National Institute on Drug Abuse
International Research Interests and Opportunities

NIDA Poster Presentations
at the
2006 NIDA International Forum:
International Trends and Needs in Drug Abuse Research
June 16-19, 2006
National Institute on Drug Abuse
International Research Interests and Opportunities

International Program
Division of Basic Neuroscience and Behavioral Research
Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research
Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research
Division of Pharmacotherapies and Medical Consequences of Drug Abuse
Intramural Research Program
AIDS Research Program
Center for the Clinical Trials Network
Special Populations Office
Scientific Mission

The NIDA International Program seeks to take advantage of special or unique opportunities to advance scientific knowledge on drug abuse and addiction. Such special opportunities may include the use of unusual talents, resources, populations, or environmental conditions in other countries that are not readily available in the United States or that augment existing U.S. resources.

NIDA International Goals

The International Program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA):

- Encourages vigorous collaborative and peer-reviewed international research
- Provides professional development opportunities for the international drug abuse research community
- Disseminates NIDA’s research methods, findings, and tools to international scientists and organizations.
- The science-based information generated by NIDA researchers and International Program alumni contributes to international efforts to develop, adopt, and evaluate government policies, prevention programs, and treatment protocols that effectively address drug abuse and its consequences.

International collaborations introduce NIDA grantees to new perspectives and differing attitudes about the fundamentals of drug abuse research. Highly trained scientists from other nations bring unique insights to the Institute’s research efforts. National variations also provide NIDA grantees with opportunities to study aspects of drug abuse not available in the United States and to examine the effects of national differences in such areas as policies, drug-using populations, abused drugs, patterns of abuse, special populations, prevention programs, and treatment protocols.

Contact Us

Keep abreast of NIDA International Program activities through the Website: http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/, and a bimonthly email newsletter.

Steven W. Gut, Ph.D., Director
International Program
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5274
Bethesda, Maryland 20892, U.S.A.
Phone: 301-443-6480
Fax: 301-594-5678
Email: sgut@nida.nih.gov
Website: http://www.international.drugabuse.gov

NIDA International Fellowships and Research Exchange Programs

NIDA International Program Fellowships provide unparalleled research training, while Research Exchange Programs support direct collaborations between NIDA grantees and their colleagues from other countries. Researchers who have NIDA international training and exchange programs benefit from their colleagues’ differing perspectives and research approaches to successfully conduct collaborative research nationally, regionally, and globally.

NIDA International Fellowships

- **INVEST Research Fellowships**
  - Competitive, 12-month postdoctoral appointments to U.S. institutions for scientists from other countries. Fellows complete rigorous postdoctoral training with a NIDA grantee at a U.S. institution, attend NIDA orientations, and participate in scientific meetings. Fellows and their mentors may jointly develop a collaborative research proposal and compete for funding to implement the proposal in the Fellows’ home countries. The fellowship is fully funded by NIDA. For more information, please visit the NIDA INVEST Research Fellowship Website at: http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/invest.html.

- **NIDA Hubert H. Humphry Drug Abuse Research Fellowships**
  - Competitive, 10-month fellowships for mid-career professionals from low- and middle-income countries. Fellows enroll in a mentored academic study at Virginia Commonwealth University, complete a research affiliation and professional experience with a NIDA-supported scientist, and participate in scientific meetings and NIDA orientations. For more information, please visit the NIDA Hubert H. Humphry Drug Abuse Research Fellowship Website at: http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/hhbfellow.html.

Research Exchange

- **NIDA Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Awards (DISCA)**
  - Awarded to mid-career and senior scientists from low- and middle-income countries and to U.S. scientists with whom the grantees wish to carry out collaborative research. Awards support the exchange of investigators as well as research project visits.

- **NIDA U.S. Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Awards (USDISCA)**
  - Awarded to mid-career and senior scientists from low- and middle-income countries and to U.S. scientists with whom the grantees wish to carry out collaborative research.

Grants for International Research

NIDA supports research on the biomedical and behavioral causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. NIDA Program Announcements inform scientists about areas of science for which NIDA wants grant applications and about mechanisms for paying grant support. International research is funded through two mechanisms:

- **Foreign Grants**
  - Allow researchers from outside the United States to compete for funding within the NIH system. The actual research is conducted outside the United States. For a grant to be awarded to a foreign institution, the principal investigator must demonstrate a special opportunity to further drug abuse research through use of expertise, resources, populations, or environmental conditions not readily available in the United States.
  - **Domestic Grants with a Foreign Component**
    - Enable U.S.-based principal investigators to conduct cooperative international studies with foreign partners. The foreign component is part of the original grant. The entire application is scored competitively.

FY 2006 Program Announcements

Program Announcements are listed on the NIDA Website at: http://www.drugabuse.gov/funding.

- **PAR-06-209 – Cutting-Edge Basic Research Awards (CEBRA)**
  - Issued March 10, 2006.
- **PAR-06-092 – Imaging Science Track Award for Research Transition (USTART)**
  - Issued December 9, 2005.
- **PA-06-056 – NIDA Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR; R44) Compeing Renewal Awards**
  - Issued December 7, 2005.
  - Issued November 9, 2005.
- **PA-06-069 – Health Disparities in HIV/AIDS: Focus on African Americans (R01)**
- **PA-06-068 – Drug Abuse as a Cause, Correlate, or Consequence of Criminal Justice Related Health Disparities among African Americans (R01)**
- **PA-06-054 – Non-injection Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS (R01)**
  - Issued November 2, 2005.
- **PA-06-050 – International Research Collaboration on Drug Addiction (R01)**

Public Health Mission

As the single-largest supporter of drug abuse research in the world, NIDA has the opportunity and the responsibility to partner with other countries to provide increased research capacity and science-based information to address addiction and related health issues around the world.

Fogarty Center Funding Opportunities for International Training or Research

NIDA currently participates in a number of Fogarty International Center (www.fc.nih.gov) programs.

Research Training Grants

- **AIDS International Training and Research Program (AIRTP) Awards**
  - Support biomedical and behavioral research training in developing and transitional countries on HIV/AIDS and related tuberculosis (TB), and research on prevention of HIV infection among drug users.
- **International Clinical, Operational, and Health Services Research and Training Awards (ICORTA)**
  - Support institutional training programs for collaborative, multidisciplinary, international research in developing and transitional countries.
- **International Bioethics Education and Career Development Awards (BIOETH)**
  - Support international training and career development in bioethics curricula on research in low- and middle-income nations.
- **International Collaborative Research Training Program (GENE)**
  - Supports research training and capacity building in developing and transitional countries with an existing institutional infrastructure available to sustain advances in genetic science.

Research Grants

- **The Global Health Research Initiative for New Foreign Investigators (GRI)**
  - Extends the outreach of NIH-trained foreign investigators to their home countries. Former NIDA INVEST Fellows are eligible to compete for GRI grants.
- **Brain Disorders in the Developing World (BRAIN)**
  - Supports collaborative research and capacity-building projects on brain disorders in developing countries.
- **The Fogarty International Research Collaboration - Behavioral, Social Science Award (FRCS-BS)**
  - Supports collaborative research between NIDA grantees and investigators in developing and transitional countries.
- **The International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG) Program**
  - Addresses the intertwined issues of drug discovery, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable economic growth.
- **The International Tobacco and Health Research and Capacity Building Program (TOBAC)**
  - Supports multidisciplinary research on tobacco consumption in low- or middle-income nations.
- **The Sages and Global Health Research Program (STRGBP)**
  - Supports interdisciplinary research on the etiology, prevention, or mitigation of stigma and related public health outcomes.
Mission Statement

The Division of Basic Neuroscience and Behavioral Research (DBNBR) supports basic research on the causes and consequences of drug abuse and addiction, thus providing the scientific foundation for the development and enhancement of prevention efforts and treatment approaches to drug abuse and addiction.

DBNBR Goals

The Division's primary goal is to support basic biomedical and behavioral science research that relates to the public health problem of drug abuse and addiction. DBNBR accomplishes this goal through developing and supporting an extramural program of research in the basic biomedical and behavioral sciences. DBNBR comprises four branches:

- **Behavioral and Cognitive Science Research Branch**
  Minda Lynch, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  mlynch1@nida.nih.gov
  Supports human and animal experimental research within a broad context of behavioral and cognitive factors in drug addiction. Behavioral and cognitive variables are important as antecedent processes in the vulnerability to start, continue, or relapse to drug abuse, as factors in the transition between these stages of abuse, and as consequences or adverse outcomes of abuse.

- **Chemistry and Physiological Systems Research Branch**
  Rao Rapaka, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  rrrapaka@nida.nih.gov
  Supports research on all aspects of chemistry and physiological systems affected by drugs of abuse and administers the NIDA Drug Supply Program.

- **Functional Neuroscience Research Branch**
  Nancy Pilotte, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  npilotte@nida.nih.gov
  Supports research that focuses on understanding the regulation of the mechanisms of neurotransmission under normal, drug-exposed, and drug-withdrawal conditions. This branch supports multidisciplinary, integrated approaches to the study of drug abuse, including analysis at the levels of the single cell, protein, circuit, and behavior.

- **Genetics and Molecular Neurobiology Research Branch**
  Jonathan Pollock, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  jpollock@nida.nih.gov
  Supports research on the genetic basis of addiction vulnerability, the fundamental cellular mechanisms that underlie addiction and the response to drugs of abuse, and basic neurobiology.

Research Interests

Research supported by DBNBR investigates the neurobiological and behavioral effects of drugs of abuse and provides fundamental information to prevent or intervene in drug abuse and addiction. Program areas include:

- **Genetic Basis of Vulnerability of Drug Addiction**: All aspects of the genetic basis of vulnerability to drug addiction are of interest to DBNBR.
- **Models of Addiction**: Neural circuits underlying natural and drug reward; biobehavioral models of craving, relapse, compulsive behavior; neural systems and drug-behavior interaction; vertebrate and invertebrate models.
- **Drug-Induced Neuroadaptation and Neurotoxicity in Brain Systems**: Consequences of acute or chronic exposure to addictive drugs; neurotoxicity and its behavioral, physiological, or biochemical consequences; neuroAIDS; adaptation (sensitization, tolerance, plasticity).
- **Pain and Analgesia**: Modulation of acute and chronic pain by brain and spinal mechanisms; antinociceptive actions of opioids, cannabinoids, peptides; cellular processes of pain, analgesia, tolerance; alternative pain therapies (e.g., virtual reality).
- **Cognitive Processes**: Neural mechanisms of drug-induced modification of cognitive processes (learning, memory, attention, associations, decision making).
- **Social Neuroscience**: Drug abuse frequently occurs in a social context, and its consequences typically include a large social component. DBNBR is thus interested in the genetics and neurobiology of social behavior related to drug abuse.
- **Developmental Effects**: Consequences of in utero and perinatal drug exposure on the nervous system and other organs; ontogenetic effects throughout the life-span. Adaptive and developmental cellular biology (nonclassical neural communication).
- **Neuropsychopharmacology of Drugs of Abuse**: Relating drugs of abuse to neural systems (mechanism of action of psychoactive stimulants on monaminergic systems or nicotine and cholinergic neurotransmission); behavioral consequences of receptor subtype activation; regulation of neural systems function of endogenous systems (endorphins, anandamide, excitatory amino acids) in health and disease.
- **Neuroimmune Relationships, Including Studies of HIV and AIDS Related to Neural or Infectivity Processes**: Cytokine and chemokine modulation of neural function; amplification/diminution of these processes by toxins; interaction of these systems with the immune system and modulation of disease.
- **Innovative Chemical Design of New Entities and Probes**: Molecular probes, imaging agents, receptor selectivity ligands, potential new drug candidates, development of new ligands with computer-aided drug design or combinatorial chemistry or screening technologies; and structure-activity relationships.

International Focus

DBNBR supports international research and promotes international scientific cooperation and communication through a variety of mechanisms:

- **DBNBR supports about 1.5 million dollars of international research annually.**
- **DBNBR sponsors numerous major international meetings, including the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Meeting and the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC).**
- **DBNBR also co-sponsors meetings with organizations that promote international research (e.g., CPDD, INRC, International Union of Pharmacology, International Brain Research Organization, International Cannabinoid Research Society, and International Drug Abuse Research Society).**
- **DBNBR participates in the Intragency Committee on Drug Control (ICDC), which makes international scheduling recommendations and resulting obligations with respect to drug control.**
- **DBNBR oversees the NIDA Drug Supply Program, under which several hundred investigators, including international researchers, receive compounds free-of-charge for research purposes.**

Funding Opportunities

**International Neuroscience Fellowship (INF)**

DBNBR and three other NIH Institutes—the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), and the National Institute on Aging (NIA)—have created INF (PAR-06-227; http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-06-227.html) to provide 1 to 2 years of research training in the United States for qualified junior or mid-career foreign neuroscientists. The INF will advance the training of qualified foreign neuroscientists by enhancing their basic or clinical research skills in a research setting in the United States, preparing awardees for future leadership positions in research, academia, or public health institutions in their home countries. It is hoped that the INF will enhance the quality and quantity of international neuroscience research, while fostering long-lasting collaborations between foreign and U.S. neuroscientists.

International Neuroscience Fellowship research proposals focusing on, but not limited to, the following areas are encouraged:

- The transition to addiction (i.e., from controlled use to uncontrolled, compulsive use of drugs).
- The consequences of drug abuse and addiction (e.g., drug-induced neuroadaptations, neurotoxicity, altered cognitive and behavioral processes, developmental defects).
- The antecedents to drug addiction and relapse (e.g., genetics, stress, environmental precipitants).
- The neurobiological bases of pain and its alleviation by opiates, other analgesics, alternative medications, and alternative therapies (e.g., acupuncture, virtual reality).
- The complex interrelationship among HIV/AIDS progression, transmission, and drug abuse.

Applicants must have a sponsor in the United States who is affiliated with an eligible U.S. organization, be proficient in English, hold a doctoral or equivalent degree, and procure both the endorsement of their home institution and a guaranteed appointment in an institution in their home country upon completion of the fellowship. Preference will be given to applicants from low- to middle-income countries.

Contact Us

David Shurtleff, Ph.D.
Director Division of Basic Neuroscience and Behavioral Research National Institute on Drug Abuse

6001 Executive Boulevard
Room 4273, MSC 9595
Bethesda, Maryland 20892, U.S.A.
Phone: +1-301-443-8887
Fax: +1-301-594-6043
Email: dbnrb@nida.nih.gov
DCNBR Goals

The overarching goal of DCNBR is to promote high-caliber research to identify the key developmental, genetic, social, and brain mechanisms associated with drug abuse, and to translate resultant findings into therapeutic interventions that decrease the extent and burden of drug abuse. We believe that conceptualizing drug abuse as a human developmental neurobiological disorder will generate important scientific findings that advance NIDA’s mission to lead the Nation in bringing the power of science to bear on drug abuse and addiction.

To accelerate progress toward this goal, DCNBR’s organizational structure intentionally promotes collaboration and translation across three branches: Behavioral and Brain Development Branch (BBDB), Clinical Neuroscience Branch (CNB), and Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch (BITB). Highlights from recent published reports exemplify the developmental, mechanistic, and translational goals of DCNBR.

- Behavioral and Brain Development Branch
  - Results show greater memory impairment and concomitant functional aberrations (via fMRI) during nicotine withdrawal among adolescent smokers who experienced, compared to those who did not, gestational exposure to maternal smoking (Jacobsen, Slotkin, Westerveld, Mench, & Pugh. Neuropsychopharmacology, online publication 7 December, 2005).
  - Among treatment-seeking methamphetamine addicts, individual differences in activation of specific brain regions (e.g., right insula and left cingulated gyrus via fMRI) correctly predicted 91% and 94% of remitters and relapsers, respectively, after 1 year (Paulus, Tapert, & Schuckit. Archives of General Psychiatry 62, 761-764, 2005).

- Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch
  - Smokers who received both extended psychological and extended pharmacotherapy were most likely to be smoke free at the 1-year follow-up. The 50% abstinence rate among this group is approximately double that of the most intensive and widely accepted treatments for nicotine addiction (Hall, Humphreys, Ross, Muir, & Cullen. American Journal of Psychiatry 161, 2100-2107, 2004).
  - Incorporating tobacco-relevant content into the medical school and other health professional curricula, to engage opinion leaders in tobacco cessation activities and to encourage and promote quitting among health professionals in India and Indonesia.

Research Interests

- **Behavioral and Brain Development Branch**
  - The Behavioral and Brain Development Branch (BBDB) supports research, research training, and career development designed to increase understanding of how human developmental processes and outcomes are affected by drug use/exposure and related factors (e.g., environment, HIV/AIDS), and to increase understanding of the role of human brain and behavioral processes in drug use, abuse, addiction, relapse, and associated risk behaviors. BBDB also supports research on interventions designed to prevent or ameliorate negative consequences of drug use/exposure and related factors on human development.

- **Clinical Neuroscience Branch**
  - The Clinical Neuroscience Branch (CNB) supports research, research training, and career development on the clinical neuroscience and biological etiology of drug abuse and addiction. The CNB accomplishes this mission by promoting research for clinical human and parallel infra-human investigations integrating neurobiology, cognitive/behavioral neuroscience, and genetics. The scope of research supported by CNB includes studies of both normal and dysfunctional processes associated with all aspects of drug use from predisposition through drug seeking, initiation, abuse, addiction, and relapse. CNB serves a translational purpose by drawing upon advances in preclinical research to provide the foundation for human investigations of brain, behavior, and genetics that can inform prevention and treatment strategies.

- **Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch**
  - The Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch (BITB) supports broad research, research training, and career development programs directed toward: (1) development, refinement, and testing of behavioral/psychosocial treatments and complementary/alternative interventions for drug abuse, alone and in combination with medications; (2) development, refinement, and testing of interventions to promote adherence to treatment; (3) development, refinement, and testing of HIV prevention interventions for use in drug abuse treatment; (4) development and validation of screening and diagnostic methods and instruments; and (5) translational treatment research including the development of behavioral interventions drawing on findings from basic research as well as development of behavioral interventions to make them more amenable to practice and community settings.

International Focus

- **Behavioral and Brain Development Branch**
  - Long-term (infancy to adolescence and early adulthood) outcomes associated with in utero exposure to marijuana and tobacco in Canada
  - Prenatal methamphetamine exposure and early (infant) developmental outcomes in New Zealand
  - Developmental outcomes of prenatal exposure to MDMA/“Ecstasy” in England

- **Clinical Neuroscience Branch**
  - Establishment of brain imaging capabilities in South Africa
  - Training investigators from China, South Korea, Ireland, and South Africa in brain imaging
  - Investigation of cognitive dysfunction in drug abusers in Bulgaria and Russia
  - Neuroimaging studies of MDMA, methamphetamine, and cannabis abusers

- **Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch**
  - Testing the feasibility of delivering evidence-based behavioral treatments in pharmacological drug abuse treatment clinics in two sites in Vietnam, Ukraine
  - Testing a screening and brief advice intervention for drug- using adolescents in primary care settings in the Czech Republic
  - Testing a method of training community-based treatment providers in South Africa to deliver cognitive-behavioral therapy for drug abusers
  - Modifying and pilot testing a cognitive-behavioral therapy for HIV drug abusers in Trinidad and Tرغب, with emphasis on developing a culturally relevant behavioral treatment approach
  - Incorporating tobacco-relevant content into the medical school and other health professional curricula, to engage opinion leaders in tobacco cessation activities and to encourage and promote quitting among health professionals in India and Indonesia

International Funding Priorities

- **Behavioral and Brain Development Branch**
  - Health and development of drug- and HIV/AIDS-exposed children and youth
  - Drug-exposed includes: in utero exposure, drug use during childhood or adolescence, and exposure to drug-using environments
  - HIV/AIDS-exposed includes: HIV-infected, HIV/AIDS-exposed in utero but not infected with HIV, and affected by HIV/AIDS (i.e., living with caregivers, family, peers, or in communities with HIV/AIDS)

- **Clinical Neuroscience Branch**
  - Train non-U.S. investigators in state-of-the-art methods in clinical and cognitive neuroscience
  - Research targeting unique populations or expertise not available in the United States to advance understanding of clinical neuroscience of drug addiction

- **Behavioral and Integrative Treatment Branch**
  - Research utilizing unique technologies, populations, or expertise not available in the United States to develop and/or test behavioral and/or HIV risk reduction interventions
  - Studies focused on improving adherence to HIV treatment in different cultures or populations
  - Studies of ways to disseminate behavioral interventions internationally via distance learning or other paradigm

Contact Us

Kevin P. Conway, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research (DCNBR)
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Suite 315
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9533, U.S.A.
Telephone: +1-301-402-1817
Fax: +1-301-402-6804
Email: kconway@nida.nih.gov
Mission Statement
To improve public health by promoting integrated approaches to understand and address the complex interplay of multiple factors affecting substance use and its consequences. DESPR consists of three branches: Epidemiology Research Branch (ERB), Services Research Branch (SRB), and Prevention Research Branch (PRB). The ultimate goal is to develop scientific knowledge with clear applications to public health practice and policy.

International Foci and Funding Opportunities
http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/despr/GrantsInfo.html

Contact Us
Jack B. Snell, Ph.D., Deputy Director
Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research (DESPR)
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5313
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561, U.S.A.

Phone: +1-301-443-6504
Fax: +1-301-443-2663
E-mail: jbsnell@nida.nih.gov

National Institute on Drug Abuse • 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5313 • Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561, U.S.A.

Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research (DESPR)

Descriptive Goals and Research Foci

**Epidemiology Research Branch (ERB)**
- **Goal:** ERB promotes a national and international extramural research program that examines individual, developmental, and social/behavioral factors associated with drug use. Findings generated will be used to inform prevention and services research to reduce the burden of drug use on the nation's public health.

**Research Focus:**
- Basic: Epidemiologic Research: Studies that assess and examine rates (e.g., prevalence, incidence), emerging and current patterns, and trends of drug use/abuse and associated behavioral, social, and health consequences (e.g., HIV/AIDS, crime) in general and defined populations, with special attention to health disparities issues.
- Environmental: Studies of the origins of and pathways to drug abuse focusing on studies of individual, familial, and community-level risk and protective factors and their interactions with emphasis on human development processes associated with initial drug use and the transitions from drug use to drug addiction, contextual factors, genetic factors, and comorbidity.
- Context and Consequences: Studies of the dynamic interaction between contextual- and individual-level factors in contributing to and/or protecting against the adverse behavioral and social consequences as well as interventions that attempt to mitigate drug use/abuse and its adverse consequences.
- Methodology: Methodological studies to improve the accuracy, efficiency, scope, timeliness, and analytical field of drug abuse epidemiological data and research in the areas specified above.

**Services Research Branch (SRB)**
- **Goal:** The SRB mission is to enhance the access to and delivery of effective drug treatment care at a reasonable cost to all those who need it, and to eliminate health disparities by meeting the unique treatment needs of individuals—including co-occurring psychiatric and other medical problems.

**Research Focus:**
- Organizational Factors: Factors that affect the delivery of drug and/or alcohol abuse prevention, treatment, and related services: social factors, personal behaviors and attributes, financing, organization, management, and health technologies.
- Access and Quality: Dimensions of drug and/or alcohol abuse prevention, treatment, and related services: accessibility, utilization, quality, effectiveness, and costs.
- Research Implementation/Adoption: Processes of blending evidence-based drug and/or alcohol abuse prevention and treatment practices into community-based care, and of evaluating and translating the questions of concern to practitioners into rigorous research.
- Research Tools: Development and refinement of research tools—including study designs, measurement instruments, and data analytic methods—to facilitate higher quality health services research on drug and/or alcohol abuse.

**Prevention Research Branch (PRB)**
- **Goal:** The PRB works to improve the nation's public health status by supporting a program of basic, clinical, and services research on the development, testing, and translation of prevention interventions that target the initiation of drug use, the progression to abuse and dependence, and the transmission of HIV infection among diverse populations and settings.

**Research Focus:**
- Basic Prevention Science Research: Small-scale pilot or feasibility studies that:
  - Test emerging findings from the basic and behavioral sciences for their potential in augmenting or developing prevention programs, practices, and policies.
  - Compare intervention and control group participants to better understanding the underlying biological, social, and environmental mediators that contribute to intervention success.
- Efficacy and Effectiveness Research: Randomized control and equivalent design studies that test
  - The efficacy of innovative theory-based or empirically derived prevention approaches using relatively small, well-defined and controlled samples and
  - The effectiveness of such approaches in controlled studies with larger, more diverse samples in real-world settings. Attention to factors that moderate or mediate program outcomes, including those related to service delivery, is essential.

Epidemiology Research Branch (ERB)
ERB supports a developing program of international research on the etiology and epidemiology of drug abuse and co-occurring behavioral, developmental, social, and health and medical problems of drug abuse, including HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne infections. ERB’s current international research portfolio includes grants on research in such countries as Brazil, Argentina, Nicaragua, Chile, Costa Rica, and along the U.S.-Mexico border; Russia and Eastern Europe (e.g., Lithuania and Bulgaria); Vietnam, India, China, Tanzania, South Africa, and Malawi. In addition, through NIDA’s National Hispanic Science Network, ERB is facilitating the establishment of a Latin American epidemiology network on drug abuse. Along with the other DESPR branches, ERB is fostering an important and growing collaborative research relationship with the NIH Fogarty International Center, partly through NIDIs participation in a number of PC program initiatives and announcements, and through its own efforts to promoting international scientists to encourage their development and submission of inter- and multidisciplinary epidemiological research proposals in response to Fogarty’s requests for applications and program announcements.

Services Research Branch (SRB)
SRB currently has a number of international grants, mostly in collaboration with the Fogarty International Center, located in Africa, Southeast Asia, Central America, and North America. Areas of research include improving the quality of treatment services for HIV and TB; training clinical researchers to conduct services research, providing treatment services to individuals using tobacco/cocaine; and development of a drug use screening instrument.

Prevention Research Branch (PRB)
PRB currently supports a number of international research training studies, in collaboration with the Fogarty International Center, in China, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), and Laos. In addition, the branch supports the ICHARTA training program in China as well as a number of HIV/AIDS grants and cooperative agreements in South Africa, Thailand, Norway, Russia, and Canada. Among these is a study conducted by Marion Forget of the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) in collaboration with the Norwegian Center for the Study of Behavioral Problems and Innovative Practice in Oslo and the Institute for Social Research. The study is evaluating the adoption, adaptation, and implementation of the OSLC parent management training (PMTO) throughout Norway. PMTO is an efficacious theory-based intervention that teaches parents child-rearing strategies that prevent deviant child behavior and promote healthy family development. An important aspect of this study is that Norway is paying for the implementation and NIDA is supporting the research. Another example is a study conducted by Edwards Smith of Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Smith is collaborating with colleagues in South Africa in conducting a randomized control efficacy study of a program he developed titled HealthWise: Learning Life Skills for Young Adults. The program is a 2-year school-based universal drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention intervention for adolescents 14 to 16 years old. Finally, Zita Lazaniti, University of Connecticut, is studying the World Health Organization’s rapid policy assessment and response (RPAR) process in relation to legal and structural barriers to HIV prevention among injection drug users (IDUs) in Central and Eastern Europe. The RPAR builds on the rapid assessment and response process through the integration of legal and policy research that focuses on the impact of these factors on the health risks of IDUs. The study is a cross-national study of the implementation of the RPAR in Ukraine, Poland, and Russia to examine how structural barriers operate under a variety of contrasting conditions—epidemic, economic, and political/legal

International Funding Opportunities
http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/despr/GrantsInfo.html

Contact Us
Jack B. Snell, Ph.D., Deputy Director
Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research (DESPR)
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5313
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9589
Phone: +1-301-443-6504
Fax: +1-301-443-2663
E-mail: jbsnell@nida.nih.gov

National Institute on Drug Abuse • 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5213 • Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561, U.S.A.

Division of Epidemiology, Services, and Prevention Research (DESPR)
Mission Statement
To improve drug abuse treatment throughout the nation using science as the vehicle to ensure the identification, evaluation, and development of new and improved treatments to include pharmacotherapeutic and immunological treatment agents which will address the unmet needs of the drug abuse treatment community, and support research on the medical consequences of drug abuse and infections including HIV

DPMCDA Goals

The Division of Pharmacotherapeutics and Medical Consequences of Drug Abuse (DPMCDA) was created to fulfill NIDA's congressionally mandated goal to establish a medications development program (MDP). The MDP is modeled after a typical pharmaceutical company with the ability to conduct all phases of medications development, from synthesis and screening of potential drug entities to preparing submissions for New Drug Applications (NDAs). Our goal is to develop proprietary compounds and marketed medications that show promise for the treatment of drug dependence, employing two approaches to obtaining compounds: top-down (marketed medications) and bottom-up (basic science, discovery). DPMCDA has an extensive clinical trial infrastructure administered through contracts and interagency agreements. This infrastructure is capable of conducting Phase I clinical pharmacology studies and Phase II and III multicenter clinical trials.

DPMCDA actively seeks collaborations from pharmaceutical, academic research institutions, and other commercial entities to exchange resources, expertise, and data for the development of a medications project. The Division utilizes six types of agreements to accomplish these goals and has had several successful collaborations with pharmaceutical companies.

DPMCDA's medications development program has a proven success record—it has obtained three NDAs approvals:
  • LAAM
  • Buprenorphine
  • Buprenorphine/Naloxone

DPMCDA's research activities are administered through the following branches:
  • Medical Consequences Branch
  • Medications Research Grants Branch
  • Chemistry and Pharmacodynamics Branch
  • Clinical Medical Branch
  • Medications Discovery and Toxicology Branch

Research Interests

DPMCDA currently operates five medications development programs (MDPs):
  • Cannabis – New scientific findings prompted DPMCDA to start this MDP recently:
    + Availability of newly marketed medications whose mechanisms of actions may have potential therapeutic effects on the clinical manifestations of cannabis dependence.
    + Recent discovery of an endogenous cannabinoid system with specific receptors and endogenous ligands.
    + The availability of genetically engineered knockout mice that lack functional cannabinoid receptors permits us to study genetic predispositions to the effects of cannabinoids.
    + Reliable preclinical models have been developed to study the rewarding and addiction-producing effects of THC.
    + New chemical entities, some of them already being investigated at the clinical level, target the cannabinoid system and have potential therapeutic benefits.
  • Cocaine – In its largest MDP effort, the Division and its contractors have received 63 research contracts to treat cocaine dependence.
  • Methamphetamine – The second largest MDP program currently funds 14 Phase I studies and 14 Phase II studies via the grants and contract mechanisms.
  • Nicotine
  • Opiates

DPMCDA also supports research and development of monoclonal antibodies or vaccines for the treatment of substance use disorders, drug overdose indications, and nicotine dependence.

DPMCDA is interested in the following types of targets:
  • D1 receptor agonists
  • D3 receptor agonists and antagonists
  • Gatedure modulators
  • CRF-4 antagonists
  • CB-1 antagonists
  • GABA-receptors
  • Opioid receptor antagonists
  • YMA2 inhibitors (methamphetamine)
  • Muscarinic M1 antagonists and agonists
  • ORL-1 receptor agonists

Current International Projects

Baum, DA36591 – Botswana clinical trial of antidepressant micronutrients to slow HIV disease progression
Bell, DA33127 – Underlying pathophysiology of neuroAIDS in drug abusers
Dube, DA14998 – (under consideration) Study metabolics (including nutritional and endocrine disorders in Chinese IDUs)
Goodkin, DA38085 – Argentine study of neuroAIDS (IHI-associated; minor motor cognitive disorders (MNCM2) and, HIV-dementia (HAD); MNCM2 and HAD diagnostic training for clinicians
Gorbatch, DA3866 – (1) Pilot work on metabolic (nutritional) consequences of HIV infection and substance abuse in India and India (2) (under consideration) study nutritional consequences of HIV infection and substance abuse in Argentina through the Center for Drug Abuse and AIDS Research
Kumar, DA3950 – A pilot study of cognitive impairment of marijuana and HIV infection in India
Lai, DA35820 – Cardiovascular complications of methamphetamine and HIV infection in China
Lai, DA21191, China MACS – Exploratory study of a multicohort of SMS in China
More, DA5204 – Interactions between traditional medicine and antiretrovirals drugs in HIV-infected substance abusers
Kosters, DO18063-01 – A 4-year study to evaluate Naltrexone, Levonext, and their combination in combination with psychosocial intervention to prevent relapse in Russian denatured heroin addicts
Fischer, DA18417-02 – Assessing in Australian opioid-dependent program women the efficacy of Buprenorphine for reducing neonatal abstinence syndrome relative to methadone
Seldy, DA15741-02 – Assessing in Canadian opioid-dependent program women the efficacy of Buprenorphine for reducing neonatal abstinence syndrome relative to methadone
Wood, DA23378-01 – Comparison of impact of depot injectable Naltrexone vs. oral Naltrexone on retention and outcome in Russian denatured heroin addicts
Zhao, DA15643-02 – Analyzing and interpreting the Electro Stimuption technique, which is a valid control for the hyperalgesia measures obtained in this Australian collaboration
Kasimb, TM060664-01 – A 1-year study to facilitate the development of the natural product-based pharmaceutical capabilities in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan while encouraging biodiversity conservation and exploration
International opportunities

The U.S. National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center (http://www.nih.gov) also supports research and training internationally. The DPMCDA supports research and training on the neurobiology of addiction.

International Opportunities

NIDA supports research on drug abuse and co-occurring infections such as HIV, hepatitis C, TB, STDs, and others. It invites applications for international collaborative research on drug abuse and drug addiction, medical consequences of drug abuse, and behavioral interventions.

DPMCDA has funded international collaborative research through the following NIMH Program Announcement (PAs):
  • International Research Collaboration on Drug Addiction, PAR-03-023. The succeeding announcement, PA-06-050, extended the PA until January 3, 2009, soliciting proposals for collaborative research on drug abuse and addiction that take advantage of special opportunities that exist outside the United States, including research on HIVAIDS and drug abuse, methamphetamine abuse, inhalant abuse, smoking during pregnancy, and drugs and driving.
  • Collaborative Clinical Studies in Drug Abuse, PAR-01-019. The succeeding announcement, PAR-04-073, extended the PA until February 17, 2007, requesting research proposals implementing common clinical trials across different sites in order to study patient outcomes, patient factors, provider factors, setting characteristics, interactions of these, or other effects whose pooled samples are appropriate and necessary for the hypotheses.

Another source for international funding is the HIV and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (http://www.nih.gov) which provides research and training internationally. The DPMCDA is considering a grant proposal to conduct research and training on the neurobiology of addiction.

Contact Us
Aida Khan, M.B.A.
Program Analyst
Division of Pharmacotherapeutics and Medical Consequences of Drug Abuse
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5213
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561
U.S.A.
Phone: +1-301-443-1122
Fax: +1-301-443-2599
Email: ak102w@nih.gov
Mission Statement
Promote international collaborative research that facilitates the elucidation of brain mechanisms underlying drug addiction and relapse and the development of new treatment strategies.

Contact Us
National Institute on Drug Abuse • 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5213 • Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561, U.S.A.

Phone: +1-410-550-1522
Fax: +1-410-550-1563
Email: sgoldber@intra.nida.nih.gov

Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Research Branch
Karan Presten, Ph.D. – Acting Branch Chief, Section Chief

David A. Gerould, M.D., Ph.D. – Section Chief

Marilyn Hsueh, Ph.D. – Acting Section Chief

- State-of-the-art questionnaires for collection of self-report data from users of licit (prescription) and illicit (e.g., marijuana, heroin, cocaine) drugs in populations and outcome studies.
- State-of-the-art gene-phenotype and gene-environmental strategies for the analysis of illicit drug and methamphetamine in biological fluids and tissues.
- Mathematical models for differentiating new drug use from residual drug exposure.
- Conceptual designs for monitoring blood, urine, oral fluid, sweat, and hair in pregnant drug abusers during gestation and detection of in utero exposure in the infant.

Recent Examples
- Collaborative effort to translate questionnaires into their native language and administer them to samples of drug users of various ages from a variety of locations, including reports of experiences with withdrawal and coping techniques.
- Controlled drug administration studies in humans.
- In utero drug exposure of illicit drug pharmacotherapies and illicit drugs.
- Biological monitoring in treatment studies.
- Driving under the influence of drugs.
- Workplace drug testing.
- Anti-drug testing.
- Laboratory studies.
- Alternative routes of cannabinoid agonist delivery.
- Cannabinoid antagonist administration studies.

Recent Examples
- Collaborative effort with a French investigator who is creating a French-language version of the questionnaire.
- Discussions with colleagues in Latin America about translating the questionnaires into Spanish, collecting data at various sites using the same instrument, and sending the data to NIDA for analysis and cross-site comparisons.

Neuroimaging Research Branch
Elker Stein, Ph.D. – Branch, Section Chief

- State-of-the-art instruments and techniques for real-time imaging of brain chemistry and function in humans and experimental animals (PET/MRI).

Recent Examples
- Collaboration with Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, on cognitive task development in healthy controls (Dublin) and application (e.g., response inhibition in cocaine addicts) using fMRI in drug-dependent individuals (Baltimore).
- Collaboration with Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College (London) on the addictive (motion) effects of marijuana.
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Molecular Neuropsychiatry Research Branch
Jean-Luc Cadet, M.D. – Branch, Section Chief

- State-of-the-art methods for cDNA microarray analysis of gene expression and proteomics for identification of biomarkers using clinical samples from drug-dependent individuals.

Recent Example
- Collaboration with University of Paris, France, studying the effects of methamphetamine using cDNA microarray and other molecular techniques.

Medications Discovery Research Branch
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Amy H. Newman, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Richard Rothman, M.D., Ph.D. – Section Chief

- Novel ligands, including irreversible, fluorescent, and biotinylated compounds, that have high affinity and selectivity for the (1) dopamine transporter, (2) dopamine D3 receptor, or (3) sigma1 receptor.

Recent Example
- Novel collaborative opportunities to use these novel molecular tools in models of drug abuse that will contribute to our understanding of the molecular basis of addiction and provide new strategies for drug design.

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Mission Statement

NIDA's AIDS Research Program (ARP) supports the development, planning, and coordination of HIV/AIDS priority research within NIDA's intramural and extramural programs, as well as with other NIH Institutes and DHHS agencies, to achieve an integrated vision and strategy to guide HIV/AIDS research throughout NIDA.

ARP Goals

ARP provides direction and leadership for the development of an innovative and multidisciplinary HIV/AIDS research portfolio that addresses the unique dimensions of drug use and abuse as they relate to HIV/AIDS. The development and implementation of NIDA's HIV/AIDS research program is guided by the role of drug use and its related behaviors in the evolving dynamics of HIV/AIDS epidemiology, natural history/pathogenesis, treatment, and prevention, in coordination with the current priorities and objectives of the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR) strategic plan for HIV/AIDS research.

International Focus

AIDS knows no borders; it is an international as well as a U.S. public health threat. HIV/AIDS has now become a pandemic; worldwide, more than 25 million people have already died. More than 40 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. While AIDS is a global phenomenon, the nature of the epidemic varies geographically and risk factors vary within and across populations. NIDA supports international research to elucidate the pivotal role of drug use and abuse in the transmission and progression of HIV/AIDS and to evaluate preventive interventions such as drug abuse treatment.

International Funding Priorities

- Development of new methods for gathering HIV epidemiological data and tracking HIV diffusion
- Development of prevention strategies addressing HIV/IDU epidemics in different geographic areas (Russia, China, Southeast Asia, India, Eastern/Central Europe)
- Assessment of drug treatment as HIV prevention
- Development of models for combined HIV and drug treatment
- Impact of emerging drugs (e.g., methamphetamine) and development of interventions
- Prevention strategies among adolescents (e.g., vulnerability of young women, young male injectors)
- HIV/HCV co-infection

Contact Us

Lynda Erinoff
AIDS Research Program
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard
Room 5274, MSC 9581
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9581, U.S.A.
Phone: +1-301-402-1972
Fax: +1-301-443-9127
Email: le30q@nih.gov
Mission Statement
The mission of the Center for the Clinical Trials Network is to improve the quality of drug abuse treatment throughout the nation using science as the vehicle.

CCTN Goals
The Center for the Clinical Trials Network (CCTN) is responsible for the scientific, administrative, budgetary, and operational oversight of the CTN. Together the CTN and the CCTN provide a foundation for conducting research with the primary goal of bridging the gap between the science of drug treatment and its practice through the study of scientifically based interventions in real-world settings.

Research Interests
The CTN provides an infrastructure in which treatment researchers, community-based service providers, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) collaboratively develop, validate, refine, and deliver efficacious drug abuse treatment options to patients in community-level clinical practice.

This unique partnership between community treatment providers and academic research leaders enables the network to develop interventions that are more transferable, acceptable, and sustainable in the drug abuse treatment community. These new interventions may provide evidence-based tools for practitioners to enhance treatment outcomes.

Website: http://www.nida.nih.gov/CTN/Index.htm

Research Interests include:
- Buprenorphine Awareness
- S.M.A.R.T. Treatment Planning
- Motivational Interviewing
- Buprenorphine Detoxification
- Promoting Awareness of motivational Incentives (PAMI)

International Focus
The CTN is working with the NIDA International Program to explore possible low-cost or no-cost avenues to extend Network participation at an international level. Current ideas include:

- Encouraging the CTN researchers and practitioners to include international counterparts in CTN research activities;
- Encouraging the use of CTN database for secondary analysis by international researchers and practitioners;
- Expanding training/dissemination opportunities to include foreign participants; and
- Sharing the CTN research expertise and research protocols upon completion of the studies with the international drug abuse treatment community.

Potential Opportunities
CTN as a Translational Research Expert Resource
The CTN, with its core of CTPs engaging diverse populations, has gained substantial experience in translating behavioral and pharmacotherapeutic drug abuse treatment research into drug abuse practice. These experiences are invaluable to the international drug abuse community. The CTN encourages international drug abuse researchers or practitioners to contact CTN RRTCs or CTPs for their technical support in similar research settings. An example includes, but is not limited to, using the CTN protocols to conduct similar studies at remote international sites.

CTN as an International Training Resource
In order to support the CTN research activities, CTN has established a U.S. national training network with locally recognized master trainers as well as trainers in GCP, ASI, CIDI, and other research instruments. These training opportunities can be readily shared with the international drug abuse research/treatment community.

Data Sharing
In order to expedite the translation of research results into knowledge, products, and procedures to improve public health, the CTN will make study data available to the public. Data sets for CTN protocols will be available after (1) the protocol study team publishes their main study findings, or (2) the data are locked for more than 18 months, whichever comes first. The international community can initiate independent or collaborative secondary data analysis using CTN research data. The first series of data will be available summer 2006.

Contact Us
Katia Delrahim, MPP
Research Associate
Center for the Clinical Trials Network
DB Consulting, Inc.
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 3130, MSC 9557
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9557, U.S.A.
Phone: +1-301-496-9004
Fax: +1-301-443-2317
E-Mail: kdelrahi@nida.nih.gov
Website: http://www.nida.nih.gov/about/organization/CTN/index.html

National Institute on Drug Abuse • 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5213 • Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9561, U.S.A.
SPO Goals

In 1993, NIDA established the Special Populations Office (SPO) to address
• The underrepresentation of research on drug abuse and addiction as it affects racial/ethnic minority and other special populations groups.
• The underrepresentation of racial/ethnic minority scientists involved in NIDA-supported and other drug abuse research.

The SPO has made concerted efforts to develop and support programs and initiatives that address the development of racial/ethnic/minority scientists and the scientific knowledge base on drug abuse and addiction in racial/ethnic minority groups and other special populations. These efforts have been executed through a number of programs, initiatives, and workgroups including:
• Research Supplements to Promote Diversity and Health-Related Research ("Diversity Supplements")
• Special Populations Research Development Seminar Series
• Summer Research with NIDA
• Minority Research Training Program
• The Minority Institutions’ Drug Abuse Research Program (MIDARP)
• Minority Workgroups of Researchers and Scholars
• Health Disparities Initiative
• Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative (HBCU)
• Southern Africa Initiative
• African American Initiative

Contact Us
Lula Beatty
Chief, Special Populations Office
National Institute on Drug Abuse
6001 Executive Boulevard
Room 4216, MSC 9567
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9567 U.S.A.
Phone: +1-301-443-0441
Fax: +1-301-480-8179
Email: lb75x@nih.gov

International Focus

The Special Populations Office is not a program office and does not have a wealth of ongoing international activities. However, the office is home to the Southern Africa Initiative, which was created several years ago, and is active in NIDA’s newly formed Latin American Initiative.

• Southern Africa Initiative
The Southern Africa Initiative’s primary goal is to stimulate bi-national collaborative drug abuse research between the United States and Southern Africa in the areas of:
  • Epidemiology
  • Early interventions
  • Clinical, prevention, treatment, and health services research aimed at reducing drug abuse and addiction and its associated adverse behavioral, social and health consequences (e.g., violence and infectious diseases such as HCV, HIV/AIDS, or pulmonary diseases).

Currently, the Special Populations Office is planning a follow-up meeting to assess the progress and outcomes of NIDA-supported research in Southern Africa since the initiative’s inception. At the meeting, the next steps that NIDA should take in regard to the Southern Africa Initiative will also be discussed.

• Latin America Initiative
The Latin America Initiative is a multi-component set of activities designed to enhance the research and research capabilities of Latin American countries. The activities include those to:
  • Increase training in medical schools and schools of nursing on early detection and evaluation of drug use disorders
  • Increase training in secondary data analysis to mine existing data sets to provide information useful to policy makers
  • Increase access to NIDA materials in Spanish
  • Increase training and participation in clinical trials
  • Improve and stimulate the creation of regional networks to improve surveillance and research.

The Special Populations Office works closely with the International Program and other components of the Latin America Initiative. Of particular importance is the role of the Special Populations Office in assisting NIDA in identifying and interacting with other Federal partners working in the region, and in coordinating the role of the National Hispanic Science Network in implementing the initiative.