



365 Attend Conference to Promote Global Health in Taipei



Special guests at the April 2013 Taipei meeting of the Conference Series to Promote Global Health were (from left) (1) Yun Wang, MD, PhD, Director, Center for Neuropsychiatric Research, National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan; (2) Wen-Ing Tsay, Director, Division of Controlled Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan; (3) Barry J. Hoffer, MD, PhD, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; (4) Gene-Jack Wang, MD, Stony Brook University; (5) Nora D. Volkow, MD, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse; (6) Wen-Ta Chiu, MD, PhD, Minister, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan; (7) Gilberto Gerra, MD, Chief, Drug Prevention and Health Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna; (8) Ing-Kang Ho, PhD, China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan; (9) Hsing-Jien Kung, PhD, President, National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan; (10) Jaw-Jou Kang, PhD, Director, Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan; and (11) Yih-Ing Hser, PhD, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, University of California, Los Angeles.

By Liz Evans, Project Director (laevans@ucla.edu)

The biennial Conference Series to Promote Global Health: Training and Education in the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders and HIV in Asian/Pacific Island Populations is sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), in collaboration with organizations in Asia and around the world.

The first meeting, which was held April 17–19 in Taipei, Taiwan, was organized by UCLA in partnership with the Taiwan National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) and the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration; 365 participants from 17 countries attended the meeting.

The theme was prevention and treatment of substance abuse and HIV, focusing on Asia and the Pacific Islands (API). The conference sessions cov-

ered the current status of drug abuse and HIV in Asian countries as reported by their representatives, featured strategies for meeting challenges posed by these problems, and promoted international collaborations on the prevention and treatment of substance use and HIV.

Keynote presentations were delivered by Nora Volkow, MD, NIDA Director, and Gilberto Gerra, MD, Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Local officials (Wen-Ta Chiu, MD, PhD, Minister, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan; Jaw-Jou Kang, PhD, Director, Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan; Hsing-Jien Kung, PhD, President, NHRI, Taiwan) opened the conference with a welcome to the participants, and NIDA officials (Wilson Compton, MD, MPE, Jacques Normand, PhD, and Betty Tai, PhD) and many eminent

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Regional Dissemination Workshop Draws 80 Attendees from 30 Programs in Southern California



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

The NIDA Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Pacific Region Node Regional Dissemination Workshop was held at the California Endowment for Healthy Communities in Los Angeles on Feb. 28.

Co-sponsored by the NIDA Center for Clinical Trials Network, the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center, the CTN Pacific Region Node, and UCLA ISAP, the workshop was attended by more than 80 administrators, researchers, and clinicians from more than 30 programs across Southern California.

The workshop featured some of the country's experts in substance use related disorders, including Walter Ling, MD, Director of UCLA ISAP, Diana Sylvestre, MD, executive director and founder of O.A.S.I.S. (Organization to Achieve Solutions in Substance Abuse), and Eric Daar, MD, chief of the Division of HIV Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Information flow was fast and furious with eight presenters covering topics throughout the course of the

day, including Pain in Addiction (Walter Ling, MD), Substance Abuse and the Criminal Justice Population (David Farabee, PhD), Co-Occurring Disorders (Suzette Glasner-Edwards, PhD), Advances in the Treatment of HIV/AIDS (Eric Daar, MD), Helping HIV (and Other) Patients Who May Return to Mexico or Central America (Thomas Donohoe, MBA), Opiate Detoxification (Larissa Mooney, MD), What's New in Hepatitis C? (Diana Sylvestre, MD), and the NIDA "Blending Product," Prescription Opiate Use (Thomas Freese, PhD).

The weather cooperated, allowing for attendees to enjoy their lunch in the garden-like setting of the California Endowment for Healthy Communities.

Thank you to the presenters and organizers for making this an incredibly successful event.

Hope to see you there next year.

Presentations can be found at www.attcnetwork.org under "Pacific CTN Conference."

Intern from the Netherlands Studies ISAP Addiction and Exercise Project

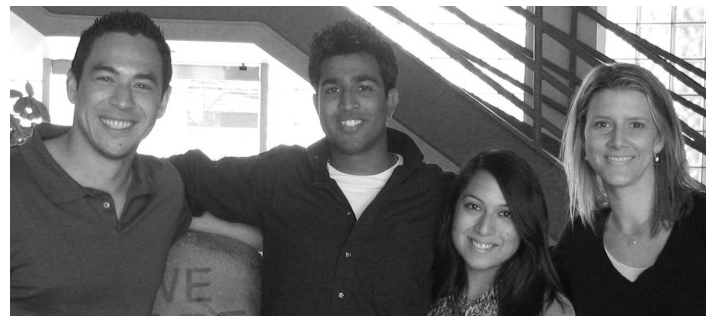
By Vanessa Novoa, Staff Research Associate

In the spring of 2012, Manuel van de Wal traveled from the Netherlands to Los Angeles to serve as an intern on Richard Rawson's *Aerobic Exercise to Improve Outcomes of Treatment for Methamphetamine Dependence* project operating at the Cri-Help treatment center in North Hollywood.

Manuel was working on his master's in clinical psychology at the Radboud University in Nijmegen and was extremely interested in studying abroad.

When his thesis supervisor discussed an opportunity to travel to a UCLA research site for an internship that would last three months, he didn't hesitate to accept. Manuel traveled to Los Angeles to write his master's thesis about the UCLA study at Cri-Help.

During his internship, Manuel hoped to learn about addiction care in the United States as well as how research is conducted at UCLA. During his studies in Holland, Manuel was always interested in addiction and sports psychology. The opportunity to learn about a study connecting both addiction and exercise seemed like a perfect fit for Manuel's interests.



Manuel van de Wal, international intern (second from left) and ISAP's Jose Peñate and Vanessa Novoa, staff research associates, and Joy Chudzynski, project director.

He also hoped to learn about American culture and all that the Los Angeles lifestyle has to offer. By the end of the three months at the facility, Manuel acquired a clear understanding of the study, attended groups with addicts in recovery, and gained extensive insight into addiction care and the lives of clients.

Manuel stated that the experience exceeded his expectations and that he will never forget the welcoming UCLA staff, Cri-Help staff, and clients of Cri-Help.

Manuel is currently working on his second master's in sports and achievement psychology in Amsterdam.

PSATTC Hosts Pacific Jurisdictions Workforce Development Initiative (PJWDI) Conference

www.psattc.org


Attendees of the Pacific Jurisdictions Workforce Development Initiative (PJWDI) Conference in Los Angeles.

By Beth Rutkowski, Associate Director of Training and Epidemiologist (brutkowski@mednet.ucla.edu)

In October 2012, the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PSATTC) region was expanded. Formerly serving only California and Arizona, the PSATTC now also serves Nevada, Hawaii, and the six U.S. Affiliated Pacific Jurisdictions (American Samoa, the Republic of the Martial Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau).

With only a small budget increase over previous funding years, PSATTC staff have found that the complexity of serving this vast region is a huge challenge.

One strategy for serving the Pacific Jurisdictions has been to join forces with the SAMHSA-funded Pacific Jurisdictions Workforce Development Initiative. This initiative was begun in 2011 to develop experts in each of the jurisdictions to provide training and technical assistance on evidence-based practices.

Topics were determined by each jurisdiction to address a local need (e.g., Matrix treatment, SBIRT, adolescent treatment, culturally responsive treatment and prevention). During the first year of the project, participants visited host sites in the mainland United States to gain experience with organizations providing services in their chosen focus area.

To kick off Year 2, the PSATTC, in partnership with SAMHSA and the Pacific Behavioral Health Collaborating Council, conducted a conference in March attended by 27 individuals from the six Pacific Jurisdictions, along with

representatives from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and Center for Mental Health Services, and the Region 9 SAMHSA Regional Administrator (Dr. Jon Perez).

The group engaged in four days of meetings that focused on developing participants' skills in training and technical assistance. Each participant was given the opportunity to provide training and/or present on their 2013 focus area to their peers and invited guests.

In addition, participants heard from Drs. Tom Freese (UCLA ISAP) and Steve Gallon (Oregon Health & Science University) on effective training and technical assistance strategies. On the final day of the conference, the participants were invited to UCLA ISAP to hear from many of ISAP's principal investigators about their domestic and international research portfolios. The four-day conference ended with a recognition ceremony.

Access to local training and technical assistance experts is essential for the Pacific Jurisdictions. These island nations span an area of ocean larger than the continental United States. Their total land mass is smaller than the five states of New England spread across 669 islands and atolls over 5 million square miles of ocean.

The total population of the Pacific Jurisdictions is approximately 458,000, and 19 languages are spoken. The island populations self-identify predominantly as native to their island, although segments of the populations are also Filipino (5%–26%), Chinese (2%–5%), "other" Pacific Island background (2%–8%), as well as 2%–6% Whites or "other."

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By *Desirée Crèvecoeur-MacPhail, Principal Investigator*
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For the past several years, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) has worked with treatment providers and the UCLA ISAP Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES) to develop and implement performance measures.

The need for performance measures grew out of increased scrutiny by state and federal funding and oversight organizations, as well as a mandate from the county Board of Supervisors. The performance measures allow the County of Los Angeles and individual providers to demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment system in a way that is standardized across the county, using measures that have been shown to impact client outcomes (e.g., length of stay).

Approximately three years ago, SAPC sent a memo to substance abuse treatment providers with outpatient counseling contracts detailing the need to develop performance measures and providing examples of performance measures under consideration. Several meetings were held with providers to discuss possible performance measures. The criteria for adopting particular performance measures was based, in part, on the following:

- Do data regarding the performance measure currently exist?
- Will adoption require new or additional services?
- Will adoption put an undue burden on providers?

Calendar of Events

October 2013

Oct. 23 & 24

10th Anniversary Statewide Conference: Integrating Substance Use, Mental Health, and Primary Care Services

Universal City, CA

For more information, contact Grant Hovik at (310) 267-5415 or ghovik@ucla.edu, or visit www.uclaisap.org/dmhcod

Oct. 23 - 25

Addiction Health Services Research Conference: Translating Research into Policy and Practice

Portland, OR

For more information, visit www.AHSR2013.com

At the conclusion of the process, three performance measures were chosen:

- Engagement in treatment (length of stay of 30 days or more).
- Retention in treatment (length of stay of 90 days or more).
- Completion of exit interviews (collection of all information required for a complete discharge interview).

The benchmarks, or expected levels of performance, were based on the county average after examining the previous two years of admission and discharge records:

- Engagement in treatment was set at 80%.
- Retention in treatment was set at 65%.
- Completed exit interviews was set at 50%.

All providers are expected to achieve or exceed this level of performance. To allow providers to monitor how well they meet these benchmarks, a single-page report was developed and distributed via the county's internal Web-based system. This report (Dashboard) includes quarterly information, as well as cumulative information on the performance measures for up to three years.

For those providers whose performance is more than 20% below the benchmark on one or more performance measures for the fiscal year, special training and technical assistance is provided free of charge to their staff. The training is designed to demonstrate how small changes to program processes can result in significant improvements in performance measures.

In addition to the performance measures and benchmarks created for outpatient counseling programs, performance measures and benchmarks also have been developed for narcotic treatment programs and are currently under development for residential treatment programs.

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.

By Jerry Cartier, Project Director (jcartier@ucla.edu)

Researchers from ISAP are undertaking a new evaluation study of an innovative treatment program for offenders with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders located at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison in Corcoran, CA.

The integrated treatment program is based on an established evidence-based practice known as the *Illness Management and Recovery* (IMR) model, developed by Kim T. Mueser and colleagues.

The in-custody program has a static enrollment capacity of 88 Level II (medium security) offenders.

The IMR model employs a set of strategies designed to assist individuals with serious mental illness to work with care professionals, improve their overall functioning, cope with and manage their symptoms, and effectively adhere to a medication routine.

An interdisciplinary treatment team composed of psychologists and certified substance abuse counselors provides a minimum of 10 hours of IMR programming a week, as well as substance abuse-specific treatment utilizing several evidence-based interventions (cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and dialectical behavioral therapy).

Participants also receive aftercare planning to link them to substance abuse treatment and mental health services upon parole to the community.

The principal investigator of this 2-year project, funded by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, is Christine E. Grella. The project focuses on a formative evaluation of the IMR program, which will provide data needed to design a much larger, controlled outcome (impact) evaluation of the program, including whether it is effective in improving outcomes of participants, particularly following their re-entry into the community.

The current evaluation study is collecting data to assess how the IMR program operates, including the challenges of adapting this evidence-based practice for use in a correctional setting. The evaluation will also examine staff core competencies in the IMR curriculum, barriers encountered during implementation, and whether or not those barriers were successfully addressed.

Additionally, the evaluation will describe participant characteristics and their level of engagement in the IMR program. Ultimately, this information will help in designing plans to expand the IMR treatment to other prisons within California, should it be determined as effective.

ISAP Hosts UN Treatnet Trainer from Spain as Visiting Scholar

By Grace Kim, Staff Research Associate II (gracekim@ucla.edu)

Bruno Rodolfo Ribeiro do Couto, PhD, is one of ISAP's most recent international visiting scholars from Spain. Dr. Bruno originally hails from Oporto, Portugal.

In 2001, he was awarded a predoctoral grant by the Portuguese Ministry for Science and Technology, under which he carried out research work on the neurobiological mechanisms underlying drug addiction.

He was awarded a postdoctoral contract/grant by the Ministry for Science and Technology to carry out research at the Principe Felipe Research Center in Valencia and the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Porto, again in the field of drug dependence.

Dr. Bruno is currently a lecturer in psychobiology at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Murcia, Spain, and has also been teaching a University Masters Course, "Research, Treatment, and Associated Pathologies in Drug Dependence," since 2010.

Dr. Bruno's current research interests focus on adolescents' consumption of a range of drugs, and treatment and the neurobiological mechanisms of addiction, an area in which he has published 16 papers in journals listed in the ISI Journal Citation Reports. In addition, Dr. Bruno is engaged in studies of the cognitive and neuropsychological effects of marijuana, cigarettes, and alcohol on students at the University of Murcia.

Dr. Bruno visited ISAP from January to April as part of his training in addiction treatment. "When I had the opportunity to visit an international center of excellence in the field of drug use, I asked if I could go to the best," said Dr. Bruno. "And here I am."

Dr. Bruno is currently working on the international Treatnet project for the United Nations. Spain is establishing its own Treatnet Center, and Dr. Bruno is busy developing new trainings for the Spanish program and establishing contacts in the United States.

New Study Will Evaluate Outcomes of SBIRT for Adults with Co-occurring Disorders

By Suzette Glasner-Edwards, Principal Investigator

Despite the well-documented effectiveness of screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) in primary care settings, this early detection and intervention approach to reducing risky substance use has not been studied in the context of mental health treatment. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), ISAP Principal Investigators Mitchell Karno, Suzette Glasner-Edwards, and Richard A. Rawson are conducting the first clinical trial evaluating this approach in a psychiatric care setting.

Substance abuse and addiction are common among adults with mental illness, yet these problems are largely undertreated in such individuals for various reasons.

For example, mentally ill adults may lack awareness of the connection between their psychiatric symptoms and the psychoactive effects of substance use. Some use substances to self-medicate their psychiatric symptoms, and they are ambivalent about whether or not to give up or reduce substance use, even if it is causing problems for them.

Still others may want help but don't know where to go to get the help they need. The goals of SBIRT are to heighten awareness of problematic substance use, bolster motivation to change risky use patterns and behaviors, and for those who need it, facilitate appropriate treatment referrals.

Recruitment has recently started for this multisite trial being conducted at the Ventura County Behavioral Health clinics; 1,080 individuals with anxiety, mood, and psychotic disorders will be randomly assigned to receive either SBIRT or a Health Education control condition.

Those who are assigned to the SBIRT condition will receive the Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) to assess their level of risk for a substance use disorder. Following the ASSIST, participants in this group will receive a brief intervention by a trained health educator to address risky substance use.

As the administration of the ASSIST takes place shortly after the participant's intake evaluation and prior to receiving a plan of care at Ventura County Behavioral Health, for those whose ASSIST score suggests high risk for substance dependence, the health educator will provide a summary of the ASSIST results to the Ventura County Behavioral Health staff.

This procedure is expected to increase referrals to appropriate co-occurring disorders treatment. The SBIRT health educator will then provide two follow-up calls to the participant to facilitate engagement in treatment.

Individuals who are assigned to the Health Education control condition will not receive the ASSIST. These participants will receive an informational health education session of equivalent duration, in which various areas of health and well being are described by a health educator and discussed with the participant.

All study participants will be assessed at a 3-, 6-, and 12-month follow-up for alcohol and drug use, psychiatric symptoms, and addiction or co-occurring disorders treatment engagement and retention. Blanca Dominguez is the study project director and Michael Dennin is the study research assistant. If you have questions, please contact Blanca Dominguez at bdominguez@mednet.ucla.edu.

Global Health

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researchers presented cutting-edge research findings and led discussions.

Speakers from UCLA ISAP included Richard A. Rawson, PhD, and Walter Ling, MD. This event was cohosted by Yun Wang, PhD, Director, Center for Neuropsychiatric Research of NHRI, and Yih-Ing Hser, PhD, Director of ISAP's Center for Advancing Longitudinal Drug Abuse Research (CALDAR).

Drug use persists as a major problem that severely impacts the health of individuals and populations, locally

and globally. The international Conference Series to Promote Global Health is designed to share research findings on substance abuse treatment and HIV prevention, stimulate international collaborations, particularly between the United States and API countries, and inform cultural aspects of treatment and prevention of substance abuse and HIV. These and upcoming activities are part of efforts to extend NIDA's mission of promulgating research-based interventions to improve health services and promote health globally.

Future meetings will rotate among different locales in Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the United States. Planning for the 2015 conference is underway. Conference presentations and upcoming information will be posted at www.caldar.org.

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