

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

- **Rutgers Addiction Research Center Headlined Rutgers Today!** At RARC, we're revolutionizing strategies for preventing and treating addiction through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach. Watch this video to discover how our experts are tackling substance use disorders from every angle, [click here](#).
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Dr. Mathieu Wimmer (March 12th 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 presenting, "*Exploring mechanisms underlying addiction vulnerability using multigenerational animal models of substance use.*" All TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators are invited. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Interest Group on Cannabis (March 12th 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 rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu for the meeting details.
- **SciComm x Community Engagement: Exploring Principles and Practices (March 27th at 12:00 p.m.):** Join us for an upcoming workshop led by the RARC Science Communication Workgroup, featuring presenters Alexandria Bauer and Devon Ziminski. Together, they will explore interdisciplinary training and fundamental skills in community-engaged science communication and research. Participants can expect to gain practical insights, tips, and additional resources to enhance their involvement in community engagement, both within and beyond the Rutgers community. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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. Submit all materials by **March 15, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Rutgers University Libraries Announce Open Access Agreement with Elsevier** – Rutgers announced a historic, transformative open-access partnership with Elsevier, a global leader in information, scientific research, and analytics. The five-year arrangement managed by the Rutgers University Libraries (RUL) will provide the Rutgers community with read access to over 4,600 journals, and enabling Rutgers researchers to publish in 1,700 hybrid journals without incurring Article Processing Charges (APCs). For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- Ongoing discussion revolves around Zyn, a nicotine pouch product, raising concerns about its allure to underage users. **Ollie Ganz**, from **Rutgers School of Public Health**, underscores the emergence of an online subculture surrounding Zyn, particularly driven by younger males. While certain experts express apprehensions regarding the possibility of Zyn appealing to teenagers, others contend that it could aid adults in shifting away from conventional tobacco products. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) Center for Integrated Care (CIC)** has been awarded nearly \$2.6 million in federal grants to enhance training programs for behavioral health clinicians and healthcare practitioners in integrated care and substance use disorder treatment. The collaboration, including **Rutgers New Jersey Medical School** and **Rutgers School of Social Work**, underscores the commitment to addressing the complex needs of individuals and families affected by substance use disorders and chronic medical conditions in New Jersey communities. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies** is thrilled to invite you to mark your calendars for their **11th Annual Scholar Virtual Poster Session**, scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, from 10 am to 12 pm. While the Poster Session itself will be held virtually, they are excited to announce an in-person awards ceremony and reception taking place from 1 pm to 2 pm. Abstract submissions are currently open until April 12, 2024. Don't miss the opportunity to showcase your research and insights. For more detailed information and to submit your abstract please, [click here](#).
- A new study conducted by researchers from **Rutgers Institute for Nicotine & Tobacco Studies** explores recent sales and pricing trends across various tobacco products, revealing a shift towards a more diverse marketplace with emerging products like modern oral nicotine (MON) showing significant growth and stability in pricing. The findings underscore the importance of policies such as taxation and minimum pack sizes to discourage the use of more harmful products like cigarettes and cigars, particularly among vulnerable populations. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **Study opportunity announcement:** Seeking participants for a paid research study looking at differences in learning between adults who do and do not smoke cigarettes! If interested, you can check out [this survey](#) to see if you might be eligible to participate. This study opportunity

announcement is sent on behalf of Drs. Teresa Leyro and Samantha Farris. To speak with someone from their team directly call 732-570-0905 or email abusa@psych.rutgers.edu. For more information, [click here](#).

- **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](#).

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:

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [The Interplay of Local- and State-Level Alcohol Policies in the US](#)
Kathleen M. Lenk, Natalie Scholz, Daniel Schriemer, Traci L. Toomey, Darin J. Erickson, Rhonda Jones-Webb, and Toben F. Nelson
- [Digital alcohol and cannabis ads, consumption frequency, and driving under the influence](#)
Jonathan K. Noel, Samantha R. Rosenthal, Zachery C. Edwards, and Kaiden A. Palmieri
- [World Health Organization Risk Drinking Levels Among Mandated College Students: Associations with Alcohol Use, Mental Health, and Academic Performance](#)
Allecia E. Reid, Grace Y. Cho, Kate B. Carey, and Katie Witkiewitz
- [The Association of Alcohol Outlet Density with Alcohol Intake: The Multiethnic Cohort](#)
Nicholas Acuna, Salma Shariff-Marco, Anna H. Wu, Dan Meltzer, Pushkar Inamdar, Tiffany Lim, Loïc

Le Marchand, Christopher A. Haiman, Lynne R. Wilkens, Iona Cheng, and Veronica Wendy Setiawan

- [Longitudinal effects of military separation and mental health symptomatology on substance use among a cohort of reservists](#)
Bonnie M. Vest, Rachel A. Hoopsick, D. Lynn Homish, Jessica A. Kulak, and Gregory G. Homish
- [How much THC is in that joint? A daily diary study of young adults' knowledge of the cannabinoid content of cannabis products](#)
Sophie G. Coelho, Christian S. Hendershot, Nicolle Fox, and Jeffrey D. Wardell

-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!

- **NeC-ROTAC Virtual Training - Rural Communities, Substance Use, and the Social Determinants of Health**
Wednesday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m. EST
The workshop, hosted by the *Northeast and Caribbean Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center* (NeC-ROTAC), aims to tackle the rising substance use issues in rural areas and analyze their broader societal impact. Through discussions on various social determinants of health and community assessment methods, attendees will explore ways to understand and access resources to support affected community members. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NeC-ROTAC Virtual Training - Person-Centered Care: Applications in Methadone Maintenance Treatment and Outpatient Program Settings**
Friday, March 13th at 2:00 p.m. EST
Hosted by the *Northeast and Caribbean Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center* (NeC-ROTAC), this workshop will define person-centered care and the application of this approach from the beginning of treatment to the end stage in outpatient settings. Participants will also learn the key components of OASAS standards of documentation of person-centered care in the treatment record of clients under their care. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NJ ACTS Special Populations Seminar with Dr. Daniel Myran: "Changes in Healthcare Visits Due to Cannabis Use Following Legalization of Non-medical Cannabis in Canada"**
Wednesday, March 27th at 12:00 p.m. EST
NJ ACTS Special Populations Core 2024 Seminar Series is hosting Dr. Daniel Myran to review studies tracking changes in healthcare visits due to cannabis in children and adults following non-medical cannabis legalization in Canada. 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](#).

- **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

- [How the U.S. Is Sabotaging Its Best Tools To Prevent Deaths in the Opioid Epidemic](#) (STAT News)
- [They Rarely Ask for Pain Pills Now— Reflections on medical policy, DEA permits, and the fentanyl crisis](#) (Medpage Today)
- [Hundreds of Thousands of US Infants Every Year Pay the Consequences of Prenatal Exposure to Drugs, a Growing Crisis Particularly in Rural America](#) (The Conversation)
- [Deaths from Excessive Alcohol Use in the United States](#) (CDC)

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).
- **Are you a student seeking training opportunities and research experiences?** The RARC has compiled a list of labs seeking students and may have opportunities at the undergraduate, medical, or graduate level. To view student research opportunities, [click here](#).