

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

- **RARC 2023-2024 Annual Report:** As we conclude our second year since the official launch of the Rutgers Addiction Research Center (RARC), we invite you to explore our 2023-2024 Annual Report. It provides an overview of our achievements, activities, and priorities. To view the report, [click here](#).
- **Training in Addiction Research Program (TARP) Hybrid Presentation with Mackenzie Hofmann (May 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. EST):** Please join us today for the Rutgers TARP Monthly Meeting in room 258 in the Rutgers School of Public Health or on zoom. This event will feature Mackenzie Hofmann, a Senior Scientist at Merck. All TARP and RARC faculty and trainees, as well as collaborators are invited. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information, [click here](#).
- The RARC recently launched the **Research Community Partnership (RCP)**, a central enrollment hub for community members to participate in Rutgers research projects, and for researchers to recruit for their studies. We are currently piloting the partnership with clients at University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC), with plans to expand open enrollment in the RCP to other Rutgers clinical services and community treatment centers in the future. Learn more about the partnership, or sign up now, at addictionresearch.rutgers.edu.
- The RARC is partnering with the **RWJBarnabas Institute for Prevention and Recovery (IFPR)** to establish a streamlined process for enhanced collaboration among Rutgers researchers who want to partner with RWJBarnabas to analyze substance use disorder outcome data and/or implement new studies in the health system. Researchers can access existing data, collect new data, and drive innovative solutions to addiction. Monthly meetings are starting for interested Rutgers researchers to discuss project ideas and opportunities. To join these meetings, email rarc@bhi.rutgers.edu. To learn more about IFPR's ongoing substance use disorder related programming and the process to partner on research, [click here](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **Open Access Publishing Opportunities for Rutgers Researchers:** Explore a growing list of publishers whose journals offer reduced Article Processing Charges (APCs) – some down to \$0 – for

Open Access articles. To view this resource, [click here](#).

RARC DEI Spotlight

- **GSAPP Live Webinar: Unmasking Implicit Racial-Bias in Ourselves & Within Systems: Toward Becoming Bias-Resistant (Friday, May 31 at 9:00 a.m. ET):** Today, anti-Black and anti-Brown racial biases, both explicit and implicit, are a deeply ingrained part of American culture. As such, our system of mental health actively facilitates and perpetuates racial bias. This presentation aims to help the participant to recognize their own implicit biases, how they are formed and assumed, and how to recognize them in systems and society. Strategies will also be offered to support participants' becoming bias-resistant and ultimately reducing the undercurrent of racial bias in our mental health system at large. For more information, [click here](#).

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](#).
- Introducing **Rutgers Latin American neuroscience Students with Expertise in Research (RU-LASER)**! All are invited to join for an exciting event on May 23, 2024, where they'll host 7 postdoctoral candidates and 3 keynote speakers from Mexico to share their research. The candidates are interested in potential postdoctoral work at Rutgers (maybe with YOU!), so come check out the talks, enjoy some food and drinks, and meet the speakers. For more information, [click here](#).

Opportunities

- **New Rutgers Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies Clinical Research Opportunities in NIDA's Clinical Trials Network:** We are excited to announce that Rutgers [Center of Alcohol & Substance Use Studies](#) hopes to be a formal partner in the prestigious [NIDA Clinical Trials Network \(CTN\)](#), marking a significant milestone in our commitment to advancing addiction research and treatment. As someone deeply involved with the CTN for over two decades ([Denise Hien](#)), particularly in leading a multisite study on trauma and addiction, we are excited about the prospects for the Rutgers Addictions community that this collaboration brings. Rutgers' partnership in the renewal of the [Greater NY Node](#) (at NYU and Columbia University Psychiatry Depts), alongside major partners like Montefiore, promises to open avenues for us to engage with the CTN. This includes opportunities to participate in funded research projects through the CCTN funding mechanisms, as well as the ability to develop and propose community engaged, unsolicited concepts for consideration. We will be notifying folks over time about these kinds of opportunities. For details about our first opportunity and to view the full announcement [click here](#)

- **Neuroendocrinology Graduate Course – Fall 2024:** Dr. Dipak K. Sarkar, director of the Endocrinology Program and distinguished professor in the Department of Animal Sciences is offering a graduate course in Neuroendocrinology in the upcoming fall semester. The course provides a comprehensive and up-to-date coverage of the interrelationships between the central nervous system and the endocrine system in the mammal. For more information and to view the course syllabus, [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

- **Call for Applications: \$50,000 Prizes for Immigrant Scientists:** The Vilcek Foundation is accepting applications for the 2025 Vilcek Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science. In 2025, the Foundation will award three prizes of \$50,000 to immigrant and foreign-born research scientists living and working in the United States. To be eligible candidates must hold a PhD, and be employed full time in a research capacity as a principal investigator. Candidates must have been born outside of the United States to non-American parents, and must have lived in the United States for at least 4 years. Prizewinners are selected for the scientific rigor of their work, and for the impact of their work in their respective field of study. Eligible scientists are encouraged to apply by **June 10, 2024**. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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 85/3:

- **[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, Gary R. Cutter

- [Threaten, Distract, and Discredit: Cannabis Industry Rhetoric to Defeat Regulation of High-THC Cannabis Products in Washington State](#)
Beatriz H. Carlini, Lyndsey B. Kellum, Sharon B. Garrett, Lexi N. Nims
- [Alcohol and Substance Use Among the Working Age Population: A Nationwide Study of Fall-Related Emergency Department Visits](#)
Akshaya Srikanth Bhagavathula, Wafa A. Aldhaleei

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Virtue Marketing: Trends in Health-, Eco-, and Cause-Oriented Claims on the Packaging of New Alcohol Products in Australia Between 2013 and 2023](#)
Ashleigh Haynes, Helen Dixon, and Melanie Wakefield
- [A Quantitative Feedback Intervention to Reduce Binge Drinking in Young Adults](#)
Mariann R. Piano, Chueh-Lung Hwang, Melissa Adair, Sylvie Muhimpundu, Mary S. Dietrich, and Shane A. Phillips
- [Implementation Costs of the Appraise Alcohol Brief Intervention \(ABI\) for Male Remand Prisoners: A Micro-Costing Protocol and Preliminary Findings](#)
Gillian Waller, Jennifer Ferguson, Jeremy W. Bray, Dorothy Newbury-Birch, Andrew Stoddart, and Aisha Holloway

-Follow JSAD on LinkedIn and on Twitter/Facebook/Threads/Instagram: [**@JSADjournal**](#)

-For JSAD's free photo database of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug images, visit:

<https://www.jsad.com/photos>

Save the Dates!

- **Celebrating Clinical Trials Day!**
Monday, May 20th at 10:00 a.m. ET
Calling all clinical research trailblazers! We are celebrating Clinical Trials Day, a national day promoted by the Association of Clinical Research Professions since 2014, to recognize the work of clinical research professionals. Stop by one of the tabling events on either the New Brunswick or Newark campuses which will showcase our key accomplishments. Connect with colleagues from across Rutgers Health as you learn more about the innovative research happening in our community and about resources available to our researchers. You'll also find games, giveaways and more! For more information, [click here](#).
- **Rutgers Psychiatry Grand Rounds – RWJ General Psychiatry Residents Katerina Christodoulides, DO and Diane Edgar, MD**
Tuesday, May 21st at 11:00 a.m. ET
The Rutgers Department of Psychiatry invites you to join us for our special Grand Rounds sessions

featuring our RWJ General Psychiatry Residents. Katerina Christodoulides will present on "Looking Beyond the Science: Understanding Patients' Substance Use Through the Emergence of Xylazine" and Diane Edgar will present on "ECT and Ketamine: Contrasting and Combining Methods". For more information, [click here](#).

- **I4SUD Webinar: A Personalized Virtual Reality Environment Tool to Mitigate Opioid Use Disorder**
Thursday, May 23rd at 2:00 p.m. ET
Join Dr. Lola Akintola, I4SUD Alum and NIH \$100K Challenge Winner as she talks about her innovation to mitigate the opioid crisis and her experience with the I4SUD program. Following her presentation, Dr. Supriya Munshaw will discuss the I4SUD program and how it can help researchers bring their ideas to market. For more information, [click here](#).
- **2024 Cannabis Clinical Outcomes Research Conference (CCORC)**
Thursday, May 30th at 9:00 a.m. ET
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](#).
- **2024 NCCIH Cannabinoid Research Principal Investigators Meeting: Exploring the Mechanisms Underlying Analgesic Properties of Minor Cannabinoids and Terpenes**
Tuesday, June 4th at 9:00 a.m. ET
The overall goals of this National Institutes of Health (NIH) meeting are to convene principal investigators funded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) and other NIH Institutes and Centers on the topic of the analgesic properties of minor cannabinoids and terpenes from natural products and their underlying mechanisms, as well as to discuss current research barriers and opportunities in cannabinoid research considering recent regulation and legislation changes. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Over 115 Million Pills Containing Illicit Fentanyl Seized by Law Enforcement in 2023](#) (NIDA News Release)
- [Counterfeit Fentanyl Pills Are Becoming a Lot More Common in Law Enforcement Seizures](#) (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).
- **Grant Writing Resources for Early Career Investigators** - The RARC has curated a comprehensive list of grant tools and writing resources designed to support you through the process of writing a

grant. To view this resource, [click here](#).