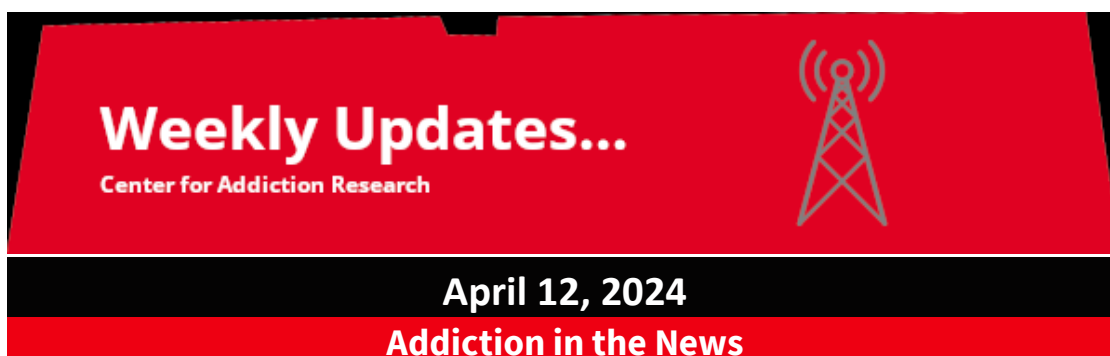


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 4.12.2024

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**

#### **Medical Student Grand Rounds, Tuesday, April 16 at noon in Medical Sciences Building E-255 and via Zoom**

Joyce Xu, third-year medical student, will present "How Does Stigma Impact Treatment Outcomes? Experiences Among Pregnant and Postpartum People With Opioid Use Disorder".

#### **New legal project aims to protect rights of Kentuckians with substance use disorder**

Almost every Kentuckian knows someone who has died of an overdose. The crisis is so acute that Kentucky claims the 4th highest overdose death rate in the country, with the rate among Black Kentuckians more than doubling in recent years. While 2022 data shows a slight decrease in overdose deaths, much more must be done. This is why the Kentucky Equal Justice Center (KEJC) has launched a project to address discrimination that keeps far too many people from accessing lifesaving care needed to stay safe, get well, and enter recovery. People who use drugs or have a substance use disorder face pervasive discrimination within the health care system due to stigma about addiction. One common example...

### **National News**

#### **A deep dive into the genetics of alcohol consumption**

A research group centered at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine has drilled deep into a dataset of over 3 million individuals compiled by

the direct-to-consumer genetics company 23andMe, Inc., and found intriguing connections between genetic factors influencing alcohol consumption and their relationship with other disorders. The study was recently published in the journal *eBioMedicine*. Sandra Sanchez-Roige, Ph.D., corresponding author and associate professor at UC San Diego School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, explained that the study used genetic data to broadly classify individuals...

### **Chat-Based Messaging Lowered Alcohol Use in At-Risk College Students**

Chat-based instant messaging following a brief intervention diminished drinking in college students at risk of alcohol use disorder, according to a randomized clinical trial from Hong Kong. In an intention-to-treat analysis, following an alcohol brief intervention (ABI) with 3 months of mobile chat-based instant messaging led to lower weekly alcohol consumption 6 months compared with using SMS text messaging for follow-up (B -11.42 g, 95% CI -19.22 to -3.62 g; P=0.004), according to Man Ping Wang, PhD, MPH, RN, of the School of Nursing at the University of Hong Kong, and colleagues. The intervention group also had...

### **Heavy alcohol use may increase type 2 diabetes risk in middle-aged adults**

Heavy alcohol use may increase middle-aged adults' risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, according to research to be presented this week at the American Physiology Summit in Long Beach, California. The Summit is the flagship annual meeting of the American Physiological Society (APS). Heavy alcohol use is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) as five or more drinks per day or 15 or more drinks per week for men and, for women, more than four drinks per day or eight or more drinks per week. Heavy alcohol use can diminish liver and pancreas function. Reduced function of these...

### **Researchers find antipsychotics help ease episodes of marijuana-induced psychosis**

Overuse of marijuana is increasingly being linked to dangerous bouts of psychosis, and a new study finds that antipsychotics may be needed to keep such patients out of the hospital. Psychotic episodes involve a dangerous psychiatric state in which people lose their connection with reality. These episodes can get so out of control that people may need hospitalization. However, new research finds that people who overuse marijuana and then experience their first psychotic episode may be helped by the quick use of injected antipsychotics. "These findings encourage the early use of second...

### **Researchers show chemical found naturally in cannabis may reduce anxiety-inducing effects of THC**

A Johns Hopkins Medicine-led research team has added to evidence that a chemical found naturally in cannabis (also known as marijuana) can—in the right amounts—lessen the anxiety-inducing effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the primary psychoactive sister chemical found in cannabis. The finding has the

potential to advance the medicinal use of THC and reduce the risks of its recreational use in some people. The substance, called d-limonene, is one of the most abundant terpenes, or essential oils, in the cannabis plant and has shown promise in rodent studies in reducing anxiety behaviors. However...

### **FDA Issues Warning Letters to and Files Civil Money Penalty Complaints Against Retailers for Underage Sales of ZYN Nicotine Pouches**

On April 4, FDA announced the issuance of 119 warning letters to, and the filing of 41 civil money penalty complaints against, brick and mortar retailers that engaged in the underage sale of various flavors of ZYN nicotine pouches between October 2023 and February 2024. FDA has also issued warning letters to three online retailers for the sale of unauthorized, flavored ZYN nicotine pouches, including Espresso, Black Cherry, Lemon Spritz, and Cucumber Lime. Nicotine pouches are a type of tobacco product. The small pouches are intended to be held between the user's lip and gum, where the nicotine is absorbed into the...

### **Vaping additives harm a vital membrane in the lungs, researchers find**

The health risks associated with the consumption of tobacco and cannabis products are well-established by now. Much less understood are the risks associated with vaping, particularly flavored products popular with young adults. It is an increasingly pressing issue: Statistics Canada says one in 10 Canadians aged 20 to 24 and one in 15 aged 15 to 19 reported to have vaped every day in 2022. Writing in the journal *Langmuir*, Concordia researchers show how the e-cigarette additive tocopherol—an organic compound better known as vitamin E—and tocopherol acetate can damage the lungs. The study adds to the growing...

### **Genetic Test for Opioid Addiction Risk Should Be Withdrawn, Experts Tell FDA**

A group of 31 physicians and researchers called on the FDA to reverse its decision about AvertD, a test that uses DNA to identify whether adults may have an elevated risk of developing opioid use disorder (OUD). In a letter to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf, MD, experts in genetics, addiction, psychiatry, public health, and device regulation asked the agency to revoke its recent approval of AvertD, based on research that doesn't support the methodology used by the test's sponsor. The group also sent a letter to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure asking...

### **No, a Jail Is Not an Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facility**

People with opioid use disorder (OUD) are disproportionately represented in jails and prisons, with close to one in five reporting regular opioid use prior to incarceration. Oftentimes, it is the substance use itself leading to incarceration. While many have been conditioned to believe hitting rock bottom is necessary for recovery, this line of thinking has proven harmful and misunderstands that jails and prisons are in some way a therapeutic intervention. This "jail as treatment center"

ideology often centers anecdotes of recovery in carceral spaces while ignoring the incredible amounts of trauma, suffering...

### **Femoral nerve block cuts opioid use in ACL reconstruction**

For patients undergoing anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction, a femoral nerve block (FNB) is associated with a lower incidence of excessive opioid consumption than adductor canal block (ACB), according to a study presented at the 49th Annual Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Meeting, held from March 21 to 23 in San Diego. Justin Chen, from Stanford University in California, and colleagues conducted a single-institution, randomized trial involving patients undergoing ACL reconstruction. Sixty patients received a standard ultrasound-guided femoral or ACB catheter before...

### **Xylazine has infiltrated the UK's illicit drug market**

Xylazine, a powerful animal tranquilizer linked to horrific side effects, is now widespread in the UK illicit drug market. In most cases, xylazine is mixed with strong opioids, such as heroin or fentanyl, which is a common combination in the United States. However, xylazine was also detected in the absence of strong opioids alongside stimulant drugs such as cocaine, and found in items sold as counterfeit codeine and diazepam (Valium) tablets and even THC vapes. Researchers warn the wider population of people who use drugs beyond heroin users will be exposed to xylazine's harms. The findings, published in *Addiction*, come...

### **Powerful synthetic opioids stronger than fentanyl were found in several overdose deaths in Philly**

The Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office found that powerful synthetic opioids called nitazene analogues were present in at least five overdose deaths in Philadelphia in the last two years, and suspects that the emerging threat contributed to a dozen more overdose deaths. Nitazenes are a class of drugs up to 40 times more powerful than fentanyl, another synthetic opioid much stronger than heroin that is behind most of Philadelphia's overdose deaths. A record 1,413 people died from overdoses involving any illicit drugs in 2022, the latest year for which complete data are available. The overdose deaths...

### **SAMHSA Announces New Report Describing Key Elements of a Core Curriculum for Substance Use Disorder**

Yesterday, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), announced a new report with core curriculum content for integration of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for early-career graduate health care education programs. The Core Curriculum Elements on Substance Use Disorder for Early Academic Career, Medical and Health Professions Education Programs report is based on work SAMHSA conducted on core training elements developed in response to the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act, incorporating recommendations from experts in health care...

### **Does addiction make you un-American?**

Should Prince Harry be deported from the United States due to his past drug use? That's what Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump recently claimed, based on an ongoing legal battle between Prince Harry and the Heritage Foundation, a Trump-aligned think tank. The foundation argues that Prince Harry's candid conversation about past drug use in his book "Spare" should disqualify him from living in the United States because, if he had disclosed this during the visa process, he should have been denied entry. The foundation's lawsuit brings to the forefront broader issues within the U.S. immigration system...

### **New study explores video game addiction rates**

Using data from a top video game streaming service, Puneet Manchanda, Isadore and Leon Winkelman Professor of Marketing, and Ph.D. student Bruno Castelo Branco have challenged preconceived notions of high addiction rates in the video game-playing community. The findings are published in the journal Quantitative Marketing and Economics. Building off Manchanda's previous research on addiction, the research explores a video game addiction using data on actual gaming behavior in the real world. Previous research on the addiction rate of video games has focused on individual representations of addiction...

## **Funding Opportunities**



### **GRANTS & FUNDING**

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

#### [NOT-DA-24-021](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for PAR-21-309 and PAR-21-310, "Imaging - Science Track Award for Research Transition \(I/START\)"](#)

#### [NOT-DA-24-022](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for PAS-21-270, "AIDS-Science Track Award for Research Transition \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

#### [NOT-DA-24-024](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for PA-21-180, "Pilot Health Services and Economic Research on the Treatment of Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use Disorders \(R34 - Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[NOT-MH-24-190](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Improving research frameworks to enable rigorous study of the effects of racism on brain and behavioral health across the lifespan](#)

[PA-24-184](#)

[Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award \(Parent K23 Independent Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[PA-24-185](#)

[Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award \(Parent K23 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PA-24-186](#)

[Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award \(Parent K23 Independent Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-039](#)

[Education Activities for Responsible Analyses of Complex, Large-Scale Data \(R25-Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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