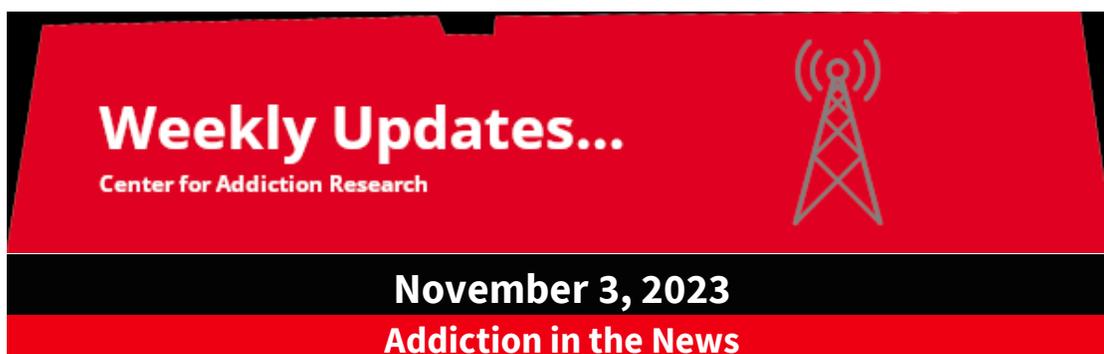


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 11.3.2023

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](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**

#### **NBC News: Effects of psychedelic drugs can last for days or weeks, research finds**

An off-duty Alaska Airlines pilot accused of trying to bring down a plane midflight said he had consumed “magic mushrooms” before boarding, bringing the use of psychedelic drugs as a treatment for mental illness into national headlines. Psychedelics such as LSD, psilocybin found in magic mushrooms and MDMA are gaining increasing attention in scientific and medical circles because of the potential they hold for treating anxiety disorders and emotional trauma. Experts say the effects of psychedelics can last for days, weeks or longer after the substance is no longer detectable in the body. The University of Cincinnati's Christopher Tuell, assistant professor of psychiatry and...

#### **KY commission weighing investment in psychedelic to treat addiction hears from detractors**

(TNS) Deliberation over a proposal to invest state money in clinical research of a psychedelic drug as a potential treatment for opioid addiction is intensifying. After the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission heard from dozens of ibogaine proponents at two public hearings over the summer, commission members heard for the first time from opponents last week, who warned of ibogaine's potentially harmful impacts on the heart — a reality that may compromise the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's willingness to give an initial green light for clinical trials. “My opinion is ibogaine is not safe, its efficacy is unproven, and the cost to Kentucky would be unsupportable...”

### **Addiction can lead to financial ruin. Ohio wants to teach finance pros to help stem the loss**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Joe Smith did not picture raising his granddaughter at age 66, but when his daughter's substance use disorder meant she couldn't care for her child, that's where Smith and his wife found themselves nineteen years ago. That brought all the costs that come with a new baby in the house, like clothes, a crib, a third mouth to feed — and sometimes a fourth, when Smith's daughter lived with them on and off. His granddaughter's father provided no child support. When Smith and his wife finally gained legal custody of their granddaughter, Olivia, Smith had missed countless hours of work as a construction electrician to attend court hearings and attorney meetings. "You...

### **Vaping is hurting, not helping, Indiana's fight to be nicotine-free**

Hoosier adults smoke cigarettes in greater numbers and with more frequency than people in most other states, a cause for alarm because smoking is the No. 1 cause of preventable disease and death. Indiana's smoking rate isn't a new development, though, as our state has ranked among the worst in the nation for most of the last decade. Those relative figures disguise some significant progress, however. At the dawn of the last decade, 25% of all Hoosier adults smoked cigarettes. By 2022, that figure had fallen to 16%. As real progress was being made to reduce the consumption of tobacco via combustible cigarettes — at the individual level and via policy changes across the state — a new...

### **Sober curious trend takes hold in Cleveland's alcohol-free spaces**

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Sober curious is a popular phrase nowadays to describe people who don't drink, and it's the optimal way to describe a changing mindset about alcohol. Whether it's wanting to avoid waking up with a hangover or looking to explore socialization without a substance, people are saying no to booze and welcoming a wave of non-alcoholic products new to the market. The rising trend of sober curiosity can be seen both in social circles and on the internet. NC Solutions reports that people who identify as sober-curious cite saving money and addiction concerns as reasons for abstaining from alcohol, although drugs like marijuana and nicotine have risen in popularity. The study found...

## **National News**

### **Lab unlocks keys to alcohol withdrawal headache**

About 283 million people worldwide suffer from alcohol use disorder, a debilitating health challenge for which limited therapeutic options are available. The cost to society is estimated at greater than \$2 trillion annually. "People try to rehabilitate, but it is very challenging," said Yu Shin Kim, PhD, a neuroscience researcher at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. "Headache is one of the severe withdrawal symptoms that pushes the rehabilitating patient back to alcohol,

because people know that, after drinking, alcohol will actually reduce the headache. It becomes a vicious cycle. This is how...

### **Stigma felt by opioid-dependent moms can impact the health care received by their babies**

The rate of opioid use among pregnant women in the United States quadrupled between 1999 and 2014 and continues to rise—an alarming trend that researchers from the University of Missouri and University of Iowa say has exposed the stigma felt by opioid-dependent mothers and how their shame has negatively impacted the health care received by their infants. Jamie Morton led a study, which was a metasynthesis of existing literature on the topic, as a doctoral student at the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. She said the findings can help ensure health care providers, family members, friends...

### **New study identifies common physical features in babies born to mothers who used fentanyl**

Babies born to mothers who used fentanyl during pregnancy displayed similar facial and musculoskeletal abnormalities that suggest the emergence of a novel syndrome, according to research published in the journal *Genetics in Medicine Open*. In the summer of 2022, a genetic counselor and a group of physicians at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware, noticed that several infants who were referred by local neonatal intensive care units or brought to the hospital for feeding difficulties shortly after birth had similar facial features and multiple physical abnormalities, explained senior author Karen W. Gripp, MD...

### **Adding Nurse Care Managers in Primary Care Boosted OUD Treatment**

Integrating nurse care managers into primary care teams significantly increased access to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment compared with usual care, a cluster randomized trial showed. In the Primary Care Opioid Use Disorders Treatment (PROUD) trial, clinics that utilized the Massachusetts model of nurse care management provided 8.2 more patient-years of OUD treatment per 10,000 primary care patients compared with usual care clinics (95% CI 5.4 to ∞, P=0.002), reported Paige Wartko, PhD, MPH, of Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, and colleagues in *JAMA*...

### **Biden administration urges schools to carry naloxone, the opioid overdose treatment**

The Biden administration is encouraging schools throughout the United States to carry naloxone to help prevent fatal drug overdoses in students. The medication (Narcan) was approved earlier this year as an over-the-counter (OTC) nasal spray. Faculty and students should be prepared to use it to help others, Dr. Rahul Gupta, director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, and Miguel Cardona, secretary of education, said in a joint letter to educators. "We want to share

resources that could help your school and community prevent drug use before it begins and keep students alive long...

### **US government says it plans to go after legal goods tied to illegal fentanyl trade in new strategy**

As overdose deaths continue at a record pace, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced a new government-wide strategy Thursday involving scores of agencies that will target the precursor materials used by traffickers to make fentanyl and other synthetic drugs. Under the plan, CBP will work with the postal service and express consignment carriers, air carriers, and other logistic companies to share information about suspicious goods, potential transit routes, and other data that can help thwart the supply chain of fentanyl and other illicit synthetic drugs. Legal goods that could be targeted include...

### **Nerve block can reduce need for postsurgical opioids**

A preoperative nerve block used in combination with other medications can reduce the need for opioids to manage pain following spinal surgery, UT Southwestern Medical Center researchers found. The findings, published in European Spine Journal, suggest a way to lessen the reliance on opioids to reduce postoperative pain and help patients become ambulatory sooner. Open lumbar spine surgery patients who received a bilateral erector spinae plane block (ESPB) as part of a multimodal analgesic regimen had a significant reduction in both pain scores and opioid consumption in the...

### **Republicans delay more than \$1 billion in HIV program funding**

Republicans have delayed more than \$1 billion in funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, better known as PEPFAR, the latest complication facing a lifesaving HIV program that has been ensnared in a broader political fight around abortion. Created by President George W. Bush in 2003, PEPFAR has been credited with saving more than 25 million lives around the world. The nearly \$7 billion annual initiative, which is managed by the State Department, has distributed millions of courses of medicine to treat HIV, funded testing and prevention services, and supported an array of...

### **1 in 5 US parents worry their teen is addicted to the internet**

American parents fear their teens' internet use could expose them to cyberbullying, harmful content and set them up for addiction, a new study shows. A survey of about 1,000 moms and dads found more than 22% were concerned their children might be dependent on the internet. Twice as many were worried about internet addiction as were concerned about addiction to substances like drugs or alcohol. There are reasons for parents to be concerned, said Mitchell Prinstein, the American Psychological Association's (APA) chief science officer. Some data has shown that about 50% of kids are reporting at...

## **Approaching and avoiding 'bad' decisions are linked with different neural communication patterns**

Human decision-making has been the focus of countless neuroscience studies, which try to identify the neural circuits and brain regions that support different types of decisions. Some of these research efforts focus on the choices humans make while gambling and taking risks, yet the neural underpinnings of these choices have not yet been fully elucidated. Researchers at University of Louisville carried out a study aimed at better understanding the patterns in neural network communication associated with 'bad' decisions made while gambling. Their paper, published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, shows that different...

## **Funding Opportunities**



[RFA-DA-25-021](#)

[Effect of HIV and Substance Use Comorbidity on the Placenta and Maternal Outcomes \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-022](#)

[Advancing Technologies to Improve Delivery of Pharmacological, Gene Editing, and other Cargoes for HIV and SUD Mechanistic or Therapeutic Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-058](#)

[Psychedelics Treatment Research in Substance Use Disorder \(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trials Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-293](#)

[Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-043](#)

[Notice of NIDA's participation in PAR-23-309, "Health and Health Care Disparities Among Persons Living with Disabilities \(R01 - Clinical Trials Optional\)"](#)

[NOT-AA-24-001](#)

[Notice of Intent to Publish: Alcohol-associated Hepatitis Clinical Network Late Phase Clinical Trials](#)

[RFA-AT-24-006](#)

[Resource Center for Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research \(U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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