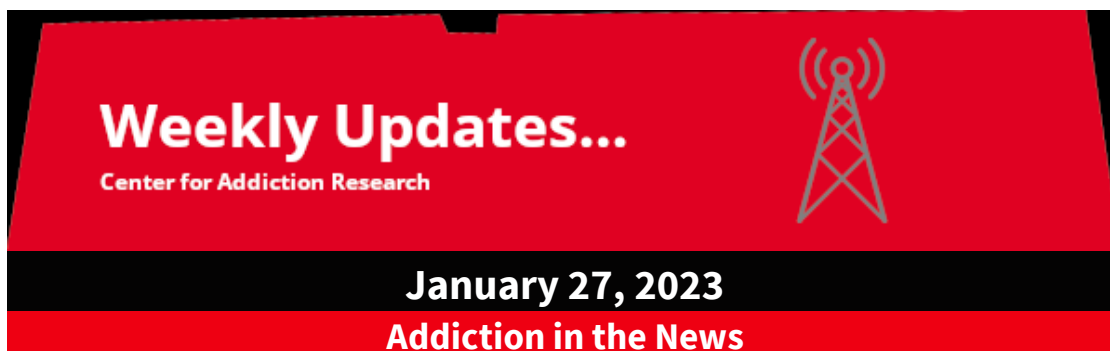


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 1.27.2023

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

“Drugs and Bugs: Interactions Between Drugs of Abuse and Viral Pathogens” presented by, **Jason Blackard, PhD**, professor **(CAR member)**, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases on Wednesday, February 1, at noon via **Zoom**.

[Research Rainmakers: Congratulations to UC's FY2022 Outstanding Sponsored Research Awardees!](#)

On Tuesday, January 24 the Office of Research celebrated the outstanding sponsored award recipients for fiscal year 2022 who received \$225,000 or more in the arts, humanities, or social sciences or \$400,000 or more in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine. Below is the list of researchers, who are CAR members, their colleges, and the number of times they have been recognized for this accomplishment.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

- T. John Winhusen, 7
- Jason Blackard, 6
- Andrew Norman, 6
- Kenneth E. Sherman, 6
- Teresa Reyes, 4
- Caroline Freiermuth, 3

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

- Jennifer Jean Vannest, 2

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE & HUMAN SERVICES

- Ashley Merianos, 4

Recovery Ready Communities applications now open in Kentucky

Kentucky communities can now apply for Recovery Ready designation through the state. House Bill 7, sponsored by Rep. Adam Bowling (R-Middlesboro) and passed during the 2021 legislative session, established a framework for communities to become “Recovery Ready,” bringing much-needed consistency to local substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. The bill sought to ensure Kentuckians struggling with substance use disorder are supported in their communities. And on Thursday, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear announced communities are now eligible to apply for this certification, which measures their services to residents seeking help for drug or alcohol...

IU researchers potentially discover new way to block brain’s reward response to opioids

Newswise — Indiana University researchers have potentially discovered a new way to block the brain’s reward response to opioids, reducing their potential for addiction without reducing their therapeutic aspects. Their findings were published in the journal *Pharmacological Research*. The opioid epidemic has profoundly increased drug overdose deaths globally – an increase that has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While opioid therapy is effective for short-term pain management, its long-term use for chronic pain management is limited by adverse side effects, including addiction, tolerance and physical dependence. “Despite recent changes...

Hospitals look to storytelling to reduce stigma toward people with addiction

Belle Smith was using heroin a few years ago and didn’t have access to a clean syringe. A needle broke in her arm and caused an infection. Smith went to a nearby hospital in South Carolina, where she said staff refused to give her anesthesia and opted to use a local numbing agent while they tried to get the needle out. “I looked up at one of the nurses, obviously in pain,” Smith said. “And she said, ‘Well, then maybe you just shouldn’t do heroin.’ And I just remember just like silently crying while they dug in my arm.” Research suggests Smith is not alone. Most health care professionals hold negative attitudes toward patients with substance use disorders, according to a 2013 systematic review of...

Lexington Black community tackling drug crisis: ‘Dad, I am addicted to opioids’

LEXINGTON, Ky. (FOX 56) — Kentucky is in a constant fight to stop the opioid epidemic. A Tuesday town hall meeting in Lexington addressed how it’s impacting the Black community. Urban county council members, in partnership with the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, heard from people who have

felt those impacts firsthand. The data revealed Tuesday night showed that the Black community was disproportionately impacted by the crisis. Black men have been hit the hardest, and many of them took to the podium when talking to the council for the attorney general. One man even called them out for the lack of diversity on the panel at the town hall meeting. “I was an...

Summit County sues pharmacy benefits managers over opioid crisis

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Summit County has sued a group of pharmacy benefit managers, accusing them of helping fuel the country’s opioid crisis. Pharmacy benefit managers play a lesser-known role in the link between drug manufacturers and consumers, but the lawsuit accuses the companies of helping stoke the epidemic that ripped through communities across the country. The lawsuit adds a new layer to the thousands of lawsuits filed by cities and counties across the country against opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies that so far have resulted in billions of dollars in settlements and judgments. Summit County’s lawsuit, filed in federal court in Akron earlier this...

Local 12: Experts worry about rise in gambling addiction in Ohio as legalized sports betting begins

As of the start of 2023, online and live sports betting became legal in Ohio, causing some concern among mental health experts over the possibility of a jump in the number of problem gamblers statewide. One of the experts cited in a story produced by WKRC-TV, Local 12 is Gregory Stewart, PhD, of the Department of Social Work at the UC College of Allied Health Sciences, who 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...

National News

Patients With AUD Less Likely to Receive Direct-Acting Antiviral HCV Treatment

Individuals with alcohol use disorder (AUD) were less likely to receive direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) than those without AUD. These findings were published in JAMA Network Open. Investigators from Yale School of Medicine sourced data for this study from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Birth Cohort which comprised veterans who were born between 1945 and 1965 and visited a VHA center between 2000 and 2016. The subset of patients (N=133,753) with HCV who completed an Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Consumption (AUDIT-C) questionnaire...

Close relationships with parents promote healthier brain development in teens at risk for alcohol use disorder

For teens at elevated risk of developing alcohol use disorder (AUD), close relationships with parents can mitigate their genetic and environmental

vulnerability, a new study suggests. The offspring of people with AUD are four times more likely than others to develop the disorder. Increasing evidence suggests that this heritable risk may be either amplified or mitigated by the quality of parenting. Deficient parenting has been linked to a range of negative behavioral and psychiatric outcomes, while positive parenting appears critical for the development of higher-level social, emotional, and...

Ovulation and menstruation trigger heavy drinking in psychiatric outpatients

People with psychiatric vulnerabilities that increase their risk of misusing alcohol appear more likely to drink heavily around the time of ovulation, especially on weekends, a new study suggests. The days around menstruation similarly carry a raised risk of heavy drinking—in this context, driven by attempts to cope with negative emotions that sometimes arise at that time. The findings come from the largest study so far to follow a clinical sample over time, exploring how the menstrual cycle influences drinking. Women and girls (and others who menstruate) are experiencing steeper increases in...

Bisexuals use cannabis more frequently for coping, enhancement

Young people classified as bisexual not only use cannabis more frequently but also are more likely to use it to cope with mental health issues and for what researchers call experiential "enhancement." A recent study, titled "The Pot at the End of the Rainbow," is one of the first to examine motives for cannabis use among sexual minorities quantitatively. Led by Washington State University psychologists, researchers analyzed survey data from nearly 4,700 university students from across the country. Of the participants, 23% were classified as bisexual after indicating that they were not exclusively...

Availability of recreational cannabis reduced demand for prescription codeine

States that permit recreational use of cannabis see a reduction in demand for prescription codeine, an opioid with a high potential for misuse, according to a new multi-institutional study led by University of Pittsburgh and Cornell University scientists. Published this week in *Health Economics*, the study finds a significant reduction in pharmacy-based codeine distribution in states that have legalized recreational cannabis use. The finding is promising from a public health policy perspective because misuse of prescription opioids annually contributes to more than 10,000 overdose deaths. Twenty-one...

Flavored cannabis marketing criticized for targeting children

NEW YORK (AP) — When New York's first licensed recreational marijuana outlet opened last month, the chief of the state's Office of Cannabis Management, Chris Alexander, proudly hoisted a tin of watermelon-flavored gummies above the crowd. Outside the Manhattan shop, he displayed another purchase — a jar containing dried flowers of a cannabis strain called Banana Runtz, which some aficionados say has overtones of "fresh, fruity banana and sour candy." Inside the store run by the

nonprofit Housing Works, shelves brimmed with vape cartridges suggesting flavors of pineapple, grapefruit and...

Is your state among the worst for tobacco control?

When it comes to tobacco control, some states do a far better job than others of preventing and reducing smoking. A new report from the American Lung Association (ALA) notes that California, Maine, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C., are doing the best job of putting proven tobacco control policies in place. Conversely, those who have the most need to enact policies are Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas. Policies vary widely from state to state. Some states still allow workplace smoking, including in restaurants and bars. Others have had smoke-free laws in place for decades. "The policies...

NDA Accepted for Nasal Nalmefene for Opioid Overdose

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has accepted for review the New Drug Application (NDA) for Opiant Pharmaceuticals' nasal nalmefene, OPNT003, for the treatment of opioid overdose. The 505(b)2 NDA submission for OPNT003 is supported by results from 3 studies: (1) a pharmacokinetic study comparing OPNT003 with an intramuscular nalmefene injection; (2) a PK study comparing a single intranasal dose with a single dose in each nostril or 2 doses in a single nostril; and (3) a pharmacodynamic study comparing nasal nalmefene to naloxone HCl (Narcan) nasal spray 4 mg in a clinical...

Overdose deaths involving buprenorphine did not proportionally increase with new flexibilities in prescribing

The proportion of opioid overdose deaths involving buprenorphine, a medication used to treat opioid use disorder, did not increase in the months after prescribing flexibilities were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study. These data provide evidence that may help to inform buprenorphine prescribing policies. Published today in JAMA Network Open, this study was a collaborative effort between researchers at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These data...

As Opioid Deaths Rise Among Teens, Too Few Youth Get Anti-Addiction Drug

TUESDAY, Jan. 24, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- The number of American teenagers becoming addicted to opioids is on the rise, yet fewer are being prescribed a medication that can help them, a new government study finds. Between 2015 and 2020, the proportion of teens receiving buprenorphine prescriptions fell by 45%. Buprenorphine is one of three medications approved to treat opioid addiction. The decline in prescriptions is "concerning," given that the opioid crisis is actually worsening, said lead researcher Dr. Andrew Terranella, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "In...

Opioid addiction is a disease. We cut red tape so doctors can finally treat it effectively.

Almost two decades ago, I rushed to the emergency room because one of my patients had overdosed. I had met the patient a month before as part of my newly minted primary care practice in Florala, Alabama, a town of 1,800 residents just above the Florida panhandle. He had been receiving pain medications from different physicians for years, and I had diagnosed him with opioid use disorder. Federal regulations allowed me to prescribe an addictive category of opioids for pain to my patients, but prevented me from treating my patient for his opioid addiction without a special prescribing license...

Creating a safer fentanyl. How researchers are making the deadly drug less addictive

A group of scientists say they've created a safer version of fentanyl that could potentially diminish the drug's addictive side effects, which have resulted in annual deaths of tens of thousands of people across the United States. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is prescribed to treat patients with severe pain though it's also sold illegally and mixed with other drugs, including cocaine and heroin, making it more deadly. It's Exhibit A in the country's decades-long opioid crisis. The crisis, which began with prescription opioids in the 1990s and resulted last year in a nearly \$6 billion U.S...

Fewer Emergency Department Visits End With Opioid Prescriptions

Fewer emergency department (ED) visits end with a prescription for opioids, CDC survey data showed. The percentage of ED visits with an opioid prescribed at discharge fell from 12.2% in 2017-2018 to 8.1% in 2019-2020, reported Loredana Santo, MD, MPH, and Susan Schappert, MA, of the National Center for Health Statistics in Hyattsville, Maryland, in NCHS Data Brief. The rate of prescribing at discharge also dropped: in 2019-2020, opioids were prescribed at 36.4 ED visits per 1,000 adults, lower than 50.5 per 1,000 in 2017-2018. The decline was similar for both men and women. The findings were based on the...

When Surgeons Clamp Down on Opioids After Cardiac Operations

SAN DIEGO -- Given the long- and short-term harms of opioids, cardiac surgeons stressed that it is feasible to put strict limits around perioperative opioid use without giving up pain control and patient satisfaction. Approximately one-third of patients do not need opioids on discharge after cardiac surgery, according to Kathleen Clement, MD, of Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, in a discussion at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) annual meeting. Standardization of opioid prescribing can reduce the excessive perioperative opioid use that is a major modifiable risk factor of new persistent opioid use...

Dentists Not Associated with Changing Duration of Opioid Prescriptions, Despite Statewide Limits

Implementing state opioid prescribing limits has no effects on the duration of prescriptions dispensed by dentists, according to new research. The analysis found that both adults and children received, on average, 3-day supply of opioids from dentists. "These findings are consistent with those of a growing body of studies suggesting that state limits have done little to curb excessive opioid prescribing for acute pain," the study authors wrote in JAMA Network Open. In 2019, 7.6% of all opioid prescriptions were provided by dentists in the US, equating to 10.9 million prescriptions. Dental opioid prescriptions...

New research describes challenges of ER care for mental health and substance use disorder patients

Across the country, one in eight visits to the emergency department (ED) involves psychiatric or substance use concerns—and the frequency of such visits continues to rise. It's no news flash among social and public health scientists that "the health care system is terribly broken—and for patients who suffer from mental illness or substance use disorders, it's particularly broken," says Linda Isbell, the Feldman-Vorwerk Family Professor in Social Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. A first step toward addressing these issues is understanding and describing them. In research...

Pregnant Women With Syphilis, Substance Use More Likely to Pass Infection to Babies

Pregnant patients with syphilis who used substances had a greater chance of passing the infection along to their baby compared with those without substance use, according to a CDC study conducted in Arizona and Georgia. From 2018 to 2021, patients who had a congenital syphilis pregnancy outcome -- defined as a syphilitic stillbirth or a live birth with a syphilis diagnosis -- had almost double the rate of substance use compared with those without this outcome (48.1% vs 24.6%; prevalence ratio [PR] 1.95, 95% CI 1.60-2.38), reported Jeffrey Carlson, PhD, of Eagle Global Scientific in Atlanta, and...

Gambling advertising restrictions could reduce harm, says study

Gambling advertising restriction could reduce related harms, especially on vulnerable individuals, a new review of the evidence has shown. Researchers from the University of Sheffield explored the relationship between exposure to gambling advertising and attitudes, intentions and behaviors that may be associated with an increased risk of gambling related harms such as debt, relationship problems, physical and mental health problems and crime. The team analyzed eight recent reviews in this field that included data from over 70 research papers, using a variety of research methods to investigate...

Psychedelic Succeeds as Quick Depression Fix in Early Trial

An investigational N,N-dimethyltryptamine treatment -- commonly known as the hallucinogen DMT -- achieved the primary endpoint in a phase IIa trial for major depressive disorder (MDD), developer Small Pharma announced. Paired with supportive therapy, a 21.5-mg infusion of the agent, dubbed SPL026, significantly reduced depressive symptoms by 7.4 points more than placebo (P=0.02) at 2 weeks after treatment when using the Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS), for which a 1.6- to 1.9-point change from baseline is considered clinically important. There was a quick onset...

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-DA-24-001](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Pharmacogenomic Approaches to Enhancing HIV and Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Treatment Strategies, A jump into Precision Medicine.](#)

[PA-23-080](#)

[Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award \(NRSA\) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grant \(Parent T35\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-016](#)

[Notice of Early Termination of NOT-DA-23-005, Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): HEAL Initiative: Biospecimen Collection in Pregnancy](#)

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