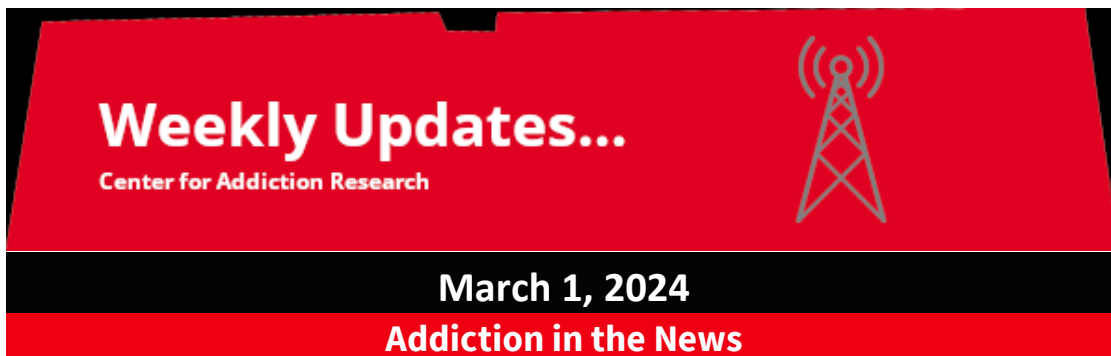


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

White House Drug Policy director visits UC

Rahul Gupta, MD, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, visited the College of Medicine while he was in Cincinnati Feb. 22 to learn more about the efforts of the college and UC Health to assist those dealing with opioid and drug overdoses and abuse and hear about ongoing research. Gupta and several staff members met with Dan Bebo, MD, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience; **Caroline Freiermuth, MD [CAR Population Health and Health Services Core Co-Leader and CAR Member]**, Class of 2006, Shawn Ryan Endowed Chair to Benefit the Acute Treatment of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, Department of Emergency Medicine; Melissa Delbello, MD, Dr. Stanley and Mickey Kaplan Endowed Chair in Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience; **T. John Winhusen, PhD**, Donald C. Harrison Endowed Chair in Medicine, vice chair of Addiction Sciences in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience and **director of the Center for Addiction Research**; Richard Ryan, MD, professor and vice chair of operations, Department of Emergency Medicine; **Andrew Norman, PhD [CAR Addiction Treatment Development and Testing Core Leader and CAR Member]**, professor, Department of Pharmacology and Systems Physiology; and Brett Kissela, MD, MS, executive vice dean and chair and Albert Barnes Voorheis Professor of Neurology, Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine.

**Department of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences Seminar Series:
"Neurobiological Mechanisms of Stress-driven Increases in Cocaine Self-**

administration” on Tuesday, March 5 at noon in Medical Sciences Building 6051. Presented by **Jayne McReynolds, PhD [CAR Member]**, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology and Systems Physiology.

Safety concerns as Ohio's cannabis market develops

There's encouraging news for adults who voted to legalize weed in Ohio. But that's countered by new numbers showing how many young people are eating THC-infused gummies before they're readily available at dispensaries. First, when it comes to legal pot for adults, Ohio's Division of Cannabis Control has proposed issuing dual-use licenses to medical marijuana dispensaries that are currently operating. If approved, recreational sales would start at those dispensaries by early September. But, against that backdrop is sobering news about kids consuming edibles and gummies, especially a close cousin of marijuana called Delta 8. Last year, parents of 246 young children — from infants to 5-year-olds — called...

What Medicaid acceptance looks like at Ohio substance use treatment centers

Overdose deaths tragically rose during the COVID-19 pandemic, sparking renewed calls for awareness of substance use disorders and access to treatment. The once-in-a-century global health crisis had widespread impacts on physical and mental health and coincided with America's worsening fentanyl epidemic. And though calls have been made to expand access to treatment, people with substance use disorders often face barriers to getting the help they need to survive addiction to deadly substances like opioids. Stigmatization of these disorders, a lack of capacity at treatment centers where waitlists are common, and unaffordability of treatment present some of the most critical...

Ibogaine Advocates Seek Ohio Opioid Settlement Funds Following Failure in Kentucky

In late December 2023, we reported on how an election-occasioned changing of the guard around the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) left an ambitious plan to cleave off \$42m in opioid settlement funds for ibogaine research politically untenable (See Kentucky's \$42m Ibogaine Funding Appears Dead in the Water). Once that became clear, the loose coalition of ibogaine funding advocates—led by former KYOAAC Chairman Bryan Hubbard—upped sticks and searched for a new state to house their project. Now, that new home has become clear: Ohio. In this article, we explore the magnitude of opioid settlement funds available in Ohio; the funding mechanisms we expect ibogaine...

Ohio Chamber of Commerce Supports Pharmacies in “Public Nuisance” Lawsuit

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief early this year to support pharmacies. The brief was filed in connection with a lawsuit pitting 2 Ohio counties against Purdue Pharma, Walgreens, Walmart, and CVS. The underlying lawsuit alleged that the

pharmacies have created a public nuisance by dispensing opioids. The lawsuit is one of many current lawsuits nationwide taking aim at opioids. The suit alleges that “opioid manufacturers, opioid distributors and opioid-selling pharmacies and retailers acted in concert to mislead...

National News

Concerted efforts urgently needed to meet 2030 Global Alcohol Action Plan targets

Concerted international efforts are urgently needed to meet the targets set out in the 2030 Global Alcohol Action Plan (GAAP) and avert "dire consequences" for low and middle income countries, where alcohol markets are expanding, warn health scientists in the open access journal *BMJ Global Health*. A lack of progress on alcohol and health in the wake of the 2010 Global Strategy for Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol prompted the 75th World Health Assembly to initiate the Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022–30 and declare alcohol a public health priority, with targets set including a 20% per head reduction in...

Cannabis use policies are on the rise yet treatment for cannabis use disorder treatment remains low

Treatment for cannabis use disorder (CUD) decreased since 2004, particularly in states with medical cannabis dispensary provisions, according to a new study at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Specialty treatment for the disorder did not meaningfully change among people with past-year CUD in states with recreational cannabis legislation. The study is believed to be the first to estimate relationships between national medical and recreational cannabis laws and self-reported CUD treatment and includes the most comprehensive years with comparable data for policy analysis. "Our...

Young workers' injuries rise after recreational marijuana sales made legal

After states legalize the sale of weed for recreational use, on-the-job injuries rise among younger workers, new research shows. U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics for 2006 through 2020 show that legal "recreational marijuana sales were associated with a 10% increase in workplace injuries among individuals aged 20 to 34 years," the study authors concluded. They note that prior research involving older workers did not show this effect. In fact, older workers' injury rates typically decline after recreational weed is made legal in their state, perhaps because older folk are only using their marijuana to ease pain. In...

Cannabis use linked to increase in heart attack and stroke risk

Although cannabis, or marijuana, is illegal at the federal level, 24 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized the use of recreational cannabis. Additionally, the number of people in the U.S. who use cannabis has increased significantly in recent decades, according to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services. The annual survey found that in 2019, 48.2 million people ages 12 or older reported using cannabis at least once, compared to 25.8 million people ages 12 or older in 2002, an...

German parliament votes to legalize recreational cannabis

The German parliament voted Friday to legalize the possession and controlled cultivation of cannabis starting in April, despite fierce objections from the opposition and medical associations. Under the new law, it will be possible to obtain up to 25 grams of the drug per day for personal use through regulated cannabis cultivation associations, as well as to have up to three plants at home. But possession and use of the drug will remain prohibited for anyone under 18. The changes will leave Germany with some of the most liberal cannabis laws in Europe, bringing it into line with Malta and Luxembourg, which...

Discrimination found to smoking habits, hurting heart health

Everyday discrimination can influence unhealthy coping behaviors such as smoking, thereby increasing the risk of heart disease, according to a new study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. However, the impact differs depending on one's identity, with Hispanic women experiencing the greatest risk for heart disease as a result of discrimination. "Experiences of discrimination are framed by individual cultural realities and contexts," said Stephanie Cook, assistant professor of biostatistics and social and behavioral sciences at the NYU School of Global Public Health and the study's lead author. "Discrim...

New Zealand set to scrap world-first tobacco ban

WELLINGTON, Feb 27 (Reuters) - New Zealand will repeal on Tuesday a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, the government said, even while researchers and campaigners warned of the risk that people could die as a result. Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90%. The new coalition government elected in October confirmed the repeal will happen on Tuesday as a matter of urgency, enabling...

Vaping can increase susceptibility to infection by SARS-CoV-2

Vapers are susceptible to infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that spreads COVID-19 and continues to infect people around the world, a study by a research team at University of California, Riverside, has found. The liquid used in electronic cigarettes, called e-liquid, typically contains nicotine, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and flavor chemicals. The researchers found propylene glycol/vegetable glycerin alone or along with nicotine enhanced COVID-19 infection through different mechanisms. Study results appear in the American Journal of Physiology. The researchers also found that the addition of...

Addiction recovery groups and advocates push for Narcan expansion in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. (WLBT) - Narcan is top of mind for some community groups throughout the state - as new legislation would allow them to distribute the opioid reversal drug. "Recovery is different for every person. But harm reduction does work," Executive Director of the Mississippi Harm Reduction Initiative, Jason McCarty said. It's a battle many Mississippians on the road to recovery from addiction believe needs to be fought on all fronts - the fight against overdose deaths. "Just because somebody uses doesn't mean they deserve to die because of it," Matt Milliman, Executive Director of Mercy House, said. According to the...

How vending machines help states battle the opioid crisis: 'You don't know when you're going to need these products'

In his darkest moments, Jason Hall felt worthless. During his childhood and early adulthood, he said, there were times when he would drink too much alcohol, pop pills at nightclubs and, inevitably, do something or say something that would hurt people he loved. Hall, 41, would never have thought that his life journey would take him from those dark experiences to potentially saving lives with his work refilling naloxone vending machines across Oklahoma. Over-the-counter naloxone, known by the brand name Narcan, is an inhaled medication used to reverse an opioid overdose while it's happening. Naloxone vending...

California Seizes Record 62,000 Pounds of Fentanyl

SACRAMENTO — Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that the California National Guard (CalGuard) supported counter-drug operations in 2023 that led to the record seizure of 62,224 pounds of fentanyl in California and the state's ports of entry. Since 2021, fentanyl seizures supported by CalGuard have increased by 1066%. WHAT GOVERNOR NEWSOM SAID: "Fentanyl is a poison, and it does not belong in our communities. California is cracking down – increasing seizures, expanding access to substance abuse treatment, and holding drug traffickers accountable to combat the immeasurable harm opioids..."

Research shows continued cocaine use disrupts communication between major brain networks

A collaborative research endeavor by scientists in the Departments of Radiology, Neurology, and Psychology and Neuroscience at the UNC School of Medicine have demonstrated the deleterious effects of chronic cocaine use on the functional networks in the brain. Their study titled "Network Connectivity Changes Following Long-Term Cocaine Use and Abstinence," was highlighted by the editor of Journal of Neuroscience in "This Week in The Journal." The findings show that continued cocaine use affects how crucial neural networks communicate with one another in the brain, including the default mode network (DMN), the...

AI tools reveal knowledge gaps in addiction treatment

Turning to the internet for health-related information has become commonplace—from using search engines to uncover possible diagnoses based on symptoms to asking for advice on social media when dealing with health issues. "When people are diagnosed with a health condition or starting a new treatment, they often turn to peers on social media for emotional support and information," says Sarah Preum, an assistant professor of computer science. Health-related social media discussion groups are an invaluable repository where users from diverse demographics spontaneously share lived-in experiences and...

Psilocybin-Related Calls to U.S. Poison Centers Rise Among Youths

Calls to poison centers about psilocybin among adolescents and young adults shot up after U.S. states and cities began decriminalizing the compound, according to an analysis of data from the U.S. National Poison Data System (NPDS). From 2018 to 2022, psilocybin-related calls more than tripled among adolescents ages 13 to 19 (from 152 to 464) and more than doubled among young adults ages 20 to 25 (from 125 to 294, $P < 0.0001$ for both), Christopher Holstege, MD, of the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, and colleagues reported in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. The increases...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-23-053](#)

[Notice of Change to Key Dates for PAR-24-062, "Phased Research to Support Substance Use Epidemiology, Prevention, and Services Studies \(R61/R33 Clinical Trials Optional\)"](#)

[PAR-24-064](#)

[Developing Digital Therapeutics for Substance Use Disorders \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-062](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for PAR-21-208, "Cutting-Edge Basic Research Awards \(CEBRA\) \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[RFA-OD-24-013](#)

[Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health \(BIRCWH\) \(K12 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or 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.

Harold Amos Awards Promote Leadership in Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry Deadline: March 19, 2024

The Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation offers four-year postdoctoral research awards to physicians, dentists, and nurses (who are able to spend at least 70 percent of their time engaged in research) from historically marginalized backgrounds. We seek leaders whose background, identity, or lived experiences have positioned them to contribute to the program's goals. Up to 10 awards will be awarded this grant cycle. Each award will be up to \$420,000. Scholars will receive annual salary support of up to \$75,000, complemented by \$30,000 to support research activities. Additional awards are available this cycle through partnerships with ASH and AHA. The awards are four years in duration. Please visit the [funding opportunity page](#) for additional eligibility criteria.

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