

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

- **Now Hiring: Full-time Program Assistant.** RARC Director, Dr. Danielle Dick, is hiring a full-time Program Assistant in the Translational Psychiatric Genomics (TPG) laboratory within the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry. The program assistant will provide programmatic support on NIH-funded research projects exploring how genetic and environmental influences contribute to the development of patterns of substance use and related behaviors, as well as provide administrative support for Dr. Dick and the lab. Please pass along this opportunity to anyone you think may be interested and a good fit. Please reach out to RARC Program Manager, Emily Balcke (emily.balcke@rutgers.edu) with any questions about the opportunity. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Now Hiring: Two Post-Doc Positions at the RARC.** Two full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate positions are available in Dr. Kristina Jackson's laboratory at the Rutgers Addiction Research Center (RARC). Candidates will have the opportunity to make contributions to ongoing grant-funded studies focused on substance use at Rutgers and collaborating sites while also developing their own research careers. For more information, [click here](#).
- **BHI/NJMS-Pharm/Phys/Neuro Faculty Candidate Hybrid Seminar with Dr. Xiaobing Zhang (February 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. EST):** Please join for a hybrid presentation delivered by Dr. Xiaobing Zhang, who will present on the topic "Central control of feeding motivation for food intake". For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) Strategic Planning Town Hall for Trainees (February 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. EST):** The BHI is embarking on a planning and priority setting process to chart a course that will guide the Institute's growth and success for years to come. BHI invites all trainees (undergrads, grads, postdocs, etc.) interested in neuroscience and brain health to help develop its next strategic plan. Please join the virtual townhall meeting to provide ideas about how you would like BHI to support your research, clinical and academic endeavors. For more information, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **The Office for Research** announced the launch of their new website at research.rutgers.edu. The new website includes a resource library, easy-to-access tools, documents, and research compliance information. They are currently working on a phase 2 launch that will include further improvements and features!

Rutgers News

- **Dr. Petros Levounis, the President of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and Associate Dean at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**, provides *Psychology Today* with crucial insights into tackling alcohol use disorder and supporting family members affected by it. Dr. Levounis underscores the importance of community programs and mental health clinics in delivering effective addiction services, highlighting existing resource disparities in treating substance use disorders. For more information, [click here](#).
- Investigators including **Dr. Kristina Jackson, RARC's Associate Director of Epidemiology, Etiology, and Prevention**, have just published a study in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, a publication of the Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies. Findings reveal simultaneous substance use (alcohol and cannabis) is both reinforcing and high risk. The study emphasizes the crucial need for intervention, even during lighter drinking simultaneous use occasions, to curb potential harms. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies** wants to congratulate **Drs. Tanya Saraiya, Jordan Gette and Denise Hien**, and their colleagues on a new publication of a secondary analysis of [Project Harmony](#) data in the *Journal of Anxiety Disorders* entitled "Cannabis use and trauma-focused treatment for co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders: A meta-analysis of individual patient data." Please join us in congratulating Drs. Hien, Saraiya, and Gette. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies** has secured over \$7 million in grants from NIMHD and NIDA to focus on understanding how Black and Hispanic young adults perceive the FDA's menthol and flavored cigar ban. The grants aim to tackle health disparities, combat targeted marketing, and counter disinformation campaigns in under-resourced communities. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **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](#).

- **Call for Abstracts and Participants: Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research** - The inaugural Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research 2024 will take place on March 7 (Thursday), 2024 between 9am-4pm at the Busch Campus Student Center. This conference is designed to provide an accessible and authentic scientific presentation platform for PhD students in research-based fields who have no or minimal prior conference experience. Those interested in attending the conference and/or presenting a poster or short talk should fill out the **application form**: <https://forms.office.com/r/Bn2VR5W7xV>. The call for abstracts will end on **February 5th**. For general instructions and tips on how to write an effective abstract, [click here](#). Any Questions should be directed to rising_stars@cabm.rutgers.edu.
- **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). For more information, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **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](#).
- **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

- **Press release: [AA attendance lower among African American, Hispanic and young populations](#)**
- **[Telehealth-Based Contingency Management Targeting Stimulant Abstinence: A Case Series From the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)**
Sarah E. Forster, Taylor M. Torres, Stuart R. Steinhauer, Steven D. Forman
- **[Disparities in Alcoholics Anonymous Participation from 2000 to 2020 Among U.S. Residents With an Alcohol Use Disorder in the National Alcohol Survey](#)**
Sarah E. Zemore, Amy A. Mericle, Priscilla Martinez, Brandon G. Bergman, Katherine J. Karriker-

Jaffe, Deidre Patterson, Christine Timko

- [Change in Alcohol Consumption in Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Meta-Analysis](#)
Martin Piquart

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [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 Ahirakwe, 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 Psychiatry Grand Rounds with Dr. Nina Cooperman, "Mindfulness Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE) for Prevention and Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder and Chronic Pain Tuesday, February 6th at 11:00 a.m. EST**
The Rutgers Department of Psychiatry is pleased to invite you to join us for their next Grand Rounds session featuring Nina Cooperman, Psy.D., as she shares her research on Mindfulness Oriented Recovery Enhancement (MORE) for the Prevention and Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder and Chronic Pain. Don't miss this engaging session! For more information, [click here](#).
- **NeC-ROTAC Webinar - How to Have the Conversation: Talking about Substance Use and Mental Health (in Rural Spaces) Wednesday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m. EST**
The Northeast and Caribbean Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center invites you to join their virtual workshop which will focus on providing the tools to start the conversation whenever the opportunity arises. We will be focusing on tools and talking points that anyone from a provider to a community member can use to engage individuals around behavioral health. We will also discuss the impact of stigma and fear regarding disclosing the need for services, and how to support

individuals around accessing and staying engaged in services that meet their individual needs. For more information, [click here](#).

- **CAS Emerging Addiction Seminar Series - Investigating the Current Ketamine Landscape in the United States**

Thursday, February 8th at 12:30 p.m. EST

The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies invites you to join their in-person seminar with **Dr. Joseph Palamar**, an associate professor of Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, and Deputy Director of the National Drug Early Warning System. Dr. Palamar focuses on the epidemiology of use of new psychoactive substances and party drugs both in the general population and in high-risk scenes. This important work helps inform prevention and harm reduction efforts. For more information, [click here](#).

- **GSAPP Webinar - Opioid Use within the Affectional and Gender Diverse Populations (LGBTQ+)**
Friday, February 23rd 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](#).

- **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](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Hamilton County, OH Advances Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Jail](#) (Addiction Policy Forum)
- [E-Coupons Are Luring Folks to Taking Up Vaping](#) (US News)
- [With Opioid Deaths Soaring, Biden Administration Will Widen Access to Methadone](#) (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).
- **JSAD Photo Library:** The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, a publication of the Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies, is the oldest substance-related journal published in the United States. They offer a database for those who need stock photos related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for use on social media, in news articles, and on websites (or for any other purpose).

This is an open-access, public-domain collection containing hundreds of images!