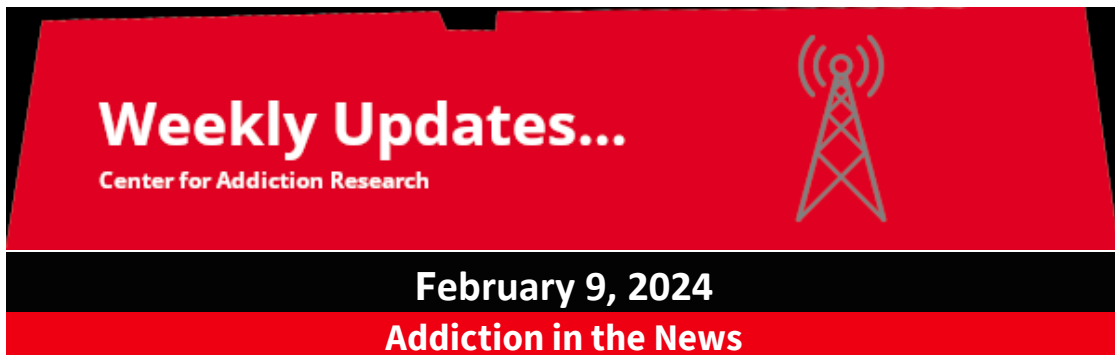


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) 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

UC trial to test neurostimulation device to manage opioid withdrawal with PTSD symptoms

A new University of Cincinnati trial, in partnership with Spark Biomedical, will test a wearable neurostimulation device to help patients with opioid use disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) stick with medication treatment while finding the right dose. The National Institute on Drug Abuse has awarded UC's Joel Sprunger, PhD, a \$2.1 million grant to lead the trial testing Spark Biomedical's Sparrow Ascent device. Sprunger said in his practice at the UC Health Addiction Sciences Clinic, he often sees patients with both opioid use disorder (OUD) and PTSD. "The rates of substance use disorder among people that have PTSD is relatively higher than other psychological disorders, and these happen to be...

(featuring CAR Member, Dr. Joel Sprunger)

Hundreds gather in Frankfort for Recovery Advocacy Day 2024

Cassandra Clay understands what it feels like to be in recovery from substance use. Years ago, she told Spectrum News 1 that crack cocaine grabbed ahold of her life, which she said took her mind, body and soul. She will celebrate 15 years of sobriety March 10. "It's been a long road," Clay said. "It's been some ups and downs, some 'no-matter-what's', but recovery has afforded me to have a new way of life, to follow my dreams and to aim for more goals." Born and raised in Lexington, Clay is the mother of four adult children and a grandmother of 15. She joined hundreds of others Wednesday for the occasion. "When you have fought for the inches that become the feet, that become the miles of progress, you can..."

Saving grace: Readily available naloxone buys time for those addicted to opiates

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, may not be needed at every street corner, but how about every city bus stop? Lt. Zakariya Reed, EMS bureau supervisor for the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department, is all in when it comes to helping drug users recover from an opiate overdose, especially when products as ubiquitous as marijuana may be laced with fentanyl, unbeknownst to those who are aficionados of Mary Jane. One result of Lieutenant Reed's initiatives is that emergency personnel with the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department may offer naloxone kits for free, along with information on recovery services, whenever called to a home with an overdose situation. Now, pharmacies, such as CVS...

Overdose deaths in Trumbull County see modest decline

WARREN — Trumbull County has seen a modest decline in overdose deaths, but those combating the issue on the frontlines refrain from declaring a win over addiction. Lauren Thorp, associate director of the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, as well as the project director for the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, said 12 toxicology reports are awaiting results from the Trumbull County Coroner's Office. Of those cases, six are expected to come back as confirmed drug overdoses. The count stands at 105 overdose deaths in 2023. This marks a decrease of the previous year's tally of 125 lives lost. It's the first time substance abuse workers have seen such a decrease in fatal...

New Ohio children's services model aims to promote family healing

A first-of-its-kind social work model aims to provide struggling Ohio families with personalized attention and resources. Mike Kenney - director of strategic initiatives with the Public Children Services Association of Ohio - said the goal is to ensure families dealing with substance use disorders, neglect, domestic violence and other issues have the opportunity to heal and keep their children safe. He added that the Practice in Action Together, or 'PACT,' model is collaborative and malleable. "What we heard from the families and workers was, 'We don't need more rules or more processes,'" said Kenney. "We need a model and framework that gives us the space to strengthen our relationships between..."

National News

Study of alcohol treatment completion reveals greater disparities for women of color

An intersectional study of alcohol treatment completion rates reveals striking disparities for racial and ethnic minoritized women when compared to white men. Overall, women complete treatment at slightly lower rates than men, but the completion rates for Black, Latina, American Indian, and Native Alaskan women compared to white men are significantly lower. In some cases, these intersectional disparities are more than double those found by assessing only gender or race and

ethnicity alone. The study, recently published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, demonstrates that having multiple...

Study says reducing homelessness by 25% could save thousands of lives from dying by overdose

Reducing homelessness by 25% could save almost 2,000 lives lost to opioid overdoses, according to new research from the University of Georgia. Published by *Health Affairs*, the study is the first to suggest that increased homelessness likely causes increased overdose deaths from drugs and alcohol. The researchers also found that reducing homelessness by a quarter could save 850 lives from alcohol poisoning and 540 from cocaine overdoses. (Due to the nature of addiction, some of these lost lives may overlap.) "One of the frustrations for people who study and recommend policy changes is that homelessness..."

Heavy cannabis use increases risk of developing an anxiety disorder, study suggests

According to new research, 27% of individuals who had an emergency department visit for cannabis use developed a new anxiety disorder within three years. Led by researchers at the Bruyère Research Institute, University of Ottawa Department of Family Medicine, The Ottawa Hospital, and ICES, this is the largest study of the relationship between cannabis use and anxiety to date. The study, "Development of an anxiety disorder following an emergency department visit due to cannabis use," published in *eClinicalMedicine* included over 12 million individuals living in Ontario, Canada, between 2008 and 2019...

CTN Webinar: Cannabis and Mental Health (Feb 28, 2pm ET)

The CTN Western States Node and the Northwest and Pacific Southwest ATTCs are hosting their next joint webinar on February 28, 2024, from 2:00pm-3:30pm ET. In this session, Natania Crane, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Director of the UIC Recovery Clinic, will provide current information on research and treatment related to cannabis use and mental health, including recent changes in cannabis use, how the endocannabinoid system may regulate mental health symptoms, and what we currently know about cannabis use and mental health. Dr. Natania Crane's...

CDC's Tips From Former Smokers® Launches New Ads to Encourage People to Quit Smoking

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Tips From Former Smokers®* (Tips®) campaign returns today with new ads to encourage people to quit smoking. This year, seven new people are featured in the ads sharing their stories about how cigarette smoking and smoking-related diseases have negatively impacted their lives. Many of this year's new ads include messaging about the harms of menthol cigarettes, which can contribute to tobacco-related health disparities. Menthol in

cigarettes can make it easier to start smoking and harder to quit. The Tips campaign promotes messages and free...

Many hookah manufacturers have not complied with FDA-mandated nicotine warning labels, finds study

Since August 2018, the US Food & Drug Administration has mandated that all hookah (also known as waterpipe tobacco or shisha) manufacturers include a nicotine warning on their packaging to communicate the harms of the tobacco in their products. But two years after this mandate was implemented, hookah companies' compliance with this federal regulation remained low, according to a new study led by a Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) researcher. Published in the journal JAMA Network Open, the study found that only 3 brands out of 33 brands assessed were 100 percent compliant with...

Panama to host anti-tobacco talks as industry courts new, younger smokers

A global anti-tobacco meeting opens in Panama on Monday to halt the harmful consequences of smoking, as tobacco companies endeavor to hook more users—including children—with addictive products. Delegates from more than 180 countries will gather in Panama City for the biennial meeting, which will focus on tobacco advertising and sponsorship—as well as new tobacco products, such as trendy electronic cigarettes. The number of smokers around the world is steadily dropping, but the World Health Organization warned earlier this month that Big Tobacco was working hard to attract young people. Tobacco...

Smoking Tied to Increased Mortality From Early-Stage Melanoma

Patients with clinically localized primary cutaneous melanoma who smoked cigarettes at the time of diagnosis had an increased risk of melanoma-associated mortality, a cohort study showed. In a post hoc analysis of data derived from two randomized trials involving more than 6,000 patients, current smoking was associated with a 48% greater risk of melanoma-associated death compared with never smoking (HR 1.48, 95% CI 1.26-1.75, $P < 0.001$), reported Katherine M. Jackson, MD, of Saint John's Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, California, and colleagues. Notably, former smoking showed no...

Reduced cancer risk seen after 10 years since quitting smoking

Sustained smoking cessation is associated with reduced cancer risk after 10 years since smoking cessation, according to a study published online in JAMA Network Open. Eunjung Park, Ph.D., from the National Cancer Center Graduate School of Cancer Science and Policy in Goyang, South Korea, and colleagues examined the time course of cancer risk according to the time elapsed since smoking cessation in a retrospective cohort study involving 2,974,820 Korean participants aged 30 years and older. The researchers confirmed 196,829 cancer cases during a mean follow-up of 13.4 years. Complete quitters had a lower...

Juul spent big to court Black leaders to promote its e-cigarettes, new documents show

Documents released this week shed new light on an aggressive strategy from vape maker Juul to court Black leaders, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, to publicly support its e-cigarettes. Beginning in 2018, Juul executives, including the company's CEO, discussed six- and seven-figure partnerships with civil rights organizations, one of which would have seen it send as much as \$7 million to Sharpton's group, according to internal emails and documents that were released this week as part of a legal settlement with the state of North Carolina. It's not clear how much the company ultimately spent on the partnerships. Juul...

Researchers develop rapid test for detecting fentanyl

University of Texas at Dallas researchers have developed a first-of-its-kind, handheld electrochemical sensor that can accurately detect fentanyl in urine within seconds. The proof-of-concept technology can detect even trace amounts of fentanyl with 98% accuracy using a small portable device without costly and time-consuming lab analysis. A study demonstrating the device was published in the Jan. 10 print edition of the Applied Materials & Interfaces. The prototype, which could be used to test for fentanyl via urinalysis, is a precursor to a test to detect the drug in saliva, said Dr. Shalini...

New data show a third of states restrict access to lifesaving medicine for opioid use disorder

Amid an overdose crisis that claimed more than 100,000 lives last year alone, newly released data show that laws in more than one-third of states restrict access to buprenorphine, a lifesaving treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). The data, published at PDAPS.org by the Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University Beasley School of Law in collaboration with the Vital Strategies Overdose Prevention Program, supports urgent adoption of low-barrier, medication-first approaches to OUD treatment across states. Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), specifically agonist...

DEA reverses decision stripping drug distributor of licenses for fueling opioid crisis

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is allowing one of the nation's largest wholesale drug distributors to stay in business, reversing an earlier order stripping the company of its licenses for its failure to properly monitor the shipment of tens of millions of addictive painkillers blamed for fueling the opioid crisis. As part of the settlement announced Wednesday, Morris & Dickson Co. agreed to admit wrongdoing, comply with heightened reporting requirements and surrender one of its two certificates of registration with the DEA. The Shreveport, La.-based company, which has around 600 employees...

Parents warned of killer fake pills laced with fentanyl

The DEA has posted a chilling two-page warning to parents on fake pills—pills that can kill. The "One Pill/Can Kill" campaign kicks off with a warning that fentanyl "is a deadly synthetic opioid" pressed into bogus pills that are made to look like Adderall, Xanax, OxyContin and "other pharmaceuticals." "It only takes a very small dose of fentanyl—2 milligrams—to be lethal, such as the amount found on the tip of a pencil," the Drug Enforcement Agency states. The sickos pumping this poison to children are the Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion, both ruthless Mexican criminal gangs. The DEA adds the...

Study Sheds Light on Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors for Opioid Use Disorder

A new study by VA Connecticut Healthcare System and Yale School of Medicine researchers assesses how the most up-to-date genetic and psychosocial predictors of opioid use disorder compare and combine when predicting the risk of becoming dependent on opioids. "We've made great progress in understanding some of the genetic and environmental factors that influence risk for opioid use disorder, but we know less about the complex interplay between them," said Joseph Deak, PhD, associate research scientist at Yale School of Medicine, and co-lead author of the study. Other recent studies have assessed the...

New guideline details acute pain management strategies for adolescent, adult dental patients

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) taken alone or along with acetaminophen are recommended as first-line treatments for managing short-term dental pain in adults and adolescents aged 12 or older, according to a new clinical practice guideline developed by the American Dental Association (ADA), the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and the Center for Integrative Global Oral Health at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. The guideline has been endorsed by the ADA and is now available in the February issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association. Based...

Ad firm Publicis, drugmaker Hikma settle US opioid cases for \$500 million

BOSTON, Feb 1 (Reuters) - A division of French advertising company Publicis Groupe SA (PUBP.PA), and drug company Hikma Pharmaceuticals (HIK.L), have reached separate settlements worth a collective \$500 million to resolve claims that they helped fuel the deadly U.S. opioid epidemic. The settlements announced by U.S. state attorneys general on Thursday add to the more than \$50 billion that drug manufacturers, distributors, pharmacy operators and consultants have agreed to pay to resolve lawsuits and investigations over their roles in the drug addiction crisis. Publicis Health, a subsidiary...

Biden-Harris Administration Marks Two Years of Advancements in HHS' Overdose Prevention Strategy with New Actions to Treat Addiction and Save Lives

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) marked two years of its Overdose Prevention Strategy (Strategy) by announcing bold new actions to combat overdoses. These actions include finalizing a rule that will dramatically expand access to life-saving medications for opioid use disorder, announcing that certain grant funds may now be used to purchase xylazine test strips (XTS), and releasing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) updated Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit. Actions announced today build on President Biden's National...

Making art shows promise in residential treatment setting for substance abuse disorder

Art therapy is a common activity for people receiving treatment for a substance use disorder, but the therapeutic value of making art as part of treatment programs hasn't been researched sufficiently. Now, a University of Kansas study of women in residential treatment for substance use disorder (SUD) indicates the creation of visual art indeed may be an effective strategy to reduce "delay discounting." The findings appear in the Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment and are some of the first to measure the effectiveness of art therapy in a residential treatment setting. "Delay...

Study estimates prevalence of adolescents identifying as being 'in recovery'

The prevalence of adolescents identifying as being in recovery and resolving problems with substances is estimated in a study published online Dec. 19 in PLOS ONE. Douglas C. Smith, Ph.D., from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and colleagues estimated the prevalence of recovery status in a large statewide epidemiological survey involving high school students in ninth through 12th grades administered between January and March 2020. Youth who reported recovery and problem-resolving dual status (DS), recovery only (RO), and problem resolution only (PRO) were compared to control groups...

Making drug use less dangerous for users is the only way to tackle overdose epidemic, says new book

With more than 100,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States in one year, communities need more than 'just say no' drug prevention education and abstinence-only addiction treatment to save lives, an expert has warned. Statistics show that most people who complete conventional drug prevention education as youth eventually go on to use alcohol, nicotine, or illegal drugs. Harm reduction expert Sheila P. Vakharia, Ph.D., MSW, explains, "The majority have experimented, others use socially, and some experience substance-related problems or addictions. And, regardless of their patterns of..."

Law enforcement seizures of psilocybin mushrooms rose dramatically between 2017-2022

Law enforcement seizures of “magic mushrooms” or “shrooms” containing the psychoactive component psilocybin increased dramatically in the United States between January 2017 and December 2022, according to a new study funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health. The number of law enforcement seizures increased from 402 seizures in 2017 to 1,396 in 2022. In addition, the total weight of psilocybin mushrooms seized by law enforcement increased from 226 kg (498 lbs) seized in 2017 compared to 844 kg (1,861 lbs) in 2022. The researchers found that...

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-DA-23-064](#)

[Notice of Change to section for RFA-DA-25-027: The National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network \(UG1 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[NOT-DA-25-029](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Strategies to Address Stigmatizing Beliefs and Policies Affecting People Who Use Drugs](#)

Other Opportunity:

[NIDA/MIT SUD Ventures Program Bootcamp](#)

Deadline: The [new link](#) is being provided as a waitlist to provide an interim means to apply until application officially opens later in February 2024.

Program Dates: Fall 2024 + January 2025

Location: Online + In-Person @ MIT Campus

SUD Ventures is an intense and immersive hybrid program. Consisting of live expert webinars, online courses, and culminating in a five-day Bootcamp at MIT, the goal is to spark the creation of innovative biomedical ventures in the SUD space, a notoriously challenging problem area.

Do you need to be a drug abuse and addiction researcher to participate? The program is open to researchers at academic institutions in the United States at any stage of their career. The program is consistent with and advances the mission of NIDA as described in 42 U.S.C. 285o in that they support the development of research ideas that would further an understanding and management of drug use, misuse, and substance use disorders (SUD). Therefore, any applications pursuing

ideas in the areas of alcohol use disorder and pain are not encouraged. However, if you are interested in repurposing an existing technology for a new use in SUD, extending a research observation or discovery made in a different scientific field into the SUD area, devising a new business model or distribution/delivery channel that unlocks new value, or simply bringing a product or service to a previously underserved customer in the SUD market, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

The NIDA/MIT SUD Ventures Program bootcamp is a 5 day in-person program, where you will “drink from the firehose” of innovation at MIT. The program is better suited for the scientists who would enjoy dynamic and high-energy environment. MIT Bootcamps utilizes learning by doing approach. As a part of a team with diverse skills and experience, you will work on selecting the team project in the SUD space and building the foundations of a startup together. During the Bootcamp, using MIT’s framework for innovation and entrepreneurship, you’ll learn to identify an opportunity, develop, and deliver a superior solution, and select a business model to deliver value for a range of stakeholders. Bootcamp culminates in a pitch competition where you will receive feedback from a team of judges – renowned MIT entrepreneurs. For the SUD Ventures program, it is useful but not necessary to have a formed idea for your startup, but it is essential to enter the program with a sense of purpose or desire for impact in the SUD area specifically. MIT Bootcamp contact: Mely Wu at melywu@mit.edu.

Please don't miss this chance to join a select group of SUD researchers and inventors who are ready to make a difference in the world. We invite you to please get on the waitlist now.

This one-of-a-kind program supported by NIH fully covers the participants tuition and travel to and accommodation in Cambridge, MA.

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