

# 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

- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Dr. Mathieu Wimmer (March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.):** Please join us for the Rutgers TARP Monthly Meeting in the Dean's Conference Room (first floor of the RWJMS Research Tower) or on zoom. This event will feature Dr. Mathieu Wimmer, from Temple University. All TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators are invited. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information, [click here](#).
- **RARC Interest Group on Cannabis (March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.):** The next RARC Interest Group on Cannabis meeting will be held virtually and is open to all Rutgers-affiliated individuals. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please reach out to [rarcb@bhi.rutgers.edu](mailto:rarcb@bhi.rutgers.edu) for the meeting details.
- **SciComm x Community Engagement: Exploring Principles and Practices (March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.):** Join us for an upcoming workshop led by the RARC Science Communication Workgroup, featuring presenters Alexandria Bauer and Devon Ziminski Together, they will explore interdisciplinary training and fundamental skills in community-engaged science communication and research. Participants can expect to gain practical insights, tips, and additional resources to enhance their involvement in community engagement, both within and beyond the Rutgers community. For more information, [click here](#).
- **The Brain Health Institute (BHI) Hybrid Seminar with Dr. Lauren Hobbs (March 7, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.):** The BHI Junior Faculty Working group is hosting Dr. Lauren Dobbs to share her research "Endogenous opioids in the regulation of striatal circuits and cocaine reward". Following the event, there will be a trainee lunch. If you are interested in attending the lunch, please add your name to [this list](#). For more event 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 a student seeking training opportunities and research experiences?** The RARC has compiled a list of labs seeking students and may have opportunities at the undergraduate, medical, or graduate level. To view student research opportunities, [click here](#).

## Rutgers News

- In a retrospective cohort study, researchers including **Molly Nowels, Hillary Samples, and Stephen Crystal** from **Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy & Aging Research**, aimed to examine the association of Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) after nonfatal opioid overdose with risk of repeat overdose in the following year. Findings showed that MOUD receipt was associated with reduced risk of repeat overdose. Those whose overdoses involved heroin or synthetic opioids were at higher risk of repeat overdose, but MOUD treatment was able to reduce that risk. For more information, [click here](#).
- *Central Jersey Courier News* shared **Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care** is making strides in opening an addiction treatment center at the former Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield. **Rutgers Center for Recovery and Wellbeing** will provide comprehensive, holistic and integrated diagnostic and clinical care to individuals and their families who are affected by substance use and co-occurring disorders. For more information, [click here](#).
- **Dr. Crystal L. Brandow** and **Dr. Peggy Swarbrick** spearheaded a study aimed at developing a well-being model for young Black adults through the WinR Program at the **Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies**. Now, they're operationalizing it into a workbook, collaborating with key informants with lived experience in behavioral health systems, including Hakim Asadi and Alexander Gamble. Grounded in co-production principles, the Black Well-Being Project acknowledges the impact of systemic racism on well-being while emphasizing individual strengths to support overall health. The workbook will undergo piloting and subsequently be accessible on Crystal Brandow and Hakim Asadi's websites, with distribution through CAS News following the pilot period. For more information, [click here](#).

## Opportunities

- **Study opportunity announcement:** Seeking participants for a paid research study looking at differences in learning between adults who do and do not smoke cigarettes! If interested, you can check out [this survey](#) to see if you might be eligible to participate. This study opportunity announcement is sent on behalf of Drs. Teresa Leyro and Samantha Farris. To speak with someone from their team directly call 732-570-0905 or email [abusa@psych.rutgers.edu](mailto:abusa@psych.rutgers.edu). For more information, [click here](#).
- **The New Jersey State Policy Lab 2024 Summer Internship** - NJSPL is now seeking undergraduate and master's level students for their Summer 2024 Internship Program. This paid, 10-week internship will take place three days a week (Tuesdays-Thursdays) in-person from June 4th to August 8th at 33 Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick. Students who are selected for this opportunity will research a public policy topic of their choosing. No prior experience in public policy research is required, but applicants must be passionate about a particular public policy topic and

eager to conduct research. All applications must be submitted by Friday, March 22, 2024. For more information, [click here](#).

- **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 their 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. Their 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](#).

## 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: 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

- [ISFAR Reiterates Its Defense of Moderate Alcohol Consumption's Health Benefits](#)  
Creina S. Stockley, Henk F. J. Hendriks, R. Curtis Ellison
- [Judgment-Based Errors in Epidemiological Studies: A Commentary on Stockley et al. \(2024\) and Stockwell et al. \(2024\)](#)  
Kevin Shield, Jürgen Rehm
- [Moving Beyond Trench Warfare: The Need for Further Hypothesis Testing About Whether Observed Health Benefits From Alcohol Consumption Are Genuine](#)  
Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao, James M. Clay, Adam Sherk, Timothy Naimi
- [A Response From Friends of NIAAA to Babor \(2023\) and Mitchell and McCambridge \(2023\)](#)  
William F. Wieczorek

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Can Drinking Companions Accurately and Reliably Report on Visible Signs of Alcohol Intoxication among Bar Patrons? Issues in Dram Shop Witness Testimony](#)  
Adam E. Barry, Carlton Erickson
- [Impaired Control \(Both Attempts to Control Drinking and Failed Control\) as Prospective Predictors of Negative Outcomes among Young Adults who Drink Heavily](#)

Robert F. Leeman, Benjamin L. Bereny, Tessa Frohe, Andrea Vásquez Ferreiro, Stephanie S. O'Malley

- [Nicotine Vaping Expectancies: Organization and Activation in Memory Based on Vaping Use Patterns](#)

Mark J. Crisafulli, Jessica N. Flori, Michael E. Dunn, Rachel L. Cooper, Gabrielle T. Lynch, Melissa N. Manning, and Cameron A. Davis

- [Why do only some cohort studies find health benefits from low volume alcohol use? A systematic review and meta-analysis of study characteristics that may bias mortality risk estimates](#)

Tim Stockwell, Jinhui Zhao, James Clay, Christine Levesque, Nitika Sanger, Adam Sherk, and Timothy Naimi

-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. Christine Vinci, “Mindfulness-based Interventions for Smoking Cessation”**

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. EST**

Please join virtually for the Department of Psychiatry’s next Grand Rounds session featuring Dr. Christine Vinci, presenting on the topic "Mindfulness-based Interventions for Smoking Cessation". 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](#).

- **TRACC Seminar Series with Dr. Kechna Cadet: “Polysubstance Use: The Fourth Wave of the Opioid Epidemic... The Norm, Not the Exception”**

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. EST**

The Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies invites you to the Translational Research Training in Addictions for Underrepresented Groups (TRACC) virtual seminar with Dr. Kechna Cadet, a trained substance use epidemiologist and NIDA funded T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. For more information, [click here](#).

- **NJ ACTS Special Populations Seminar with Dr. Daniel Myran: “Changes in Healthcare Visits Due to Cannabis Use Following Legalization of Non-medical Cannabis in Canada”**  
**Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. EST**  
 NJ ACTS Special Populations Core 2024 Seminar Series is hosting Dr. Daniel Myran to review studies tracking changes in healthcare visits due to cannabis in children and adults following non-medical cannabis legalization in Canada. 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

- [New Planning Resource Prepares Hospitals Considering Eat, Sleep, Console Care Approach for Opioid-Exposed Infants](#) (Addiction Policy Forum)
- [Smoking Cannabis Associated With Increased Risk of Heart Attack, Stroke](#) (NIH News Release)
- [First Came Fentanyl. Now This State Is Counting the Casualties From Another Deadly Drug](#) (NBC News)

**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)).
- **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.