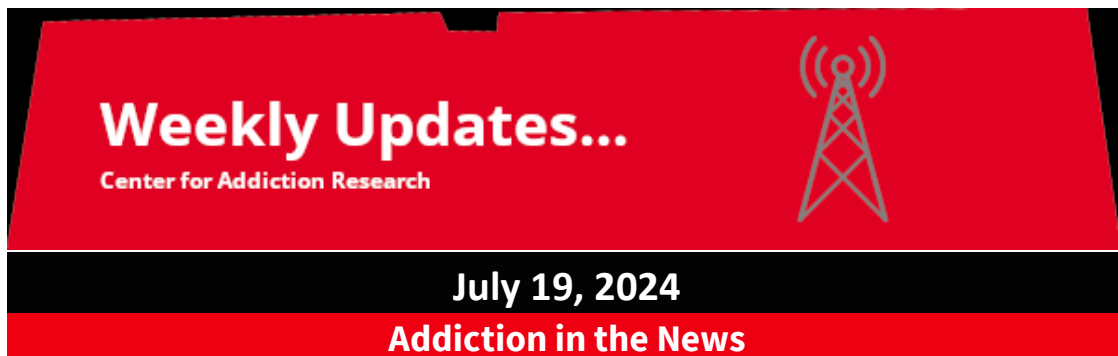


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 7.19.2024

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](mailto: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**

### **Reentry Recovery Rally**

**Saturday, July 27, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

Life Learning Center and the Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy are throwing a celebration of new beginnings, opportunity, and hope – the Reentry Recovery Rally! This event, previously known as Reentry Resource Night, is a celebration of those in recovery and those reentering the community after incarceration. It's a testament to our collective commitment to supporting the health and well-being of the individuals who shape our communities. Whether you've been personally affected, know someone who has, or simply believe in the power of community support, your participation is crucial. We warmly welcome you, regardless of your background or circumstance. This family-friendly event is a great opportunity to connect with others, learn about available resources, and celebrate new beginnings. The rally begins at the Campbell County Detention Center, [link here](#) for more details.

### **Xenia court gets state approval for new approach to drug, mental health cases**

The Xenia Municipal Court's Recovery Court has earned final certification from the Ohio Supreme Court, giving the city another tool to address the root causes of crime committed by those with drug or alcohol addiction. Xenia's drug and mental health court would offer alternative case processing for drug-related crimes. Courts with specialized dockets address specific treatment needs of people who are charged with a variety of offenses, focusing on offender accountability, behavior change and

recovery. Xenia's initial certification from the Supreme Court was approved last year. If a defendant is eligible for a recovery docket, the program assembles a treatment team headed by the specialized docket judge, and...

### **Ohio is targeting stores selling illegal vapes**

COLUMBUS — Attorney General Dave Yost has launched a campaign to combat the influx of illegal vaping devices flooding Ohio communities, an initiative aimed at protecting young people from addiction, respiratory problems and other severe health risks associated with these products. “You don’t have any idea what is in those vape cartridges,” Yost said. “This is a consumer protection issue, particularly when it comes to our youngsters that are still developing, the idea these unregulated, unauthorized vapes are on the market is a real danger.” On Tuesday, the attorney general filed complaints against three businesses for unfair or deceptive practices under the state Consumer Sales Practices Act. The...

## **National News**

### **Farming under the influence: Study finds 1 in 3 farmers have multiple drinks a week**

A new University of Georgia study reveals that 1 in 5 U.S. farmers report binge drinking when they experience high levels of stress. The paper underlines the link between farmers using alcohol to cope with stress. Farming is a uniquely stressful vocation. Farmers work long hours performing labor-intensive, repetitive and often dangerous tasks. In fact, farming is among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Then there's the financial burden of managing a farm. Farming is notoriously high risk, with profits living and dying by a good harvest. "Alcohol is the most acceptable...

### **FTC and FDA Send Second Set of Cease-and-Desist Letters to Companies Selling Products Containing Delta-8 THC in Packaging Designed to Look Like Children's Snacks**

For the second time in as many years, the Federal Trade Commission today sent cease-and-desist letters – jointly with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – to several companies currently marketing edibles containing Delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in packaging deceptively similar to many foods children eat such as Froot Loops and Chips Ahoy! chocolate chip cookies. “Companies that market and sell edible THC products that are easily mistaken for snacks and candy are not only acting illegally, but they are also putting the health of young children at risk,” said Samuel Levine, Director of the FTC’s Bureau of...

### **Strong emotions, intense cravings and daily disruption: Young people's experiences of vaping**

Young people in Aotearoa New Zealand are struggling with the effects of vaping addiction, with physical and mental cravings disrupting their school and work routines, researchers at the University of Otago have found. The researchers

interviewed 22 young people between the ages of 16 and 20 based in the Dunedin or Christchurch areas to ask about their experiences with vaping. The results of the study are published in Drug and Alcohol Review. The co-leader of the study, Anna Graham-DeMello, a Research Fellow with the ASPIRE Aotearoa Research Center at the University of Otago, Wellington, says the young...

### **The impact of tobacco smoking and smoking cessation on the life expectancy of people with HIV in South Africa**

Now that more people with HIV in South Africa are on antiretroviral therapy (medicines to treat HIV), more are surviving long enough to face the health consequences of tobacco smoking. Around one in four people in South Africa smoke tobacco, so this affects many people. Smoking appears to be even more common among people with HIV than among the general population. Krishna Reddy, MD, MS, a physician-investigator at the Medical Practice Evaluation Center and the Tobacco Research and Treatment Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, is...

### **Substantial rise seen in English adults vaping for longer than 6 months, especially in young adults**

The number of adults in England who report vaping for more than six months has increased substantially from around one in 80 in 2013 to one in 10 in 2023, finds a study published by The BMJ today. Much of this increase has occurred since 2021, coinciding with the rapid rise in popularity of disposable e-cigarettes, especially among young adults, including those who had never regularly smoked, the results show. It was already established that vaping rates have increased substantially in England since new disposable e-cigarettes became popular in mid-2021, particularly among adolescents and young adults, but it was...

### **Everyone deserves addiction treatment that works – including those in jail**

The overdose crisis is claiming lives across the United States, but it reaches new depths of despair in the criminal justice system. Overdose is the leading cause of death among people returning to their communities after being in jail or prison. Providing addiction treatment in these settings could change that. Roughly 60% of people who are incarcerated have a substance use disorder, in many cases an opioid use disorder. When people with addiction leave prison or jail and return to their communities, they are at very high risk of returning to drug use and overdosing. Their tolerance to drugs has diminished during incarceration...

### **Study: Opioid use disorder patients more likely to stick with treatment if referred through telemedicine than the ED**

Telemedicine referrals for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) can be a more effective way than an in-person emergency department visit to get patients to start and stay with medication assisted treatment through an outpatient clinic. Those are the findings from a study University at Buffalo researchers published online in

the Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment on June 29. It is believed to be the first study comparing telemedicine referrals to treatment for OUD to referrals initiated at the emergency department. "Telemedicine evaluations by emergency medicine providers did lead to increased retention in treatment at 30 days when compared to patients evaluated in...

### **Considerable gaps seen in provision of effective treatment for opioid addiction**

There are considerable gaps in provision of effective treatments for opioid use disorders (OUD) at U.S. substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facilities, according to a study published online July 11 in the JAMA. Tae Woo Park, M.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study of specialty outpatient SUD treatment facilities that treat OUD. The prevalence of available treatments individually and combined was reported. Treatments offered in federally certified opioid treatment program (OTP) and non-OTP facilities were compared. Overall, 17,353 representatives...

### **Research shows protein isoform inhibitors may hold the key to making opioids safer**

Researchers at the University of Arizona Health Sciences identified a new way to make opioids safer, increasing the pain-relieving properties of opioids while decreasing unwanted side effects through the spinal inhibition of a Heat shock protein 90 isoform. Opioids are the gold standard of chronic pain treatment, but they come with a host of negative side effects including constipation, addiction potential and respiratory depression that can lead to death. This study, published in Scientific Reports, offers a potential new way to treat acute and chronic pain by reducing the amount of opioid needed for pain relief while also lowering...

### **Visualizing addiction: How new research could change the way we fight the opioid epidemic**

New research from a Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience researcher could transform how we understand the way opioids affect the brain. Despite significant discussion surrounding the ongoing opioid crisis, current understanding of how opioids function in the brain is quite limited. This is primarily due to challenges in observing and measuring opioid effects in the brain in real-time. However, a recent technological breakthrough, led by Dr. Lin Tian and her research team and collaborators, recently published in Nature Neuroscience, has overcome these limitations and is set to transform how scientists study opioid...

### **Some Youths Still Taking Opioids Months After Surgery**

MONDAY, July 15, 2024 (HealthDay News) -- Many tweens and teens are filling prescriptions for opioids far in advance of surgeries unlikely to be associated with severe pain afterward, a new study says. Worse, a significant minority continue to fill those opioid prescriptions three to six months after surgery, a sign of possible addiction, researchers found. "Our study found that these patients are still filling

prescriptions that are either not recommended or are in excess of what they may need,” lead researcher Dr. Tori Sutherland, an attending anesthesiologist with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, said in a news release. About...

### **Opioid prescribing to reduce overdoses, misuse**

New research aims to help reduce the quantity of unused prescription opioids after emergency department visits and lessen the risk of opioid misuse and overdose. The study, titled "Opioid prescribing requirements to minimize unused medications after an emergency department visit for acute pain: a prospective cohort study," is published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Overprescribing is linked to opioid misuse and overdose, with household supplies of opioids associated with an increased risk of overdose, as many people do not dispose of unused medications safely. In Canada, more than 7,500 people died...

### **New research suggests estrogen and progesterone could play role in opioid addiction and relapse**

As opioid overdose deaths in the U.S. rose dramatically from 2014 to today, both Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Camden, New Jersey, cemented reputations as hotspots of the crisis. In Philadelphia, over 1,170 people died of opioid overdoses in 2022, the last year for which complete data is available. More than 300 more died just over the bridge in Camden County. Research indicates that for many people with opioid use disorder, misuse starts with prescription painkillers. As neuroscientists who study the effects of addictive drugs on the brain, we are working to better understand why some people are...

### **New analgesic could replace opioids over the long term**

Opioids have long been known as natural substances with substantial pharmacological effects and have been used as effective painkillers. A very prominent example is morphine, which was first isolated and synthesized in the early 19th century. It is a relief for severely ill patients in the last phases of their lives. However, when opioids are used inappropriately they can cause addiction and even the development of extremely serious undesirable effects, such as respiratory depression. In the U.S., opioids were once widely promoted through the media and, as a consequence, were often prescribed to treat what were in fact...

### **Addressing the dual epidemics of hepatitis C and opioid use**

Hepatitis C and opioid use disorder are both chronic but treatable conditions. Yet many Americans living with this deadly combination aren’t offered treatment. Imagine going to your doctor with strep throat and instead of being prescribed an antibiotic you are told it isn’t urgent and you can wait to treat it. A solution is within reach: It starts with recognizing the power of integrating hepatitis C treatment with addiction care. People with hepatitis C (HCV) and substance use disorders are often marginalized in traditional medical settings. These individuals are at much higher risk for liver cancer, liver cirrhosis, liver failure, and...

## **Doctors reluctant to treat addiction most commonly report “lack of institutional support” as barrier**

A new study has identified the top reasons why some physicians may be reluctant to intervene in addiction. The comprehensive review, pulling 283 studies published on this topic within the last 61 years, showed that “institutional environment” was the reason most frequently reported in these studies. “Institutional environment” refers to factors like lack of support from a physician’s institution or employer; insufficient resources, such as staff and training; challenges in organizational culture; and competing demands. This reason for reluctance was cited in 81% of the studies reviewed, followed by insufficient skill...

## **NIDA HIV Seminar Series: Social & Political Determinants of HIV Among People Who Use Drugs**

**July 31, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET**

Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD, is a Distinguished Professor of Population and Public Health Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. He conducts community-partnered research at the intersection of harm reduction and health disparities among people who use drugs. In this session, Dr. Bluthenthal will talk about social and political determinants of HIV among people who use drugs.

## **Funding Opportunities**



[NOT-DA-24-036](#)

[Notice of NIDA's Participation in PA-24-246 "PHS 2024-2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH and CDC for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications \(Parent SBIR \[R43/R44\] Clinical Trial Required\)"](#)

[NOT-DA-24-037](#)

[Notice of NIDA'S Participation in PA-24-248 "PHS 2024-2 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications \(Parent STTR \[R41/R42\] Clinical Trial Required\)"](#)

[PAR-25-023](#)

[Device Based Treatments for Substance Use Disorders \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-034](#)

[Notice of Clarification for PAR-23-269, PAR-23-125, "NIDA Avant-Garde Program for](#)

[HIV and Substance Use Disorder Research \(DP1 Clinical Trial Optional\) and Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV \(DP2 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

### **UC Foundation Funding Opportunities**

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or [carol.russell@uc.edu](mailto:carol.russell@uc.edu) **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

### **Center for Responsible Gaming Funds Gambling Disorder Research**

**Deadline: August 15, 2024**

The International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that has served as the only national, private funder of scientific research on gambling disorder in the United States since 1996. The ICRG has issued a request for applications to study the impact of comorbidities on individuals diagnosed with gambling disorder. According to the ICRG, epidemiologic studies have found high rates of mental illness and disorders among persons with gambling disorder, and vice versa. Past studies have found associations with substance use, mood, anxiety, and personality disorders. Since the COVID pandemic, people also exhibit loneliness, stress and other conditions that may or may not lead to a disorder. Studies have not been able to elucidate the temporal associations by sex, gender, response to treatment (if there is access to treatment), and types of substances used that lead to a disorder (tobacco, alcohol, benzodiazepines, cocaine, prescription pain pills, marijuana both recreational and prescribed and others). Just as the type of comorbid mental illness is important, so is the type of gambling that leads to a disorder important. With new machines, sports wagering, and other gambling, the social determinants are especially critical now for prevention and intervention studies. Studies are lacking on the risks related to the gambling behavior as well as the risk factors related to the disorder. More research is needed to understand the role that comorbidity plays in the etiology of problem gambling symptoms, progression to gambling disorder, access to treatment, treatment utilization and types of recovery from the disorder (whether natural or treated). The ICRG is open to proposals addressing these and other issues concerning the comorbidity of gambling disorder with other mental disorders. Applicants may request up to \$75,000 per year in direct costs plus up to 25 percent of direct costs in facilities and administration expenses. Total requests may not exceed \$187,500 for two years. Domestic or international, public or private, nonprofit or for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for ICRG funding. The principal investigator (PI) must have a PhD, MD or other terminal degree.

### **Board of Psychiatry/ Neurology to Select Dortehea Juul Education Research Awardee**

**Deadline: August 20, 2024**



The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. (ABPN) invites applications for its Dorthea Juul, PhD, Education Research Award. Grants of \$100,000 will be awarded up to two psychiatrists and two neurologists to support research projects related to the mission of the ABPN, which is to promote and assess the competence of psychiatrists and neurologists to provide high quality care in an equitable and inclusive manner to diverse populations. This amount is intended to cover salary, fringe benefits, and other costs, and no indirect costs will be covered. Projects may take up to two years to be completed. Any projects relevant to the mission of the ABPN will be considered for the Education Research Award, although the ABPN is particularly interested in research in the following areas: impact or value of initial or continuing certification; outcomes of innovative educational activities or programs, including competency-based medical education, in training programs or in lifelong learning settings validity and reliability of state-of-the-art assessments to evaluate candidate and diplomate competencies, including approaches to ensure fairness and mitigate bias; patient and public perceptions of board certification; psychiatry and neurology workforce trends; use of artificial intelligence (AI) in any of the above areas; and focus on aspects of any of the above (or other ABPN-mission-relevant areas) related to the ABPN's strategic plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Applicants must hold a faculty appointment in a psychiatry or neurology department (or its equivalent) in a United States LCME-accredited medical school. If the applicant is an MD or DO, they must be certified by the ABPN, participate in the ABPN's continuing certification (maintenance of certification) program, and hold an unrestricted license to practice medicine in a state, commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

## CAR Member New Publications

### **Reducing perceived barriers to scaling up overdose education and naloxone distribution and medications for opioid use disorder in the United States in the HEALing (Helping End Addiction Long-Term®) communities study**

Hannah K. Knudsen, Daniel M. Walker, Nicole Mack, Elizabeth N. Kinnard, Timothy R. Huerta, LaShawn Glasgow, Louisa Gilbert, Bryan R. Garner, Anindita Dasgupta, Redonna Chandler, Sharon L. Walsh, Yjuliana Tin, Sylvia Tan, Joel Sprunger, Linda Sprague-Martinez, Pamela Salsberry, Merielle Saucier, Maria Rudorf, Sandra Rodriguez, Carrie B. Oser...Mari-Lynn Drainoni

*Preventive Medicine*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yjpm.2024.108034>

#### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Scaling up overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is needed to reduce opioid overdose deaths, but barriers are pervasive. This study examines whether the Communities That HEAL (CTH)



intervention reduced perceived barriers to expanding OEND and MOUD in healthcare/behavioral health, criminal-legal, and other/non-traditional venues.

**Methods:** The HEALing (Helping End Addiction Long-Term®) Communities Study is a parallel, wait-list, cluster randomized trial testing the CTH intervention in 67 communities in the United States. Surveys administered to coalition members and key stakeholders measured the magnitude of perceived barriers to scaling up OEND and MOUD in November 2019–January 2020, May–June 2021, and May–June 2022. Multilevel linear mixed models compared Wave 1 (intervention) and Wave 2 (wait-list control) respondents. Interactions by rural/urban status and research site were tested.

**Results:** Wave 1 respondents reported significantly greater reductions in mean scores for three outcomes: perceived barriers to scaling up OEND in Healthcare/Behavioral Health Venues ( $-0.26$ , 95% confidence interval, CI:  $-0.48$ ,  $-0.05$ ,  $p = 0.015$ ), OEND in Other/Non-traditional Venues ( $-0.53$ , 95% CI:  $-0.84$ ,  $-0.22$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) and MOUD in Other/Non-traditional Venues ( $-0.34$ , 95% CI:  $-0.62$ ,  $-0.05$ ,  $p = 0.020$ ). There were significant interactions by research site for perceived barriers to scaling up OEND and MOUD in Criminal-Legal Venues. There were no significant interactions by rural/urban status.

**Discussion:** The CTH Intervention reduced perceived barriers to scaling up OEND and MOUD in certain venues, with no difference in effectiveness between rural and urban communities. More research is needed to understand facilitators and barriers in different venues.

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