

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 Welcomes New Associate Director of Treatment and Recovery, Ethan Cowan, MD:** We are incredibly excited to welcome **Dr. Ethan Cowan** to the RARC leadership team. Starting August 1, 2024, Dr. Cowan will assume the position of Associate Director of Treatment and Recovery in the RARC, and as a Professor on the Tenure Track in the Department of Emergency Medicine at New Jersey Medical School.
- 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 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](#).

RARC Resource Spotlight

- **[New Jersey Department of Health New Jersey Overdose Data Dashboard](#)** - Did you know this dashboard uses interactive data visualizations to display opioid and other drug-related overdose

indicators for public health practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and the public? Leverage the data for grant submissions, publications, and informed decision-making!

RARC DEI Spotlight

- **Rutgers School of Social Work 8th Annual Challenging Racism Conference: A Call to Action (June 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. ET):** This livestreamed webinar will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Joy DeGruy, a prominent researcher, professor, and author who has spent over 30 years studying and working in the field of social work, with a focus on the impacts of racism, trauma, and slavery on African Americans. Additionally, Dr. Nayeli Chavez-Dueñas will present the opening address, “A Better World is Possible: Healing from Ethno-Racial Trauma in Communities of Color”. For more information, [click here](#).

Rutgers News

- The global rise in gambling opportunities, particularly online, has sparked concerns about excessive spending and its effects on individuals and families. In a recent *Gaming Law Review* article, **Dr. Lia Nower, director of the Center for Gambling Studies**, and Judith Glynn, President of PRET Solutions Inc., emphasize the importance of affordability assessments in preventing gambling-related harm. They explore methods for implementing these affordability guidelines to objectively identify players spending beyond their means and support the shift to a shared responsibility model for harm reduction. 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

- **NJ ACTS Clinical and Translational Science Pilots Program:** NJ ACTS invites applications for its Pilots Program with a concentration on projects that are clinical and translational science. Check out their [website](#) for recording/slides to aid in developing a competitive protocol and discussion of the differences between clinical and translational **science** (CTS) as opposed to clinical and translational **research** (CTR). This RFA is solely for CTS, broadly defined. The detailed RFA is available at: [View Request for Application](#). **Letter of Intent due May 24, 2024**. Link to LOI form: <https://redcap.rwjms.rutgers.edu/surveys/?s=N3FHW8AJ43D7KPJL>.
- **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:

- [Investigating Associations of Substance Use and Dependence With Planned Versus Unplanned Suicide Attempt](#)
Mallory Stephenson, Alexis C. Edwards
- [Comparing Drinking Game Motives, Behaviors, and Consequences Among Varsity Athletes, Recreational Athletes, and Non-Student-Athletes: A Multisite University Study](#)
Byron L. Zamboanga, Jennifer E. Merrill, Amie R. Newins, Janine V. Olthuis, Heidemarie Blumenthal, Kathryn Van Hedger, Lindsay S. Ham, Su Yeong Kim, Jessica K. Perrotte, P. Priscilla Lui, Dennis McChargue, Brandy Piña-Watson
- [Hesperidin Protects Alcohol-Induced Mitochondrial Abnormalities via the Inhibition of Oxidative Stress and MPT Pore Opening in Newborn Male Rats as a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Model](#)
Zhaleh Jamali, Ahmad Salimi, Behzad Garmabi, Saleh Khezri, Mehdi Khaksari

Just Accepted in JSAD:

- [Unhealthy Alcohol Use among Adults with Depression or Anxiety: Changes During COVID-19 and Associations with Mental Health Treatment](#)
Derek D. Satre, Vanessa A. Palzes, Felicia W. Chi, Andrea H. Kline-Simon, Cynthia I. Campbell, Natalia Van Doren, Constance Weisner, and Stacy Sterling
- [Effects of Alcohol Use and Minority Stress on Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration among Transgender and Gender Diverse People](#)
Evan J. Basting, Lauren R. Grocott, michael munson, Gregory L. Stuart, and Ryan C. Shorey
- [Prescription Opioid Dose Change Prior to Fatal Opioid-Detected Overdose](#)
Maryam Kazemitabar, Benjamin A. Howell, William C. Becker, Hsiu-Ju Lin, Laretta E. Grau, Robert Heimer, Gail D'Onofrio, Kathryn Hawk, David A. Fiellin, and Anne C. Black

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

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

Save the Dates!

- 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](#).
- NJPN Webinar – Play and Protect: Female Athletes & Opioids**
Thursday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. ET
The New Jersey prevention Network is hosting a free webinar to explore high school and college female athletics with a focus on mental health and opioids. Topics discussed will include available resources to prevent opioid use disorder and evidence-based strategies to reduce youth and young adult opioid use, as well as common risk and protective factors regarding opioid prescribing and high school and college girl’s and women’s sports. The webinar will also discuss the importance of naloxone availability, where/how to access it, and upcoming potential policy changes and opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).
- GSAPP Webinar - Opioid Addiction and Its Treatment: What Every Psychotherapist Needs to Know**
Friday, June 7th at 9:00 a.m. ET
This presentation will describe the scope and consequences of opioid use; the clinical pharmacology of opioid drugs, clinical assessment and diagnosis, individualized treatment planning, medications for treating opioid use disorders (including buprenorphine and naltrexone), and a client-centered psychotherapeutic approach that integrates evidence-based behavioral and pharmacological interventions within a harm reduction framework. For more information, [click here](#).

Addiction in the News

- [Congress: Close Medicare’s Dangerous Gaps in Coverage for Addiction Treatment \(STAT\)](#)
- [Marijuana Research Could Still Be Difficult After Rescheduling \(AXIOS\)](#)

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).
- **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](#).