

# 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

- **Psychiatry Grand Rounds with RARC Director, Dr. Danielle Dick (January 30, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EST):** Please join us virtually for the Department of Psychiatry's next Grand Rounds session featuring RARC Director, Dr. Danielle Dick, presenting on the topic "Using Genetics to Prevent Addiction: Science Fiction or Science Fact?". For more information, [click here](#).
- **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: 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](#).
- **BHI/NJMS-Pharm/Phys/Neuro Faculty Candidate Hybrid Seminar with Dr. Xiaobing Zhang (February 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST):** Please join for a hybrid presentation delivered by Dr. Xiaobing Zhang, who will present on the topic "Central control of feeding motivation for food intake". 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

- **JSAD Photo Library:** The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, a publication of the Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies, is the oldest substance-related journal published in the United States. They offer a database for those who need stock photos related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for use on social media, in news articles, and on websites (or for any other purpose). This is an open-access, public-domain collection containing hundreds of images!

### Rutgers News

- Last chance to enroll in **NIH Grant Writing Virtual Mini-Course!** This virtual mini-course will run for 5 Thursdays (3-4:30 pm EST) for **February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**. This mini-course is intended for novice grant writers planning to submit a K or R grant in the next year. For more information, [click here](#).
- As part of the **Emerging Addiction Science Seminar Series**, hosted by **Rutgers University Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies**, Dr. Joseph Palamar will be giving an in-person presentation titled, **"Investigating the Current Ketamine Landscape in the United States"** on **Thursday, February 8th, 2024** from 12:30-1:30pm EST. Dr. Palamar's research unveils a 350% surge in ketamine seizures by law enforcement from 2017 to 2022, indicating a potential rise in nonmedical and recreational use. The study underscores the risks, including exposure to substances like fentanyl. For more information and registration, [click here](#).

### Opportunities

- **Call for Abstracts and Participants: Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research** - The inaugural Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research 2024 will take place on March 7 (Thursday), 2024 between 9am-4pm at the Busch Campus Student Center. This conference is designed to provide an accessible and authentic scientific presentation platform for PhD students in research-based fields who have no or minimal prior conference experience. Those interested in attending the conference and/or presenting a poster or short talk should fill out the **application form**: <https://forms.office.com/r/Bn2VR5W7xV>. The call for abstracts will end on **February 5<sup>th</sup>**. For general instructions and tips on how to write an effective abstract, [click here](#). Any Questions should be directed to [rising\\_stars@cabm.rutgers.edu](mailto:rising_stars@cabm.rutgers.edu).
- **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](mailto: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](#).
- **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-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](#).
- **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

- [Social Media as Pharmacovigilance: The Potential for Patient Reports to Inform Clinical Research on Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 \(GLP-1\) Receptor Agonists for Substance Use Disorders](#)  
Michael P. Bremmer, Christian S. Hendershot

- [Causation and Common Liability in the Progression of the U.S. Opioid Crisis](#)  
Genevieve F. Dash, William E. Conlin, Rachel P. Winograd
- [Pronounced State-Level Disparities in Medicaid Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder \(2019–2020\)](#)  
Sydney R. Dana, Stephanie D. Nichols, Kenneth L. McCall, Brian J. Piper

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Co-occurring alcohol misuse and criminal offending in adolescence: Is it a matter of similarity, severity or accumulation of risk factors?](#)  
Clas Björklund, Jonas Landberg, Fredrik Sivertsson, and Peter Larm
- [Pain Predicts Dropout from Substance Use Treatment](#)  
Hugh Farrow, Scott Teitelbaum, Ben Phalin, Amanda Janner, Laurie Solomon, Kent Mathias, Jason Hunt, Jeff Boissoneault, and Ben Lewis
- [Comparing Drinking Game Motives, Behaviors, and Consequences among Varsity Athletes, Recreational Athletes, and Non-Student-Athletes: A Multisite University Study](#)  
Byron L. Zamboanga, Jennifer E. Merrill, Amie R. Newins, Janine V. Olthuis, Heidemarie Blumenthal, Kathryne Van Hedger, Lindsay S. Ham, Su Yeong Kim, Jessica K. Perrotte, P. Priscilla Lui, Dennis McChargue, and Brandy Piña-Watson

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!

- **NASEM Health Workshop - Harm Reduction Services for People Who Use Drugs: Exploring Data Collection, Evidence Gaps, and Research Needs**  
**Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

- **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

- [Inheritance' Documentary Explores Generations of Poverty, Trauma and Addiction](#) (WBUR)
- [Researchers Establish Brain Pathway Linking Motivation, Addiction and Disease](#) (Science X Daily)
- [Reduced Drug Use Is a Meaningful Treatment Outcome for People With Stimulant Use Disorders](#) (NIH News Release)

**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)).
- **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.