

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 7.7.2023

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) 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

Center for Addiction Research Upcoming Summer Speaker Series

Back by popular demand, the Center for Addiction Research will hold its second of three 2023 virtual Summer Speaker Series events, Wednesday, July 12 at 12pm on "The Perfect Storm: Examining the Associations Among Alcohol Use and Intimate Partner Violence in the Age of COVID-19", with presenter and CAR member, Dr. Joel Sprunger. The series is sponsored by Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training. [\(pdf invitation attached\)](#)

>> Register for any of the presentations

National News

Meds rarely initiated after discharge for alcohol use disorder

Patients hospitalized for alcohol use disorder (AUD) rarely initiate medications for AUD (MAUD) after discharge, according to a research letter published online June 27 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Eden Y. Bernstein, M.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues characterized MAUD treatment initiation after AUD hospitalizations using a sample of Medicare Parts A, B, and D beneficiaries with continuous enrollment 12 months before and after cohort entry. A total of 28,601 AUD hospitalizations representing 20,401 unique patients were included in the cohort. Overall, 206 and...

Access to Medical Marijuana Won't Lower Use of Opioid Painkillers: Study

WEDNESDAY, July 5, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Medical marijuana is touted as a pain reliever, but in U.S. states where it's legal, prescriptions for opioid or non-opioid

painkillers haven't decreased, a new study finds. According to researchers, this means that people aren't switching to cannabis for pain relief in huge numbers even when it's legally available, so it's unlikely to ease the nation's opioid overdose epidemic. "Medical cannabis laws had no effects on pain treatment writ large," said lead researcher Beth McGinty, a health policy expert at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. "Medical cannabis laws...

Cannabis use associated with increased risk of surgical complications, according to study

People who are regular cannabis users are at an increased risk of experiencing complications before, during, and after surgery, according to a study by researchers with UTHealth Houston published today in JAMA Surgery. Nearly 16.3 million people had a cannabis use disorder (CUD) in 2021, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cannabis use disorder occurs when someone is unable to stop using cannabis even though it is causing health and social problems in their lives. Researchers found that patients with CUD are approximately...

FDA sends warning to companies selling THC products that look like candy, cookies

Several companies are selling copycat food items that have the potential to trick people, including children, into consuming dangerous quantities of cannabis. On Wednesday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission warned six companies about selling these copycat food products that contain delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as delta-8 THC, a substance found in the cannabis sativa plant. The snack foods with delta-8 THC can be mistaken for regular chips, cookies, candies and gummies, according to the FDA. "Children are more vulnerable than adults to the effects..."

Study shows vaping nicotine while pregnant may impact fetal development

Researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus have found that vaping nicotine during pregnancy may be no safer for a developing fetus than smoking cigarettes. The study suggests that vaping nicotine interferes with fetal bone and lung development. The paper was published in Developmental Biology. "Pregnant women are increasingly turning to vaping with electronic cigarettes as a perceived safer alternative to cigarettes. However, nicotine disrupts fetal development, suggesting that, like cigarette smoking, nicotine vaping may be detrimental to the fetus," said Emily Bates, Ph.D., an...

Program Helps Folks Battling Mental Illness Beat Another Foe: Smoking

WEDNESDAY, July 5, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Dr. Richard Stumacher's coworker at Northwell Health in New York City used to smoke to curb her severe anxiety, and tried multiple times to stop. "She went through the program and she would quit, and then she would fall off, and we would always support her," said Stumacher,

who specializes in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine. “And I saw her in the hallway just a few months ago and she hugged me out of nowhere. I'm like, ‘Hey, what's going on?’” She told Stumacher it was her five-year anniversary of not smoking. “It took her a long time, but she...

As low-nicotine cigarettes hit the market, anti-smoking groups press for wider standard

The idea seems simple enough. Preserve all the rituals of smoking: Light up a cigarette, inhale the smoke, including the nasty stuff that can kill you, and exhale. But remove most of the nicotine, the chemical that makes tobacco so darn hard to quit, to help smokers smoke less. The Food and Drug Administration has been contemplating that strategy for at least six years as one way to make it easier for smokers to cut back, if not quit entirely. Less than two years ago, it authorized 22nd Century Group, a publicly traded plant biotech company based in Buffalo, New York, to advertise its proprietary low-nicotine...

Why Isn't Buprenorphine Available at All Pharmacies?

You're dealing with a life-threatening illness that has an effective treatment. The only problem is the medication is only available at about 60% of pharmacies. What now? This isn't a hypothetical for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) in the U.S. And it's not limited to those living in care deserts -- areas where people lack nearby, convenient healthcare access. In fact, even in densely populated areas there may be multiple pharmacies that do not carry buprenorphine, one of three medications approved by the FDA to treat OUD and the only one that doesn't require frequent visits to a clinic (methadone)...

US Overdose Deaths Disproportionately Affect Minority Communities

More than 580 000 Americans have died from stimulant- and opioid-related overdoses in the past 20 years, including 100 000 deaths in 2020 alone. Black men and American Indian/Native Alaskan men and women experienced the highest death rates, according to Abeena Jones, PhD, assistant professor of human development and family studies at Penn State University and the study's lead author. “During the COVID-19 pandemic, overdose rates for Black individuals overtook those of whites for the first time,” Jones said in an accompanying press release.² “We wanted to delve into the nuances within those...

Naloxone being studied to treat long COVID-19 chronic fatigue

CLEVELAND — For Patricia Hill, COVID-19, its symptoms, and complications won't go away. Her ceaseless battle forced her into a new normal. “I doubt seriously that I'll ever get back to where I was prior,” Hill said. Since getting diagnosed with COVID-19 in 2021, the virus started attacking her heart. Hill now has congestive heart failure and fluctuating heart rates, amongst a multitude of other lingering symptoms. “They're not going to go away,” Hill said. “I'm still dealing with fatigue. I finally

admitted to having some brain fog.” Hill isn’t alone, though, University Hospital’s COVID-19 Recovery Clinic is booking out...

Taking ADHD Meds Won't Raise a Kid's Odds for Drug Abuse Later: Study

THURSDAY, July 6, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Stimulant medications like Ritalin are commonly prescribed to help treat the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, but there have been concerns the drugs may lay the groundwork for later substance abuse. New research may now set those worries at ease. Children who take prescription stimulants for ADHD do not have more substance use disorders as teens or young adults than children who didn’t take stimulants, according to researchers. “The concern was whether or not that would, for multiple reasons, train the brains, train the behaviors of the children to use substances to deal with their problems,” said Brooke...

Soaring misuse of horse tranquilizer xylazine is worsening opioid crisis

Drug overdose deaths involving a powerful horse tranquilizer called xylazine have skyrocketed in the United States, rising 35-fold in just a handful of years, federal health researchers say. The number of xylazine-involved OD deaths nationwide rose from just 102 in 2018 to 3,468 in 2021, according to a new study released Friday from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The findings come a day after another CDC study, which found that by June 2022 xylazine was involved in nearly 11% of all fatal fentanyl overdoses. That's a nearly fourfold increase from January 2019, when it was...

Scaling up community drug-checking services in B.C. could help respond to the overdose crisis

British Columbia is in the midst of an enduring drug overdose crisis that continues to claim hundreds of people every year with no end in sight. With a significant rise in deaths over the last seven years, innovative responses are urgently needed. Among these responses is community drug checking, which continues to gain traction in both public health practice and research. Drug checking is a harm reduction practice that provides chemical analysis of substances. This is not only to inform harm reduction for people who use, buy and sell drugs (and those who support them), but also to monitor the supply...

Politicians want cop crackdowns on drug dealers. Experts say tough tactics cost lives

A growing coalition of U.S. politicians want tougher police tactics used against gangs now selling fentanyl, methamphetamines and xylazine. "We do need to stop the trafficking of these drugs and give law enforcement the tools they need," said Nevada's Democratic Sen. Catherine Masto Cortez, lead sponsor of a bill to toughen penalties for dealing the synthetic drug xylazine. Big drug sweeps, narcotics seizures and mass arrests of dealers have been a cornerstone of America's war on

drugs since the 1970s. But new research published in the American Journal of Public Health suggests drug busts and...

As psychedelics near approval, there's no consensus on how they work

DENVER — The founder of Field Trip, a chain of shuttered ketamine clinics currently facing insolvency, put forward an unexpected theory of how psychedelics work to treat depression last month. “The truth is, almost all of the effect of psychedelic-assisted therapy could be placebo,” said Ronan Levy, speaking at a five-day conference on the emerging field of psychedelic medicine. “Personally I don’t have a problem with that. The outcomes are the outcomes, and that’s really what matters in my view.” While there’s evidence to support the idea (which, if correct, would make Field Trip’s \$5,250 price for six...

Funding Opportunities



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.

[Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation Invites Letters of Intent for HIV/AIDS Efforts](#)

[Deadline: August 5, 2023 \(Letters of Intent\) - Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application by September 1.](#)

The [Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation](#) is a private foundation dedicated to the fight against HIV and AIDS. The foundation invites letters of intent from community-based organizations in HIV/AIDS care and direct services, education, and research. Grants will be awarded to develop new or established programs benefiting clients and/or target audiences. Requests from across the United States are considered, with a particular interest in smaller communities and rural areas. Priority will be given to requests from locations with a scarcity of available funding; seed money for new projects, programs, or structures; and innovative ideas for meeting basic needs. Applicants must be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to be eligible. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the Hofmann Foundation website.

