

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023**

**4:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.**

**Workshop: NIDA Early Career Workshop**

Plaza Ballroom A

**NIDA EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP**

*Lindsey Friend, National Institution on Drug Abuse*

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Early Career Workshop Summer 2023 will be held on Saturday June 17, 2023. This symposium will focus on career development and grantsmanship ideal for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early-stage investigators. NIDA offers a strategic set of funding mechanisms for all early career stages. These awards are designed to facilitate continuous growth of early investigators to become career independence and to strengthen research workforce development of next generation biomedical scientists. The theme for this session is persistence in advancing career and science. Topics covered include National Institutes of Health grant mechanisms and review processes, and strategies to overcome hurdle, master grantsmanship, and tips to secure grant awards. Speakers include Program Officers, Scientific Review Officers, Research Training Officers and the Director of the Office of Diversity and Health Disparities from the National institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Extramural speakers include early-stage NIDA awardees and experienced training director and substance use researchers.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023**

**8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.**

**Opening Session: Plenary, NIDA Update, and Eddy Lecture**

Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)

**NIDA UPDATE**

*Nora Volkow, National Institute on Drug Abuse*

Scientific advances continue to broaden our understanding of the biological, developmental, and environmental elements underlying drug use and addiction and to accelerate efforts to develop targeted strategies for their prevention and treatment. At the same time, the challenges confronting the addiction field have grown both in number and in magnitude. This presentation will highlight such challenges as the growing use of fentanyl by itself or in combination with other opioids or stimulant drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine and the staggering number of overdose deaths that result. It will also focus on how NIH researchers have been using scientific advances to address the opioid crisis which has been further exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, including the development of new medications and formulations to help treat opioid use disorders and overdoses; prevention strategies to mitigate an individual's vulnerability to addiction; and implementation science to guide optimal deployment of therapeutic interventions including the use of telehealth in diverse settings (healthcare, justice setting, rural communities).

**EDDY LECTURE: WHAT HAS BRAIN IMAGING TAUGHT US ABOUT STIMULANT USE DISORDER**

*Edythe London, University of California Los Angeles*

This session will cover scientific findings about stimulant use disorder, obtained from brain imaging research. The research findings will be presented in the historical context of the cocaine/crack epidemic of the 1980s, the surge of methamphetamine use beginning in the late 1990's and the recent surge in stimulant-related deaths. A major focus will be on taking what we know about the circuitry and neurotransmitter systems affected in designing new approaches to treatment.

**1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Lunch Presentation: Fischman Lecture Presented by Joy Schmitz, Marian W. Fischman Lectureship Award Winner**

Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)

**FISCHMAN LECTURE: MY 30-YEAR RESEARCH JOURNEY: HIGH-RISK SITUATIONS, COPING SKILLS, AND LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY**

*Joy Schmitz, University of Texas Health Science Center*

This session will honor the work of Dr. Marian W. Fischman, recognizing her as an inspiring role model for women in science. The recipient of this year's award will focus on her contributions to the field of drug abuse research and treatment, with a particular focus on her efforts to develop behavioral and pharmacological interventions for cocaine use disorder. She will conclude by highlighting her role in cultivating the next generation of women addiction researchers.

**MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023**

**8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.**

**NIAAA Update Presented by George Koob, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**

Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)

*George Koob, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*

Alcohol misuse and alcohol use disorder (AUD) are endemic societal problems that have been willingly absorbed into the social fabric of our society for generations. They cause an enormous amount of medical pathology, human suffering, loss of productivity and cost to our medical care system and the nation's economy. Alcohol misuse accounts for 30 million individuals with alcohol use disorder, 5% of cancers, 50% of liver disease deaths, and up to 25 % of pancreatitis. While efforts to employ screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment have successfully initiated screening in many situations, brief intervention and referral to treatment remain underused. Missed screening opportunities especially for some subgroups and the more widespread lack of follow up after screening contribute to a significant treatment gap: less than 10% of individuals in need of treatment receive treatment for AUD. Less than 2% receive one of the three FDA approved and effective medications for treatment of AUD. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed some long-neglected drivers of AUD: increased drinking to cope with stress, interaction of alcohol with mental health, the role of alcohol in women's health, alcohol and health in older adults, and understanding recovery from AUD. In the face of these challenges, a cultural change is underway as highlighted by movements to reevaluate our relationship with alcohol such as Dry January, Sober October, and the broader Sober Curious movement. Current NIAAA priorities and challenges include providing resources for the public to facilitate prevention among young adults (College Aim), to help individuals evaluate their own relationship with alcohol (Rethinking Drinking), and to assist those seeking treatment (NIAAA Treatment Navigator). Also, the Healthcare Professional Core Resource on Alcohol, launched in 2022, provides healthcare professionals with evidence-based knowledge and resources to address alcohol misuse in clinical practice.

**12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Lunch Presentation: Presidential Symposium\***

Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)

**PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM: THE CASE AGAINST PURITY: STUDYING THE INTERSECTION OF PSYCHIATRIC AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**

**Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)**

*Amy Janes, NIDA*

**The Case Against Purity: Studying the Intersection of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders**

*Anne Eden Evins, Massachusetts General Hospital-Psychiatry*

Beginning with the question of what can we do strategically to accelerate progress in the treatment of substance use disorders? This symposium explores from clinical and pre-clinical perspectives whether a concerted effort to study the intersection of psychiatric and substance use disorders could accelerate clinical progress. There will be discussion and Q and A led by Drs. Haney, Koob, Volkow, Evins, Khokhar, and Janes.

### **Cannabis Use and Schizophrenia: Cracking the Chicken or Egg Question**

*Jibran Khokhar, Western University*

Although cannabis use occurs commonly in patients with schizophrenia and significantly worsen their clinical course, the neurobiological basis of cannabis use in schizophrenia is not well understood. Therefore, there is a critical need to understand the mechanisms underlying cannabis use in schizophrenia in order to identify potential targets for therapeutic intervention. Since cannabis use usually begins in adolescence, it is also important to understand the long-term effects of life-time cannabis exposure on schizophrenia- and reward- related behaviours and circuitry. Lastly, there is a need for exploring the shared genetic susceptibility for these co-occurring disorders. This talk will combine a variety of translational pre-clinical pharmacological, genetic, behavioural, electrophysiological (local field potential recordings) and magnetic resonance imaging (resting-state functional connectivity and magnetic resonance spectroscopy) approaches to study this topic with an eye toward developing better treatment approaches.

*Margaret Haney, Columbia University Irving Medical Center*

*Nora Volkow, National Institute on Drug Abuse*

*George Koob, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*

**3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

### **Federal Agencies and Cannabis Research: Updates From NIH, FDA and DEA**

Grand Ballroom I

*Steve Gust, Consultant, National Center on Complementary and Integrative Health*

*Angela Arensdorf, NIH/NCCIH*

Cannabis research is subject to rapidly changing legal and regulatory requirements, while evolving findings on its potential therapeutic effects has stimulated significant changes in Federal research support. This panel will provide updates from the key Federal agencies involved in cannabis regulation and research and should provide attendees with up-to-date information relevant to researchers interested in cannabis and related constituents.

### **Cannabinoid Research at the NIH**

*David Shurtleff, NCCIH/NIH*

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) support of cannabinoid and cannabis research has increased over the past few years. Several NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs) have a growing interest in the therapeutic potential of cannabis, cannabinoids, and related compounds as well as their adverse effects on health and society. The National Center on Complementary (NCCIH) and Integrative Health (NCCIH) has become a focal point for research on the therapeutic potential of the heretofore understudied minor cannabinoids and terpenes found in cannabis for the management of pain. Also, NCCIH has become more actively involved in coordinating activities to stimulate new research programs and coordinating various cannabis-related activities across the NIH. This presentation will provide an update on the broad landscape of cannabis-related research at the NIH, summarize new areas of research interest and investment, including those of NCCIH, and describe a new multi-NIH ICO extramural program coordinating group to foster collaboration, share information, and expand and coordinate NIH cannabis and cannabinoid research activities.

## **Cannabis Research Priorities at the National Institute on Drug Abuse**

*Susan Weiss, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health*

NIDA has a wide-ranging cannabis research portfolio and remains the largest funder in the US government. This includes research on the endocannabinoid system, where THC exerts its predominant effects; studies to understand the potential harms of cannabis and cannabinoid exposure throughout the lifespan; therapeutic studies on cannabinoids for treating pain, HIV, and substance use disorders; treatment research for cannabis use disorder; and epidemiology and policy research to better understand the impact of the changing cannabis laws on health outcomes and consumption patterns (e.g., choice of diverse products; multiple routes and patterns of administration).

Research on cannabis is complex and can be difficult because of the inherent variability of the plant; its multiple components with therapeutic potential and distinct mechanisms of action; the difficulty of obtaining a Schedule I registration; and up until very recently, a single source of plant material for research. The latter is expected to change with new manufacturers approved by the DEA, but there are still no assurances that the cannabis that will be available for research will reflect the diversity of products currently available to the public in States where it is legal. Federally funded researchers are prohibited from analyzing products available in state-authorized dispensaries, and therefore, must rely on participant self-report or photos of unverified product labels from dispensaries. Understanding the characteristics of products on the market - including the amount of THC, the concentration of other cannabinoids and components, and potential toxins - is important for determining and differentiating characteristics responsible for health effects.

## **Federal Agencies and Cannabis Research: Updates from NIH, FDA, and DEA**

*Matthew Strait, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)*

Since 2016, DEA has been actively engaged in regulatory activities aimed at improving both the quality and quantity of marijuana utilized for research in the United States. DEA will provide an update of those activities, including successes and ongoing challenges. DEA will explain how it remains focused on ensuring that scientific data and evidence dictates decisions on whether marijuana should remain a schedule I controlled substance under federal law.

## **FDA Regulation of Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Compounds**

*Katherine Bonson, US Food and Drug Administration*

FDA has a well-defined role to play in the regulation and development of products containing cannabis and cannabis-derived compounds. This presentation will detail the FDA regulatory oversight of scientific investigation and new drug development with Schedule I cannabis and its derivatives and will provide a brief overview of other FDA regulatory roles for cannabis vs. hemp, particularly as impacted by the 2018 Farm Bill. With regard to potential cannabis drug products, there will be a discussion of FDA Guidance for Industry on cannabis and botanical drug development, therapeutic research areas for cannabis, IND submissions, DEA licensing of Schedule I research, and the federal process for evaluating drugs for abuse potential and scheduling them under the Controlled Substances Act.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**

**12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

**Symposium: In Memoriam Martin Adler**

Plaza Ballroom BCEF (Plenary)

**Chair:** *Scott Lukas, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School*

**Co-Chair:** *Toby Eisenstein, Center for Substance Abuse Research, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University*

**Speakers:**

*William Dewey, Virginia Commonwealth University*

*Toby Eisenstein, Center for Substance Abuse Research, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University*

*Scott Lukas, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School*  
*Ellen Unterwald, Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University*