

As a grantee or applicant for research support from the Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research (DESPR) of NIDA, we thought you would like to have an ongoing update of the news from the division. We send out a newsletter letter 3 times per year around the time of National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse meetings. Copies of the DESPR - NIDA News are archived and available for viewing at [DESPR - NIDA News](#).

Council Meetings

Each NIDA Council meeting has both open and closed sessions. The closed sessions include discussions of confidential information related to grant applications and are therefore closed to the public. The open sessions are public and include a report by the Institute Director as well as presentations and discussions of research and programmatic issues that are likely to be of interest to the research community. These open sessions can be attended in person or viewed remotely. **The next NIDA Council meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2017.** The agenda and viewing information will be available approximately a week before the Council meeting at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/advisory-boards-groups/national-advisory-council-drug-abuse-nacda/national-advisory-council-agenda>

Research Highlights

As part of NIDA's preparation for Council meetings, NIDA divisions review the most recent research findings from the research projects that they support. DESPR compiles highlights of its recent supported published research and makes it available in an online archive which can be found at: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/organization/divisions/division-epidemiology-services-prevention-research-despr>

DESPR Grant Highlights

Each edition of the DESPR News will highlight one or two newly funded grants. Following is a description of a recently funded R21/R33 grant entitled Co-Abuse Cannabis and Tobacco whose Principle Investigator is Jenny Wiley of the Research Triangle Institute, Research Triangle, North Carolina. This application was submitted to NIDA for the May 2017 Council round in response to the PAR16-291 FOA. This FOA, Integrative Research on Polysubstance Abuse and Addiction, is a new one emphasizing translational research in polysubstance use. This FOA uses an R21/R33 mechanism, such that the first phase is an R21 project and the second phase is an R33 project that is funded upon programmatic approval. This project is the first to be funded under this mechanism. The Program Official for the R21 phase this project is Heather Kimmel of DESPR, then the R33 phase will be administered at DNB by Shelley Su, who is also the Scientific Contact for this FOA.

Dr. Wiley's project will examine cannabis-tobacco polysubstance use, initially by development and implementation of novel survey measures to allow distinction between different patterns of this polysubstance use and the different types of products and modes of administration that are used as well as the related subjective and reinforcing effects. Findings from this R21 phase will inform mouse and human outpatient laboratory studies to examine the impact of acute

cannabis exposure on tobacco self-administration behavior and reinforcing effects in the R33 phase.

News from the NIDA Director

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health provides information about her Testimony to Congress, her Reports to Council, her videos and her blog on her webpage: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/directors-page>. Her latest blog is about “The Concerning Link Between Inadequate Sleep and Adolescent Substance Use <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2017/07/concerning-link-between-inadequate-sleep-adolescent-substance-use>

RFA Targeting Rural Communities Impacted by the Opioid Epidemic

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is the lead agency, along with CDC SAMHSA and the Appalachian Regional Commission, supporting 8 two-stage cooperative agreements that are targeting rural communities impacted by the opioid epidemic, and focusing on overdose, linkage to medication assisted treatment, and linkage to HIV and HCV prevention & treatment services as well as syringe services (see RFA-DA-17-014 for details <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-17-014.html>). A companion RFA (RFA-DA-17-023 <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-17-023.html>) supports a next generation HCV laboratory to guide outbreak investigation and surveillance in these projects, as well as specimen management for laboratory testing performed by CDC.

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