

Undergraduate Research Assistant Opportunity – Exploring the Utility of an Addiction Risk Assessment in Dentistry & Opioid Prescribing Project

The Translational Psychiatric Genomics laboratory is seeking undergraduate research assistants to support a new research project examining opioid prescribing and addiction-risk assessment within dental practice. The project will investigate dental professionals' perspectives on the potential use of the Comprehensive Addiction Risk Evaluation System (CARES) as a clinical decision-support tool to help inform opioid prescribing and post-procedure pain-management decisions.

CARES is a personalized addiction-risk assessment platform developed by researchers at the Rutgers Addiction Research Center that incorporates behavioral, environmental, and genetic risk information. Through semi-structured interviews with dental professionals, this project will explore whether personalized addiction-risk information could be useful when clinicians are considering opioid prescriptions, how such information might influence prescribing or pain-management decisions, and potential barriers and facilitators to incorporating this type of tool into dental practice.

Research assistants may help with developing and refining study and recruitment materials, reviewing literature related to dental opioid prescribing and addiction-risk assessments, organizing qualitative research data, and coding and double-coding transcribed interviews with dental professionals. Interview analysis will build upon qualitative methods used in the research team's previous healthcare implementation work. Students will be asked to contribute ~5-7 hours/week for the Fall 2026 semester.

This opportunity may be particularly valuable for undergraduate students interested in dentistry, medicine, public health, addiction research, or clinical research. Students will have the opportunity to gain experience with qualitative research methods, opioid prescribing and pain-management research, and the process of translating research findings into potential applications. Students may have the opportunity to contribute to the resulting manuscript as a co-author.

Preferred Qualifications: Dependable and organized students with strong attention to detail and an ability to maintain confidentiality when working with research data. Previous research or qualitative coding experience is helpful but not required.

Please submit your CV and a BRIEF statement of interest and qualifications (1 paragraph max) via [THIS FORM](#). Please contact Alexander Horchuck (ah1918@gsbs.rutgers.edu)

with CC to Ariana Heinsdorf (ariana.heinsdorf@rutgers.edu) and Emily Balcke (emily.balcke@rutgers.edu) with any questions.