

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

- **Visit the RARC Table at Rutgers Day (April 27th at 10:00 a.m. EST):** Don't miss out on the chance to learn and engage with the RARC at this year's Rutgers Day on Busch Campus, Health Village! Test your knowledge of current substance use and behavioral addiction trends with our trivia game, "Friendly Family Fun Facts." Grab valuable educational resources and guides on drug and alcohol awareness to take home with you. Also, be sure to check out other participating programs including the **BHI Postdoctoral Alliance Working Group**, the **Division of Addiction Psychiatry**, the **Center for Psychiatric Health and Genomics**, the **Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology**, **Rutgers Project ECHO**, the **Rutgers Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine**, and much more!
- **RARC Distinguished Guest Presentation with Jeff Brown, Executive Director of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (NJCRC) (May 9th at 1:00 p.m. EST):** Hosted by the RARC Interest Group on Cannabis, this presentation features Jeff Brown, as he provides insights into NJCRC initiatives and explores avenues for research and collaboration. Following the presentation, there will be a networking session for attendees to exchange ideas, expand connections, and explore opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Year in Review and Social Event (May 10th at 4:00 p.m. EST):** Please join us 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](#).
- **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

- [Rutgers Communications and Marketing](#) (R-Comm) provides direct support to Rutgers-New Brunswick and RBHS researchers seeking to publicize their research through various media channels, aiming to reach new audiences, advance their careers, and promote their departments, schools, and centers. R-Comm has developed a series of Media Training slides; you can access them [here](#).

RARC DEI Spotlight

- A new study, led by RARC researcher, **Dr. Sarah Brislin**, published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, underscores the disproportionate exposure of Black youth to school exclusionary discipline and police contact. The study demonstrates that Black youth, particularly Black males, experience disciplinary actions at younger ages and are at higher risk for receiving increasingly severe disciplinary measures compared to White youth, even after controlling for delinquency, sex, and neighborhood factors. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Health-IDEA Grants program** for innovations in inclusion, diversity, equity, and advocacy. Faculty, staff, students, and trainees are encouraged to apply. The mission of the RH-IDEA innovation grants is to support action-oriented projects that promote an inclusive, diverse, and cohesive culture at Rutgers Health. **Proposals are due on May 24th**. For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- With sports betting now legalized in 38 states, including D.C., the industry has seen rapid growth, with Americans betting over \$220 billion on sports by the five-year anniversary of the decision. **Dr. Lia Nower**, director of the **Center for Gambling Studies**, highlights to *National Geographic*, the accessibility of gambling through smartphones, emphasizing the shift from traditional venues like casinos to online platforms, which has contributed to concerns about increased addiction, especially among youth. For more information, [click here](#).
- A **Rutgers Health** study finds that quitting smoking during pregnancy may lead to increased complications related to weight gain and blood pressure, but the benefits outweigh the risks. Their study, published in *Hypertension*, analyzed over 22 million pregnancies and found that quitting smoking reduced the risk of stillbirth by more than 80% and lowered the rate of preterm delivery. The researchers recommend offering nutrition counseling to minimize weight gain while encouraging smoking cessation to ensure parents and babies benefit from improved pregnancy outcomes. For more information, [click here](#).
- According to the latest **Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**, with the **Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey**, most New Jerseyans are familiar with the storage and disposal of opioids and other medications. Less than 3 in 10 report that they or a family member has been prescribed opioids for pain medication in the past two years, marking a decline since 2018. Despite increased awareness, nearly 4 in 10 New Jerseyans report having a family member or close friend who is or has been addicted to drugs, with disparities across income levels and education backgrounds. For more information, [click](#)

[here.](#)

Opportunities

- **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.](#)
- **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

- **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:

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Alcohol effects on drivers' speed management: The influence of visual performance and road complexity](#)
Miriam Casares-López, José Juan Castro-Torres, Sonia Ortiz-Peregrina, Francesco Martino, Pilar Granados-Delgado, and Luis Jiménez del Barco
- [Development of a personalized feedback intervention targeting pain-related anxiety for adults reporting hazardous drinking and chronic Pain: A randomized controlled trial](#)

Andrew H. Rogers, Clayton Neighbors, Jaye L. Derrick, and Michael J. Zvolensky

- [**Motherhood and drinking: The relative importance of mental health and psychosocial factors on maternal alcohol misuse during the postpartum period**](#)
Katrina Prior, Monique Piggott, Sally Hunt, Victoria Vanstone, Clare McCormack, Nicola C. Newton, Maree Teesson, Louise Birrell, Stephanie Kershaw, Louise Thornton, and Lexine A. Stapinski

-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!

- **RUSSW & NeC-ROTAC Webinar – Breaking the Cycle in Salem County: Substance Use and its Generational Impact**
Tuesday, April 30th at 10:00 a.m. EST
Please join for the April Community Conversation, which explores the broader context of substance use and young parents in Salem County. With a focus on families, this virtual conversation aims to unpack Salem County’s maternal and family health outcomes and substance use among young parents while promoting strength-based protective factors. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Psychiatry Grand Rounds featuring Sade Frazier and Cecilia Vigil - "Hypnotic Agents & Controlled Substance: Best Practices in Correctional Setting" and “Working within the Walls”**
Tuesday, April 30th at 11:00 a.m. EST
The Rutgers Departments of Psychiatry invite you to join their special Grand Rounds sessions featuring their senior residents as presenters. Next up, Drs. Sade Frazier and Cecilia Vigil will present "Hypnotic Agents & Controlled Substance: Best Practices in Correctional Setting" and “Working within the Walls”. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Whose Knowledge? Cyberbotany and the Quest for Epistemic Justice in Psychedelic Research Webinar featuring Dr. Joanna Kempner**
Thursday, May 2nd at 12:30 p.m. EST
Please join the Borghesi-Mellon Psychedelic Past, Presents & Futures Workshop Group for a presentation with Dr. Joanna Kempner. Cyberbotany, or the digital ethnobotanical study, leverages the wealth of experiential data available within online communities to understand the use of psychedelic substances. This approach circumvents the legal and logistical barriers to traditional research by tapping into the vast, yet often overlooked, reservoir of knowledge generated in digital spaces. For more information, [click here](#).
- **2024 Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC)**
Thursday, May 30th at 9:00 a.m. EST
The Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC) focuses on learning and sharing latest research findings, advancing medical marijuana research and promoting the dissemination of scientific evidence on the effects of marijuana, drug-drug interactions and safety. CCORC connects researchers, physicians, and medical marijuana industry leaders to promote the understanding of

medical marijuana use on health. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Complications From Alcohol Use Are Rising Among Women](#) (The New York Times)
- [Young Adults Who Started Vaping As Teens Still Can't Shake the Habit](#) (NPR)

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).
- **Research With Rutgers University Portal:** Research at Rutgers is at the cutting edge of science and technology. To stimulate new research partnerships that drive the economic engine for progress, this innovative tool allows you to search our expansive research network for available expertise, competencies, and capabilities in STEM-related fields across Rutgers University. To view this resource, [click here](#). To check out our other addiction-related resources, [click here](#)!