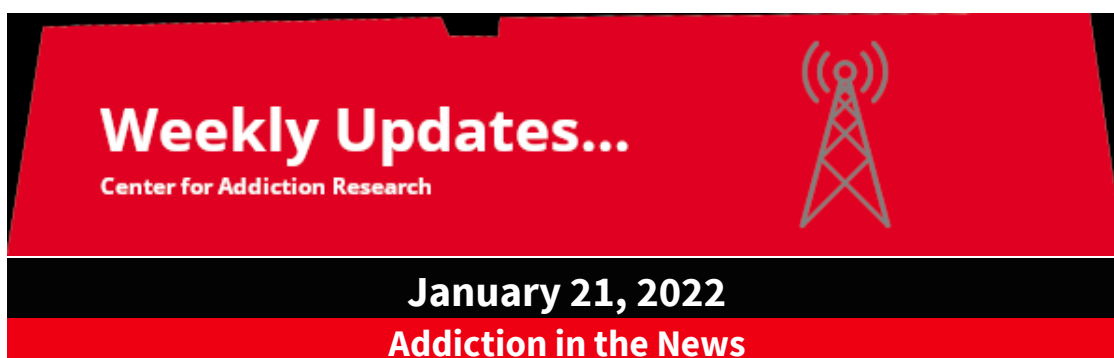


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) 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 Office of Research annually recognizes the university's top externally sponsored researchers. Among those being honored include the below members of the CAR and associated collaborators. Congratulations!

CAR members:

- **Jason Blackard, PhD**, professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases
- **Michael Lyons, MD**, associate professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- **Andrew Norman, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmacology and Systems Physiology
- **T. John Winhusen, PhD**, Donald C. Harrison Endowed Chair in Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience

Associated Collaborators:

- **Melanie Cushion, PhD**, senior associate dean for research and professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease
- **Melissa Delbello, MD**, Dr. Stanley and Mickey Kaplan Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience
- **Brett Kissela, MD**, senior associate dean for clinical research, Albert Barnes Voorheis Professor of Neurology and chair, Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine

Ohio doctors, pharmacists cut back on the dispensing of prescription opioids in 2021, continuing a yearslong trend

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Ohio doctors and pharmacists cut back the number of prescription opioids they dispensed last year, a move that continues a large-scale drop in the number of painkillers doled out across the state. Ten years after the peak of the prescription opioid crisis hit, medical providers have sharply reduced the number of pills that reach consumers. The drug epidemic killed...

Annual Southern Indiana addiction awareness events follow rise in overdose deaths

In 2021, Clark County saw the biggest spike in drug overdose deaths in five years — which one health official said stems from changes in the illegal drug market. Clark County Health Officer Dr. Eric Yazel said at least three-quarters of the 73 overdoses deaths recorded last year involved the highly potent opioid fentanyl, and many also involved methamphetamine. That's a big change from the mainly...

Opioid Windfall

CELINA - Mercer and Auglaize counties are part of a nine-county cluster that will have a say in how millions of dollars from opioid lawsuit settlements will be spent within the region. Region 15, as it's known, also will appoint a member and recommend projects for funding to a 29-member statewide foundation board, as part of the OneOhio plan. The plan was developed by the Ohio...

National News

Research Into Cannabis Stifled By Red Tape.

[The Paper](#) (1/13, Ann Unruh) reports, “A new paper published by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) takes a critical look at the cannabis regulatory systems in the United States, writing that much-needed scientific investigation into the drug’s potential safety concerns and health applications is being stifled by administrative burdens.” The researchers cite the federal Controlled Substances Act and “the requirement that all approved research projects obtain cannabis through” the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as examples of “bureaucratic red tape” blocking scientific awareness from keeping “pace with how cannabis products are being made and used.” The findings were published this month in the Journal of the NCI Monographs.

More Folks Drive High When Pot Made Legal: Study.

[HealthDay](#) (1/13, Reinberg, 11K) reports, “As pot has been legalized in more countries and states, a greater number of people are driving intoxicated by the drug and crashing, researchers report.” According to HealthDay, “THC, the active ingredient in cannabis, has been detected in twice as many injured Canadian drivers since 2018, when cannabis was first legalized,” and the “same effect is being seen in

the United States, said” University of British Columbia Emergency Medicine Department Associate Professor Dr. Jeffrey Brubacher, the lead researcher. The [findings](#) (1/12, Brubacher, 622K) were published Jan. 13 in the New England Journal of Medicine. National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr. Nora Volkow stated, “This is an emerging and extremely important area of research. ... **One recent study found increased rates of motor vehicle crashes in the six months following medical cannabis authorization in Canada, and another study found relative increased risk of fatal motor vehicle collisions of 15% and a relative increase in associated deaths of 16% in U.S. jurisdictions where cannabis is legal.**”


Benefits Of In-Jail Buprenorphine Treatment For Opioid Use Disorder Touted In New Study.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (1/18, Kelly, 592K) reports that **researchers at the Baystate Medical Center and the University of Massachusetts Amherst “found a 32% reduction in recidivism – including probation violation, reincarceration or court charges – when a jail offered buprenorphine to prisoners, compared to when it did not.”** The study, which was part of the NIH Heal Initiative, was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The [findings](#) (1/18, 258K) were published today in Drug and Alcohol Dependence. **[Article attached.]**

Contributor Says Stronger Forms Of Life-Saving Overdose Medication Naloxone Could Have Harmful Side Effects.

Contributor Abdullah Shihpar wrote in [The Atlantic](#) (1/14, Shihpar, 3.53M) that **Narcan (naloxone) “is an extraordinary medicine that serves as a crucial tool in the fight against overdoses.”** Shihpar said, “In recent months, **the pharmaceutical industry has pushed to make sure that naloxone can keep up with fentanyl, engaging in an ‘opioid-antagonist arms race’ to bring stronger forms of naloxone to market,** says Lucas Hill, a pharmacy professor at the University of Texas at Austin who studies opioids.” He adds that **experts that he “talked with suggested that a more potent form of the drug could backfire, compounding naloxone’s harmful side effects with no significant benefit over the lower dosages.”**

Snapchat Executive Discusses How Platform Is Cracking Down On Counterfeit Pills.

[NBC Nightly News](#)  (1/18, 6:49 p.m. EST, story 7, 4:00, Holt, 5.25M) reported, “We have reported on the alarming number of counterfeit pills young people are getting on social media. Now for the first time, a Snapchat executive faces questions from Kate Snow on their crackdown.” NBC correspondent Kate Snow said, “Snapchat knows it has a problem. **Last year, the DEA seized over 20 million counterfeit pills, four in 10 had potentially lethal doses of fentanyl. Young people have died after**

connecting with a dealer on Snapchat. What is Snapchat doing to prevent those counterfeit pills from being sold on its platform?” Jacqueline Beauchere, Snapchat Global Head of Platform Safety, said, “Kate, we are determined to make Snapchat a hostile environment for drug dealers to operate.” According to NBC, “Beauchere says Snapchat is partnering with outside monitoring services and using new tools to detect and take down drug-related accounts.” Furthermore, “Snapchat says its law enforcement operations team grew nearly tenfold in 2021.”

California To Offer Contingency Management For Stimulant Use On Medicaid.

[Filter \(NY\)](#) (1/13, Lekhtman) reports, “On December 29, 2021, California became the first state to receive federal approval to cover the contingency management approach to drug use through Medicaid.” The California Department of Health Care Services will run a statewide contingency management pilot program for people with substance use disorder. The National Institute on Drug Abuse is mentioned.

There Is Life After Addiction. Most People Recover.

[NPR](#) (1/15, Mann, 3.69M) reported, “The US faces an unprecedented surge of drug deaths, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting” last week that 101,623 fatal overdoses occurred during a 12-month period. However, “researchers and drug policy experts say the grim toll obscures an important and hopeful fact: Most Americans who experience alcohol and drug addiction survive,” going “on to live full and healthy lives.” A peer-reviewed study published in 2021 “found roughly 22.3 million Americans – more than 9% of adults – live in recovery after some form of substance-use disorder.” Meanwhile, a “study published by the CDC and the National Institute on Drug Abuse in 2020 found 3 out of 4 people who experience addiction eventually recover.”

New York City Overdose Prevention Centers Highlighted.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/16, Kornfield, 10.52M) reported on OnPoint NYC, and other overdose prevention centers in New York City, where “workers watch people use illegal drugs and step in when they overdose.” According to the Post, “These new locations, approved by the then-mayor of New York City, could spur a shift toward offering services nationwide, drug policy experts say.” However, the Biden Administration “has not approved overdose-prevention centers, still considered an untested concept, and neighbors worry about drawing crime to their area.”

Opinion: View Of Addiction As “Disease” Oversimplifies Story.

In an opinion column for the [New York Times](#) (1/15, 20.6M), [Carl Erik Fisher](#), an addiction physician and bioethicist, wrote that the idea of addiction being an extreme mental illness or “disease” worked against him as he “learned in medical

school and later, in rehab.” Fisher adds, “Thinking of addiction as a disease might simply imply that medicine can help, but disease language also oversimplifies the story and leads to the view that medical science is the single best framework for understanding addiction. ... This narrows the view of a complex problem that requires community support and healing.”

Biden Administration Efforts To Broaden Harm Reduction, Treatment For Drug Overdoses Are Not Enough, Experts Say.

[PBS NewsHour](#) (1/13, Santhanam, 792K) reports, “While the Biden administration has said it will broaden access to harm reduction and treatment” for drug overdoses, “experts say the money that has been set aside isn’t doing enough.” The American Rescue Plan Act “earmarked nearly \$4 billion to boost mental health and substance use disorder programs, including some money set aside specifically to address the opioid crisis.” Meanwhile, in December, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration announced \$30 million in grants “to communities to develop and deploy innovative programs built around harm reduction,” and the Office of National Drug Control Policy released model legislation “that state lawmakers could pass to make naloxone available over the counter, buy fentanyl test strips and expand syringe exchange services.” However, “experts say these new harm reduction programs will be distributed over multiple years and take that much longer to reach their full benefit in communities desperate for help right now.”

FDA Initiative To Improve Use Of Gender-Specific Data In Medical Device Research.

[Bloomberg Law](#) (1/18, Castronuovo, Subscription Publication, 4K) reports, “Improving the use of gender-specific data in medical device research will get a fresh focus under an FDA initiative aimed at boosting women’s health.” The “strategic plan published Tuesday by the” agency’s “Center for Devices and Radiological Health lays out ways to better assess whether and how certain device designs perform differently among women and men.” The plan’s goals “include accounting for sex and gender in data collection, developing center-wide policies for women’s health research, and addressing existing gaps in medical device studies.”

Survey Study Reveals Support For Psychedelics As Mental Health Treatment.

[Forbes](#) (1/18, Bartlett, 10.33M) reports a survey “conducted by The Harris Poll and Delic Holdings Corp. found that 65% of affected Americans want access to psychedelics for mental health.”

Top Federal Drug Official Says ‘Train Has Left The Station’ On Psychedelics As Reform Movement Spreads.

[Marijuana Moment](#) (1/17, Jaeger) reports that the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) Director Dr. Nora Volkow](#) “says the ‘train has left the station’ on psychedelics.” Speaking at a psychedelics workshop NIDA cohosted with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) last week, “Volkow said people are going to keep using substances such as psilocybin – especially as the reform movement expands and there’s increased attention being drawn to the potential therapeutic benefits – and so researchers and regulators will need to keep up.” She “said that, to an extent, it’s been overwhelming to address new drug trends in the psychedelics space. But at the same time, she sees ‘an incredible opportunity to also modify the way that we are doing things.’” Meanwhile, NIMH Director Joshua Gordon stressed that his agency has “been supporting research on psychedelics for some time.”

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-AA-22-004](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Alcohol Health Services Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AA-22-005](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Alcohol Health Services Research \(R34 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-AA-22-006](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[NOT-AA-22-007](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Research \(R34 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

[RFA-NS-22-037](#)

[HEAL Initiative: Advancing Health Equity in Pain and Comorbidities \(R61/R33 Clinical Trial Required\)](#)

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 either of the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and facilitate assistance with approaches.

[PhRMA Foundation Issues Call for Starter Grants in Health Outcomes Research- Deadline: February 10, 2022](#)

The [PhRMA Foundation](#) supports the research and early-career endeavors of scientists in drug discovery and development. The foundation is inviting applications for its [PhRMA Foundation Research Starter Grant](#) of up to \$100,000 will be awarded in Health Outcomes Research, which offers financial support to individuals beginning independent research careers in health outcomes research at the faculty level. Eligible applicants include U.S. and non-U.S. citizens attending schools of medicine, pharmacy, public health, nursing, and dentistry in the United States and holding academic rank of instructor or assistant professor, and investigators at the doctoral level with equivalent positions.

[Emergency Medicine Foundation Opens Competition for Research Grant in Health Disparities - Deadline: February 4, 2022](#)

The [Emergency Medicine Foundation](#) strives to be the principal sponsor of scientifically rigorous research and education that improves the care of the acutely ill and injured. The foundation [Health Disparities Research Grant program](#) will award a single grant of \$50,000 in support of research that improves healthcare access, delivery, utilization, quality, and outcomes of those affected by health disparities, including racial and ethnic minority populations; non-English speaking populations; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations; persons with limited health literacy; socioeconomically disadvantaged populations; and other groups impacted by health disparities. The principal investigator must have a primary faculty appointment in Emergency Medicine.

[Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Invites Applications for First Responder Grants - Deadline: February 16, 2022](#)

The [Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation](#) works to improve the lifesaving capabilities and lives of local heroes and their communities. The foundation welcomes applications for its [First Responder Grants program](#), which will award up to \$50,000 in support of efforts to provide lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders, nonprofits, and public-safety organizations. The foundation typically awards grants ranging between \$15,000 and \$25,000. Eligible applicants include law enforcement, EMS units, municipal and state organizations, public safety organizations, nonprofits, and schools. *You must provide an official vendor quote/bid with the application.*

