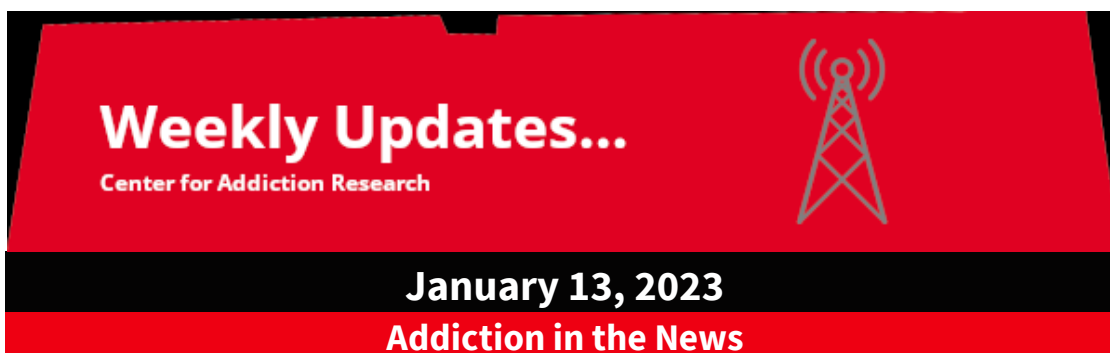


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 1.13.2023

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) 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

GRAND ROUNDS

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST

Location: [Zoom](#)

“Recreational and Medical Cannabis Research”

LaTrice Montgomery, PhD

Research Associate Professor [\(CAR Member\)](#)

University of Cincinnati Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the participant should be able to:

1. Identify different routes of administration and modes of cannabis use.
2. Discuss the differences between medical and recreational cannabis use.
3. Discuss strategies for advancing health equity in issues associated with c
4. Describe how social media can be used to understand, assess, prevent ar

Target Audience: Physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and mental health professionals.

ACCME ACCREDITATION & DESIGNATION, OPA, AND CSWMFT STATEMENTS

The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Cincinnati designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should only claim the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the Ohio Psychological Association and designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.00 OPA-MCE credit hour per Grand Rounds presentation.

The University of Cincinnati is accredited by the State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board and designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.00 clock hours CEU per Grand Rounds presentation.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucincinnati.zoom.us/j/94240784472?pwd=ZHF5Ylp0djFGUWVZZXZub1NhL1Nhdz09>

Meeting ID: 942 4078 4472

Passcode: 578190

One tap mobile

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+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

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Passcode: 578190

Find your local number: <https://ucincinnati.zoom.us/j/94240784472>

Ohio Governor Vetoes Flavored Tobacco Ban Bill, Leaving Local Governments in Charge

Governor Mike DeWine vetoed a bill on Thursday that would prohibit local governments in Ohio from enacting any laws regarding tobacco or vaping products that are more strict than state law. DeWine scheduled a press conference with health authorities to discuss the legislation rather than just vetoing it, calling youth smoking an “epidemic” made worse by commercially available flavored tobacco products. “We have an epidemic in Ohio we are seeing more and more of our young people starting to vape at a younger and younger age. This has been going on long enough now that we know that many of them then transition over to tobacco and we know the long-term...

Ohio Just Banned 'Gas Station Heroin'

Following studies of adverse effects, from restless arm syndrome to sudden death, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy has banned any product containing the chemical tianeptine, also known as "Tia" or "Gas Station Heroin," due to its opioid-like effects. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, in an emergency order, permitted the board to classify the chemical as a Schedule 1 controlled substance. Packaged in brands like ZaZa and Tianaa and TD Red, tianeptine could be found in head shops and behind gas station counters since around 2000. But it was in 2015, according to the Board's recent report, that the National Poison Data System reported a "significant increase" in exposure calls, most likely a byproduct...

Sports betting is now legal in Ohio. Experts worry about a rise in gambling addiction

On Jan. 1, Ohio became one of the latest states to legalize sports betting. More than three fifths of the country has made this move in recent years. These states have seen a massive increase in problem gambling, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio Associate Director Mike Buzzelli said. "We anticipate and have seen problem rates rise in the other states that have legalized it in the past few years," Buzzelli said, "so we anticipate that as well." He warns what to watch out for. “It’s going to be very similar warning signs to any other addiction," Buzzelli said. That includes spending more time and more money gambling, restlessness, irritability, isolation, borrowing money, lying and mood...

Great Health Divide | EKY addiction recovery ecosystem is strong, but gaps, high demand remain

CORBIN, Ky. (WKYT) - Before he led Addiction Recovery Care, Tim Robinson was in need of addiction recovery care. “I almost drank myself to death,” Robinson told

WKYT's Garrett Wymer on a recent winter day inside Corbin City Hall. "I was a prosecutor, but I was also a raging alcoholic." Back then, he saw, it was a lot harder to find help - one reason he founded a residential recovery center and eventually ARC, which now operates a network of more than 30 addiction treatment facilities across the state. "There was not a lot of resources in Kentucky, and not a lot of resources in eastern Kentucky," said Robinson, ARC's CEO, having recently celebrated 16 years of sobriety. "We went from..."

Opioid settlement chance to tackle addiction in Hamilton County (IN) as fentanyl overdoses rise

Hamilton County stands to receive more than \$7 million in the \$26 billion nationwide settlement with an opioid manufacturer and distributors as overdose deaths linked to fentanyl surge. The funds will be paid out over 18 years and most of it must be spent on fighting drug abuse. The dollars are part of Indiana's \$509 million cut of the larger settlement. Though the payments are for overdose deaths caused by prescription opiates such as OxyContin over several years, they come as black market versions of the synthetic opioid fentanyl have emerged as a primary killer in overdose fatalities across the country. 'At a loss': Coroner's office sees alarming trends among those...

National News

As alcohol-related liver disease rises in the U.S., a clinic takes a new approach to treatment

By the time Austin Johnson was 29 his liver had been so damaged by heavy drinking that his doctors feared he would die. For years, he'd been putting away nearly a full bottle of booze each night to quiet his emotional anguish. Everything in his life revolved around drinking. "It was normal to me, coming home after work, getting drunk, calling friends up drunk, playing video games drunk," said Johnson, now 33. "It was to the point where I would fall asleep with the bottle in my hand. The pain literally went away when I drank enough." Then he started to feel sick, and not just from hangovers. He was vomiting...

Study: 63% of severe alcoholics exhibit significant cognitive improvements within 18 days of abstinence

Addiction can be extremely detrimental to an individual in many different domains, including brain functioning. A new study published in Alcohol and Alcoholism provides hope by suggesting that alcohol detox can greatly improve cognitive impairments within weeks. Many people struggle with a substance use disorder. This can lead to a plethora of troubles with cognitive functioning, including lack of attention, impairments in executive functioning, memory loss, and more. Deficits in cognition have been linked to higher rates of relapse and more severe substance use disorder symptomology. Despite...

Deep learning algorithm can hear alcohol in voice

La Trobe University researchers have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) algorithm that could work alongside expensive and potentially biased breath testing devices in pubs and clubs. The technology can instantly determine whether a person has exceeded the legal alcohol limit purely on using a 12-second recording of their voice. In a paper published in the journal *Alcohol*, the study led by Ph.D. student Abraham Albert Bonela and supervised by Professors Emmanuel Kuntsche and Associate Professor Zhen He, from the Center for Alcohol Policy Research and the Department of Computer Science...

How a 'Dry January' could help your health

Having a "dry January," or giving up alcohol for the first month of the year, is a trend. And it's not a bad idea, according to a drug and alcohol rehab counselor with Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. Not consuming alcohol can have many health benefits, said Alan Berki, from sleeping better and having more time for other hobbies to saving money. "The condition of your skin, the increased amount of energy that you have, if you're not replacing the alcohol with candy or sweets—because you may start to crave those a little more if you stop drinking—you'll definitely experience weight loss," Berki said. One group...

245% Increase in Abuse: Children Are Ditching Alcohol for Marijuana

A recent study published in the journal *Clinical Toxicology* has found that marijuana abuse among adolescents in the United States has increased 245% since 2000, while alcohol abuse has decreased over the same period. The study, which tracked intentional misuse and abuse reported to the National Poison Data System (NPDS) until 2020, found 338,000 instances of intentional abuse or misuse among American children aged 6-18. The majority of these cases involved males (58.3%), and more than 80% of all reported cases occurred among teenagers aged 13 to 18. In total, over 32% of these instances resulted...

Health Headlines: New medicine could help kick vaping and nicotine addiction

BOSTON, Mass. (Ivanhoe Newswire) – According to the National Institutes of Health, more than 5.6 million American adults vape, using an electronic device to inhale nicotine and flavored vapors. And much like cigarette smoking, for some, vaping may become a habit that is tough to quit. Researchers are now conducting a clinical trial of a plant-based product that has been tested on cigarette smokers to see if it helps people hooked on vaping. Michael Werner was a college student when he started vaping almost every hour. Werner found himself quickly addicted to the nicotine but hated how...

Coping with nicotine withdrawal symptoms

Giving up nicotine can be a brutal experience that can include everything from physical symptoms, such as headache and nausea, to mood issues, including irritability, anxiety and depression. Yet, it is still possible to get through nicotine

withdrawal symptoms with a good plan and specific tools, according to a smoking cessation expert, who offered some suggestions for coping with nicotine withdrawal symptoms. "Nicotine is highly, highly addictive," said Emma Brett, a staff scientist at University of Chicago Medicine and a group lead in the Courage to Quit program. "Nicotine affects..."

Combination therapy appears safe for treating opioid use disorder during pregnancy

Current guidelines recommend that pregnant women with opioid use disorder be prescribed either methadone or buprenorphine, but these drugs too have significant potential for abuse. A recent study published in *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* indicates that combination therapy of buprenorphine and naloxone—which is known help to prevent such abuse—is as safe as buprenorphine alone during pregnancy for both mother and newborn. In the study of 67 pregnant women, the buprenorphine-naloxone and buprenorphine groups showed similar outcomes and did not significantly differ...

Pharmacists can start patients on road to recovery from opioid use disorder, study shows

A study from researchers at Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital and the University of Rhode Island found that pharmacists—not just physicians at clinics and doctor's offices—can safely and effectively start patients with opioid use disorder on the lifesaving medication buprenorphine. "With over 100,000 overdose deaths in 2022 and an opioid crisis impacting states across the country, improving access to buprenorphine is a critical and necessary next step," said Traci Green, lead study author and co-director of Rhode Island Hospital's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence on Opioids and Overdose...

Study suggests one solution to America's opioid epidemic: Tell doctors their patients fatally overdosed

There are no simple solutions to America's deadly overdose epidemic, which costs 100,000 lives each year and is erasing gains in life expectancy. But a team of USC researchers have found one low-cost intervention can make a difference: a letter notifying providers their patient has died from an overdose. A 2018 study by the team found that notifying clinicians through an informational letter from their county's medical examiner that a patient had suffered a fatal overdose reduced the number of opioid prescriptions they wrote over the next three months. The team's new study, published...

White House Drug Control Office Focused on Improving Treatment Access

Improving access to addiction treatment and disrupting the supply of illicit drugs will be the big goals this year for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), according to its director, Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH. One big order of business will be to fully implement the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act, which was

included in the omnibus spending bill passed in December, Gupta said Thursday during a phone interview at which a press person was present. The MAT Act gets rid of the requirement that physicians and other clinicians get an "X waiver" before being able to prescribe...

The X Waiver Is Officially Dead

The Biden administration's recent spending bill contained under-the-radar changes for addiction medicine, including eliminating the X waiver requirement for clinicians who treat opioid use disorder with medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The X waiver, a special Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certification that allowed clinicians to prescribe buprenorphine (Suboxone), a partial opioid agonist that curbs opioid cravings, has long been considered a bureaucratic hurdle to improving treatment access for patients who struggle with opioid addiction. While the administration has...

Behavioral Telehealth Loses Momentum Without a Regulatory Boost

Controlled substances became a little less controlled during the pandemic. That benefited both patients (for their health) and telehealth startups (to make money). Some potentially addictive medications — like buprenorphine and Adderall — are now far more available online to patients because of regulatory changes. Given the scarcity of qualified doctors to treat some of the behavioral health conditions associated with these drugs, like opioid use disorder or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, doctors' new ability to prescribe online or, in some cases, by telephone is a huge change. But easier...

Can Telehealth Help With Addiction Treatment?

The Biden administration has put forward changes to nationwide regulations that would widen the availability of certain treatments for opioid use disorder via telehealth, according to a US Department Health and Human Services (HHS) announcement. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) puts the number of deaths due to an overdose in 2021 at over 107,000. Dr. Jonathan Watanabe (PhD, PharmD) of the University of California-Irvine, who served on the White House-sponsored committee on improving access to methadone says that healthcare systems are struggling as cases...

Postoperative restrictive opioid prescription protocol feasible for most patients

Implementation of a restrictive opioid prescription protocol (ROPP)—prescribing an opioid supply of three or fewer days—to surgical patients after hospital discharge is feasible for most patients, according to a study published online Jan. 5 in JAMA Oncology. Emese Zsiros, M.D., Ph.D., from the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York, and colleagues assessed whether postsurgical acute pain across different surgical subspecialties can be managed effectively after

hospital discharge with an opioid supply of three or fewer days. The analysis included 2,017 in the pre-ROPP group...

More Evidence to Support Restrictive Opioid Prescribing After Cancer Surgery

A restrictive postoperative opioid prescribing policy for patients with cancer led to a 50% reduction in opioid prescription days and an even larger decrease in the rate of conversion to chronic opioid use, a prospective cohort study showed. Mean opioid prescription days decreased from 3.9 days before policy implementation to 1.9 days in the first 6 months afterward, accompanied by a 45% decrease in prescribed opioids after surgery. Patient requests for new opioid prescriptions also declined significantly. Conversion to chronic opioid use occurred in 11.3% of patients prior to the...

New York doctors are now required to prescribe naloxone to some patients on opioid painkillers

Without opioid painkillers to dull the ache in his knees and other joints, Arnold Wilson wouldn't be able to walk half a block. The 63-year-old former New York City nurse has crippling arthritis for which he takes OxyContin twice a day and oxycodone when he needs additional relief. For the past several years, he's kept another drug on hand as well: naloxone, an overdose reversal drug often referred to by the brand name Narcan. Although overdose deaths from illicit drugs sold on the street make headlines, the risk of overdose is just as real for patients who take opioids prescribed by their...

First-in-kind psychedelic trials to treat opioid and methamphetamine use disorders

Three million people in the United States have had opioid use disorder, and another 1.5 million people have dealt with methamphetamine misuse within the last year alone. But two new clinical trials out of the UW Transdisciplinary Center for Research in Psychoactive Substances (TCRPS), housed within the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Pharmacy, aim to address these pressing issues with a promising psychoactive agent: psilocybin. The drug has shown encouraging results for patients with depression and with tobacco and alcohol misuse. Now, a UW–Madison research...

New insights on the neural mechanisms underlying compulsive drug use during cocaine addiction

Drug addiction is characterized by compulsive drug use among individuals despite adverse consequences underlying such tendencies. However, the specific neural circuits underlying the mechanisms of addictive behavior remain unidentified. In a new study now published in Science Advances, Yang Chen and a research team in medical sciences, biomimetic drugs, and neuroscience in China conducted several experiments with animal models to understand specific neural mechanisms behind cocaine addiction. During...

Good and Bad Feelings for Brain Stem Serotonin Could Lead to New Treatments for Addiction and Depression

Scientists in Japan have identified a nerve pathway involved in the processing of rewarding and distressing stimuli and situations in mice. The new pathway, originating in a bundle of brain stem nerve fibers called the median raphe nucleus, acts in opposition to a previously identified reward/aversion pathway that originates in the nearby dorsal raphe nucleus. The findings, published by scientists at Hokkaido University and Kyoto University with their colleagues in the journal *Nature Communications*, could have implications for developing drug treatments for various mental disorders, including...

Is Food Addiction Real? What the Experts Say

Most people have likely experienced a food craving at some point, but when does it become something more than just a craving? Highly processed and fast foods may contain ingredients that make consumers want to eat them again and again, but is it accurate to call these foods addictive? The topic is controversial, and some feel the term “addiction” should be reserved for substance abuse issues. On top of that, the research behind the psychology of food addiction is mixed, as are expert opinions, further complicating things. Still, experts agree on at least one thing: If you’re struggling with eating...

Conversations On Athletes’ Mental Health Take Over Sports

Athletes’ mental health has been an increasing topic of discussion over the last several years. With national champions like Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka speaking out about their experiences with mental illness, the subject has been breached, facilitating conversations about personal wellness, autonomy, and national duty. What once might have been a blissful ignorance that the strongest and fastest among us were made of stronger armor, now a very real, very important discourse emerges. After the NFL’s latest incident, sports fans and leagues across the country must reconsider what it means...

Americans are blowing up the brand new 988 mental-health helpline as pandemic depression issues burrow deep

When Jamieson Brill answers a crisis call from a Spanish speaker on the newly launched national 988 mental health helpline, he rarely mentions the word suicide, or “suicidio.” Brill, whose family hails from Puerto Rico, knows that just discussing the term in some Spanish-speaking cultures is so frowned upon that many callers are too scared to even admit that they’re calling for themselves. “However strong stigma around mental health concerns is in English-speaking cultures, in Spanish-speaking cultures it is triple that,” said Brill, who helps people navigate mental health crises from a tiny brick...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-AA-23-001](#)

[Notice of Guidance for Data Management and Sharing Plans for the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#)

[NOT-AA-23-002](#)

[Notice of NIAAA Data-Sharing Information for Human Subjects Grants Research Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\) \[5th Revision\]](#)

[NOT-DA-23-014](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Exploratory Clinical Neuroscience Research on Substance Use Disorders \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-064](#)

[NIDA Program Project Grant Applications \(P01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-22-048](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Targeting the Endocannabinoid System for Brain Health and Acute and Chronic Diseases](#)

[RFA-EB-22-003](#)

[BRAIN Initiative: Transformative Brain Non-invasive Imaging Technology Development \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

Other Funding Opportunities:

CSL Research Acceleration Initiative

Deadline: Researchers who wish to apply are required to submit a non-confidential, 300 word online abstract by February 23, 2023.

CSL is a leading global biotech company that develops and delivers innovative biotherapies to help people living with life-threatening medical conditions live full lives. CSL's Research Acceleration Initiative aims to fast-track discovery of innovative biotherapies through partnerships between CSL and global research organizations. These partnerships provide funding and access to industry experts for scientists working on novel biotherapeutic strategies in CSL's therapeutic areas. Successful applicants will receive up to \$400k over 2 years. For webinar links and

online application instructions, please contact Geoffrey Pinski,
pinskig@ucmail.uc.edu.

Interested researchers are invited to join an online information session to learn more. Webinars will be held on:

- January 25, 2023, at 1pm
- February 6, 2023, at 4pm

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