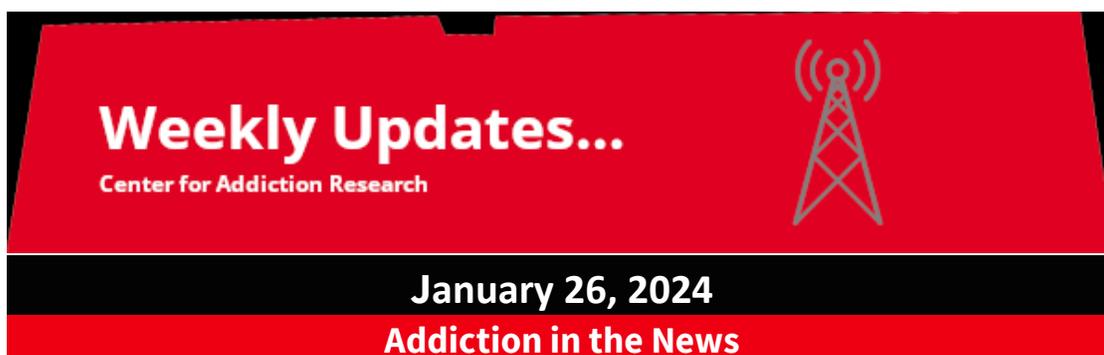


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 1.26.2024

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**

#### **Webinar: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care (ORCCA) on February 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM EST**

Please join the webinar on key recommendations to reduce overdose fatalities from the Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA).

Developed through the HEALing Communities Study, the ORCCA framework can help communities implement system- and practice-level changes to reduce opioid overdose deaths. The HEALing Communities Study, a multi-site research study, tested the impact of an integrated set of evidence-based practices across healthcare, behavioral health, justice, and other community-based settings. HEALing Communities is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative®.

Speakers will provide an overview of the evidence-based practices and accompanying implementation strategies compiled in the ORCCA. The framework was designed as a menu of options for communities to reduce opioid overdose deaths. The science and evidence behind the framework were published in the *Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence* and outlined 3 recommended menus of evidence-based practices: overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND), medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), and prescription opioid safety. This webinar will highlight how partners in Massachusetts, Kentucky, New York, and Ohio implemented the ORCCA, including 19 implementation strategies to reduce opioid overdose deaths. This webinar is sponsored by HEAL Connections; an initiative funded by the NIH HEAL Initiative.

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Speakers:

- Dr. Redonna Chandler, Director, HEALing Communities Study, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Office of the Director
- Dr. Timothy Hunt, Associate Research Scientist and Associate Director, Columbia University School of Social Work's Social Intervention Group
- **Dr. T. John Winhusen, Director, Center for Addiction Research, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and HEALing Communities Study, Ohio co-Principal Investigator**
- Dr. Alexander Walley, MSc, Professor of Medicine, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine
- Dr. Patricia Freeman, Earl Platt Slone Endowed Professor in Pharmacy Practice and Science and University Research Professor, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy
- Jessica Hulsey, Founder & CEO, Addiction Policy Forum (Webinar Moderator)

### **WVXU: Gambling addiction is on the rise in Ohio. Advocates are working to meet the demand**

According to the most recent Ohio Gambling Survey, the number of people in Ohio with a problem gambling disorder tripled from 2017 to 2022 to more than 250,000. With sports betting legal in Ohio for more than a year, that trend is expected to continue. At the start of 2023, sports betting became legal in Ohio. State leaders said it was important to legalize sports betting because it was already happening—just unregulated and untaxed. But it's come at a cost: experts say the proliferation of sports betting has led to an increase in addiction. For a story on the trend, one of the experts interviewed by WVXU, was Gregory Stewart, PhD, of the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University...

### **Pediatric Grand Rounds - Tuesday, January 30 at 8:00 AM in Cincinnati Children's Sabin Auditorium (D1.23)**

Daniel Cohen, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics and medical director, Child Psychiatry Unit, Cincinnati Children's, will present "Opioid Use Disorder in Adolescents and Young Adults".

### **DeWine, Ohio State University announce decade-long mental health and addiction study**

Ten Ohio universities will embark on a 10-year mental health study, assisted by an initial \$20 million grant from the state, state and higher education leaders announced Friday morning. Doctors and researchers leading the SOAR study—headquartered at Ohio State University and led by the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center—want to use the decade to get at the root causes of mental illness, suicide and addiction. SOAR stands for State of Ohio Action for Resiliency, and the

network behind it was created in the state budget, funded with \$30 million for a year last June. The SOAR website touts how there has “never been a research effort like this in the history of mental health.” Plow trucks cleared...

### **Evansville distributed its first batch of opioid settlement funds without seeking proposals**

EVANSVILLE — In April, former Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke gave his final State of the City address. At the annual speech, Winnecke confronted a life-or-death issue for Evansville and the country: the opioid epidemic. “Fentanyl and other opioids are at the heart of many overdoses,” Winnecke said. “Sadly, Evansville is not immune from this national crisis: 77 people died in our community last year from drug overdoses.” Winnecke then asked a rhetorical question: “How do we reduce that number?” One way to address the crisis, Winnecke said, would be a creative new partnership between two local organizations, funded by dollars the city received from historic, nation-spanning lawsuits...

## **National News**

### **Alcohol intervention for college drinkers leads to safer drinking behaviors among their close social network**

Following a brief intervention delivered to certain heavy drinkers, alcohol use and risky social ties decreased among those students' close social connections who were also heavy drinkers, according to a novel study of first-year college students' alcohol consumption and social networks. The researchers demonstrated a "spillover" effect, in which the behavioral benefits of an intervention diffuse through a social network. Peer social relationships are known to play an important role in young adult drinking, and the transition to college is a critical period for alcohol risk. Social influences in the first semester of college may...

### **AA attendance lower among African American, Hispanic and young populations: Study**

Alcoholics Anonymous has long been a cornerstone of treating alcohol use disorders in the United States. But even today, Americans are not accessing it equally, according to a new study in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs. Alcoholics Anonymous, or AA, got its start nearly 90 years ago and is famous for spurring the "12-step" approach to recovery—which includes acknowledging powerlessness over alcohol and giving your life over to a "higher power." Over the years, AA and similar "mutual-help groups" have become a staple of treatment for alcohol and other drug use disorders, and research has...

### **Study finds women farm owners more apt to binge drink**

A study from the University of Georgia reveals a concerning pattern of binge drinking among women who own or manage farms. The study, which was published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, surveyed 987 farmers across the U.S. about their perceived levels of stress and coping

behaviors, including alcohol use. Farmers experience higher levels of work-related stress compared to other industries and the public, and recent studies have found that many turn to alcohol to handle that stress. But not all farmers used alcohol in the same way. "Female farmers were less likely to report...

### **Removing largest serving sizes of wine decreases alcohol consumption, study finds**

Alcohol consumption is the fifth largest contributor to premature death and disease globally. Many cues in physical and economic environments influence alcohol consumption across populations. One proposed intervention to excessive alcohol consumption is reducing the size of servings of alcoholic drinks sold by the glass, but there has been no real-world evidence for the effectiveness of this. In the new study, researchers asked 21 licensed premises in England to remove from their menus their largest serving of wine by the glass -- usually 250 mL -- for four weeks. The researchers then tracked the...

### **The fallacy of the local bar: Do individuals opt to travel farther than the neighborhood watering hole?**

Individuals travel beyond their residential neighborhood and area of work to bars, but tend to travel to liquor stores closer to home, according to a new study at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and the Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. The findings are published in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Review*. "Our study aimed to characterize individuals' trips to alcohol outlets and describe these trip locations in the context of the mixed results we have seen from previous studies on alcohol outlet density and consumption," said Christina A. Mehranbod, in the...

### **FDA review supports reclassifying marijuana as less risky drug**

Scientists from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration conclude in newly released documents that marijuana has less potential for abuse than other drugs with the same restrictions and it should be reclassified as a less dangerous drug. Not only that, the review found there is some evidence backing its use as a medical treatment. Right now, cannabis is classified as a Schedule I controlled substance, a high-risk category that includes heroin and LSD. The move to reconsider the dangers of marijuana first began in 2022, when President Joe Biden asked U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra and...

### **Cannabis has no clear effect on treatment of opioid addiction, study finds**

Cannabis is not an effective treatment for opioid addiction, a new study of thousands of people being treated for opioid use disorder suggests. Experts, publishing their results today in *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, have found that cannabis is having no significant effect on peoples' use of opioids, taken outside of medical guidance. The findings have substantial implications for U.S treatment programs, some of which still require patients to abstain from

cannabis before they qualify for potentially life-saving treatment. This is based on the belief they are more likely to use opioids...

### **Seniors who smoke weed and drive are road hazards: Study**

Many studies have found that getting high on weed and then getting behind the wheel is dangerous for young drivers, and now new research finds it's no different for seniors. In a driving-simulator experiment, seniors who were long-term marijuana smokers were weaving in and out of their lanes 30 minutes after getting high, Canadian researchers report. The effect was not seen when the same drivers were tested again three hours after smoking weed. However, the seniors themselves still rated their ability to drive as "impaired." There was one silver lining: Senior tokers tended to slow their driving speed once...

### **Anti-Tobacco Activists Hold 'Menthol Funeral' in Washington**

WASHINGTON -- A group of anti-tobacco activists and their supporters held a "menthol funeral" here Thursday, demanding that the Biden administration release a long-delayed final rule banning the sale of menthol cigarettes and other menthol-flavored tobacco products. "Let us bury menthol cigarettes; enough is enough," said Rev. Horace Sheffield, CEO of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations, during a rally in Lafayette Park across from the White House. The rally, which was organized by the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council (AATCLC) was preceded by a funeral...

### **A surgeon general report once cleared the air about smoking. Is it time for one on vaping?**

NEW YORK (AP) — Sixty years ago, the U.S. surgeon general released a report that settled a longstanding public debate about the dangers of cigarettes and led to huge changes in smoking in America. Today, some public health experts say a similar report could help clear the air about vaping. Many U.S. adults believe nicotine vaping is as harmful as — or more dangerous than — cigarette smoking. That's wrong. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and most scientists agree that, based on available evidence, electronic cigarettes are far less dangerous than traditional cigarettes. But that doesn't mean e-cigarettes...

### **Even nicotine-free vapes can harm the lung, finds study**

A new study has identified a protein that nicotine-free vape fluid increases in the lung, causing damage including oxidative stress, inflammation, and breakdown of the blood vessels. The research, published in the journal *Microvascular Research*, demonstrated a range of damaging pathways when an in vitro model of the human lung was exposed to a common brand of nicotine-free e-cigarette. E-cigarettes have become increasingly popular in recent years and are often seen as harmless alternatives to cigarette smoking. It is estimated that there are almost five million 'vapers' in the UK, compared to around...

### **FDA Denies Marketing of Bidi E-Cigarette**

On Jan. 22, 2024, FDA issued a marketing denial order (MDO) to Bidi Vapor LLC for its Bidi Stick – Classic e-cigarette. This product is a closed-system, disposable, tobacco-flavored e-cigarette device. The company must not market or distribute this product in the United States or they risk FDA enforcement action. The company may submit a new application to the agency for review that addresses these deficiencies. The FDA evaluates premarket tobacco product applications (PMTAs) based on a public health standard that considers the benefits (e.g., benefit from adult users of more harmful tobacco...

### **The vaping warning labels paradox: Encouraging adults, dissuading kids**

Getting tobacco vaping warning labels right for both adults and teens has proven complex, as regulators confront two public health challenges: How to promote e-cigarette use as an alternative for adults who smoke cigarettes, while warning teens who use e-cigarettes of the potential long-term consequences, which include nicotine addiction and exposure to toxic chemicals. In a recent study published in *Social Science and Medicine*, a multidisciplinary team led by Jeff Niederdeppe, senior associate dean in the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy and professor of communication in the College of Agriculture...

### **Untrained bystanders can administer drone-delivered naloxone, potentially saving lives of opioid overdose victims**

An onlooker—even one without prior training—can successfully administer naloxone to an overdose victim within about a minute of a drone delivering the lifesaving opioid reversal agent. That's the key finding of my team's newly published study. Naloxone is also known by the name brand Narcan. The study involved 17 participants responding to a simulated overdose. Each simulation included an untrained participant who portrayed a bystander, a box of naloxone delivered by drone, a mannequin as the overdose victim, and a panicked observer. The latter added a sense of urgency by continually shouting...

### **U.S. lawmakers move toward oversight of \$50 billion in opioid settlements**

Some members of Congress are demanding federal oversight of billions of dollars in opioid settlements, which state and local governments began spending over the past two years — with some using it to plug budget holes rather than fight the addiction crisis. This month, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, and Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, introduced legislation that would write into law approved uses for the funds so they reach people most affected by the crisis. With more than 100,000 Americans dying annually of overdoses in recent years, “any effort we can make to try to turn the needle toward treatment, prevention...

### **The Sackler Family Can Act Today to Compensate Opioid Overdose Victims**

In March 2022, three members of the Sackler family listened as more than two dozen people on Zoom addressed them in a federal bankruptcy court in New York.

For over 2 hours, the speakers talked about their own struggles with opioid use disorder and the loved ones lost to an overdose involving the opioid product OxyContin. They gave voice to their loss and their ongoing grief. Most of all, they expressed their anger at the Sacklers and Purdue Pharma ("Purdue"), the company that manufactured and marketed OxyContin, for the role they played in driving the opioid overdose epidemic, an epidemic that has...

### **Overdose Death Notices Plus Guidance Sink Opioid Prescribing**

Physicians who received a letter from a medical examiner about a patient's fatal overdose -- along with suggested guidance for future visits for pain -- prescribed fewer opioids, according to a cluster randomized controlled trial. Doctors who received the death notice plus guidance had a drop in weekly morphine milligram equivalents (MMEs) pre- to post-intervention (157.81 to 77.05), according to Jason Doctor, PhD, of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and colleagues. While physicians who only got a death notice also saw a decline in weekly MMEs (157.70 to 103.16), those with the death notice plus...

### **Opioid Exposure in Womb Tied to Kids' Risk for Eczema, Dermatitis, and Asthma**

Opioid use during pregnancy for pain or opioid use disorder (OUD) was associated with an increased risk for hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits for immune-related conditions in exposed offspring, a retrospective population-based cohort study showed. Of more than 400,000 kids born in Western Australia, those with perinatal opioid exposure had an increased risk of perinatal infection (adjusted OR 1.62, 95% CI 1.38-1.90) and eczema and dermatitis (aOR 11.91, 95% CI 9.84-14.41) compared with non-exposed children, reported Erin Kelty, PhD, of the University of Western Australia, and co-authors. Prenatal...

### **FDA announces shelf-life extension for naloxone nasal spray**

Today, FDA is announcing that Emergent BioSolutions is extending the shelf-life of newly manufactured NARCAN (naloxone hydrochloride) 4 milligram (mg) Nasal Spray products from 3-years to 4-years. This action was taken at the request of the FDA and is the latest of multiple steps the Agency has recently taken to prevent overdoses and reduce overdose-related deaths by expanding access to naloxone and other overdose reversal agents. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the proven standard treatment for opioid overdose as it is a medicine with no abuse...

### **AHN study explores treating opioid addiction with electrode implants in brain**

An Allegheny Health Network research team is among the first to pioneer a treatment for opioid addiction that targets how addiction affects the brain. By using a technique called deep brain stimulation, or DBS, the team hopes to reduce the severe cravings that lead opioid addiction patients to relapse and overdose. "As a neurosurgeon, I'm very excited about being part of the treatment for addiction,"

said AHN's Dr. Nestor Tomycz, who is the study's principal investigator. "I think it does help reduce the stigma of addiction as being merely poor self-control or a bad habit." DBS involves stimulating a specific...

### **Buprenorphine Less Risky for Most Birth Defects Than Methadone**

The risk of congenital malformations appears to be lower with buprenorphine than with methadone when taken during the first trimester of pregnancy for opioid use disorder (OUD), according to an analysis of Medicaid data. In the buprenorphine group, risk of congenital malformations was 50.9 out of 1,000 pregnancies compared with 60.6 per 1,000 in the methadone group, Elizabeth Suarez, PhD, MPH, of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues reported in JAMA Internal Medicine. After adjustment for confounding, that translated to an 18% reduced risk...

### **When are opioid prescription limits effective in reducing prescription duration?**

Many states have passed new laws that place restrictions on the duration of first-time opioid prescriptions to help address the opioid epidemic. While most laws are one-size-fits-all, policies more tailored to the patient, such as their age or clinical setting (outpatient clinic, emergency room, etc.), were more effective at reducing the length of opioid prescriptions, reports a new Northwestern Medicine study. It is the first study to examine the effectiveness of setting-specific opioid prescribing durations. The study was published Jan. 19 in JAMA Health Forum. The study analyzed 2017 to 2019 data from West...

### **Southwest Airlines to carry naloxone after push from St. Louis-area advocate**

Southwest Airlines will now carry the opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone on flights. Ballwin resident John Gaal and other advocates have been lobbying the airline to carry naloxone, which is also called Narcan, to protect passengers from opioid overdoses since Gaal witnessed an apparent overdose on a Southwest flight in October 2022. "This stuff's happening on the ground and obviously 35,000 feet in the air," he said. "You know, you got to prepare for this stuff." Public health officials, doctors and advocates for harm reduction practices have long touted the use of naloxone to keep people from...

### **South Dakota House passes bill that would make the animal sedative xylazine a controlled substance**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House passed a bill Wednesday that would make xylazine, an animal sedative that is being mixed with fentanyl and then used by some people, a controlled substance. The measure, which passed unanimously in the Republican-held House and now goes to the Senate, would establish penalties of up to two years in prison and fines of up to \$4,000 for possession and use of xylazine. There are exceptions for veterinary use, however. Xylazine in humans can cause health problems including difficulty breathing, dangerously low blood pressure, a slowed heart rate, wounds that can...

### **Cocaine addiction linked to social jetlag and altered circadian rhythmicity**

Recent scientific studies have shed light on the connections between our body's internal clock, substance use, and mental health. One study, published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* in 2022, suggests that our natural sleep-wake cycles, known as chronotypes, intertwine with the use of substances, affecting our mental wellbeing. Another study, published in *European Addiction Research* in 2023, indicates that people who struggle with cocaine addiction tend to experience greater social jetlag – a misalignment between one's biological and social schedules. The motivation behind these studies stemmed from a...

### **Factors Affecting Comfort in Disclosing Alcohol and Other Drug Histories**

Substance use disorder (SUD) is one of the most stigmatized health conditions. Individuals with SUDs are subject to harsh moral judgment and frequent discrimination. These effects can prevent people who are seeking treatment or those in recovery from accessing the necessary care and support to achieve or sustain recovery. This can also lead many individuals to hide their SUD history or recovery status which can present additional barriers to obtaining needed recovery support. A 2019 study published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* and led by Drs. Valerie Earnshaw, Brandon...

### **LGBTQ+ individuals recommend strategies to promote affirming substance use treatment care**

A new study by doctoral alumna Dr. Margaret Paschen-Wolff and colleagues, published in *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*, offers concrete recommendations for delivering LGBTQ+-affirming care for substance use and disorders, which could reduce disparities and drug overdose mortality overall. LGBTQ+ individuals have higher rates of substance use and disorders compared to heterosexual and cisgender populations. Such disparities can be attributed to minority stress, including stigma and discrimination in health care settings. LGBTQ+-affirming treatment and related services...

### **Research into counteracting addiction's effects on the brain**

Many people are wired to seek and respond to rewards. Your brain interprets food as rewarding when you are hungry and water as rewarding when you are thirsty. But addictive substances like alcohol and drugs of abuse can overwhelm the natural reward pathways in your brain, resulting in intolerable cravings and reduced impulse control. A popular misconception is that addiction is a result of low willpower. But an explosion of knowledge and technology in the field of molecular genetics has changed our basic understanding of addiction drastically over the past decade. The general consensus...

## **Lawsuit alleges HIV-positive inmate died after being denied medication at Northern California jail**

PLACERVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A lawsuit filed by the family of a man who died after being held in a Northern California jail alleges he contracted a preventable viral infection there when its medical staff denied him critical HIV medication for two months. When Nicholas Overfield was arrested in Feb. 2022 for a failure to appear in court, he informed officers that he was HIV-positive and required antiretroviral medication to keep the virus in check, according to the court filing. His mother, Lesley Overfield, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, handed the arresting officers her son's prescribed medication but he was never administered...

## **Digital dice and youth: 1 in 6 parents say they probably wouldn't know if teens were betting online**

As young people increasingly have access and exposure to online gambling, only one in four parents say they have talked to their teen about some aspect of virtual betting, a national poll suggests. But over half of parents aren't aware of their state's legal age for online gambling, and one in six admit they probably wouldn't know if their child was betting online, according to the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health. "Teens and young adults may have a difficult time going into a casino unnoticed but they have easy access to a variety of betting and gambling options," said...

## **Funding Opportunities**



## **GRANTS & FUNDING**

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-23-041](#)

[Notice of Change to Application Due Date for RFA-DA-22-040, "High Priority HIV and Substance Use Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

[NOT-DA-23-051](#)

[Notice of Change to Open Date for PAR-24-048, "Providing Research Education Experiences to Enhance Inclusivity for a Diverse Substance Use and Addiction Scientific Workforce \(R25 Clinical Trials Not Allowed\)"](#)

### **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.

### **Howard Hughes Medical Institute opens competition for Hanna Gray Fellowship**

Deadline: February 28, 2024 (Applications are due by 3 p.m. ET)

The Hanna H. Gray Fellows program of the nonprofit Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is now accepting applications. The opportunity is designed to encourage, support, and develop promising scientists from a broad range of backgrounds. Fellows receive up to \$1.5 million in funding. The program encourages candidates of all backgrounds and personal characteristics to apply, including persons with backgrounds or personal characteristics historically underrepresented in the sciences. These include but are not limited to those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, from rural or less-resourced geographic areas, the first in their families to go to college or obtain a graduate degree, members of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ and non-binary persons, women, and persons with disabilities. Reviewers do not evaluate a candidate's application on the basis of any protected characteristics. The program supports early career scientists with the potential to become leaders in academic research. Fellows receive funding to support their postdoctoral training and may continue to receive funding during their early career years as independent faculty. Postdoctoral Training Phase: Fellows will receive an annual salary, \$80,000 for the initial year, and a \$20,000 expense allowance that is paid through a non-renewable grant to the training institution. This phase of the award is for a minimum of two and maximum of four years. Faculty Phase: Fellows will receive \$250,000 in research funding and a \$20,000 expense allowance per year, paid through a non-renewable grant to the institution where they have attained a faculty position. This phase of the award has a maximum length of four years.

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