

# 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](mailto:ricki.arvesen@rutgers.edu)).

## RARC News

- **Now Hiring: Multiple Research Positions Available in the Rabinowitz Lab.** RARC Member and Assistant Dr. Jill Rabinowitz has open research positions contributing to multiple projects that broadly focus on understanding genetic factors and environments that play a role in substance use onset and the development of a substance use disorders. Please pass along this opportunity to anyone you think may be interested and a good fit. 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 e. Submit all materials by March 15, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).

## RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Are you looking to hire a postdoc?** A coalition of postdoc offices from 17 institutions, its majority Big Ten institutions, has created the [Postdoc Opportunities Board](#) to promote postdoc recruitment. You may use this free resource to recruit exceptional candidates for your open positions.

## Rutgers News

- Huge congratulations to two students in **Anna Konova's** Addiction & Decision Neuroscience Lab who recently received outstanding awards; **Manny Alvarez**, a PhD student in Neuroscience, for receiving a predoctoral NRSA (NIDA F31) award to study the neural mechanisms for how people maintain biased beliefs about drug use, and **Josh Stuckey**, a post-bac in the lab, for receiving a NIDA Diversity Supplement to study how cumulative and periodic life stress shapes tolerance to uncertainty in opioid addiction.
- Huge congratulations to RARC Chair, **Morgan James** from **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** and **Troy Roepke** from **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences** on being awarded a multi-principal investigator (MPI) R21 grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH-NIEHS)! This grant will support their research project titled "The orexin system as a novel mediator of depression-like outcomes in female rats exposed to an

endocrine disrupting compound during the peripubertal period”. For more information, [click here](#).

- Rutgers received two new grants exceeding \$7 million to study misinformation surrounding a proposed ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, focusing on how it affects Black and Hispanic smokers. Led by **Kymerle Sterling**, from the **Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies** and the **School of Public Health**, researchers will analyze community perceptions, develop counter-messaging strategies, and monitor tobacco industry responses. For more information, [click here](#).
- A new study led by researchers from **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** found that quitting smoking during pregnancy reduces stillbirth risk but may increase weight gain and hypertensive disorders. The findings encourage that pregnant women counseled to quit smoking should also receive counseling on nutrition and exercise to prevent excessive gestational weight gain. For more information, [click here](#).
- Research spearheaded by **Myriam Casseus** from **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** reveals a concerning link between disabilities, depression, and vaping addiction among young individuals aged 12 to 25. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions in this vulnerable population. For more information, [click here](#).
- Researchers from **Rutgers School of Dental Medicine** conducted a pilot study on 50 patients undergoing third molar extraction surgery, with results showing that acetaminophen and ibuprofen combination pain medications were more effective than hydrocodone-containing opioids in managing post-operative pain. This breakthrough paved the way to a \$11.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, for further research on non-opioid alternatives. For more information, [click here](#).
- Researchers from **Rutgers School of Dental Medicine** found that discovered that CBD, a non-addictive derivative of marijuana, effectively reduces acute dental pain, as highlighted in the *Journal of Dental Research*. This groundbreaking finding suggests CBD could be a safer alternative to opioid painkillers commonly prescribed for dental pain, potentially offering relief without the risk of addiction. For more information, [click here](#).
- A recently accepted study in the *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, co-authored by **RARC Director, Danielle Dick**, explores how involvement with the criminal legal system and age impact substance use and academic outcomes among students in collegiate recovery programs across the US. The findings underscore the importance of identifying these students and providing services to aid in their successful matriculation through higher education. For more information, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

- **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 our 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. Our 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](#).
- **HHMI Opens \$1.5M National Competition for Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program** - The Hanna H. Gray Fellows program seeks to increase diversity in the professoriate by supporting early career researchers who show exceptional promise of becoming academic scientists, which includes the potential to build and contribute to an equitable and inclusive scientific culture. Application deadline ends **February 28, 2024**. Any postdoctoral fellows that are interested can reach out to Hailey Lemasters ([hailey.lemasters@rutgersfoundation.org](mailto:hailey.lemasters@rutgersfoundation.org)). 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: February 14, 2024; 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 85/1

- [Examining Alcohol-Related Blackouts and Drinking Motives Over Time Among College Women](#)  
Rose Marie Ward, Rachel Geyer, Michael Cleveland, Emory Perlman, Terri Messman
- [Self-Reported Substance Use With Clinician Interviewers Versus Self-Administered Surveys](#)  
Lauren Gorfinkel, Malki Stohl, Dvora Shmulewitz, Deborah Hasin
- [Cannabis Retailer Communication About Cannabis Products, Health Benefits, and Risks: A Mystery Shopper Study of Licensed Retailers in Five U.S. Cities](#)  
Katelyn F. Romm, Patricia A. Cavazos-Rehg, River Williams, Campbell Dopke, Yuxian Cui, Cassidy R. LoParco, Yan Wang, Zongshuan Duan, Y. Tony Yang, Scott Burris, Carla J. Berg

Just Accepted in JSAD:

Full Access

- [Investigating associations of substance use and dependence with planned versus unplanned suicide attempt](#)  
Mallory Stephenson, and Alexis C. Edwards
- [Sales to Apparently Intoxicated Customers in Three States with Different Histories of Responsible Beverage Service Training](#)  
David B. Buller, W. Gill Woodall, Robert Saltz, Lila Martinez, Annelise Small, Noah Chirico, and Gary R. Cutter

- [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 Meruelo, Amandine M. Van Rinsveld, Andrew T. Marshall, Anthony Steven Dick, Mathieu Guillaume, Gaya J. Dowling, Arielle Baskin-Sommers, and Sandra A. Brown

-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!

- **Rutgers Peer Mentoring Network for Early Career Professionals – Topic: Project Management  
Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. EST**

*The Peer Mentoring Network*, which was created for early career professionals by early career professionals, aims to connect new faculty (NTT & TT) within 7 years of starting to connect and support one another as early career researchers at Rutgers! Join their monthly networking events at the Rutgers Club. For more information, [click here](#).

- **GSAPP Webinar - Opioid Use within the Affectional and Gender Diverse Populations (LGBTQ+)  
Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EST**

*The Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology* is offering a live zoom webinar that will highlight the impact that opioid use disorder has on sexual and gender diverse populations, best practices, trauma-informed care, and behavioral health integration into primary care. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Knock Out Opioid Use Learning Series – Emerging Threats Within the Opioid Crisis Webinar  
Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**

Hosted by the *Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey* as part of their Knock Out Opioid Use Learning Series, this free webinar offers educational sessions on safe prescribing practices tailored for physicians, dentists, nurses, and other authorized medical practitioners who prescribe opioid-based painkillers. It aims to update all prescribers on relevant local laws governing opioid prescription. For more information, [click here](#).

- **The College on Problems of Drug Dependence Webinar – Media Training with Reporting on Addiction**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. EST**

Hosted by the Communications Committee and led by Jonathan Stoltman and Ashton Marra, co-directors of Reporting on Addiction, this webinar aims to offer insights into effectively communicating science and collaborating with the media to accurately and succinctly share research. It will cover tips for engaging with journalists, including strategies for pitching ideas and writing op-eds. For more information, [click here](#).

- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual New York City Epidemiology Forum  
Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

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](#).

### Addiction in the News

- [The Addiction Recovery Story We Don't Hear Enough](#) (New York Times)
- [E-Coupons Are Luring Folks to Taking Up Vaping](#) (U.S. News)
- [How addicted are you to your phone? America by the numbers](#) (Medical Xpress)

**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](mailto:emily.balcke@rutgers.edu)).
- **Words Matter – Terms to Use and Avoid When Talking About Addiction:** This resource from NIDA offers background information on the effect of stigma on those with substance use disorders, and terms to use and avoid to reduce stigma and negative bias when discussing addiction.