the RWJMS Research Tower) or via Zoom. All TARP and RARC faculty, trainees, and collaborators are welcome! For more information, [click here](#).
- **Psychiatry Grand Rounds with RARC Chair, Dr. Morgan James (February 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EST):** Please join us virtually for the Department of Psychiatry's next Grand Rounds session featuring RARC Chair of Junior Faculty & Trainee Engagement, Dr. Morgan James, presenting on the topic "The Orexin System as a Promising New Target for Treating Substance Use". For more information, [click here](#).
- **Now Hiring: Full-time Program Assistant.** RARC Director, Dr. Danielle Dick, is hiring a full-time Program Assistant in the Translational Psychiatric Genomics (TPG) laboratory within the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry. The program assistant will provide programmatic support on NIH-funded research projects exploring how genetic and environmental influences contribute to the development of patterns of substance use and related behaviors, as well as provide administrative support for Dr. Dick and the lab. Please pass along this opportunity to anyone you think may be interested and a good fit. Please reach out to RARC Program Manager, Emily Balcke ([emily.balcke@rutgers.edu](mailto:emily.balcke@rutgers.edu)) with any questions about the opportunity. 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](#).

- **The Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) Strategic Planning Town Hall for Trainees (February 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. EST):** The BHI is embarking on a planning and priority setting process to chart a course that will guide the Institute's growth and success for years to come. BHI invites all trainees (undergrads, grads, postdocs, etc.) interested in neuroscience and brain health to help develop its next strategic plan. Please join the virtual townhall meeting to provide ideas about how you would like BHI to support your research, clinical and academic endeavors. For more information, [click here](#).

### RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Words Matter – Terms to Use and Avoid When Talking About Addiction:** This resource from NIDA offers background information on the effect of stigma on those with substance use disorders, and terms to use and avoid to reduce stigma and negative bias when discussing addiction.

### Rutgers News

- **Rutgers University** is providing **free Narcan kits** supplied by the New Jersey Department of Human Services on its New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campuses to enhance the safety and well-being of community members. The medication is housed in boxes with QR codes linking to instructional videos on how to administer the treatment. The university encourages students, faculty and staff to pick up a Narcan kit, carry them in purses or backpacks and be prepared to respond to emergencies. For more information, [click here](#).
- A new study led by **Elizabeth Suarez**, from **Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research**, found fewer congenital defects in children whose mothers treated opioid use disorder with buprenorphine rather than methadone during the first trimester of pregnancy. The study authors encourage that the findings support the use of buprenorphine in pregnancy as a first treatment option for many patients. The findings do not, however, justify a switch from methadone to buprenorphine during pregnancy, which would entail an added risk of side effects and relapse. For more information, [click here](#).

### Opportunities

- **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 our 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. Our 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

- **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

- [Alcohol-Related Problems As Moderators of PTSD Symptom Change During Use of a Web-Based Intervention for Hazardous Drinking and PTSD](#)

Craig P. Polizzi, Rebecca E. Sistad, Nicholas A. Livingston, Deborah Brief, Scott Litwack, Monica Roy, Marika Solhan, David Rosenbloom, Terence M. Keane

- [Characterizing Alcohol Consumption and Positive and Negative Consequences During Simultaneous Alcohol and Cannabis Use Events](#)  
Holly K. Boyle, Kristina M. Jackson, Kate B. Carey, Jennifer E. Merrill
- [A Dual-Process Decision-Making Model Examining the Longitudinal Associations Between Alcohol-Induced Blackouts and Alcohol Use Disorder Risk Among College Student Drinkers](#)  
Shannon D. Glenn, Robert J. Turrisi, Veronica L. Richards, Michael A. Russell, Kimberly A. Mallett

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [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, and Lexi N. Nims
- [Alcohol and Substance Use Among the Working Age Population: A Nationwide Study of Fall-Related Emergency Department Visits](#)  
Akshaya Srikanth Bhagavathula, and Wafa A. Aldhalei
- [The Modern History of Alcohol Research: Introducing the Rutgers Digital Alcohol Studies Archives](#)  
J. H. Ward, T. F. Babor, N. Allred, and 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!

- **Rutgers Peer Mentoring Network for Early Career Professionals – Topic: Project Management**  
**Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. EST**  
*The Peer Mentoring Network, which was created for early career professionals by early career professionals, aims to connect new faculty (NTT & TT) within 7 years of starting to connect and support one another as early career researchers at Rutgers! Join their monthly networking events at the Rutgers Club. For more information, [click here](#).*
- **GSAPP Webinar - Opioid Use within the Affectional and Gender Diverse Populations (LGBTQ+)**  
**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EST**  
*The Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology is offering a live zoom webinar that will highlight the impact that opioid use disorder has on sexual and gender diverse populations, best practices, trauma-informed care, and behavioral health integration into primary care. 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

- [CDC Report Finds Teens Use Drugs — Often Alone — To Ease Stress and Anxiety](#) (NBC News)
- [New and Emerging Products That Can Get Kids Hooked on Nicotine](#) (Partnership to End Addiction)
- [Law Enforcement Seizures of Psilocybin Mushrooms Rose Dramatically Between 2017–2022](#) (NIH News Release)
- [Unraveling Mystery of Kansas City Chiefs Fans' Frozen Fentanyl Deaths](#) (New York Post)

**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)).
- **The Office for Research** announced the launch of their new website at [research.rutgers.edu](https://research.rutgers.edu). The new website includes a resource library, easy-to-access tools, documents, and research compliance information. They are currently working on a phase 2 launch that will include further improvements and features!