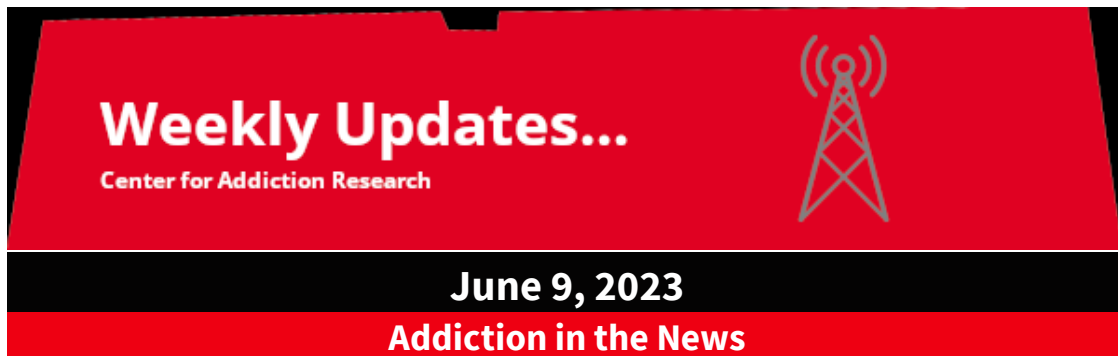


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu)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

Center for Addiction Research Upcoming Summer Speaker Series

Back by popular demand, the Center for Addiction Research will hold its first 2023 virtual Summer Speaker Series event, Wednesday, June 14 at 12pm on "Addressing Substance Use Among Youth in Foster Care: Implementation and Evaluation of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in a Foster Care Clinic", with presenter, CAR member, and CAR Core Co-Leader Population Health and Health Services, Dr. Shauna Acquavita. The series is sponsored by Center for Clinical & Translational Science & Training. ([pdf invitation attached](#))

>> Register for any of the three summer presentations

WXU: Researchers look to variations of psychedelic drugs as the future of mental health treatment

University of Cincinnati researchers are collaborating with researchers at Miami University to explore ways that psychedelic drugs could be used as treatments for a variety of mental illnesses. Andrew Jones, assistant professor of chemical, paper and biomedical engineering at Miami University, has successfully manufactured psilocybin in the lab. He is sharing those compounds with Eric Wohleb, PhD, of the Department of Pharmacology and Systems Physiology at the UC College of Medicine the compounds to test in Wohleb's lab. WXU produced a story on the research in which Wohleb will soon expand his research to study new compounds in lab-manufactured magic mushrooms to test their...

Opioid-Treatment Maker Settles With Ohio for \$6 Million

A maker of a common treatment for opioid addiction — Suboxone — has agreed to settle antitrust complaints by 41 state attorneys general for \$102.5 million, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced on June 2. Ohio will get just under \$6 million. The states claimed that Suboxone manufacturer Indivior made minor changes to its product to keep it under patent so it wouldn't have to compete with lower-cost generics. Some critics said that the changes made it easier to abuse the drug. In 2021, it had an age-adjusted overdose death rate of 48.1 per 100,000 people, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Exceeding that were New Mexico (51.6), Kentucky (55.6)...

Lifesaving fentanyl test strips still illegal in some states under '70s-era war on drugs law

At Cleveland's Urban Kutz Barbershop, customers can flip through magazines as they wait, or help themselves to drug screening tests left out in a box on a table with a somber message: "Your drugs could contain fentanyl. Please take free test strips." Owner Waverly Willis has given out strips for years at his barbershop, hoping to protect others from unwittingly being exposed to the highly potent synthetic opioid ravaging the U.S. and often secretly laced into other illegal drugs. "When I put them out, they just fly out the door," said Willis, who proudly hands out about 30 strips a week as part of The Urban Barber Association, a Cleveland organization that provides health education to the community...

Kentucky's Risky Million-Dollar Bet to Fight the Opioid Crisis With Psychedelics

On the steps of the state capitol building in Frankfort on May 31, the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) announced the launch of a new state-funded program that would aim to help stem the damage and destruction wrought by the ongoing opioid crisis that has devastated the lives of millions and led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands. But the new initiative wasn't simply to throw more money and resources into tried-and-true public health programs. Instead, the commission announced it was going to explore allocating tens of millions of dollars toward studying and promoting the use of the controversial, plant-based hallucinogen ibogaine in...

National News

Wrist-worn mobile alcohol sensor may boost real-world alcohol-use research

A wrist-worn sensor that gathers data on alcohol use in a less obtrusive manner than current methods could one day pave the way for real-time interventions, among other benefits, according to a team of researchers. In a study, the researchers reported that wrist-worn alcohol sensors collected data that agreed with information gathered by both ankle-worn devices and self-report, which are the methods more typically used by researchers investigating alcohol use today, according to Jimikaye Courtney, assistant professor and A. Donald and Billie J. Stallings Fellow at the University of North...

Bilingual, digital health tool helps reduce alcohol use, study finds

An automated, bilingual, computerized alcohol screening and intervention health tool is effective in reducing alcohol use among Latino emergency department patients in the U.S., according to a study led by the University of California, Irvine. "This is the first bilingual, large-scale, emergency department-based, randomized clinical trial of its kind in the country focused on English- and Spanish-speaking Latino participants," said lead author Dr. Federico Vaca, UCI professor of emergency medicine. "Our aim was to overcome well-known barriers to alcohol screening and intervention from the emergency..."

Alcohol drinking cut in half with diabetes medication

The medication semaglutide, which is currently used in the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity, might also be an effective medication for alcohol dependence. In a study from the University of Gothenburg, the drug reduced alcohol relapse drinking and alcohol intake in rats by more than half. The results of the study are published in the scientific journal eBioMedicine. Semaglutide is sold under brand names such as Ozempic. Since this medication has been approved for the treatment of obesity, demand has increased, which has resulted in difficulties in procuring the drug in recent times. There...

Among young people, being around peers may elicit greater drinking cravings than the presence of alcohol

When certain settings, people, or items—a bar, a friend, a glass—are paired with alcohol, they can become conditioned cues, eliciting drinking cravings. These learned reactions are associated with alcohol use disorder (AUD), treatment outcomes, and relapse. The presence of peers in particular is a key prompt for alcohol cravings among young people, according to a new study published in Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research. Adolescents and emerging adults are particularly susceptible to peer influence. In real-world settings, studies have found that the presence of peers predicts young people's...

Can Cannabis Help Alleviate the Opioid Crisis?

Within the last 12 months, we have lost more than 100,000 Americans to opioid overdoses. Countless others have been injured, remain addicted, and are in desperate need of effective treatment. Personally, I am 15 years into recovery from a vicious addiction to prescription painkillers, I could easily have become one of these statistics. We have at our disposal proven, effective treatments for opioid addiction, such as the medications buprenorphine (Suboxone) and methadone. These have been proven to cut down the death rate from opioid overdoses by at least 50 percent. Tragically, access to these medications...

Medical marijuana is finally here, but many Georgia doctors shy away from it

Sylvia Hayes' list of ailments is long and growing. Sciatica. A bulging disc. Pinched nerves. Knee pain. Much of the 60-year-old Stone Mountain woman's agony is the result of a car accident years ago that left her so severely injured that she now depends on a walker to get around. If she didn't have enough to contend with, she underwent a double mastectomy after a breast cancer diagnosis in 2022. A case of frozen shoulder followed that surgery, adding to her misery. Hayes watched and waited as state lawmakers wrangled for eight years over legislation that would allow qualified Georgians to gain access to...

Hawaii law bans import of e-cigarettes, e-liquids

It is now illegal to import electronic smoking devices and e-liquids into the islands after Gov. Josh Green signed a bill into law Tuesday as part of a years-long and continuing effort to prevent children from becoming addicted to nicotine. No one on Tuesday addressed what happens to the legality of current inventory in Hawaii. At the bill-signing ceremony at the state Capitol, Green applauded lawmakers and especially young anti-vaping advocates who, he said, have "kept the pressure on us in all the right ways to pass this legislation." "That was easy to pass this bill after years of working hard with so many...

Researchers look at opioid use disorder treatment through eyes of patients

Patients would be more willing to enter medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder if existing stigmas were reduced and more accessible payment support was readily available, a West Virginia University study finds. Adam Baus, director of the Office of Health Services Research, and his team gained insight from patients on what helped or hindered medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, to support recovery. "Little research attention has been given to learning directly from those in medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder," said Baus, also a research assistant professor with the...

California Confronts the Threat of 'Tranq' as Overdose Crisis Rages

SAN FRANCISCO — When the city's medical examiner announced in February that four people who had recently died of overdoses had the animal sedative xylazine in their systems, public health workers across the state sprang into action. Drug dealers on the East Coast had in recent years begun mixing xylazine, which can have devastating effects on people, with the opioid fentanyl, causing a surge in emergency room visits in Philadelphia and other cities. But there had not been much evidence of it in California. Now state and local officials are ramping up efforts to combat xylazine, commonly called "tranq," by...

Novel Intervention Helps Pain Patients Discontinue Opioids

A novel intervention that blends individualized care, mindfulness, and a tapering plan is more successful than usual care in helping patients discontinue opioids for chronic pain, new research shows. As part of the multisite Improving the Wellbeing

of People with Opioid Treated Chronic Pain (I-WOTCH) study, 30% of participants in the intervention group were able to discontinue opioids vs 7% of those in the usual care group. Lead investigator Harbinder Sandhu, DHealthPsy, assistant professor of health psychology at Warwick Medical School in Coventry, UK, said the benefits of the intervention...

Overdoses and deaths related to substance use didn't increase after a large-scale prison release, shows study

Contrary to expectations, the risk for relapses, overdoses and deaths related to substance use disorder didn't increase after a large-scale prison release in New Jersey, according to a Rutgers study. The study, published in JAMA Health Forum, examined whether post-release overdose deaths and drug-related hospital and emergency department visits increased after more than 2,000 individuals were released from prison in late 2020 as the result of a pandemic-era policy. "Risk of relapse and adverse health events is high following prison release, with risk of fatal overdose as much as 129 times greater..."

FDA Announces Additional Steps to Modernize Clinical Trials

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is announcing the availability of a draft guidance with updated recommendations for good clinical practices (GCPs) aimed at modernizing the design and conduct of clinical trials, making them more agile without compromising data integrity or participant protections. The updates are intended to help pave the way for more efficient clinical trials to facilitate the development of medical products. The draft guidance is adopted from the International Council for Harmonisation's (ICH) recently updated E6(R3) draft guideline that was developed...

Mood-altering mushroom sales bloom despite safety concerns

When a hemp dispensary in this Florida city started to stock edibles with certain mushroom extracts last year, state regulators quickly ordered it to stop selling the items. The shop had been advertising fruit-flavored gummies and other products containing tiny doses of mood-altering chemicals from the mushroom *Amanita muscaria*. The red-capped, white-spotted fungus—rooted in popular culture through the Super Mario Nintendo game franchise, "The Smurfs," and "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"—is legal for consumers to possess and eat in every state except Louisiana, according to a review of state...

How does dopamine regulate both learning and motivation?

It is well-known that the dopamine system is implicated in signaling reward-related information as well as in actions that generate rewarding outcomes. This can be investigated using either Pavlovian and operant conditioning experiments. Pavlovian conditioning describes how your brain makes an association between two situations or stimuli that previously seemed unrelated. A famous example is Pavlov's experiment, where a dog heard a sound before receiving food. After several

such pairings of the sound with food delivery, the sound alone began to cause the dog to salivate. Operant...

Funding Opportunities



[NOT-DA-23-022](#)

[Notice of Information: Research Opportunity Announcements for the Native Collective Research Effort to Enhance Wellness \(N CREW\) Program: Addressing Overdose, Substance Use, Mental Health, and Pain](#)

© [2020 Center for Addiction Research]

