

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

- **RARC SciComm x Community Engagement Workshop Recording on YouTube:** In case you missed it, the latest Science Communication workshop recording is now available on the RARC YouTube channel. Presenters Alexandria Bauer and Devon Ziminski delve into interdisciplinary training and fundamental skills in community-engaged science communication and research. To watch the recording, [click here](#).
- The RARC is partnering with the **RWJBarnabas Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR)** to establish a streamlined process for enhanced collaboration among Rutgers researchers who want to partner with RWJBarnabas to analyze substance use disorder outcome data and/or implement new studies in the health system. Researchers can access existing data, collect new data, and drive innovative solutions to addiction. Monthly meetings are starting for interested Rutgers researchers to discuss project ideas and opportunities. To join these meetings, email rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu. To learn more about IFPR's ongoing substance use disorder related programming and the process to partner on research, [click here](#).
- The RARC recently launched the **Research Community Partnership (RCP)**, a central enrollment hub for community members to participate in Rutgers research projects, and for researchers to recruit for their studies. We are currently piloting the partnership with clients at University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC), with plans to expand open enrollment in the RCP to other Rutgers clinical services and community treatment centers in the future. Learn more about the partnership, or sign up now, at addictionresearch.rutgers.edu.

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **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.

RARC DEI Spotlight

- **Rutgers RWJMS Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA):** Established in 1996, the RWJMS Office of Multicultural Affairs mission and goals are to assist students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School by preparing them to become competent, compassionate, culturally aware and sensitive physicians in our increasingly diverse society. OMA sponsors and supports educational and cultural programs to enhance awareness of and sensitivity to race, gender, religion, ethnicity and culture and to promote culturally competent health care as well as respect for all communities. For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- **Dr. Jon-Patrick Allem**, an associate professor at the **Rutgers School of Public Health** and the **Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, and a core member of the **Rutgers Institute for Nicotine & Tobacco Studies**, highlights how tobacco companies target young people through diverse marketing tactics, including social media and entertainment platforms, to normalize tobacco use. He emphasizes that increased awareness and education on tobacco-related digital media literacy are crucial to counter these influences and safeguard adolescent health. For more information, [click here](#).
- A recent study published in *JAMA Network Open*, led by **Dr. Peter Treitler** from the **Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research**, examined 12,046 individuals treated for opioid overdose in emergency departments (EDs), finding that the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP), an ED-based peer recovery support service, significantly increased the initiation of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) within 60 days post-discharge and reduced repeat medically treated overdoses over time. However, the effectiveness of the program varied widely across hospitals, suggesting that outcomes may depend on factors such as the success of implementation, hospital integration, and the availability of other support services. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **NJAMHAA Issues Call for Presentations for its Fall Behavioral Health Conference 2024: Innovate, Integrate, and Illuminate:** NJAMHAA is now accepting proposals to present at its Fall Behavioral Health Conference 2024, which will be taking place on October 22, 2024, at the

DoubleTree by Hilton in Princeton, NJ. If you have expertise in any area related to mental health and addiction treatment, this is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with other professionals in the field. To access the speaker application and for more information, [click here](#).

- **New Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies Clinical Research Opportunities in NIDA's Clinical Trials Network:** We are excited to announce that Rutgers [Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies](#) hopes to be a formal partner in the prestigious [NIDA Clinical Trials Network \(CTN\)](#), marking a significant milestone in our commitment to advancing addiction research and treatment. As someone deeply involved with the CTN for over two decades ([Denise Hien](#)), particularly in leading a multisite study on trauma and addiction, we are excited about the prospects for the Rutgers Addictions community that this collaboration brings. Rutgers' partnership in the renewal of the [Greater NY Node](#) (at NYU and Columbia University Psychiatry Depts), alongside major partners like Montefiore, promises to open avenues for us to engage with the CTN. This includes opportunities to participate in funded research projects through the CCTN funding mechanisms, as well as the ability to develop and propose community engaged, unsolicited concepts for consideration. We will be notifying folks over time about these kinds of opportunities. For details about our first opportunity and to view the full announcement [click here](#)
- **Neuroendocrinology Graduate Course – Fall 2024:** Dr. Dipak K. Sarkar, director of the Endocrinology Program and distinguished professor in the Department of Animal Sciences is offering a graduate course in Neuroendocrinology in the upcoming fall semester. The course provides a comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of the interrelationships between the central nervous system and the endocrine system in the mammal. For more information and to view the course syllabus, [click here](#).
- **Request for Applications (RFA): Learning Health System Scholars Training Program:** The LHS Scholars Training Program aims to cultivate a new generation of leaders in Learning Health Systems (LHS) Science by providing comprehensive education, training, mentorship, and career development opportunities tailored to the professional interests of embedded investigators, clinicians, and health system personnel. Their goal is to nurture LHS Scholars who will contribute to academia, industry, and government. To learn about the program, [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](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **Call for Applications: \$50,000 Prizes for Immigrant Scientists:** The Vilcek Foundation is accepting applications for the 2025 Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science. In 2025, the Foundation will award three prizes of \$50,000 to immigrant and foreign-born research scientists living and working in the United States. To be eligible candidates must hold a PhD, and be employed full time in a research capacity as a principal investigator. Candidates must have been born outside of the United States to non-American parents, and must have lived in the United States for at least 4 years. Prizewinners are selected for the scientific rigor of their work, and for the impact of their work in their respective field of study. Eligible scientists are encouraged to apply by **June 10, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **PAR-23-244: Population Approaches to Reducing Alcohol-related Cancer Risk:** This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) aims to support research on interdisciplinary population approaches to increasing awareness of the relationship between alcohol and cancer risk, understanding and changing social norms related to alcohol consumption, and developing and/or evaluating alcohol policy approaches. Further, it calls for the development, testing, and implementation of population-level interventions to reduce alcohol-related cancer risk. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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 85/3:

- [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, Peter Larm
- [Pain Predicts Dropout From Substance Use Treatment](#)
Hugh Farior, Scott Teitelbaum, Ben Phalin, Amanda Janner, Laurie Solomon, Kent Mathias, Jason Hunt, Jeff Boissoneault, Ben Lewis
- [How Does Parental Monitoring Reduce Adolescent Substance Use? Preliminary Tests of Two Potential Mechanisms](#)
William E. Pelham III, Susan F. Tapert, Marybel R. Gonzalez, Uzoma Ahiarakwe, Herry Patel, Isabella S. Davis, Alejandro D. Meruelo, Amandine M. Van Rinsveld, Andrew T. Marshall, Anthony Steven Dick, Mathieu Guillaume, Gayathri J. Dowling, Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Sandra A. Brown

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- **[Substance Use and Discrimination in a Sample of U.S.-based Latinx Sexual Minority Men and Their Main Partners](#)**
Gabriel Robles, Addam Reynolds, Roxanna S. Ast, and Tyrel Starksz
- **[Test Purchasing of Same Day and Rapid Online Alcohol Home Delivery in two Australian Jurisdictions](#)**
Kerri Coomber, Ryan Baldwin, Chanelle Wilson, Louise McDonald, Nicholas Taylor, Sarah Callinan, Claire Wilkinson, John W Toumbourou, Tanya Chikritzhs, and Peter G Miller

-Follow JSAD on [LinkedIn](#) and on Twitter/Facebook/Threads/Instagram: **@JSADjournal**

-For JSAD's free photo database of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug images, visit:

<https://www.jsad.com/photos>

Save the Dates!

- **2024 NCCIH Cannabinoid Research Principal Investigators Meeting: Exploring the Mechanisms Underlying Analgesic Properties of Minor Cannabinoids and Terpenes**
Tuesday, June 4th at 9:00 a.m. ET
The overall goals of this National Institutes of Health (NIH) meeting are to convene principal investigators funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) and other NIH Institutes and Centers on the topic of the analgesic properties of minor cannabinoids and terpenes from natural products and their underlying mechanisms, as well as to discuss current research barriers and opportunities in cannabinoid research considering recent regulation and legislation changes. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NJPN Webinar – Play and Protect: Female Athletes & Opioids**
Thursday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. ET
The New Jersey prevention Network is hosting a free webinar to explore high school and college female athletics with a focus on mental health and opioids. Topics discussed will include available resources to prevent opioid use disorder and evidence-based strategies to reduce youth and young adult opioid use, as well as common risk and protective factors regarding opioid prescribing and high school and college girl's and women's sports. The webinar will also discuss the importance of naloxone availability, where/how to access it, and upcoming potential policy changes and opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).
- **GSAPP Webinar - Opioid Addiction and Its Treatment: What Every Psychotherapist Needs to Know**
Friday, June 7th at 9:00 a.m. ET
This presentation will describe the scope and consequences of opioid use; the clinical

pharmacology of opioid drugs, clinical assessment and diagnosis, individualized treatment planning, medications for treating opioid use disorders (including buprenorphine and naltrexone), and a client-centered psychotherapeutic approach that integrates evidence-based behavioral and pharmacological interventions within a harm reduction framework. For more information, [click here](#).

- **NAADAC Zoom Training – Romancing the Brain: Conflict Resolution for Recovery (CRR) Thursday and Friday, June 13-14th at 12:00 p.m. ET**

Join NAADAC Executive Consultant Cynthia Moreno Tuohy, for a two-day virtual Zoom training from 12:00pm ET to 7:00pm ET on June 13 – 14, 2024. The virtual CRR training is a two-day therapeutic training that is skill-based and focused on the brain, including how the brain works in conflict and strategies to affect the quality of recovery in relationships. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Prenatal Opioid Exposure Could Have Long-Term Impact on Immune System](#) (Contemporary Pediatrics)
- [Psychedelic Drug-Induced Hyperconnectivity in the Brain Helps Clarify Altered Subjective Experiences](#) (Science Daily)

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).
- **New Jersey Department of Health New Jersey Overdose Data Dashboard** - Did you know this dashboard uses interactive data visualizations to display opioid and other drug-related overdose indicators for public health practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and the public? Leverage the data for grant submissions, publications, and informed decision-making!