

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

- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Annual Symposium (April 17th at 1:00 p.m. EST):** We invite you to join us for the Rutgers TARP Annual Symposium at the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) or via Zoom. This event will highlight **keynote speaker Rita Goldstein**, Mount Sinai Professor in Neuroimaging and Addiction at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Additionally, the day will include a trainee lunch with Dr. Goldstein and presentations from our TARP graduate and postdoctoral trainees. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Brain Health Institute Hybrid Plenary Seminar with Helen Mayberg (April 4th at 2:00 p.m.):** Hosted by the JFWG as part of the Rutgers Brain Health Institute Plenary Seminar Series, Dr. Helen S. Mayberg from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai will be speaking on "What is well? Decoding Recovery Signals to Optimize DBS Treatment for Depression". This seminar will take place at the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) or via Zoom. For more information, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Scientific Writing and Communication Resources** - The RARC has curated a list of links designed to support you with both your writing and communicating your research with the public. To view this resource, [click here](#). To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!

RARC DEI Spotlight

- **The Rutgers Health Office of Diversity and Inclusion** is organizing the Rutgers Health Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium, scheduled for **April 17th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. This will be a virtual event. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Shirley Malcom, Senior Advisor and Director of SEA Change at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). For additional information, please [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- **Dr. Lia Nower, RARC Chair of Public Policy and Behavioral Addictions and Director of the Center for Gambling Studies (CGS)**, highlights to ESPN the risks associated with sports leagues partnering with gambling operators, emphasizing that increased accessibility and normalization of betting can lead to higher rates of participation. Dr. Nower advocates for stricter regulations and federal oversight to address these issues, emphasizing the importance of education and awareness among players and personnel in professional sports leagues. For more information, [click here](#).
- A recent study led by **Rutgers researchers**, published in *JAMA Network Open*, shows that patients treated for nonfatal opioid overdose in emergency departments with peer recovery support (OORP) were notably more inclined to initiate medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) compared to those in EDs lacking such support. However, outcomes varied across EDs and over time, suggesting that the effectiveness of ED-based peer recovery support depends on factors like program characteristics and the availability of other substance use disorder services. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Danielle Dick, director of RARC and Professor of Psychiatry at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, shared insights with *The Washington Post* regarding the recently approved DNA test, AvertD. This test is intended to evaluate the genetic risk of opioid addiction by analyzing cheek swabs using an advanced computer algorithm. Despite FDA approval, concerns arise regarding the test's limited genetic analysis and sample size, prompting skepticism about its effectiveness in predicting addiction risks. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **The Rutgers University Molecular Imaging Core (RUMIC) and the Advanced Preclinical Imaging Lab (APIL)** are offering tours throughout the months of March and April 2024. Each tour consists of a brief presentation, providing an overview of the use and capabilities of the Cores, followed by a twitter short demo for each imaging system. Examples of image processing and data analysis will be presented and the application of imaging technology to research will be discussed. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Innovations for Substance Use Disorders: Application for the 2024 cohort is now open!** I4SUD is an executive education certificate program offered to select applicants for free through Johns Hopkins Carey Business School (JHU CBS). The program will enroll 30 researchers who are motivated to solve challenges related to substance use disorders (SUDs). During the program, participants will work individually or with their team to assess if their pharmaceutical, digital health, or medical device-related inventions can be transformed into innovations to address challenges in SUDs. Applications are open now until **June 30, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP):** You can now become board certified in Addiction Psychology under the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)! The ABPP certifies that you have the evidence-based psychological knowledge and skills for evaluating and treating addictive disorders (chemical and behavioral). To learn about the application process and apply, [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](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **PAR-23-122: Research With Activities Related to Diversity (ReWARD) (R01 Clinical Trial Optional):** This program's overarching goal is to enhance the breadth and geographical location of research and research-related activities supported by NIH. The ReWARD program provides support for the health-related research of scientists who are making a significant contribution to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and who have no current NIH research project grant funding. The next application for this program is **June 5, 2024**.
- **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 85/2:

- **[Sober Curiosity and Participation in Temporary Alcohol Abstinence Challenges in a Cohort of U.S. Emerging Adults](#)**
Daniel Siconolfi, Joan S. Tucker, Eric R. Pedersen, Lilian G. Perez, Michael S. Dunbar, Jordan P. Davis, Anthony Rodriguez, Rachana Seelam, Elizabeth J. D'Amico
- **[A Descriptive Analysis of a Popular Pregnancy Forum: Comments on the Developmental Consequences of Cannabis Use on Offspring](#)**
Lauren Micalizzi, Elizabeth R. Aston, Jacqueline Nesi, Dayna Price, Rachel L. Gunn
- **[FRAMES Elements Associated With Alcohol Treatment Research Assessments and Related Behavior Change](#)**
Patrick R. Clifford, Christine M. Davis, Stephen A. Maisto, Robert L. Stout

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- **[Memento Mori: The Problem with Years of Potential Life Lost \(YPLL\) in Addiction Research and Policy](#)**
Matthew Perkins-McVey
- **[Changes in Six Categories of Alcohol-Attributable Mortality From Before to During the Early Phases of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)**
Natalie Sumetsky, Maria Mori Brooks, Jeanine Buchanich, Brooke Molina, and Christina Mair
- **[Examining the Role of Alcohol and Cannabis Use Patterns in Bystander Opportunity and Behavior for Sexual and Relationship Aggression](#)**
Ruschelle M. Leone, Michelle Haikalis, Tiffany L. Marcantonio, Grisel García-Ramírez, K. Nicole Mullican, Lindsay M. Orchowski, Kelly Cue Davis, Debra L. Kaysen, and Amanda K. Gilmore

-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!

- Psychiatry Grand Rounds with Drs. Hugick and Peesapati – Psychedelics focused talks**
Tuesday, April 2nd at 11:00 a.m. EST
 Please join virtually for the Department of Psychiatry’s next Grand Rounds session featuring Dr. Mark Hugick, presenting on the topic “MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy: Hope for Those Suffering from Treatment-Resistant PTSD”. The session will also feature Dr. Anantharam Peesapati, presenting on the topic, “Psilocybin-Assisted Psychotherapy for Treatment-Resistant Depression”. For more information, [click here](#).
- 10th Annual New York City Epidemiology Forum**
Thursday, April 4th
 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](#).
- NJ ACTS Special Populations Seminar with Dr. Charles J. Neighbors: “NYU-HEAL: Academic-Public Partnership to Improve Quality of Care for People with Substance Use Disorders”**
Tuesday, April 16th at 12:00 p.m. EST
 The NYU Health Evaluation and Analytics Lab (NYU-HEAL) is an academic-public partnership that employs research to support improvements to the system of care for individuals with substance use disorders in New York. The initiative uses mixed methods that combine analyses of statewide administrative data (e.g., Medicaid) with qualitative interviews of system stakeholders. The seminar will give an overview of NYU-HEAL and examples of how the partnership informs state policy initiatives. For more information, [click here](#).
- NIH F-Series Fellowship Grant Writing Workshop**
Tuesday, April 16th at 12:00 p.m. EST
 Co-hosted by Rutgers Health, Rutgers School of Graduate Studies, and NJ ACTS this workshop will provide workshop will provide an overview of the basic components of a NIH NRSA Fellowship application. All interested students and Postdocs are welcome to attend this in-person session in Piscataway, NJ, at EOHSI (Room C). For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Taking 'Study Drugs' Like Adderall Could Be Gateway to More Drug Abuse](#) (U.S. News)
- [Canadian Schools Sue Meta, ByteDance and Snap Over Social Media Addiction](#) (Yahoo! Finance)
- [New Plan To Reduce Swindon Drug-Related Deaths Shared](#) (BBC)

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).

- **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](#).