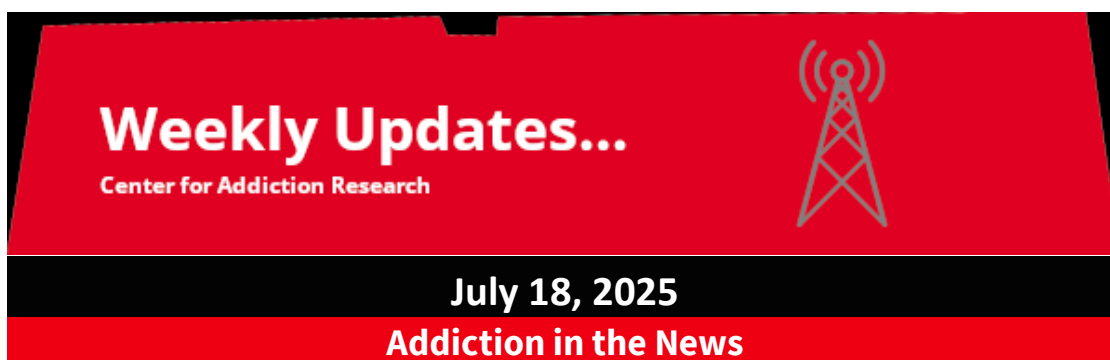


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Deadlines:

Letter of Intent Due: September 22, 2025

Full Applications Due: November 3, 2025 (before 8 am)

Notification of Awards Made: February 2026 (date TBD)

Award Dates: March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027

Dr. T. John Winhusen, Donald C. Harrison Endowed Chair in Medicine, Director, Center for Addiction Research, and Professor; Vice Chair of Addiction Sciences, is pleased to announce a new pilot research program. Applications will be accepted from any full-time faculty member, resident, clinical fellow, or post-doctoral scholar whose appointment is at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Any resulting application for funding to an outside agency must be submitted from UC. Investigators at CCHMC are not eligible for submission as PIs but can be Co-Is on proposals. The UCAC pilot program encourages applications that include interactions between basic scientists and clinicians to foster the development of translational investigations for addiction. In addition, interdisciplinary studies and studies that include participation of basic scientists or clinical researchers from other UC colleges and affiliates are encouraged.

To be considered, proposals need to focus on important problems in the field of addiction. A wide spectrum of projects can be considered relevant. Priority will be given to those projects that carry the highest potential for scientific contributions and are most likely to lead to successful application for extramural funding. Projects

with well-developed concepts and innovative ideas requiring additional data for an extramural proposal submission, particularly if an NIH study section requested such data, will be given high priority. The strategy for advancing the research project as an extramural research grant or mentored training award submission should be clearly indicated.

After initial peer review within the UC/UC Health Addiction Center (UCAC), with written critiques, the College of Medicine Office of Research will select 1 to 2 proposals to fund for a maximum of \$25,000 each. To be eligible for these funds, the Principal Investigator on the application must either hold a full-time faculty appointment at UC College of Medicine or be employed as a resident, clinical fellow, or post-doctoral fellow at UC (or by permission of the UCAC director). Eligible applicants who submit an LOI will receive instructions for full application submission in CCAPS.

Review full details and submission guidelines on the attached PDF.

UC Project REACH Scholars

The Center for Addiction Research proudly congratulates University of Cincinnati representatives Dr. India Bradley and Jamie Villalobos on their selection as Project REACH Scholars! Project REACH is a SAMHSA funded program that supports emerging health professionals in developing impactful addiction-related projects. Jamie, a UC medical student, will lead a quality improvement initiative to reduce healthcare disparities in alcohol screening within primary care. Dr. India Bradley, a Med-Peds resident, is developing an innovative curriculum to educate healthcare clinicians on stimulant use disorders. We celebrate your dedication to improving addiction care. Congratulations!

NKY medical cannabis dispensaries expect to start selling as soon as October

FLORENCE, Ky. — Dispensaries in Kentucky are counting down the days until they can start selling medical cannabis, and so are the more than 11,000 people who have medical cards. Three dispensaries will open in Northern Kentucky. Just this week, Gov. Andy Beshear said the first cultivator in the state has plants growing. Dispensaries in Northern Kentucky are eyeing sales as soon as October. "We're in Kentucky. I mean, it's a horse race. It really is. Whoever can be there when the starting gun goes off is going to have the best chance," Chad Johns, operations manager for Bluegrass CannaCare, said. Kentucky says that with the first cultivator growing plants in southwest Kentucky, cannabis will soon be ready to...

A new crisis center, co-responder programs – and what else? How Cuyahoga County is spending opioid settlement dollars

Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne announced a county plan last week to invest its opioid settlement dollars into a co-responder program that pairs mental health workers with first responders and a new behavioral crisis center. The mental health facility would primarily serve adults in mental health crises or experiencing

substance use issues when it opens in Cleveland's Central neighborhood next year. The project is in partnership with the county's Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. "The crisis center will actually serve as a front door for our system," said Scott Osiecki, the CEO of the ADAMHS Board, in a Cuyahoga County Council committee meeting Tuesday. The county plans to...

State health initiative focuses on addiction and harm reduction in July

The focus of July's "Our Healthy Kentucky Home" initiative is substance use disorder, otherwise known as addiction, and harm reduction. "More than 80,000 people died from an overdose in the U.S. in 2024, and more than 1400 of those deaths were our fellow Kentuckians," Dr. Steven Stack, the state's public health commissioner and newly appointed secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, said at a July 10 news conference. Stack added that while the number of overdose-related deaths decreased in Kentucky by more than 30% in 2024, compared to the year before, there is still work to do. "A lot of...

National News

Effects of poor sleep may contribute to alcohol problems in college students

Certain behavioral effects of not getting enough sleep may explain why people who have insomnia are at risk for problems with alcohol. A study of college students, published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, found that sleep problems may increase negative mood and worsen impulse control, factors which, in turn, lead to more problems with alcohol. The findings may inform treatment for college students, a group particularly at risk for drinking and sleep problems. Poor sleep has been shown to be a strong predictor of alcohol-related issues in young adults. The current study aimed to investigate the...

Doctor-patient talk about problem alcohol use could reduce health care use

Patients who reported problem alcohol use used less medical care if they had a conversation with their primary care doctor about their drinking, according to new Kaiser Permanente research. The study, published in the journal *Addiction*, looked at the cost effectiveness of a "brief intervention." This is a short conversation initiated by a physician using specific techniques to assist a patient who screens positive for drinking alcohol above the low-risk guidelines, a process known as Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment, or SBIRT. The researchers looked at adult primary care patients who screened positive for...

Even a day off alcohol makes a difference—our timeline maps the health benefits when you stop drinking

Alcohol has many negative effects on our health, some of which may surprise you. These include short-term impacts such as waking up with a pounding head or anxiety, to long-term effects including cancer. If you are thinking about taking some time off alcohol, you'll find many quick wins and long-term gains for your health. How long will you have to wait to feel the benefits? We've made a timeline—based

on scientific research—that shows what you might feel in the first days, weeks, months and years after taking a break from alcohol. Some benefits start immediately, so every day without alcohol is a win for your health. After one...

Youth Emergency Visits for Cannabis Vomiting Disorder Spiked in Recent Years

U.S. emergency department (ED) visits for cannabis hyperemesis syndrome (CHS) among adolescents increased more than 10-fold in recent years, with increases observed regardless of states' recreational cannabis legalization (RCL) status, researchers found. From 2016 through 2023, CHS encounters among 13- to 21-year-olds increased by 49% per year, from 160.4 per million ED visits in 2016 to 1,968.3 per million in 2023, reported Michael Toce, MD, MS, of Boston Children's Hospital, and colleagues. CHS encounters increased by 32.5% per million ED encounters per year in states with RCL and by 49.3% per million per year in...

Neural pathway for nicotine withdrawal symptoms in mice shows promise as target for addiction treatments

Because unpleasant withdrawal symptoms fuel nicotine addiction's high relapse rate, targeting their underlying mechanisms with treatments may promote continued abstinence from the drug. In a new JNeurosci paper, Alexis Monical and Daniel McGehee, from the University of Chicago, explored a neural pathway for nicotine withdrawal symptoms stemming from the interpeduncular nucleus (IPN) to the laterodorsal tegmentum (LDTg). The researchers previously found that high doses of nicotine interact with the IPN to cause unpleasant effects that reduce intake of the drug in mice. Other researchers have linked...

As nicotine pouches' popularity soars, they're also responsible for more poisonings in young kids, study finds

Nicotine pouches are a fast-growing source of nicotine poisoning in young children, according to a new study. Researchers at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio analyzed more than a decade's worth of data, examining over 134,000 cases of children under 6 who accidentally ingested nicotine through products like vapes, gums, and lozenges. Most types of exposures fell after 2016. But one delivery method — nicotine pouches — shot up, rising more than 760% between 2020 and 2023. "It's a high-concentration nicotine product, and it tastes good," said Dr. Natalie Rine, director of the Central Ohio Poison Center at...

Vaping Better for Quitting Cigarettes Than Nicotine Replacement in Tough Population

Vaping improved smoking cessation rates better than nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) among socioeconomically disadvantaged adults, a randomized trial from Australia showed. Breath test-verified continuous smoking abstinence after 6 months nearly tripled with use of vaporized nicotine products (VNPs) compared with NRT during a quit attempt, with rates of 28.4% compared with 9.6%, a significant difference that Bayesian analysis suggested was 99% certain for

superiority. Vaping was also better across subanalyses by age, sex, nicotine dependence, and mental illness and resulted in fewer patient-reported adverse...

Clearing the air about the hidden danger in vapes

What's really inside those vapes that are marketed as safe and sold on every corner? Michelle Peace, Ph.D., a forensic toxicologist at Virginia Commonwealth University, is exposing the dangerous chemicals that lurk in vaping and cannabis products—and the lack of oversight protecting the public. Her research has uncovered everything from deadly synthetic cannabinoids to brake cleaners, which are inhaled by teens and adults alike. "It all started when a student walked into my office and said, 'I think you need to look at these,'" Peace recalls. It was 2013, and the student had just returned from studying abroad. During an...

Fetal exposure to vape liquids linked to changes in skull shape

In utero exposure to two liquid ingredients in e-cigarettes – minus the nicotine that drives addiction – can alter skull shape during fetal development, a new study in mice has found. In a series of experiments, pregnant mice were exposed to a combination of two liquids used to create vaping's throat hit and smoke plume. Compared to two other experimental conditions, the offspring of mothers exposed to a specific ratio of these compounds weighed less and were born with narrowed facial features and shortened skulls. The finding was surprising to researchers not only because no nicotine was present, but because the ratio of chemicals that produced the skull defect was designed by the e-cigarette industry to be a...

Exclusive: Trump team withholds \$140 million budgeted for fentanyl fight

The Trump administration has delayed and may cancel roughly \$140 million in grants to fund fentanyl overdose response efforts, according to four staff members with close knowledge of the process at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The staffers shared detailed information with NPR about the funding disruption and potential cuts on the condition of anonymity, saying they don't have permission to speak publicly about their concerns and feared retribution from the Trump administration if identified. "These are lives at stake," said one CDC staffer, who has a role administering the addiction grant program, known as the...

Intensity of opioid use appears to be higher in fentanyl era

Illegal opioids can create substantial harms, but the extent of those harms depends on multiple factors, including the amount consumed. In a new study, researchers assessed whether opioid consumption intensity varies appreciably over time or context. They found that intensity—as opposed to prevalence—of illegal opioid use varies enormously. These findings have implications for drug treatment and policy. The study, by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, RAND, and the University of Maryland, appears in The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. The supply of illegal opioids has grown with the...

Study highlights higher rates, risk factors for non-fatal overdoses

A new opioid overdose study has identified several key risk factors associated with non-fatal overdoses, as well as a significantly higher overdose rate, drawing from a sample of people who use opioids in New Haven. This work was led by Md. Safaet Hossain Sujon, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, alongside faculty Roman Shrestha, associate professor, and Michael Copenhaver, professor. The study was published in the Journal of Community Health. Shrestha and Copenhaver have years of experience working with people who use opioids, but they had never looked at non-fatal overdose rates in...

Why a new opioid alternative is out of reach for some pain patients

Jerry Abrams, a 64-year-old marketing strategist in Minneapolis, used to run marathons. But two decades of degenerative spine disease have left him unable to run — and he's grieving. For Abrams, losing running felt like "the loss of a loved one — that friend who's been with you every day you needed him. "You know, having that taken away from you because of pain is the hardest thing of all," he says. The constant pain in his lower back makes running impossible. Sometimes, when the pain isn't under control, he can't get out of bed. Abrams has tried taking opioids. They help, but he feels he has to be careful because they're...

Who's policing opioid settlement spending? A crowdsourced database might help.

After years of legal battles, state attorneys general won billions of dollars in opioid settlements from drug companies accused of fueling the addiction crisis. They declared victory at press conferences, and some touted the deals during their gubernatorial campaigns. But now that the windfall is being spent, are attorneys general doing enough to ensure it's used for the intended purposes? No, say many families affected by the overdose crisis, recovery and harm reduction advocates, policy experts, and researchers following the cash. "This is blood money," said Toni Torsch, a Maryland resident whose son Dan died...

Disproportionately more opioids prescribed in poorer areas

Despite an overall decline in prescribed opioid use in Canada over the past decade, a recent study found that people in poorer areas receive three times the prescriptions for opioids than those in wealthier areas. Researchers from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo analyzed prescription records in seven provinces' public drug plans from 2010 to 2018, the most recent data available. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba shared comprehensive data across all age groups, and Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island provided data for individuals aged 65 and...

A 'silent epidemic' of stimulant use is shadowing the most recent opioid epidemic, study shows

Many people might be aware of an ongoing opioid epidemic, with thousands of people dying every year from overdoses. But many who are misusing opioids are also using—and dying from—stimulant drugs as well, according to a study published in the open-access journal PLOS Mental Health by Yutong Li from the University of Alberta, Canada, and colleagues. In 2021, more than 88,000 people passed away from opioid-related deaths in the United States and Canada—the latest in three major waves of opioid deaths. But many opioid users also use stimulants—82% have been exposed to stimulants and 22% are regular...

Teens work to overcome addiction at one of America's largest recovery high schools

At 5280 High School in Denver, the morning bell gives way to a different kind of assembly for the first day of school. The students, most of whom have histories with substance abuse, huddle on the steps of the auditorium. They are gathered for a school-wide recovery meeting. "When we're talking about sobriety, we're talking about all mind-altering substances, including [weed]" Keith Hayes, director of recovery for the Colorado school, told them. With the uptick in deadly narcotics like fentanyl being mixed into street drugs, he had a dire warning for the teens. "Here's the thing for all my coke heads out there... that line could..."

The UN warns millions will die by 2029 if US funding for HIV programs isn't replaced

LONDON (AP) — Years of American-led investment into AIDS programs has reduced the number of people killed by the disease to the lowest levels seen in more than three decades and provided life-saving medicines for some of the world's most vulnerable. But in the last six months, the sudden withdrawal of U.S. money has caused a "systemic shock," U.N. officials warned, adding that if the funding isn't replaced, it could lead to more than 4 million AIDS-related deaths and 6 million more HIV infections by 2029. A new UNAIDS report released Thursday said the funding losses have "already destabilized supply chains, led to the..."

Virtual Webinar: CTN Primary Care SIG - Loneliness and SUD in Primary Care July 28, 2025, 12pm – 1pm ET

The Primary Care SIG aims to engage primary care in research, develop substance use treatment interventions relevant to community-based practice, and promote the transfer of evidence-based results from substance use research into community-based practices.

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

Other Funding Opportunity:

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Read the story above in the UC/Regional section of the newsletter or review full details and submission guidelines on the attached PDF.

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