

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.3.2023

Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe ([roweji@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)) to change your communication preferences. Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Addiction Research - our mission is to accelerate scientific progress in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and their consequences by fostering research collaborations across: 1) UC departments, colleges, and centers including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; 2) Local, regional, and state community and governmental partners; and 3) Other academic institutions and industry."



### **UC/ Regional News**

#### **Save the Dates! Center for Addiction Research to hold 2023 Summer Speaker Series**

Back by popular demand, the College of Medicine's Center for Addiction Research will hold its third annual virtual Summer Speaker Series to highlight cutting-edge UC addiction research and UC-community collaborations related to prevention and treatment. The series is funded by CCTST. Monthly presentations will take place on June 14, July 12, and August 9, from noon-1:00 PM. **Featured CAR presenters will be CAR Population Health and Health Services research core Co-Leader, Dr. Shauna Acquavita, and CAR members, Dr. Joel Sprunger, and Dr. Nichole Nidey.** Check back for more details in future CAR Weekly Newsletters!

#### **Alumnus gift creates new endowed chair to support mental health and substance abuse disorder care**

A University of Cincinnati Emergency Medicine Residency Program alumnus has made a gift that will support a faculty position in the Department of Emergency Medicine focused on the research and treatment of substance abuse. The generosity of Shawn A. Ryan, MD, MBA '10, supports the Emergency Medicine Endowed Chair to Benefit the Acute Treatment of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder. Like cities throughout the country, Cincinnati has been severely impacted by the opioid epidemic. Unfortunately, substance abuse patients often cycle through repeated treatment and release from health care facilities like emergency departments. According to the National Survey on Drug Use...

### **Psychedelics may help people reinvent themselves**

Researchers from the University of Cincinnati examined the post-treatment journals kept by participants in a 2014 smoking cessation study that found psychedelics were effective in helping some people quit smoking for years. In a new paper published in the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, researchers analyzed the participants' own words and found that psychedelics combined with talk therapy often helped longtime smokers see themselves as nonsmokers. This new core identity might help explain why 80% of participants were able to stop smoking for six months and 60% remained smoking-free after five years. The 2014 study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that...

### **PBS Newshour: Rise of sports betting brings concerns some colleges are too involved in its promotion**

Online and live sports betting became legal in Ohio at the start of 2023, raising some concern among mental health experts over the possibility of a jump in the number of problem gamblers statewide. Gregory Stewart, PhD, of the Department of Social Work at the UC College of Allied Health Sciences, says there are about 250,000 people in Ohio currently with a gambling problem, with 16% of those under the age of 18. Stewart says that according to the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio, in the month of December 2022 the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline received 635 calls. In the first ten days of January 2023, the Helpline received 553 calls. PBS Newshour visited the UC campus...

### **Barr and McConnell Announce Nearly \$1.5 Million in Transitional Housing Funding for Kentuckians in Addiction Recovery**

Washington, D.C.— U.S. Congressman Andy Barr (KY-06) and U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced today the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will allocate \$1,461,639 to Kentucky for the Recovery Housing Program. This transitional housing pilot program was established under the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry (CAREER) Act, which was introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives by Senator McConnell and Congressman Barr, respectively. The CAREER Act was signed into law in 2018 as part of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. The CAREER Act, designed to address...

## **National News**

### **Primary care intervention increases prevention of alcohol use disorder**

An intervention increases prevention but not treatment engagement for alcohol use disorder (AUD) in primary care, according to a study published online Feb. 27 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Amy K. Lee, M.P.H., from the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, and colleagues examined an implementation intervention in a trial involving adult patients from 22 primary care practices with visits from January 2015 to July 2018. The implementation

intervention included practice facilitation, electronic health record decision support, and performance feedback. Coprimary end...

### **Unique alcohol avoidance program is associated with lower death rates**

A statewide alcohol-monitoring program in South Dakota that requires people arrested for drunk driving and other alcohol-involved offenses to be tested frequently for alcohol use can reduce the likelihood that participants die during the years after their involvement with the program, according to a new RAND Corporation study. Analyzing results from the 24/7 Sobriety Program, researchers found that those arrested for drunk driving who participated in 24/7 Sobriety had on the order of a 50% lower risk of dying during the study period compared to those arrested for drunk driving who did...

### **Immigrants report declining alcohol use during first two years after arriving in US**

Newly arrived immigrants drank decreasing amounts of alcohol in their first two years in the United States, according to a study of Latino immigrants living in Miami-Dade County in Florida. The study, published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, found greater decreases for certain groups, such as young adults and immigrants with permanent residency status. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic halted some declines. The study points to the importance of motivators, stressors, and protective factors that impact immigrants' drinking patterns. Prior studies of Latino immigrants have found...

### **Alcohol consumption tied to less disease activity with rheumatoid arthritis**

Lars Alfredsson, Ph.D., from the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, and colleagues examined the relationship between alcohol consumption and disease activity, disease progression, and health-related quality of life in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The analysis included 1,228 patients with newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis from the population-based case-control study Epidemiological Investigation of Rheumatoid Arthritis. Information regarding lifestyle factors and different exposures was collected using a standardized questionnaire, and all participants were asked to provide blood samples...

### **Frequent marijuana use linked to heart disease**

People who used marijuana daily were found to be about one-third more likely to develop coronary artery disease (CAD) compared with people who have never used the drug, according to a study presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session Together With the World Congress of Cardiology. As cannabis becomes legal in an increasing number of U.S. states, this study is among the largest and most comprehensive to date to examine the potential long-term cardiovascular implications of using the drug. CAD is the most common form of heart disease and occurs...

### **First-of-its-kind study examines the impact of cannabis use on surgical patients' post-procedure healthcare needs**

As legislation in multiple states eases former restrictions around medical and recreational cannabis in the United States, an increasing proportion of the population reports use of the drug. Between 2016 and 2018, more than 22 percent of Massachusetts residents reported any prior cannabis use for medical or recreational reasons. However, little is known about cannabis use in patients who undergo surgery or interventional procedures, where cannabis use has important additional clinical implications. In a new study published in The Lancet's eClinical Medicine, researchers led by anesthesiologists...

### **Vaping Tobacco or Weed Appears Tied to Higher Anxiety in Teens**

WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- For decades, people turned to cigarettes in times of stress. Now, a preliminary study hints that young people are using vaping in the same way. The study, of nearly 2,000 U.S. teenagers and young adults, found that those who vaped nicotine or marijuana were more likely to report anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts. In fact, a majority of vapers said they'd suffered anxiety or depression symptoms in the past week, while over half had contemplated suicide in the past year. The findings leave open the chicken-and-egg question. "One of the challenges..."

### **Commentary: Passive vaping—it's time we see it like secondhand smoke and stand up for the right to clean air**

A medical student of mine recently said he loved the smell of vanilla in the house he shared with friends who vaped. "That's OK, right?" he asked. "Well no," I said, "If you can smell the vanilla you are probably getting nicotine as well." Nicotine is colorless and odorless, and is extremely well absorbed through your respiratory tract, including your nose, mouth, airways and even your ears. Vapers exhale nicotine and chemicals, including the sweet-smelling flavorings. Bystanders can then breathe them in. The lung defenses of smokers, vapers and bystanders are overwhelmed by repeated exposure. There...

### **After criticism, FDA pledges to revamp its tobacco division**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's heavily criticized tobacco program promised changes on Friday, including a five-year strategic plan to better outline priorities. "As we enter this era of declining use of combustible tobacco and continued innovation in the e-cigarette industry, the societal concerns are not subtle," FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf said in an agency news release. "Our ability to keep pace with these changes will depend on immediate, short-term and long-term actions the center is taking that we believe will position the agency to more successfully implement our regulatory..."

### **Vaping Is an On-Ramp to Addiction**

The electronic cigarette, or e-cigarette, was invented by Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik in 2003. Inspired by the death of his father (a smoker) from lung cancer, Lik wanted to create a healthier alternative to smoking that would also make it easier to quit tobacco altogether. The e-cigarette he came up with—and what most people still use today—includes a small battery that heats up and vaporizes liquid that contains nicotine and other substances. You then inhale or “vape” that vapor into your lungs. Twenty years later, more than 70 million people vape worldwide, including 2.5 million middle...

### **A new epigenetic brain defense against recurrence of opioid use**

Substance use disorder (SUD) is an extremely difficult disorder to overcome, and many individuals with SUD return to regular use after repeated attempts to quit. A return to regular drug use can be caused by the body's physical dependence on the drug as well as experiences associated with prior drug use. Exactly how these drug associations are formed in the brain and how they trigger a return to drug use remain unclear. "Individuals make long-lasting associations between the euphoric experience of the drug and the people, places and things associated with drug use," said Christopher Cowan, Ph.D....

### **FDA takes action against animal tranquilizer tied to fatal overdoses**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday that it has taken action to restrict imports of the veterinary tranquilizer xylazine to prevent illicit use of the drug. While veterinarians use products containing xylazine to sedate large animals such as horses and deer, the drug is not safe for people. It is sold on the street under the names tranq, Philly dope and zombie drug. Federal officials say illicit drugs, including fentanyl and meth and cocaine, are often laced with xylazine. The drug has been detected in a growing number of overdose deaths. People who use illicit drugs may not...

### **Pain protocol eliminates need for opioids following knee replacement in most patients**

A study led by Vinod Dasa, MD, Professor of Orthopedics at LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine, reports that a novel surgical pain management strategy following total knee arthroplasty (TKA), or total knee replacement, provided pain relief without opioids. The researchers also found that changing prescriptions for opioids at discharge from automatic to upon request dramatically decreased opioid use. Their results are published in the Journal of Experimental Orthopedics. "About 70% of opioid-naïve patients needed only Tylenol and anti-inflammatory medications to manage their..."

### **Treating the Trauma That Underlies Addiction**

Last spring, a patient named Brittany was admitted to the University of Maryland Medical Center on the brink of death. Only 32 years old, she was suffering from

kidney failure and a brain infection – severe complications of intravenous drug use. Brittany, whose last name is being withheld for privacy, also needed a palliative care specialist to manage her pain and to help her mother deal with what could be the end of her daughter's life. As her mother explained, Brittany grew up in poverty in Baltimore, where drug deals openly took place in neighborhood schools and on sidewalks. She began...

### **Can eating poppy seeds affect drug test results? An addiction and pain medicine specialist explains**

The U.S. Defense Department issued a memo on Feb. 17, 2023, warning service members to avoid eating poppy seeds because doing so may result in a positive urine test for the opiate codeine. Addiction and pain medicine specialist Gary Reisfield explains what affects the opiate content of poppy seeds and how they could influence drug tests. What are poppy seeds? Poppy seeds come from a species of poppy plant called *Papaver somniferum*. "Somniferum" is Latin for "sleep-bringing," which hints that it might contain opiates—powerful compounds that depress the central nervous...

### **Cocaethylene cardiotoxicity in emergency department patients with acute drug overdose**

When compared to cocaine exposure alone, cocaine and ethanol exposure in emergency department (ED) patients with acute drug overdose was significantly associated with higher occurrence of cardiac arrest, higher mean lactate concentrations, and lower occurrence of myocardial injury. This is the conclusion of a study titled "Cocaethylene cardiotoxicity in emergency department patients with acute drug overdose," published in the February issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine (AEM)*. Cocaine use results in more than 500,000 emergency department (ED) visits annually across the United...

### **There Remain Startling Health Inequities in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorder**

Many experts agree that substance use disorder (SUD) is the leading public health concern of the 21st century, with 40.3 million Americans age 12 years and older living with alcohol use disorder, an illicit drug use disorder, or both. Among the general population, only 18% of individuals with SUD receive treatment. This alarming gap is even more pronounced among Black, Indigenous, and people of color, or BIPOC, communities. By way of example, only 10% of African Americans, 8% of Latinx individuals, and 3.5% of Native Americans (American Indians and Alaska Natives) with SUD receive...

### **Participating in research can be beneficial for people who inject drugs**

A new study has found participating in research over many years can give people who inject drugs a chance to share their experiences and contribute to broader knowledge. It was also found to provide them with important insights into their own

lives. The work, published last week in the journal *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, revealed that the opportunity to contribute to a study aiming to improve the lives of their peers was a strong motivator for people to take part. Other motivators included financial reimbursement for taking part, and opportunities to address healthcare concerns, reflect...

### **Biden Administration Moves to Limit Telehealth Prescriptions for Some Drugs**

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration moved Friday to require patients see a doctor in person before getting attention deficit disorder medication or addictive painkillers, toughening access to the drugs against the backdrop of a deepening opioid crisis. The proposal could overhaul the way millions of Americans get some prescriptions after three years of relying on telehealth for doctor's appointments by computer or phone during the pandemic. The Drug Enforcement Administration said late Friday it plans to reinstate once longstanding federal requirements for powerful drugs...

### **Study suggests changes in gambling behavior linked to suicide risk in young adults**

An increase in difficulties with gambling is linked to a heightened risk of suicide attempts among young adults, according to new research from the University of Glasgow and City, University of London. Published in the journal, *The Lancet Public Health*, the study suggests that over the course of a year, young adults (aged 16–24) who experienced an increase in severity of gambling harm were 2.74 times more likely to attempt suicide than those whose gambling was unchanged. Gambling behavior is dynamic, and the study found that any escalation in the experience of gambling harm, regardless...

### **From TV to TikTok, young people are exposed to gambling promotions everywhere, find researcher**

"I've walked past two TABs pretty much weekly, because one's near our ice cream shop and one's next to the shopping center. So we go there a lot." This quote from a 12-year-old girl in our latest research shines new light on young people's exposure to gambling in their everyday lives. The 11- to 17-year-olds who took part in our study told us they regularly come into contact with gambling not just during sports, but in a range of everyday environments. They saw promotions for gambling in local shopping centers, at post offices, during sporting matches, movies and television shows. They were also...

### **Unpredictable childhood environments linked to food addiction in adulthood**

New research provides evidence that people who grew up in an unstable environment are more susceptible to food addiction. The findings, published in the journal *Appetite*, indicate that unpredictability in one's earlier stages of life is associated with maladaptive patterns of food intake. Food addiction is a term used to describe a problematic pattern of food intake characterized by a lack of control,

unsuccessful attempts to eat less, and continuing to overeat despite negative consequences. “Considering the deleterious consequences of food addiction (e.g., obesity and depression), the risk factors...

## Funding Opportunities



[RFA-DA-24-008](#)

[Leveraging Big Data Science to Elucidate the Mechanisms of HIV Activity and Interaction with Substance Use Disorder \(R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-009](#)

[Leveraging Big Data Science to Elucidate the Mechanisms of HIV Activity and Interaction with Substance Use Disorder \(R21 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-24-001](#)

[Ex Vivo Models for Studies at the Intersection of HIV and Poly-Substance Use \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-130](#)

[Translational Research in Maternal and Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-131](#)

[Translational Research in Maternal and Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

### **UC Foundation Funding Opportunities**

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or [carol.russell@uc.edu](mailto:carol.russell@uc.edu) **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

### **[American Psychological Foundation to Fund Studies of Serious Emotional Disturbance](#)**

**Deadline: April 15, 2023**

The [American Psychological Foundation](#) invites applications for the John and Polly Sparks Early Career Grant for Psychologists Investigating Serious Emotional Disturbance. Grants of up to \$22,000 will be awarded to early-career psychologists conducting research in early intervention and treatment for serious emotional



disturbance in children. Applicants must be early-career psychologists with no more than 10 years of postdoctoral degrees from an accredited university.

### **[Visionary Grants Support Psychological Intervention, Education and Research](#)**

**[Deadline: April 1, 2023](#)**

The [American Psychological Foundation](#) invites applications for its Visionary Grants program, which aims to seed innovation in the field through supporting research, education, and intervention projects and programs that use psychology to solve social problems in the following priority areas: applying psychology to vulnerable, at-risk populations (e.g., serious mental illness, returning military, those who are incarcerated or economically disadvantaged); preventing violence; understanding the connection between behavior and health (e.g., wellness, diabetes, obesity); and understanding and eliminating stigma and prejudice (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, and socioeconomic status). Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded with preference given to pilot projects that, if successful, would be strong candidates for support from major federal and foundation funding agencies and “demonstration projects” that promise to generalize broadly to similar settings in other geographical areas and/or to different locations. Applicants must be graduate students or early-career researchers (no more than 10 years postdoctoral) and affiliated with a nonprofit charitable, educational, or scientific institution or a governmental entity operating exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

#### **Other Funding Opportunities:**

### **[Alkermes Investigator Sponsored Studies \(ISS\) Program, and the associated Request for Proposals \(RFP\) process](#)**

<b>2023 Concept Submission Deadlines</b>		<b>2023 RFP Submission Deadline</b>	
<b>Submissions Due</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>	<b>Submissions Due</b>	<b>Decision Date</b>
January 31, 2023	March 2023	April 15, 2023	June 2023
April 29, 2023	June 2023		
August 31, 2023	October 2023		

The ISS program accepts submissions from applicants with varied education and training backgrounds including MDs, PhDs, PAs, PharmDs, NPs and RNs. The following types of research are considered for submission to the ISS program:

- Interventional
- Observational
- Monitoring; surveillance
- Use of registry data
- Historical chart review
- Secondary research or meta-analysis
- Patient reported outcomes

Please reach out to [ISS@alkermes.com](mailto:ISS@alkermes.com) with any questions related to the ISS program.

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