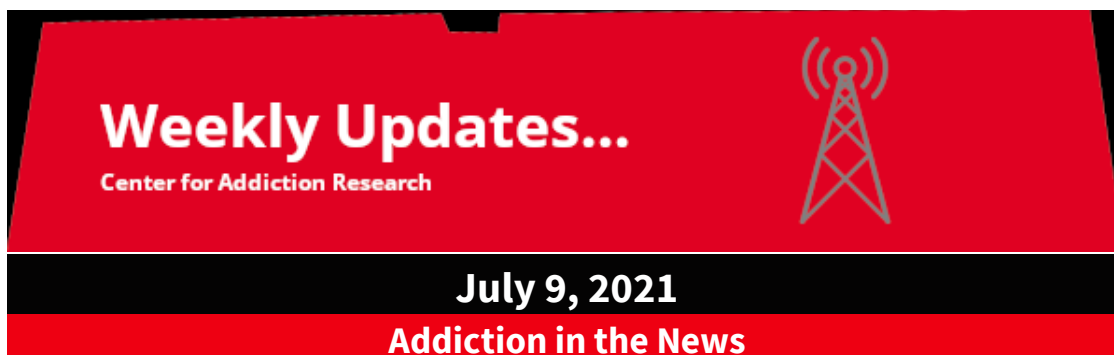


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 7.9.2021

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 Event

The Center for Addiction Research will hold its third Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, July 14 at 12pm on "Prenatal Opioids, Mothers, and Babies" featuring CAR member, Dr. Merhar. The series is hosted by the Urban Health Pathway of Next Lives Here. Monthly presentations run through August. **Featured CAR presenter in the August session will be Dr. Lyons.** (pdf invite attached)

>> Register for any of the presentations

Cleveland Clinic gets \$1M to provide addiction care following ED visits

Cleveland Clinic Akron General on July 1 received a \$1 million grant from the Summit County (Ohio) Opiate Abatement Advisory Council to use for follow-up care for patients whose substance use disorder was recorded as a primary or secondary health issue in any of the hospital's four emergency departments in the county. The grant will support Cleveland Clinic Akron General's "Recover in Reach" program for one year. Its funding comes from a settlement of a federal opioids...

Greene County approves bankruptcy plan to get money from Purdue Pharma

Greene County commissioners approved a resolution Tuesday that allowed the county to remain able to get money from the drug company Purdue Pharma. Purdue Pharma is being sued, accused of contributing to the opioid crisis that left

millions of people nationwide dead from the effects of drug addiction. It has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The resolution in Greene County accepts the Chapter 11 bankruptcy plan and authorizes Greene County administrator...

National News

Spike In Drug, Alcohol Related Jail Deaths Puts Spotlight On Fallout From 'War On Drugs'.

[ABC News](#) (7/4, Alfonseca, 2.44M) reported, "Drug and alcohol-related jail deaths have skyrocketed in recent years, according to a recent report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and experts say that spike goes hand-in-hand with the continued criminalization of substance abuse in the United States and lack of treatment." According to the article, "Substance abuse is classified as a mental illness, by the National Institute on Drug Abuse...but has long been treated as a criminal offense by the justice system, rather than a public health issue," NIDA's Dr. Redonna Chandler told ABC News." Chandler said, "The fact that we have criminalized some of these things and used punishment as a form of dealing with it goes along with the stigmatized idea that substance use disorders and addiction are a moral choice. ... What we actually know from many years of science is that substance use disorders are involved in a fundamental change within the brain, and within neural circuitry."

'Something You Cannot Ignore': Cannabis Use Linked To Increased Thoughts Of Suicide In Young Adults, Study Shows.

[USA Today](#) (7/2, Avery, 12.7M) reported new research indicates "young adults who use cannabis are more likely to think about and make plans to kill themselves." According to the article, "About a third of severely depressed young people considered suicide between 2009 and 2019, compared with more than half of those with depression who also used cannabis daily." Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which led the study, said, "Consumption of marijuana increases your risk of suicidal behaviors." The findings were published June 22 in JAMA Network Open.

Smoking Menthol Cigarettes Tied To Reduced Success In Quitting Versus Unflavored Cigarettes, Study Indicates.

[STAT](#) (7/6, Joseph, 262K) reports research suggests "smoking menthol cigarettes versus unflavored cigarettes is associated with reduced success in quitting among people who smoke nearly every day." The study, published in Tobacco Control, found the "use of menthol cigarettes prior to attempting to quit decreased the probability of a smoker being able to abstain for more than one month by 28%, and for more than one year by 53%, compared to those who didn't smoke menthol cigarettes." STAT adds that recently, "the FDA has moved to ban almost all flavored cigarettes and cigars, but menthol has remained the lone holdout."

Study Indicates E-Cigarettes Can Be More Effective For Smoking Cessation Than Nicotine Replacements.

The [New York Post](#) (6/30, Sparks, 7.45M) reports, “As health experts continue to scrutinize the viability of e-cigarettes as a safe approach to smoking cessation, a new study funded by top cancer researchers in the UK has determined that vaping can be ‘more effective’ than patches, gum and other nicotine replacement products for quitting.” This discovery is “good news for the estimated 21.5 million adult smokers – over half of all adult smokers in the US – who will attempt to quit smoking this year, according to the most recent data from the CDC.”

“Blue Pill” Overdoses Dismay South Carolina Health Officials.

The [AP](#) (6/30) reports, “Fake blue pain pills – laced with cocaine, meth or fentanyl – are showing up in alarming numbers in South Carolina, health officials said.” There have been approximately 500 overdoses in the state “from the little blue pill that’s a counterfeit of Roxycodone [oxycodone hydrochloride],” which “is an opioid that’s prescribed to treat pain.”

Economist Says It Will Cost \$2.5B To Abate Opioid Crisis In West Virginia Community.

The [AP](#) (6/30) reports forensic economist George Barrett testified that “a 15-year plan to abate the opioid crisis in a West Virginia community will cost local officials \$2.5 billion” in West Virginia’s Cabell County and Huntington. His “findings were based on the report of Caleb Alexander, a pharmacoepidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.”

New Jersey Governor Signs Into Law Bills Expanding Access To Naloxone.

The [New Jersey Star-Ledger](#) (7/2, Livio, Johnson, 1.47M) reported “naloxone, the opioid overdose-reversing drug that saves thousands of lives in the state every year, will become vastly easier to obtain in New Jersey under a bipartisan package of bills Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law Friday.” One piece of legislation “signed into law (S3491) will expand access to anyone who wants to obtain opioid antidotes through a pharmacy.” A second law “requires the state Division of Consumer Affairs to publish the retail price of opioid antidotes on the ‘New Jersey Prescription Drug Retail Price Registry,’ located on its website.”

President Biden Proposes ARPA-H, New \$6.5 Billion Health Entity To Transform How Research Is Done.

[Forbes](#) (7/6, 10.33M) contributor Bruce Lee writes President Biden “has proposed the creation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)...that would sit within the National Institutes of Health,” and explained it “would have a singular purpose: to develop breakthroughs to prevent, detect, and treat diseases like Alzheimer’s, diabetes, and cancer.” Lee adds ARPA-H “could help fill a big gap”

regarding “innovation and breakthroughs in health.” NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins said of ARPA-H, “It’s the opportunity to take on large, high risk projects quickly in an entrepreneurial way. Personally, this is a big priority, based on our experience with Covid-19. The time is right for a more aggressive approach.” Lee also mentions the CDC.

Psychedelic Drugs Reportedly Gaining Ground As Treatments For Numerous Conditions.

Contributor Joshua Cohen writes in [Forbes](#) (7/5, 10.33M) that “Psychedelic agents are experiencing a veritable renaissance” as they “are being investigated for treating conditions, such as major depressive disorder, severe anxiety, and substance abuse.” For example, “in April, a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine highlighted the benefits of treating depression with psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in magic mushrooms, have excited scientists, psychotherapists and entrepreneurs in the rapidly expanding field of psychedelic medicine.” [The FDA “granted psilocybin ‘breakthrough’ therapy designation.”](#)

Gambling Technology Company, Virtual Mental Health Clinic Partner With Rutgers University To Create Evidence-Based Model For Gambling Treatment In Telehealth Setting.

The [AP](#) (7/7, Parry) reports [Playtech](#), an Ilse of Man-based “gambling technology company,” and [Kindbridge](#), “a virtual mental health clinic” based in Tennessee, “are joining with New Jersey’s Rutgers University to study the effectiveness of treatment for compulsive gambling and video game playing delivered in a virtual setting.” The entities seek “to create an evidence-based model for gambling treatment in a telehealth setting” through “the newly formed Kindbridge Research Institute.”

Canadian Company Works On Determining Whether Mescaline Has A Future In Medicine.

[Forbes](#) (7/7, Adams, 10.33M) reports, “Mescaline (3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethylamine) – the magical alkaloid found in the peyote cactus (*Lophophora williamsii*) and similar cacti – could be the next vital ingredient in psychedelic drug formulations.” Recent “surprising data supports mescaline’s potential to treat disorders such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as alcohol and drug use disorders.” Vancouver, British Columbia-based [XPhyto Therapeutics](#) “is developing mescaline synthesis processes, which could lead to controlled microdoses, given the company’s expertise in transdermal patches, sublingual strips, and similar delivery systems.”

Opinion: Majority Of Patients Seeing Physicians In Person Again, Not Using Telehealth.

In a commentary piece for [Fortune](#) (7/6, 3.68M), Zocdoc founder and CEO Oliver Kharraz says that “last spring, as the pandemic kept many Americans at home, the

use of telemedicine began to spike dramatically.” Kharraz asserts that “based on a full year’s worth of data, we now have greater insight into telehealth’s shifting role as we readjust to life post-pandemic.” He writes that “the bottom line” is that “given the opportunity, the overwhelming majority of patients are choosing to see their doctors in person again.” Kharraz adds that throughout three centuries, “my ancestors and I all relied on the very same primary diagnostic tool: the human body itself.” He concludes, “As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, we are discovering that telehealth is a supplement to that – not a substitute for it.”

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[RFA-DA-22-031](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Novel Targets for Opioid Use Disorders and Opioid Overdose \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-22-032](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Novel Targets for Opioid Use Disorders and Opioid Overdose \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-AA-21-037](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Inviting Input on the ICCFASD 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Outline](#)

[RFA-DA-22-020](#)

[Growing Great Ideas: Research Education Course in Product Development and Entrepreneurship for Life Science Researchers \(UE5 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-AI-21-041](#)

[Innate Immune Memory Impacting HIV Acquisition and/or Control \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-DA-21-061](#)

[Notice of Change to NOT-DA-21-013, "Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): High-Priority Interest to Enhance Data Science Research Training in Addiction Research"](#)

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