

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) to change your communication preferences. **Please note that the next weekly newsletter will be published Friday, May 26.** 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

UC Addiction Sciences Division featured in the College of Medicine May 2023 Indispensable ad

For people suffering with addiction, recovery can sometimes seem like an impossible dream. But through cutting edge research, education, and the most holistic treatment options available in the area, UC Physicians and UC College of Medicine faculty offer healing and hope. Using a multidisciplinary approach that relies on a full spectrum of professionals—from nurses and social workers to peer specialists, psychologists, and addiction physicians—UC Addiction Sciences is helping people from all walks of life reclaim their dignity, their purpose, and their lives. To obtain an appointment with the Addiction Sciences Division, call 513-585-8227. **(Dr. T. John Winhusen is Director, Center for Addiction Research and Vice Chair of Addiction Sciences, also pictured are Dr. Christine Wilder, CAR member and Addiction Sciences Medical Director & Co-Chair, CAR member Dr. LaTrice Montgomery, and CAR Associate member, Dr. Joel Sprunger)**

Will Ohio legalize recreational cannabis?

A group called the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol is currently collecting signatures to legalize the cultivation, manufacturing, testing and sale of cannabis to Ohioans age 21 and up via a ballot initiative later this year. The argument that cannabis should be treated the same as alcohol is a common one in legalization circles. Experts tend to say that alcohol is more dangerous than cannabis. A 2010 study of public health and safety experts rated alcohol as the most

dangerous of a list of 20 drugs, ahead of heroin, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine, the next three highest. Cannabis came in eighth in the rankings, far behind alcohol but far ahead of hallucinogens like LSD...

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Identifies First Case of Rainbow Fentanyl in the State

According to a press release from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation identified some confiscated drugs as “rainbow fentanyl” for the first time in the state. The attorney general’s office said that the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office discovered the 1,025 candy-like, brightly colored tablets while conducting a narcotics trafficking investigation in the Columbus region. You know we’ve been hearing about this rainbow fentanyl which is pills that are every color of the rainbow. It looks like sweet tarts or some kind of candy. Now we are seeing it in Ohio for the first time and it ought to be scaring every parent and every teacher because this is targeted at...

Case Western Reserve University awarded \$6 million to help aid Ohio's opioid epidemic

CLEVELAND — Case Western Reserve University was awarded a three-year, \$6 million grant to help aid Ohio's growing Opioid epidemic. According to recent data from the CDC, Ohio ranked as the nation's fourth-highest state in terms of unintentional drug-overdoses, causing swift action to be taken to help combat this trend. Money for the grant will come from the federal American Rescue Plan Act through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Case Western's Center for Evidence-Based Practices (CEBP) will also assist in partnership with the administration above. CEBP director Ric Kruszynski will lead what is being described as "the adoption, implementation and...

Oyauma Garrison: 'We stand on the frontlines of the opioid crisis.' Much work is needed

My father served his country in Vietnam. He was a hero — and not just to me. But the same war that brought out his greatest strengths in battle also made him vulnerable to a disease that became his toughest enemy. Addiction to heroin haunted him throughout his life. I’ve thought of my father frequently since becoming the CEO of Maryhaven last summer. Maryhaven is now entering its 70th year and, since 1953, we’ve cared for more than 300,000 clients striving to recover from substance use disorders, related mental health concerns such as depressions, and, since 2010, gambling addiction. Last year alone, 13,000 people entered our doors. We stand on the frontlines of the opioid crisis that...

'Cavalier' or criminal? Doctor who wrongfully prescribed opioids defends work he 'loved'

Dr. David Suetholz was a pioneer of addiction treatment in Northern Kentucky, among the first to become qualified to treat the condition with medication. He had

a family practice where he saw patients with everyday health concerns but also welcomed those with chronic pain or addiction disorder. “People with addiction have felt as outcasts,” he said. Not in his office. Now 74, the family doctor and Kenton County coroner for 30 years is facing the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison for work he did at that practice. He was convicted late last year in U.S. District Court in Covington of 12 counts of illegally prescribing medications, including opioids, to three patients. Suetholz...

Rural hospitals are key in fighting opioid and fentanyl crises. We must keep them open

The opioid and fentanyl crisis is still claiming the lives of too many Americans despite growing awareness of the problem, more government resources and money from settled lawsuits with pharmaceutical companies going to affected communities. In 2021 alone, nearly 300 Americans died every single day from drug overdose. Rural communities bear the brunt of the crisis and are on the front lines of treating addiction and overdoses. We see this every day in the commonwealth of Kentucky. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the overdose death rate has been higher in rural areas than urban areas since 2006. One of the contributing factors to that higher death rate is the lack...

Life-saving drug now offered to recently released inmates at Lexington Detention Center

LEXINGTON — Inmates being released from the Lexington County Detention Center can now access Narcan, an opioid overdose reversal drug, at no cost. Modeled after a similar program in Charleston County, free vending machines filled with Narcan have been installed in the release hallway at the detention center through a partnership between the Lexington County Sheriff’s Department and the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, the area’s addiction treatment center. “We just know that there is such a strong correlation with the criminal justice system and substance use disorder,” said Ashley Bodiford, director of prevention at the drug abuse council. “And we know that...”

First open-source model for transdermal alcohol content detection

Indiana University’s Sina Kianersi, a recent School of Public Health-Bloomington doctoral candidate, has developed the first open-source model to translate transdermal alcohol content—data collected from skin secretions—into information that can be used by researchers. The monitors can help researchers studying alcohol use and the development of chronic disease. Kianersi, now a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University, used machine learning and signal filtering to create a successful model to read the transdermal alcohol content. The results were published in *Addiction*. The transdermal...

National News

Social work researcher introduces a new tool for treating alcohol and drug addiction

A multidisciplinary team led by a University at Buffalo social work researcher has developed and tested a new assessment tool that has the potential to help people recover from alcohol and drug addiction. The Multidimensional Inventory of Recovery Capital (MIRC), a project resulting from a roughly \$408,000 grant in 2020 from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, is a reliable measure of resources that contribute to an individual's successful recovery. The MIRC is not the first such instrument of its kind created to help resolve alcohol and drug problems, but its robust design...

Young men at highest risk of schizophrenia linked with cannabis use disorder

Young men with cannabis (marijuana) use disorder have an increased risk of developing schizophrenia, according to a study led by researchers at the Mental Health Services in the Capital Region of Denmark and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health. The study, published in Psychological Medicine, analyzed detailed health records data spanning 5 decades and representing more than 6 million people in Denmark to estimate the fraction of schizophrenia cases that could be attributed to cannabis use disorder on the population level. Researchers found strong evidence...

Legal Pot Is More Potent Than Ever — And Still Largely Unregulated

Marijuana and other products containing THC, the plant's main psychoactive ingredient, have grown more potent and more dangerous as legalization has made them more widely available. Although decades ago the THC content of weed was commonly less than 1.5%, some products on the market today are more than 90% THC. The buzz of yesteryear has given way to something more alarming. Marijuana-related medical emergencies have landed hundreds of thousands of people in the hospital and millions are dealing with psychological disorders linked to cannabis use, according to federal...

Casual cannabis use by adolescents found to raise risk of depression, suicidality

A Columbia University study has found that teens who use cannabis recreationally are two to four times as likely to develop psychiatric disorders, such as depression and suicidality, than teens who don't use cannabis at all. The research, published in JAMA Network Open May 3, also finds that casual cannabis use puts teens at risk for problem behaviors, including poor academic performance, truancy, and trouble with the law, which can have long-term negative consequences that may keep youth from developing their full potential in adulthood. "Perceptions exist among youth, parents, and educators..."

Michigan doctors express hesitancy to authorize medical cannabis use in new study

Although the drug is legal in Michigan, doctors in the state are hesitant to authorize their patients to use cannabis, while struggling to manage other influences on their patients' health care decisions, says a University of Michigan researcher. "We still have a real separation between the medicinal use of cannabis and mainstream health care, and that creates risks and problems," said Daniel Kruger, a research investigator at the U-M Institute for Social Research. "We need to have better integration to promote health, both for individuals and society." Kruger and colleagues surveyed...

Reported smoking prevalence lowest since 1965

Overall, 18.7 percent of U.S. adults reported currently using any tobacco product in 2021, with most reporting combustible tobacco product use, according to research published in the May 5 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Monica E. Cornelius, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues examined recent national estimates of commercial tobacco use among U.S. persons aged 18 years and older using 2021 National Health Interview Survey data. The researchers found an estimated 46 million U.S. adults (18.7 percent) reported currently using...

The best drugs for stopping smoking that you probably can't have: New review

When so much time and effort goes into developing the best medical treatments, we expect them to be available when we need them. The same goes for addiction treatments, so it's worrying that two of the most effective drugs for quitting smoking aren't available in the UK. They're called varenicline and cytisine; members of a family of stop-smoking medicines called "nicotine receptor partial agonists." They work by stopping nicotine from binding to receptors in the brain and reducing the rewarding effects of smoking while stimulating the brain to reduce nicotine withdrawal and the cravings caused...

DEA, SAMHSA Extend COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescribing Controlled Medications for Six Months While Considering Comments from the Public

WASHINGTON – Today, ahead of the expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued the "Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications" – a temporary rule that extends telemedicine flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The temporary rule will take effect on May 11, 2023, and extends the full set of telemedicine flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19...

Among People at Risk of Opioid Overdose, Black Patients Much Less Likely to Get Treatment

THURSDAY, May 11, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Medications that treat opioid addiction and prevent overdose deaths are drastically under-prescribed in the United States, particularly for Black patients, a new study has found. Disabled people on Medicare are not likely to be prescribed either buprenorphine – the best medication for treating opioid addiction – or naloxone (Narcan), a drug that can reverse a life-threatening overdose, researchers report in the May 10 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Further, Black Americans are even less likely than whites to receive these meds following a...

Perfect Is the Enemy of Good, and So Is Narcan Misinformation

On March 29, the FDA approved the first ever naloxone product (Narcan) for over-the-counter (OTC), non-prescription use, citing a goal of increasing access and availability of naloxone as part of their commitment to responding to our ongoing overdose crisis. Naloxone is an opioid overdose reversal agent, and is a true antidote for opioid drugs like fentanyl, which are the primary drivers of our overdose crisis that killed more than 70,000 Americans in 2021. Naloxone works on every known opioid and could theoretically treat every single opioid overdose (and prevent every single opioid overdose...)

Maternal Opioid Use Disorder Raises Postneonatal Infant Mortality

Infants born to individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) or with a neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) diagnosis had a higher risk of postneonatal infant mortality compared with infants who didn't have these exposures, researchers found. In a retrospective cohort study of 390,075 infants born to mothers enrolled in Tennessee Medicaid, there were 1,317 postneonatal deaths, corresponding to 3.67 deaths per 1,000 person-years (95% CI 3.48-3.87), Margaret Adgent, PhD, MSPH, of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and colleagues reported. The incidence of postneonatal infant...

Report identifies those likely to receive meds for opioid use disorder in pregnancy

Persons receiving medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in pregnancy are more likely to be older and White and to have public insurance, according to research published in the May 5 issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR. Surveillance Summaries. Kathryn Miele, M.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues examined best practices for management of OUD during pregnancy using data from the Maternal and Infant Network to Understand Outcomes Associated with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder During Pregnancy (MAT-LINK) surveillance network of seven clinical...

Fentanyl, heroin use found to substantially decline in patients receiving methadone treatment for opioid use disorder

A new study led by a Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health researcher found that the percent of patients treated for opioid use disorder with methadone significantly decreased their use of fentanyl during a year of treatment. The percent who tested positive for fentanyl declined on average from 21.8 percent in week one to 17.1 percent in week 52. The average heroin positivity rate also declined, from 8.4 percent to 4.3 percent. For both heroin and fentanyl, the biggest declines were seen in the first 10 weeks of treatment. The average positivity for methamphetamine and cocaine did...

Could a Narcan vending machine help stem opioid deaths among young people?

A free vending machine that dispenses the overdose-reversal drug naloxone was unveiled this week at Santa Clara University, the first such campus resource in the San Francisco Bay Area, school officials said. The machine at the school's Benson Memorial Center will dispense two-packs of Narcan, a nasal spray for delivering naloxone, with instructions on how to recognize signs of an overdose, how to administer the spray and to call 911, university officials said in a statement. A QR code on the machine also has a link to a California Public Health Department training video on Narcan. School officials across the U.S. have...

To ease start of addiction treatment, doctors find surprise aid: ketamine

Ever since fentanyl came to dominate the U.S. illicit drug supply, doctors and patients have found buprenorphine, a key addiction-treatment medication, increasingly difficult to use. All too often, fentanyl's potency has meant that patients transitioning to buprenorphine, a far weaker drug, experience excruciating symptoms known as "precipitated withdrawal." Often, the discomfort is so severe that patients give up on buprenorphine altogether. But a trio of West Coast doctors is reporting a buprenorphine breakthrough thanks to an unlikely-seeming medication: ketamine, an anesthetic used both medicinally...

Fentanyl Testing Strips Are Illegal in Many States — but That's Changing

The United States has been struggling with an opioid crisis for two decades, but things took a sharp turn for the worse around 2014, when the synthetic opioid fentanyl began to contaminate first heroin, then nearly all illicit drugs sold in the country. Fatal drug overdoses surpassed 100,000 deaths in a year for the first time in 2021 according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. It was a somber milestone, one in which synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl, were responsible for 70 percent of the lives lost — and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the numbers keep...

Discovery Yields New Hope in Preventing Chronic Opioid Use

With the pandemic exacerbating an already devastating opioid epidemic, efforts to stop it have taken on new urgency. Now, an innovative study by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital is providing new hope in this ongoing battle. The research, led by Patrick L. Purdon, PhD, the Nathaniel M. Sims Endowed Chair in Anesthesia Innovation and Bioengineering at Mass General, suggests that fine-tuning or titrating the dosing of fentanyl (an opioid widely used during surgery) to a patient's specific drug requirements can help prevent chronic opioid use afterwards — a tragic...

Study finds doctors prescribing untested drug combinations with high addiction potential

The Center for Drug Safety and Effectiveness at Johns Hopkins University has led a study into prescription drug use of multiple concurrent central nervous system (CNS)-active drugs. They found widespread combination prescribing of drugs classified as Schedule II controlled substances with a high potential for psychological or physical dependence and with limited combined clinical trial testing. The paper, "Medical use and combination drug therapy among US adult users of central nervous system stimulants: a cross-sectional analysis," published in BMJ Open, examined patterns of medical amphetamine and...

US backs study of safe injection sites, overdose prevention

For the first time, the U.S. government will pay for a large study measuring whether overdoses can be prevented by so-called safe injection sites, places where people can use heroin and other illegal drugs and be revived if they take too much. The grant provides more than \$5 million over four years to New York University and Brown University to study two sites in New York City and one opening next year in Providence, Rhode Island. Researchers hope to enroll 1,000 adult drug users to study the sites' effects on overdoses, to estimate their costs and to gauge potential savings for the health care and...

Funding Opportunities



[RFA-NS-24-015](#)

[HEAL Initiative Partnerships to Advance INterdisciplinary \(PAIN\) Training in Clinical Pain Research: The HEAL PAIN Cohort Program \(T90/R90 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[PAR-23-190](#)

[Interventions for Stigma Reduction to Improve HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care in Low- and Middle- Income Countries \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

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

One Mind Rising Star Awards Will Advance Research in Psychiatric Disorders

Deadline: June 1, 2023

One Mind invites applications for its Rising Star Awards program, launched in 2005 under the fundamental principle that cutting-edge, high-risk research would allow us to find the breakthroughs to accelerate cures for the neuropsychiatric illnesses that affect one in four people worldwide. The program will grant up to \$300,000 to early-career investigators in neuroscience, psychiatry, and related disciplines to support research to accelerate understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of psychiatric disorders. This year the awards program will support grant proposals spanning basic/ preclinical, translational, and clinical research for psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, and suicidality. Studies at the intersection of addiction/ substance use disorders and psychiatric disorders are within scope. Applicants must be independent investigators (faculty or equivalent) already employed at the rank of assistant or associate professor (or equivalent) in a nonprofit (public or private) academic or non-academic research institution; within 10 years of their initial independent appointment to qualify as an ECI; and should have a doctoral level degree (e.g., MD, PhD, PsyD, PharmD, etc.) with demonstrated academic excellence and research productivity in scientific fields that can be applied to the study of psychiatric disorders.

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