

**April 2021 Newsletter**  
**Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates**

**NIH COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES**

Guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

**COVID-19 UPDATES HISTORY WEBPAGE**

Relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date can be found [here](#).

**FAQ DOCUMENT ON COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES**

Policies and programs affecting the grants process can be found [here](#).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFIC TO COVID-19**

A list of active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research can be found [here](#).

**HHS COVID-19 AWARDS TRACKING WEBSITE**

The HHS COVID-19 award tracking website, including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations, can be found [here](#).

**NIH COVID-19 RESEARCH WEBSITE**

A new website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about research and the NIH's strategic role in COVID-19 research. Read more [here](#).

**MOVING HEAL RESEARCH INTO ACTION - SEEKING COMMENT**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative (HEAL) has launched an Idea Exchange, *Moving HEAL Research Into Action*, to gather public input. The comment period is open from April 6 to June 1, 2021. Read more [here](#).

**REPUBLICANS PITCH BILL TO KEEP FENTANYL AS SCHEDULE I**

The top Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary committees, Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) and Jim Jordan (OH), introduced legislation that will continue to keep fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Read more [here](#).

**FIGHT OVER FENTANYL SCHEDULING HEATS UP AHEAD OF DEADLINE**

The Trump order putting fentanyl into the Schedule 1 class of drugs expires in early May and lawmakers are mounting a push to make the classification permanent before that deadline. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

**CANNABIS IMPAIRED DRIVING SURROUNDS MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION DEBATE**

Cannabis-impaired driving is one of the most prevalent concerns surrounding marijuana legalization debates because unlike alcohol, there is no clear relationship between blood THC concentrations and impairment. In a recent study published in *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews* scientists looked at 80 studies on THC impairment over the past two decades. Read more [here](#).

**ONLY 45 PERCENT OF AMERICANS THINK FED GOV SHOULD LEGALIZE MARIJUANA**

A new poll conducted by Ipsos found that 45 percent of Americans think the federal government should legalize marijuana for medical and recreational purposes, while 21 percent think that states should

decide how to treat the drug. Another 20 percent believe that only medical marijuana should be legal, and 11 percent of Americans believe all forms of marijuana should be illegal. Read more [here](#).

#### **CANNABIS USE DISORDER DURING PREGNANCY LINKED TO INFANT HEALTH PROBLEMS**

According to a study funded by NIDA and published in the journal *Addiction*, infants born to pregnant women with cannabis use disorder were more likely to be born premature, experience low birth weight and be small for their gestational age. Read more [here](#).

#### **MARIJUANA POTENCY QUESTIONS**

As more states legalize marijuana, companies are facing new pressure from lawmakers across the country, and Capitol Hill, to limit the strength of their products. Read more [here](#).

#### **DRUG LAWS WORSEN OUTCOMES FOR MINORITIES**

In an April 17 *Health Affairs* blog post, NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow makes the evidence-based case for how drug criminalization systematically and disproportionately harms Black communities and other communities of color. She argues that a public health approach to addiction is needed. Read more [here](#).

#### **MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE, WITHDRAWAL & ADDICTION NIDA INFOGRAPHIC**

NIDA has created a new infographic, Medications for Opioid Overdose, Withdrawal & Addiction. This new tool for health professionals and patients illustrates the different types of medications available for opioid addiction, withdrawal, and overdose. Read more [here](#).

#### **HHS RELEASES NEW BUPRENORPHINE PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

On April 27, HHS released Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder, which exempt eligible physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists and certified nurse midwives from federal certification requirements related to training, counseling and other ancillary services that are part of the process for obtaining a waiver to treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine. Read more [here](#).

#### **FDA PLANS TO BAN MENTHOL CIGARETTES**

The Food and Drug Administration has moved to ban the sale of menthol cigarettes, citing their disproportionate effect on the health of African Americans. Read more [here](#).

#### **SENATE CLEARS EXTENSION OF FENTANYL ANALOGUES BAN**

On April 29, the Senate cleared by voice vote the Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (H.R. 2630), which would extend the ban on fentanyl analogues until October 22, 2021, clearing the way for the President's signature. Read more [here](#).