



Conferences and Events



*2015 International
Conference on Global Health:*

Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders and HIV

April 22-24, 2015 • Hangzhou, China

The UCLA Center for Advancing Longitudinal Drug Abuse Research (CALDAR), in collaboration with the Asian & Pacific Islander Addiction Science Network, is pleased to announce the second meeting of the Conference Series to Promote Global Health, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Conference Theme: Prevention and treatment of substance abuse and HIV, focusing on Asian countries and Pacific Islands.

For information, visit

<http://www.caldar.org/html2/2015-international-conference-global-health.html>



*2015 Summer Institute
on Longitudinal Research:*

Promoting Identification, Intervention, and Management of Risks and Problems of Substance Use

July 29-31, 2015 • Marina del Rey, CA

This conference will present current findings and future directions of longitudinal drug abuse research and implications for policy and practice. Workshops will be provided on longitudinal statistical and methodological topics. Opportunities for career development also will be provided.

For information, visit

<http://www.caldar.org/html2/summer-institute-2015.html>

2015 Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR) Conference:

Navigating a Changing Healthcare Landscape

(Hosted by UCLA ISAP and the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center)

Oct. 14-16, 2015 • Marina del Rey, CA

Researchers, clinicians, treatment providers, and policymakers are encouraged to attend. Travel awards and career development/mentoring activities for early career investigators will be offered.

For information, visit <http://www.uclaisap.org/ahsr/>



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By Sherry Larkins, Research Sociologist (larkins@ucla.edu)

On Oct. 22 and 23, 2014, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP) and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health co-sponsored the 11th Statewide Integrated Care Conference, held at the Hilton Universal in Universal City.

This year's conference theme, "Integrating Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care Services in our Communities," focused on the intersection of health, behavior, and community.

Social and economic features of our communities are linked to mortality, chronic conditions, health behaviors, mental health status, and substance use. This conference brought together health, mental health, public health, and substance abuse providers from across our region to highlight ways to strengthen partnerships within our diverse communities.

Conference sessions addressed social and environmental determinants of health and explored ways to improve access to care through integrated and coordinated services and effective communication among providers.

The broad goal of the conference was to increase the collaboration between substance use, mental health, and primary care providers in neighborhoods and communities across our county and state, and help attendees identify the characteristics of services that best support health, wellness, and recovery.

The event attracted more than 900 people, with representation from at least 25 counties and several states.

Plenary and workshop sessions explored screening, assessment, diagnosis, brief interventions, and evidence-based treatments for individuals with comorbid health and mental health conditions. Highlights included:

- a rousing opening plenary by Los Angeles County District Attorney, Jackie Lacey, discussing alternatives to incarceration for patients with co-occurring disorders involved in the justice system;
- workshops reviewing the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DMS-5) and diagnostic tools, and evidence-based treatment interventions such as medication-assisted treatments and brief interventions;
- skills-based sessions demonstrating the use of culturally competent engagement strategies and peer-based approaches to engage clients in recovery-based support services;
- sessions focused on age-specific services for students, adolescents, and older adults with comorbid mental health and substance use issues, and the families who provide them support;
- a closing plenary panel with county representation from mental health (Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of LA County Department of Mental Health), public health (Cynthia Harding, Interim Director of LA County Department of Public Health), and health services (Dr. Alex Li, Chief Executive Officer of Ambulatory Care Network), and community representation (Dr. Clayton Chau, LA Care, and Dr. Ken Wells, UCLA).

Abu Dhabi National Rehabilitation Center and ISAP to Collaborate on Substance Abuse Research, Training, and Technical Assistance

A memorandum of Understanding was signed on Aug. 6, 2014, at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that outlines the collaborative substance abuse research, training, and technical assistance efforts to be undertaken by UCLA ISAP and the National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



Attending the signing were (from left) Mohammed Alhosani; Tarek A. Gawad, MD, Director of Treatment and

Rehabilitation of the NRC; His Excellency Hamad Alghaferi, MD, PhD, Director General of the NRC; J. Thomas Rosenthal, MD, Chief Medical Officer of the UCLA Health System, Associate Vice Chancellor of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Co-director of the UCLA Center for World Health; Richard A. Rawson, PhD, professor and Co-director of UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs; and Thomas Coates, PhD, UCLA professor in residence and Director of the UCLA Center for World Health.

By Anne Bellows and Kira Jeter, Project Directors
(abellows@mednet.ucla.edu and kjeter@mednet.ucla.edu)

Time for Change Foundation's project Positive Futures, which is funded by SAMHSA, provides re-entry services for 123 adult female ex-offenders in order to reduce their prevalence of alcohol and other drug use, homelessness, unemployment, and recidivism.

The project aims to (1) create a collaboration between agencies to provide wraparound services to Positive Futures clients, (2) provide evidence-based practices to address substance abuse and mental health issues, including trauma symptoms, and (3) provide supportive services such as mentoring, transportation, education, and job training.

UCLA ISAP is conducting the evaluation of Positive Futures, which comprises two main activities: a process evaluation, which monitors how the program is implemented over time, and an outcome evaluation, which assesses participant outcomes based on changes in behavior over time.

Assessments include the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and the Trauma Symptom Checklist (TSC). The GPRA measures client characteristics such as drug and alcohol use; family and living conditions; military family connections and deployment; education and employment; criminal activity; mental and physical problems; and social connectedness.

The TSC measures trauma symptomatology. The TSC

and GPRA interviews are conducted at intake and at a 6-month follow-up in order to compare pre- and post-outcomes. To date, Positive Futures staff have conducted 103 intake GPRAs and 82 follow-up GPRAs.

As part of the process evaluation, UCLA ISAP tracks the project's progress toward implementation through client focus groups, staff surveys, and regular conference calls.

The average age of the 103 women who enrolled was 41.8 years; 34% were White, 27% Latino, 21% Black, and 18% of "other" ethnicity. Nearly all of the participants have children.

At follow-up, Positive Futures participants reported the following improvements since intake:

- Increased abstinence from substances
- More stable housing
- Fewer crimes committed
- More employment or enrollment in education
- More income from wages
- Increased feeling of physical well being
- More social connectedness.

The Positive Futures project continues to meet its goals with participant recruitment and follow-up. Additionally, data from the staff survey showed that staff from partner agencies believe that the collaboration and communication between agencies is well functioning.

UCLA Chancellor Visits with ISAP Collaborators and Visiting Medical Students in Hanoi

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block (first row, center), and his wife Carol (to his left), enjoyed a visit on July 1, 2014, with Le Minh Giang, MD, PhD (back, second from right), a co-principal investigator on ISAP's Vietnam HIV/ Addiction Technology Transfer Center (VHATTC), which is housed at Hanoi Medical University (HMU). ISAP collaborated with UCLA's Center for World Health to send two UCLA medical students, Becky Lee and Trang Dinh (back row,



second and third from left, respectively) to HMU to conduct research with Dr. Giang as part of a short-term training project that supports UCLA medical students with interests in global health research. Chancellor Block, who was on a goodwill tour across Asia, happened to learn of ISAP's

collaborations with HMU and the UCLA School of Medicine, and so arranged this visit. Others in the photo are VHATTC colleagues of Dr. Giang.



By Albert Hasson, Project Director (alhasson@ucla.edu)

The third 5-year renewal application for the NIDA Clinical Trials Network (CTN; which has been in operation at ISAP since 1999), under the direction of Drs. Walter Ling and Larissa Mooney of ISAP and Steven Shoptaw of the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine, was submitted this past December with our new community partners, AltaMed, of Southern California, and Clinica Sierra Vista, of California's Kern, Fresno, and Inyo counties.

The specialty care clinics Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment, Hina Mauka, the Matrix Institute on Addictions, Tarzana Treatment Center, and the University of Hawaii round out the Pacific Region Node partners, with UCLA ISAP as the Regional Research Training Center.

The application will be reviewed this spring, and a decision is expected in May. A special thanks to all ISAP staff and Pacific Region Node partners who shared in this labor of love.

UCLA ISAP and the Pacific Region Node (PRN) continue to be an integral part of the NIDA CTN. Under the direction of Drs. Ling, Mooney, and Shoptaw, the PRN is leading three protocols and actively participating in several other NIDA CTN-sponsored trials. Below is an update on the active CTN projects within the PRN:

CTN 0050 – Starting Treatment with Agonist Replacement Therapies (START) follow-up: Dr. Yih-Ing Hser and Liz Evans lead this effort to locate and interview 1,269 START (CTN 0027) participants during this 3-phase 5-year follow-up. Eight hundred participants have completed Interview 1, 681 of the Wave 1 participants have completed Interview 2, and 457 participants have completed the Wave 3 interview. Wave 2 and 3 interviews are being completed by the UCLA ISAP staff. Data collected from this longitudinal study should provide us with an understanding of the potential impact that short-term exposure (6 months) to methadone or buprenorphine may have on addiction career trajectories. For additional information, please contact Dana Levin at dmlevin@ucla.edu.

CTN 0051 – Led by Dr. John Rotrosen, Principal Investigator of the Greater New York CTN Node, **Extended-Release Naltrexone vs. Buprenorphine for Opioid Treatment (X:BOT)** is being implemented at the Tarzana Treatment Center (TTC). X:BOT is designed to estimate the difference in time to relapse to opioids between these two FDA-approved medications; 212

participants have been randomized to either Suboxone or extended-release naltrexone across all sites, with 15 participants having been randomized at the TTC. For more information, please contact Jasmine Mosafer at jmosafer@tarzanatc.org.

CTN 0053 – Achieving Cannabis Cessation – Evaluating N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) Treatment (ACCENT). The ACCENT trial is being led by Dr. Kevin Gray at the Medical University of South Carolina. This six-site trial builds upon the work of Dr. Gray utilizing the over-the-counter supplement N-acetylcysteine (NAC), which was shown to be effective in treating adolescents with cannabis use disorder. Recruitment for this trial began in February 2014; 251 of 300 participants have been recruited to date. Recruitment is expected to be completed this spring. Dr. Mooney is leading the recruitment efforts at UCLA ISAP. For more information, contact Jason Grossman at jtgrossman@ucla.edu.

CTN 0054 – Accelerated Development of Additive Pharmacotherapy Treatment (ADAPT). ADAPT is a three-site open-label study of the combination of Vivitrol (injectable, long-acting naltrexone) and bupropion (as Wellbutrin) for the treatment of methamphetamine use disorder. The three sites include ISAP, the University of Hawaii, and Nexus Recovery in Texas. Recruitment was completed in November 2014, with the last participant having completed the active phase of the trial in January. This study utilized smartphones to track and monitor participants' medication adherence. Look for the exciting results of this innovative trial in mid-2015.

CTN 0056 – Testing and Linkage to HIV Care in China: A Cluster Randomized Trial. Led by Dr. Zunyou Wu, Director of the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with UCLA co-investigators Drs. Roger Detels and Walter Ling, this cluster-randomized trial is evaluating the effects of a comprehensive diagnostic approach to enhance the percentage of participants that receive their HIV testing results, counseling, and, if eligible, antiretroviral therapy, in 12 county hospitals in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in Southern China. Six county hospitals were randomized to standard care, while the other six county hospitals were randomized to a new testing algorithm, "One4All." Recruitment occurred between March and November 2014. Data analysis is being completed at this time.

By Christine E. Grella, Principal Investigator
(cgrella@mednet.ucla.edu) and Kira Jeter, Project Director
(kjeter@mednet.ucla.edu)

UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP) will conduct the evaluation of a new project with the CLARE Foundation entitled *Bridges to Recovery, Hope, and Home* (BRHH).

CLARE recently obtained a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop this collaborative project, which will provide substance abuse treatment and comprehensive services to participants and assist them in transitioning to permanent supportive housing.

The project will recruit 140 chronically homeless individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders over three years.

Community partners include A Community of Friends, Venice Community Housing Corporation, and People Assisting the Homeless.

The project's goals are to reduce substance use by integrating recovery services into permanent supportive housing, thereby enhancing the likelihood that participants will remain stably housed; support veterans who are otherwise ineligible for VA services to obtain housing and other needed services; and assist participants with obtaining mental health services through coordinated case management.

The project was scheduled to begin enrolling participants in January.

The BRHH project will implement Critical Time Intervention (CTI) as the main evidence-based practice. CTI is currently used in several projects with chronically homeless individuals to decrease re-hospitalization for mental illness and increase the ability of participants to remain housed.

CTI is structured to allow for case management services to be increased or reduced in response to the needs of the individual. Other evidence-based practices include the Housing First model, which prioritizes housing stability and client input into their treatment plans, and utilizes motivational interviewing in order to increase participants' readiness to engage in needed services.

ISAP will conduct the evaluation study of the BRHH project, which involves monitoring project

implementation, the use of technology to enhance service coordination and delivery across the participating partners, and participant outcomes, including substance use, housing status, and social and psychological functioning.

This is the third successive evaluation study that ISAP has conducted with the CLARE Foundation over a continuous period of nine years.

The prior projects, *Community Bridges* and *Bridges to Housing*, also used a community collaboration approach to providing comprehensive services to homeless individuals with co-occurring disorders.

Each project has successfully built upon the findings from prior evaluation studies in order to develop more comprehensive models of service delivery, to improve collaborative partnerships, to disseminate findings to the broader community of service providers, and to enhance staff capabilities in providing the evidence-based interventions.

The evaluation study principal investigator is Christine E. Grella and Kira Jeter is the evaluation project director, both of whom also worked on the prior CLARE evaluation studies.

Need Data Management Services?

The ISAP Data Management Center (DMC) is a full-service data center that handles forms printing and collating, data acquisition, and the transfer, cleaning, reporting, and storage of data. The DMC uses the Verify Teleform data system for both Web entry and fax-based data capture.

For more information, contact David Bennett at (310) 267-5330 or davebenn@ucla.edu.

ISAP Welcomes Four New Addiction Health Services Research Trainees

By Christine E. Grella, Principal Investigator
(cgrella@mednet.ucla.edu) and Kira Jeter, Project Director
(kjeter@mednet.ucla.edu)

The UCLA ISAP Training Program in Addiction Health Services Research provides training to two predoctoral and three postdoctoral PhD and MD fellows each year.

The program, which is funded by a NIDA Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant (T32 DA07272-22), combines a core research methodology curriculum with hands-on training opportunities in research and clinical settings.

The trainees have access to a wide range of substance-use research studies and settings, and trainees select an area of focus for research that is supported by faculty mentoring. The project is directed by Christine E. Grella, and Kira Jeter is the program coordinator.

Last summer, four new trainees entered the ISAP training program, along with one continuing trainee:

June Lim is a first-year postdoctoral trainee who is interested in how substance abuse contributes to the initiation, persistence, and desistance of violence and other risk behaviors among teens, young adults, and women. Dr. Lim received her PhD in 2014 from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences.

Mekeila Cook is a first-year postdoctoral trainee whose research interests center on sexual victimization, substance use, and HIV risk behaviors. Dr. Cook is also interested in the use of translational research in substance use prevention and interventions. She also received her PhD in 2014 from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences.

Kaston Anderson-Carpenter is a first-year postdoctoral trainee whose research is focused on co-occurring disorders of substance abuse and mental illness. Dr. Anderson-Carpenter is also interested in the function of substance abuse in the health and well-being of gay and bisexual men, and trans* (a term that encompasses all identities that fall outside the traditional binary gender norm) men and women. Dr. Anderson-Carpenter received his PhD in 2014

from the University of Kansas, Department of Applied Behavioral Sciences.

Andrew Moskowitz is a first-year predoctoral trainee who is interested in longitudinal data analysis in multilevel models. Specifically, he is interested in optimal study designs for detecting changes over time and dynamic group effects—how groups changing over time influence group effects and similarity or dissimilarity between group members. Andrew will receive his PhD in Quantitative Psychology from UCLA in 2017.

Emily Hartwell returned for her second year as a predoctoral trainee. She is interested in the etiology and genetics of substance use disorders. She is also interested in how sleep disturbance and stress reactivity influence alcohol use disorders. Emily will receive her PhD in Clinical Psychology from UCLA in 2017.



ISAP's Training Program in Addiction Health Services Research trainees are (from left) Andrew Moskowitz (predoc), Emily Hartwell (predoc), Kaston Anderson-Carpenter (postdoc), June Lim (postdoc), and Mekeila Cook (postdoc).



Several ISAP visiting scholars from Saudi Arabia attended the Betty Ford Center medical education program for physicians in Rancho Mirage, CA, from Jan. 5-9. From left are Sattam Jaddoh, Abdullah Alshenguity, Joseph Skrajewski (Director of Medical Education – Betty Ford Center), Faisal Alzakri, Khalid Aloufi, and Mohammed Almuqahwi.

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ISAP Publications

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