

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](#).
- **RARC Recruitment Candidate Virtual Seminar with Dr. David Root (April 18th at 1:00 p.m. EST):** Please save the date for a virtual research presentation by David Root, a recruitment candidate for a faculty position in the area of Basic/Translational Science at the RARC, entitled "*Untangling dopamine, GABA, and glutamate in the VTA*". For more information, [click here](#).
- **Visit the RARC Table at Rutgers Day (April 27th at 10:00 a.m. EST):** Don't miss this opportunity to learn and engage with the RARC at this year's Rutgers Day on Busch Campus. Challenge yourself with our trivia game, "Friendly Family Fun Facts," to test your knowledge of current substance use and behavioral addiction trends. Take advantage of the opportunity to collect valuable educational resources and guides on drug and alcohol awareness to bring home with you. Stay tuned for more details!
- **RARC Year in Review and Social Event (Friday, May 10th at 4:00 p.m. EST):** Please save the date for an evening of food and drinks at the Rutgers Addiction Research Center's annual Year in Review and Social Event, held at the Rutgers Club. This gathering presents a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow colleagues from Rutgers engaged in addiction research, as well as our clinical and community partners. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Mock Grant Review Program:** We are excited to announce our revamped Mock Grant Review Program, now open on a rolling basis! The primary objective of this program is to increase the success of grant proposals submitted to NIH by Rutgers investigators connected to the BHI and/or the RARC. For more information, [click here](#).

- **BHI and CAHBIR New Pilot Funding:** The Brain Health Institute and Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research are pleased to announce the availability of funds for pilot grants. Separate mechanisms are available for RU-NB and RBHS faculty. The application due date is **April 30th, 2024**. Please see the RFP for details, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Appointments with Health Sciences Librarians:** Did you know that if you have research inquiries or require in-depth assistance from the library, you have the option to [Ask a Librarian](#) through chat or email. Additionally, you can request a [Systematic Review Consultation](#) and/or schedule an online meeting with a Health Sciences librarian at a time that suits your schedule! To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!

RARC DEI Spotlight

- The [Rutgers-Newark Honors Living-Learning Community](#) creates a culture of inclusion by fostering a diverse and collaborative environment where students, faculty, and staff can learn from each other's perspectives, experiences, and aspirations.

Rutgers News

- **Dr. Morgan James**, an executive board member of the RARC and assistant professor of psychiatry at **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** has teamed up with Vanessa Zhang, a local high school student, to build a machine-learning approach for screening current and existing drugs to determine which have the potential to become effective treatments for addiction-related disorders. For more information, [click here](#).
- A huge congratulations to **Manny Alvarez**, an RARC trainee and graduate student in Neuroscience at **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, for earning a NIDA Diversity Scholars Travel Award. Manny, recognized alongside another awardee, was showcased in the NIDA Office of Research Training, Diversity, and Disparities' Monthly Newsletter. The feature included an interview discussing his experience at the 2023 Society for Neuroscience conference. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Jessica Salvatore**, an associate professor in the department of psychiatry and director of the Genes, Environments, and Neurodevelopment in Addictions program at **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**, emphasizes alcohol's health risks to *Yahoo Life* and recommends moderation. Additionally, experts suggest strategies like portion control, savoring favorite drinks in moderation, exploring nonalcoholic alternatives, and setting goals to gradually reduce consumption, emphasizing patience and self-compassion in the process. For more information, [click here](#).
- A warm congratulations to **Dr. Petros Levounis**, chair of the **NJMS Department of Psychiatry**, for being honored with the 2024 John P. McGovern Award on Addiction and Society. This award recognizes individuals who have made strides in public policy, treatment, education, research, or

prevention.

Opportunities

- **Shared Instrumentation Grant / Small Animal Irradiator – Users Needed:** To upgrade and extend RUMIC/CMR services, they are submitting an S10 grant (Shared Instrumentation Grant, SIG, due June 1) to support the purchase of an irradiator to replace an existing outdated unit. The new irradiator will be able to deliver focused radiation to tumors/organs of rats and mice and can administer metered whole-body radiation to induce immunosuppression or to evaluate the efficacy of radiation-mitigating agents. RUMIC/CMR invites your participation as a major or minor user of the system. Contributors to the application will be able to utilize their support services to arrange and conduct exposures. If this opportunity aligns with your research interests, please reach out to Executive Director, Ed Yurkow (yurkow@vpr.rutgers.edu) to discuss your project, and explore potential collaborations.
- **Call for Proposal 2024 Opioid Summit:** DMHAS is holding its fifth annual Opioid Summit to address the stigma and misinformation surrounding Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and to enhance the understanding of harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery options. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 through a virtual platform. The Summit aims to provide various stakeholders the opportunity to participate in panels and breakout sessions that assist individuals with navigating addiction and recovery pathways. **Submission Deadline: May 1, 2024.** 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-23-244: 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 85/2:

- [Relationships Between Alcohol and Cannabis Policies in U.S. States, 1999–2019](#)
Timothy S. Naimi, Marlene C. Lira, Seema Choksy Pessar, Rosanna Smart, Jason Blanchette, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula
- [Emotion Dysregulation Is Associated With Increased Problem Cannabis Use Among Emerging Adults During COVID-19](#)
Nina Pocuca, Erinn Acland, Marie-Claude Geoffroy, Massimiliano Orri, Nicholas Chadi, Jean R. Séguin, Sophie Parent, Michel Boivin, Richard E. Tremblay, Sylvana M. Côté, Natalie Castellanos-Ryan
- [Cross-Substance Associations With Transitions in Cannabis and Nicotine Use in a Statewide Sample of Young Adults in Washington State](#)
Charles B. Fleming, Miranda L. M. Delawalla, Isaac C. Rhew, Jason R. Kilmer, Mary Larimer, Katarina Guttmannova

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [A Perspective on Psychedelics as Treatments for Addictions: Past, Present, and Future](#)
David Nutt, Celia Morgan, and Sukhpreet Klaire
- [Order of Cannabis and Alcohol Use on Pregaming and Non-Pregaming Days Among College Students](#)
Eric R. Pedersen, Reagan Fitzke, Toni Atieh, Denise D. Tran, Jordan P. Davis, Rachel L. Gunn, Lauren Micalizzi, and Mark Prince
- [Event-Level Drinking Intentions, Social Drinking Contexts, and Motives Affect Alcohol Consumption Among Same-Sex Female Couples](#)
Megan Strowger, Abby L. Braitman, and Robin J. Lewis

JSAD FastTakes

- [Clinical reports suggest diabetes and obesity drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy may reduce addictive behavior](#)

-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!

- **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. EDT
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. EDT
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](#).
- **I4SUD Webinar – Elements of a Commercialization Plan: A Primer**
Tuesday, April 16th at 12:00 p.m. EDT
Hosted by Innovations for Substance Use Disorders, this webinar entrepreneurship expert Dr. Phil Phan as he explores the essential components necessary for a successful commercialization plan. If you are an academic researcher and have thought about making an impact using your innovative solutions, join us to learn how to navigate the complexities of bringing a product to market. From market analysis to distribution channels and funding strategies to marketing tactics, Dr. Phan will provide invaluable insights and practical tips to help you navigate the path to commercial success. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies Annual Scholar Virtual Poster Session**
Thursday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m. EDT
ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE April 12, 2024
The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies invites you to our 11th Annual Scholar Virtual Poster Session on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, from 10 am - 12pm. We are accepting abstracts through Friday, April 12, 2024. This is a great opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students, post-baccalaureate research staff, and post-doctoral fellows to share their latest work, as well as to interact with students and faculty from multiple disciplines. Posters will be judged by expert CAS research team and awards for outstanding posters will be given. Abstract submissions are currently accepted until April 12, 2024. To submit your abstract, [click here](#). For full details and to register to

attend [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Young Adults Who Started Vaping As Teens Still Can't Shake the Habit](#) (NPR)
- [No, a Jail Is Not an Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facility](#) (MedPage Today)

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).
- **Working with the Media:** Did you know that R-Comm offers direct support to Rutgers-New Brunswick and RBHS researchers looking to publicize their research using multiple forms of media to bring their research to new audiences, advance their careers, and promote their departments, schools and centers? To view this resource, [click here](#). To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!