

UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 4.14.2023

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](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**

#### **Center for Addiction Research to hold 2023 Summer Speaker Series**

Back by popular demand, the College of Medicine's Center for Addiction Research will hold its third annual virtual Summer Speaker Series to highlight cutting-edge UC addiction research and UC-community collaborations related to prevention and treatment. The series is funded by CCTST. Monthly presentations will take place on June 14, July 12, and August 9, from noon-1:00 PM. **Featured CAR presenters will be CAR Population Health and Health Services research core Co-Leader, Dr. Shauna Acquavita, and CAR members, Dr. Joel Sprunger, and Dr. Nichole Nidey.** (PDF event flyer attached)

**>> Register for any of the presentations**

#### **What's prompting a drop in overdose deaths? Experts give a few reasons for the decline**

Daniel Ritchie welcomed the news that accidental overdose deaths in Hamilton County are lower now than at any time since 2016. But he won't be celebrating anytime soon. Ritchie, an addiction treatment outreach coordinator, knows all too well that fentanyl still has a stranglehold on the region and most of the country. If the death toll looks a little better today, he said, it's only because it's been so high for so long. He and other advocates say people in Hamilton County, like those in many other parts of the country, haven't beaten the opioid epidemic so much as they've learned to live with it. They say better medical care and counseling, more awareness of the risks and the... **(featuring CAR member, Dr. Christine Wilder)**

## **WVXU: UC public health nursing expert sheds light on xylazine's community impact**

An animal tranquilizer, xylazine, has been increasingly found in illicit drugs and detected in overdose deaths across the country, sounding alarm bells at the local and federal levels. Tasha Turner-Bicknell, DNP, University of Cincinnati professor and public health nursing online programs director, served as a guest on WVXU's Cincinnati Edition to discuss the impacts and risks of xylazine. Although not an opioid, xylazine can depress breathing, blood pressure, heart rate and body temperature to critical levels. And, because it is not an opioid, reversing an overdose caused by xylazine with naloxone can be more difficult; rescue breathing as part of CPR is needed, but people who...

## **Medical students collaborate with doctor to help solve opioid crisis**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — James Neuenschwander, a long-time emergency physician, said he sees someone come into the ER from an overdose almost daily. "I've practiced all over the state and what I've seen is that there is no place in Ohio not touched by the opioid epidemic," said Neuenschwander, who is an attending emergency physician at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital. He's passionate about fixing the problem and so are about 12 pre-med and medical students he mentors. "I love trying to answer these questions," said Parker Cordial, a fourth-year medical student at Ohio State University. "I'm trying to improve the future of health care for patients, for the entire health system, and just..."

## **National News**

### **Intense, Combinatorial Psychosocial Therapy Best Reduces Harmful Alcohol Behavior**

More intensive, combined psychosocial interventions may be more effective at reducing harmful alcohol consumption behaviors, according to results of a systematic review and network meta-analysis published in the journal *Addiction*. Investigators from the University of Utah searched publication databases from inception through January 2022 for randomized controlled trials evaluating psychosocial interventions for addressing harmful alcohol consumption behaviors. The primary outcome was a change in the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) score. Harmful alcohol...

### **Father's alcohol consumption before conception linked to brain and facial defects in offspring**

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects in their unborn child. Now, research at Texas A&M University demonstrates that a father's alcohol consumption before conception also links to growth defects that affect the development of his offspring's brain, skull and face.

Research investigating fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) exclusively examines maternal alcohol exposure. However, because men drink more and are more likely to binge drink than women, Dr. Michael Golding, an associate professor in the...

### **Study finds elevated delirium scores in burn-injured patients who use alcohol**

The relationship between alcohol use and burn injuries is a negative one in multiple ways. Not only are about 50% of adults who sustain burn injuries intoxicated at the time of injury, suggesting that alcohol use may have contributed to the incident, but alcohol use among burn-injured patients is associated with more severe complications, delayed recovery, and increased morbidity and mortality. "Return to work or normal life can be impaired or delayed for burn-injured patients who use alcohol," says Elizabeth Kovacs, Ph.D., vice chair of research and professor of GI, trauma, and endocrine surgery...

### **Study reveals high prevalence of alcohol, opioid use among patients with Crohn's disease**

Newly diagnosed people with Crohn's disease (CD) in the United States are more likely to experience drug and alcohol use compared with the general population, according to a recent study led by Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers. The study, which used data from Medicaid between 2010 and 2019, found that 16.3% of enrollees had some form of substance use at the time of being diagnosed with CD, with alcohol and opioids being the most commonly used substances. According to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, more than 500,000 people in the U.S. have Crohn's disease, a...

### **Alcohol screening rates dropped substantially during the first COVID-19 surge, finds study**

New research from Boston Medical Center found that alcohol screening rates dropped substantially during the first COVID-19 surge. Published in Preventive Medicine Reports, the study highlights that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were increases in unhealthy alcohol consumption and alcohol related morbidity and mortality. In 2021, over 50% of U.S. adults drank alcohol in the past month with over 25% reporting binge drinking, an increase from previous years. Alcohol use is associated with increased risk of accidents, poor birth outcomes including fetal alcohol spectrum disorders...

### **Education and peer support cut binge-drinking by National Guard members in half, study shows**

A new study shows promise for reducing risky drinking among Army National Guard members over the long term, potentially improving their health and readiness to serve. The number of days each month that Guard members said they had been binge-drinking dropped by up to half, according to the new findings by a University of Michigan team published in the journal Addiction. The drop happened over the course of a year among Guard members who did multiple brief online education

sessions designed for members of the military, and among those who did an initial online education session followed...

### **Link between alcohol consumption and partner violence in Papua New Guinea**

A new study has found a link between alcohol use by men and the high rate of Intimate Partner violence in Papua New Guinea (PNG). James Cook University Ph.D. candidate Abdul-Aziz Seidu was part of a team of researchers who examined data from the 2016–2018 Papua New Guinea Demographic and Health Survey. He said the researchers were looking for a link between partner alcohol consumption and the experience of intimate partner violence (IPV) among women in Papua New Guinea. "The prevalence of IPV among women is reportedly high in most low-income and middle-income countries...

### **Marijuana Is Not the Solution for PTSD**

A growing number of states have identified post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as an approved condition for medical marijuana. According to Colorado's Medical Marijuana Registry, there are 70,533 patients as of February 2023 with an active medical marijuana registration in the state, and 10,734 of them indicate PTSD as the reason they are using medical marijuana. This is despite the lack of any high-quality, randomized, controlled studies proving that marijuana helps PTSD in the long-term. Because of this lack of evidence, the American Psychiatric Association adopted a...

### **Juul to pay \$462 million in latest US youth vaping settlement**

Juul agreed to pay \$462 million to six states and the District of Columbia to settle charges that it violated numerous laws in marketing tobacco products to youth, prosecutors said Wednesday. The agreement, announced by prosecutors from New York, California and four other states, follows an earlier \$438.5 million Juul settlement with 34 different US states and marks the latest black mark on the e-cigarette company. "Juul lit a nationwide public health crisis by putting addictive products in the hands of minors and convincing them that it's harmless—today they are paying the price for the harm...

### **'Vaping robot' study shows mint flavor makes vape juice more toxic, damaging to lungs**

Adding mint flavor to e-cigarette liquids produces more vapor particles and is associated with worse lung function in those who smoke, report researchers from the University of Pittsburgh in Respiratory Research today. Using a specially designed robotic system that mimics the mechanics of human breathing and vaping behavior, researchers showed that commercially available e-cigarette liquids containing menthol generate a greater number of toxic microparticles compared to menthol-free juice. An accompanying analysis of patient records from a cohort of e-cigarette smokers revealed that...

## **Facebook anti-smoking campaigns that discuss the risks of second-hand smoke to pets receive the most engagement**

Currently, 12.5% of U.S. adults smoke cigarettes. At the same time, more than one-third of U.S. adults seek health information online, making social media a potentially powerful platform for anti-tobacco campaigns. However, limited research has been done on effective social media strategies for anti-smoking campaigns. An interprofessional Mason research team led by Associate Professors in the Department of Health Administration and Policy Hong Xue and Gilbert Gimm found that the most popular anti-tobacco campaigns on Facebook were informational and discussed the negative effects...

## **New DEA License Requirement Starts in June**

When the Biden administration killed the X waiver late last year, all clinicians registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) learned they would need 8 hours of training on substance use disorder (SUD) management in order to renew their licenses. The DEA has now issued a deadline for that requirement, and it's less than 3 months away. Starting on June 27, all clinicians will have to check a box on their online DEA registration form -- whether they're renewing or initiating a license -- affirming they've completed that training, according to the DEA's announcement from last week. It's a one-time...

## **Curbing Opioid Prescriptions Won't Raise Suicide Rates: Study**

TUESDAY, April 11, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Over the past few years the escalating opioid crisis has touched off a complex debate about how best to reign in suicide risk among patients who are prescribed the addictive painkillers. The question: Could rapidly cutting back on legal opioid prescriptions help, or might patients' desperation over lack of access inadvertently drive up suicide risk? Now new research suggests that opioid prescription rates and suicide risk appear to go hand-in-hand. As prescription rates fall, so does suicide risk. "People who are prescribed opioids, especially at...

## **An emerging threat: Drug mix of xylazine, fentanyl**

The U.S. has named a veterinary tranquilizer as an "emerging threat" when it's mixed with the powerful opioid fentanyl, clearing the way for more efforts to stop the spread of xylazine. The Office of National Drug Control Policy announced the designation Wednesday, the first time the office has used it since the category for fast-growing drug dangers was created in 2019. Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the drug policy office, said xylazine (pronounced ZAI'-luh-zeen) has become increasingly common in all regions of the country. It was detected in about 800 drug deaths in the U.S. in 2020, most of them in the...

### **Taking a placebo improves adherence to treatment for opioid use disorder, study finds**

Substance use disorder affects 20 million Americans, and more than 100,000 people died from a drug overdose in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the medication methadone has the strongest evidence-based effectiveness to prevent relapse, about half of patients drop out of their treatment within one year of initiation. The solution could lie in taking a simple "sugar pill" or placebo along with the methadone, according to a randomized clinical trial led by researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In a randomized clinical trial...

### **Millions with opioid addiction don't receive residential treatment, finds study**

Approximately 7 million adults in the U.S. are living with opioid use disorder (OUD). Yet a new Northwestern Medicine study that measured residential treatment use among Medicaid enrollees across nine states found only 7% of enrollees with OUD received residential treatment, an integral part of the recovery process for many. "Given the worsening opioid crisis, that number seems low," said corresponding author Lindsay Allen, a health economist and assistant professor of emergency medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. "We're probably leaving effective treatment..."

### **Biden Admin Announces Strategy to Combat Fentanyl Supply Chain**

The Biden administration announced Tuesday its strategy for combating the supply chain allowing illicit fentanyl to enter the U.S. to kill Americans. The plan includes partnering with other countries, increasing law enforcement information sharing, leveraging the private sector, increasing financial sanctions and urging congressional action, the White House said in a statement. Roughly 70,000 people in the U.S. died of synthetic opioid overdoses in 2021, up from roughly 57,000 in 2020, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "At a time when the global illicit..."

### **A controversial hire at Arnold Ventures raises questions about the donor's stance on addiction**

A philanthropic giant's recent hire of a researcher with controversial theories on naloxone access is raising alarms among public health advocates who worry the move marks a shift in major donors' approach to addiction treatment. Arnold Ventures, one of the largest nonprofit funders of criminal justice reform projects and a major player in drug policy circles, announced last month that Texas A&M University economist Jennifer Doleac would take over its criminal justice portfolio in July, replacing longtime policy reform researcher and public official Jeremy Travis. The news reignited a Twitter...

### **Integrating addiction medicine into primary care found to be clinically effective**

Introducing harm reduction strategies and addiction medicine practices into primary care offices would save patients' lives and lower health care costs, according to the results of a computer model published today in JAMA Network Open by University of Pittsburgh and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus researchers. The study demonstrates how primary care can play a critical and cost-effective role in treating the spectrum of substance use disorders. "Traditionally, addiction care has been largely siloed," said Raagini Jawa, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of medicine at Pitt's Center...

### **Involuntary displacement of homeless people may cause significant spikes in mortality, overdoses and hospitalizations**

Involuntary displacement of people experiencing homelessness will likely lead to a substantial increase in morbidity and mortality over a 10-year period. In a study, published today in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), researchers say practices such as encampment sweeps, bans, move-along-orders and cleanups that forcibly relocate individuals away from essential services will lead to substantial increases in overdose deaths, life threatening infections and hospitalizations. In coordination with the National Healthcare for Homeless Council, the Center for Disease Control...

## **Funding Opportunities**



[NOT-DA-23-023](#)

[Request for Information \(RFI\): Understanding the Creation, Continuation, and Consequences of Illicit Drug Markets](#)

[PAR-23-157](#)

[Exploratory Clinical Neuroscience Research on Substance Use Disorders \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-158](#)

[Exploratory Clinical Neuroscience Research on Substance Use Disorders \(R61/R33 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans \(BESH\) Required\)](#)

[NOT-DA-24-007](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Assembling the Addiction Organelle Interactome](#)

## **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 opportunity, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

### **Psychological Foundation to Aid Researcher in Ethics and Risk Management**

**Deadline: June 1, 2023**

In honor of Eric A. Harris, EdD, JD, the American Psychological Foundation welcomes applications for its APF/The Trust Grant. One grant of \$5,000 will be awarded to a career psychologist or graduate student in support of research or projects in ethics and risk management. Applicants must be graduate students or early-career psychologists (no more than 10 years postdoctoral) and be affiliated with a nonprofit charitable, educational, or scientific institution or governmental entity operating exclusively for a charitable or educational purpose.

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