International Research Interests and Opportunities

NIDA and Fogarty International Center Poster Presentations at the

2008 NIDA International Forum:
Globally Improving and Applying Evidence-Based Interventions for Addictions
June 13-16, 2008
The problems of drug abuse and addiction know no boundaries, and every nation is affected by them. By encouraging rigorous collaborative and peer-reviewed international research, the International Program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) supports and stimulates research on the biomedical and behavioral causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse and addiction.

NIDA International Goals

- Strengthening and stimulating international drug abuse research networks
- Partners with other international funding organizations
- Develops distance learning programs and Web-based research and research training opportunities.

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 effect of national differences in such areas as policies, drugusing populations, abused drugs, patterns of abuse, special populations, prevention programs, and treatment protocols.

NIDA International Fellowships and Research Exchange Programs

Through fellowships and scientific exchange programs, NIDA seeks to increase opportunities for collaboration between NIDA-supported researchers and their colleagues in other countries.

NIDA International Fellowships

- The INVEST Research Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for a 1 year of postdoctoral training with an established scientist engaged in NIDA-supported research at a U.S. institution. Each Fellow receives training in drug abuse research methods and participates in professional development activities. The fellowship is fully funded by NIDA. [http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/invest.html]
- INVEST/Clinical Trials Network Research Fellowships provide postdoctoral training in the United States with a scientist affiliated with one of the 16 Clinical Trials Network Regional Research and Training Centers. [http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/research/fellowships_investCTN.html]
- NIDA Robert H. Humphrey Drug Abuse Research Fellowships are competitive, 10-month fellowships for mid-career professionals from low- and middle-income countries. Fellows enroll in 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. [http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/hhhdfar.html]

Research Exchange

- NIDA Distiguished International Scientist Collaborations (DISCA) and NIDA-U.S. Distiguished International Scientist Collaborations Awards (DISICA) are competitive, results-and product-oriented awards that support 1- to 3-month professional visits to advance collaborative research efforts. DISICA is for U.S. citizens and permanent residents; DISICA A is for applicants from any other country. [http://www.international.drugabuse.gov/discia.html]

Grants for International Research

NIDA supports research on the biomedical and behavioral causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse and addiction.

- Foreign Grants allow researchers from other nations to compete for funding to conduct research in their home countries using 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.

Scientific Priorities and Program Announcements

NIDA's scientific priority areas include linkages between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, adolescent and prenatal tobacco exposure, methamphetamine, inhalants, and drug-related driving. Program Announcements (PA) inform researchers about areas of science for which NIDA wants grant applications, and are listed at [http://www.drugabuse.gov/funding]. PA of interest to the international research community include:

International Research Collaboration on Drug Addiction
- R01: PA-07-275; R21: PA-07-145; R03: PA-07-211

Drug Abuse, Risky Decision Making, and HIV/AIDS
- R01: PA-07-324; R21: PA-07-325; R03: PA-07-212

Drug Abuse Aspects of HIV/AIDS
- R01: PA-07-353; R21: PA-07-399; R03: PA-07-308

Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award (FIRCA)
- Basic Biomedical (FIRCA-BB) R03: PA-07-335
- Behavioral, Social Sciences (FIRCA-BSS) R01: PA-06-437

Epidemiology of Drug Abuse
- R01: PA-08-141; R21: PA-08-152; R03: PA-08-126

Therapies for Opiate Addiction
- R01: PA-08-062

Genetic Epidemiology of Substance Use Disorders
- R01: PA-07-406; R21: PA-07-332; R03: PA-07-414

Medications Development for the Treatment of Cannabis-Related Disorders
- R01: PA-07-306; R21: PA-07-306

Neuroscience Research on Drug Abuse
- R01: PA-07-221; R21: PA-07-221; R03: PA-07-221

Inhalant Abuse: Supporting Broad-Based Research Approaches
- R01: PA-07-117; R21: PA-06-127; R03: PA-06-228

NIDA's Methadone Research Web Guide reviews research supporting the U.S. approval of methadone maintenance to treat opioid addiction. The new, flexible Tutorial lets users test their knowledge in a variety of ways and customize a certificate of completion by successfully answering the Tutorial questions. Both are a model for future online education tools.

NIDA International Virtual Collaboratory (NIVC)
http://nivc.peripich.com

NIVC tools allow drug abuse researchers to communicate with live audio/video virtual meetings or with asynchronous discussion forums that can be stored for later access, document editing and storage tools, online resources, and a searchable and easily updated online database. User groups include an Inhalant Research Working Group and other NIDA-organized collaborative efforts that may include the International Women, Children, and Families Working Group, and Addiction Severity Index (ASI) researchers.

Other NIDA-Supported Online Resources

- The Research Assistant
http://www.theresearchassistant.com/index.asp

- Grant-writing for behavioral scientists

- Publishing Addiction Research Internationally
www.gapint.org

- Developed by the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors
AIDS Research Program (ARP)

**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 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 30 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/injection drug use epidemics in different geographic areas (Russia, China, Southeast Asia, India, Eastern/Central Europe)
- Development of regional research networks
- Role of immigration and migration in HIV transmission
- Assessment of drug treatment as HIV prevention, including development of long-acting, sustainable therapies
- 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 and co-infections (e.g., HCV, TB)

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MISSION STATEMENT
Forging partnerships to improve the quality of drug abuse treatment by studying scientifically based interventions in real-world settings.

CTN Clinical Trial Results
Buprenorphine/Naloxone Taper: A Comparison of Two Schedules
- Key finding: A 7-day schedule may be the most beneficial option for those tapering off buprenorphine.

Mental Health Outcomes in Pregnancy
- Key finding: Remas participants engaged in fewer unprotected sexual intercourse occasions (USOs) during the 90 days prior to the 3- and 6-month follow-ups.

Reducing HIV Risk Behaviors: HIV/STD Groups for Men
A five-session motivational and skills training HIV/AIDS group intervention designed for men in methadone maintenance and outpatient psychosocial treatment programs, called “Real Men are Safe” (REMAs), was more effective than a standard, one-session HIV education (HIV-Ed) group intervention.
- Key finding: REMAs participants engaged in fewer unprotected sexual intercourse occasions (USOs) during the 90 days prior to the 3- and 6-month follow-ups.

Reducing HIV Risk Behaviors: HIV/STD Groups for Women
A five-session HIV/STD safer sex skills building SSB group intervention for female drug users in community-based Methadone Maintenance and Outpatient Psychosocial treatment programs was more effective than a one-session group HIV/STD education intervention (HIV-Ed) group intervention.
- Key finding: The study showed the superiority of SSB to reduce USOs in female drug users, at 3 months, both interventions produced significant differences in USOs, no significant differences at 6 months, whereas women in SSB maintained this decline, whereas in HE increased their USOs.

Results Still to Be Published:
Four CTN protocols have been completed, and study results are being analyzed and reported:
- Buprenorphine for Opioid-Dependent Adolescents and Young Adults
- Women’s Treatment for Trauma and Substance Use Disorders
- HIV and HCV Intervention in Drug Treatment Settings
- Motivational Enhancement Treatment to Improve Treatment Engagement for Spanish-Speaking Substance Users

HIV Studies and Plans:
Drug treatment as HIV prevention is one important topic in the CTN, and the network plans to launch a new HIV-Protocol 2008-CTN0022: HIV Rapid Testing and Counseling in Community Drug Treatment Programs.

Opportunities for International Collaboration
CTN is part of the NIDA Blending Initiative with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). By blending resources, information, and talent, the agencies integrate science and practice to improve drug abuse and addiction treatment. The international community can benefit from the training manuals and packages available at http://www.nida.nih.gov/Blending/.

CTN as a Training Platform for NIDA INVEST/CTN Fellows
International researchers may apply for NIDA INVEST/CTN Drug Abuse Research Fellowships to spend 1 year conducting postdoctoral research with a mentor affiliated with one of CTN’s 16 RRTCs. (http://www.nida.nih.gov/Blending/). The first three INVEST/CTN fellows are Dr. Amit Chakrabarti, India, working with Dr. Roger Weiss, McLean Hospital (Northern New England Node); Dr. Guillaume Pradelle, Georgia, working with Dr. George Woody, Emory University and the State of Georgia Department of Behavioral Sciences and Human Development; and Dr. Chen Shanmin, China, working with Dr. Walter Ling, University of California, Los Angeles (Pacific Node).

Data Sharing
The international community can initiate independent or collaborative secondary data analysis using 11 research data sets posted on the CTN Data Share Web site (http://www.nida.nih.gov/CTN/Data.html), including SAS and ASCII data sets, annotated case report forms, define files (i.e., data dictionary), and study protocols with references to publications. Data sets for CTN protocols comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) standards and become available after (1) the main outcome paper is accepted for publication or (2) the data are locked for more than 18 months, whichever comes first.

Research Dissemination Efforts
NIDA disseminates many of its products, and scientific publications. The CTN Library is especially useful to community drug treatment programs that may not have access to the information sources typically available to researchers in academic institutions. The Web address is http://ctndisseminationlibrary.org.

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The Division’s primary goal is to develop and support an extramural program of basic biomedical and behavioral science research that addresses the public health problem of drug abuse and addiction. DBNBR comprises four branches:

- **Behavioral and Cognitive Science Research Branch (BCSBR)**
  - Mindy Lynch, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  - mlynch@nida.nih.gov

  Supports laboratory research on behavioral and cognitive factors in drug abuse and addiction with human volunteers and animals. BCSBR’s portfolio includes research on acute and chronic effects of drugs, individual differences in vulnerability to drug abuse, the role of learning and social factors in drug abuse, and gender differences in the aforementioned topics.

- **Chemistry and Physiological Systems Research Branch (CPSSRB)**
  - Nancy Wente, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  - nplote@nida.nih.gov

  Supports research that focuses on the mechanisms of neurotransmission under normal, drug-exposed, and drug withdrawal conditions, such as studies on neuropharmacology and receptor binding, internalization, and trafficking of neurotransmitters, signal transduction and neuroendocrine and neuroimmune systems affected by drugs of abuse, and administers the NIDA Drug Supply Program.

- **Functional Neuroscience Research Branch (FNBr)**
  - Jonathan Plohek, Ph.D., Branch Chief
  - jplolek@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. Also supports investigations into epigenetic mechanisms that may influence behavioral, functional, or trans-generational phenotypes associated with drug responses, neurological changes, pain, or neural development.


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.

- General Basis of Vulnerability to Drug Addiction.
- Models of Addiction: Neural circuits underpinning natural and drug reward, behavioral models of craving, relapse, and compulsive behavior; neural systems and drug-behavior interaction; vertebrate and invertebrate model; computational approaches.
- Drug Neuroanatomical and Neuropathology in Brain Systems. Consequences of acute-to-chronic exposure to addictive drugs, neurotoxicity, and its behavioral, physiological, or biochemical consequences; neuroAIDS; adaptation (sensitization, tolerance, and place preference).
- Pain and Analgesia. Modulation of acute and chronic pain by brain and spinal mechanisms; antinociceptive actions of opioids, cannabinoids, and peptides; cellular processes of pain, analgesia, and tolerance; alternative pain therapies (i.e., virtual reality); the abuse of prescription pain drugs.
- 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 use.
- Developmental Effects. Consequences of in utero and perinatal drug exposure on the neurodevelopmental and other organs; genetic effects throughout the lifespan; development and adaption in animal and human systems.

Branches and Institutes:

- **Genetics and Molecular Neurobiology Research Branch (GMNRB)**
  - Jonathan Plohek, Ph.D., Branch Chief
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  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. Also supports investigations into epigenetic mechanisms that may influence behavioral, functional, or trans-generational phenotypes associated with drug responses, neurological changes, pain, or neural development.

- **Model of Addiction**

  - Relating drugs of abuse to neural mechanisms of drug-induced modification of cognitive processes (learning, memory, attention, associations, decision making).

- **Drug Neuroanatomical and Neuropathology in Brain Systems**

  - Consequences of acute-to-chronic exposure to addictive drugs, neurotoxicity, and its behavioral, physiological, or biochemical consequences; neuroAIDS; adaptation (sensitization, tolerance, and place preference).

- **Pain and Analgesia**

  - Modulation of acute and chronic pain by brain and spinal mechanisms; antinociceptive actions of opioids, cannabinoids, and peptides; cellular processes of pain, analgesia, and tolerance; alternative pain therapies (i.e., virtual reality); the abuse of prescription pain drugs.

- **Cytokine and chemokine modulation of CNS and peripheral effects**

  - Immunomodulatory effects of drugs of abuse and addiction on the immune system in the CNS and periphery, and the role of immune cells in the context of addiction.

- **Developmental Effects**

  - Consequences of in utero and perinatal drug exposure on the neurodevelopmental and other organs; genetic effects throughout the lifespan; development and adaption in animal and human systems.

- **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 use.

- **Protection and Treatment**

  - Developing and testing novel approaches to prevent and treat drug addiction.

- **International Focus**

  - DBNBR supports international research grants and U.S. and international research collaborations.
  - DBNBR sponsors major international meetings, including the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Meeting and the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC).
  - DBNBR participates in the Interagency Committee on Drug Control (ICDC), which makes international scheduling recommendations and resulting obligations with respect to drug control.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research (DCNBR) aims to provide a translational approach to drug abuse within a clinical research context to advance our understanding of brain, behavior, and health.

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 neuropsychological 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: the Behavioral and Brain Development Branch (BBD), 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.

Research Interests

- **Behavioral and Brain Development Branch**
  - The Behavioral and Brain Development Branch (BBD) 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. BBD 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 ecology of drug abuse and addiction. CNB accomplishes this mission by promoting research for clinical human and parallel infrahuman 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 treatments; (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 Vinnytsia, Ukraine
  - Testing a screening and brief advice intervention for drugusing 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 Tobago, with emphasis on developing a culturally relevant behavioral treatment approach

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 (e.g., living with caregivers, family, peers, or in communities with HIV/AIDS)

- **Clinical Neuroscience Branch**
  - Training for 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 the 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 paradigms

Contact Us

Please feel free to contact Dr. Joseph Frascella for help in finding the DCNBR Program Officer to best discuss your research, to further discuss DCNBR programs, or to help identify NIDA funding opportunities.

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Division of Clinical Neuroscience and Behavioral Research (DCNBR)
DESPR Goals and Research Foci

**Epidemiology Research Branch (ERB)**
- **Goal:** ERB promotes a national and international extramural research program that examines individual, developmental, and social/ environmental factors associated with drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and other behavioral, social, and health outcomes.
- **Research Focus:**
  - Basic Epidemiology: Studies of rates, patterns, and trends in drug abuse and its consequences, including HIV/AIDS.
  - Ecological Studies: Studies of multi-level risk and protective factors and their interactions that influence pathways to drug abuse, with emphasis on human development, transitions from use to addiction, co-occurring risk behaviors, genetic factors, HIV and other infections, and mobility.
  - Context and Consequences: Studies of how intrapersonal, environmental, developmental, and genetic factors interact, including their relationship to drug-related behavioral, social, and health consequences, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and the translation of epidemiology into interventions.
  - Methodology: Methodological studies to improve the accuracy, efficiency, scope, timeliness, and analytical field of drug abuse epidemiologic data and research and the translation of epidemiology research into prevention and clinical interventions.

**Services Research Branch (SBR)**
- **Goal:** The SBR mission is to improve the quality of the drug abuse treatment system by enhancing the delivery of effective care at a reasonable cost to all those in need over the course of the drug use disorder, across multiple developmental stages, episodes of care, and service sectors.
- **Research Focus:**
  - Health Services: Using multidisciplinary approaches to identify the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high-quality drug abuse treatment and care.
  - Financing: Identifying ways that financing for drug abuse treatment can help expand access to care, ensure high-quality performance, and foster coordination of service delivery across systems.
  - Innovative Therapeutic and Business Practices: Stimulating the adoption and effective application of innovative evidence-based therapeutic and business practices among the nation’s substance abuse treatment providers.
  - Workforce: Enhancing and sustaining a cadre of professional health service providers devoted to the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based treatments.

**Prevention Research Branch (PRB)**
- **Goal:** PRB supports 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.
- **Research Focus:**
  - Basic Prevention Research Science: Small-scale pilot or feasibility studies that test empirically or etiologically derived or theory-driven hypotheses with the potential for developing new prevention approaches and examine features of prevention programs that may account for successful intervention outcomes.
  - Efficacy and Effectiveness Research: Randomized controlled or equivalent design studies testing the efficacy of theory-based or empirically derived prevention approaches using relatively small, well-defined, and controlled samples and implementing such approaches in controlled studies with larger, more diverse samples in real-world settings.
  - Systems Research: Studies that take effective interventions to scale to examine factors that affect program sustainability and dissemination, including the selection, adoption, organization, and delivery of the prevention services.
  - Methodology: Studies considering missing data in randomized trials, intervention fidelity, or multilevel longitudinal analyses.

Distribution of Selected Drug Use Related Variables by Race/Ethnicity

One of DESPR’s goals is to monitor drug use in the United States. This systematic monitoring indicates that drug use and drug use disorders are distributed across the major racial/ethnic groups in approximately the same proportions across groups are represented in household populations (Figure 1). However, when some of the most serious consequences of drug use are examined, for example, imprisonment and AIDS, African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately represented, indicating a need for interventions.

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International Foci and Funding Opportunities [http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/despr/GrantsInfo.html](http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/organization/despr/GrantsInfo.html)
**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, including pharmacotherapeutic and immunological treatment agents, that 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.

**International Opportunities**

NIDA invites applications for international collaborative research on drug abuse and addiction; medical consequences such as HIV, HCV, TB, or STIs; and behavioral or pharmacological interventions. DPMCDA has funded international research through:

- **International Research Collaboration on Drug Addiction**
- **Collaborative Clinical Trials in Drug Abuse**
- **HIV Network for Prevention Trials (HIVNET)**
- **Fogarty International Center**

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Intramural Research Program
International Activities and Interests

Medications Discovery Research Branch

Jonathan L. Katz, Ph.D. – Acting Branch Chief; Section Chief
Amy W. Akerman, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- Novel ligands, including reversible and fluorescent compounds, that have high affinity and selectivity for the (1)-dependent transporters, (2)-dependent transporter, and other receptors.
- Novel a/b structural analysis of behavior for preclinical assessment of pharmacological profiles.
- Assessment of the neurological effects of abused drugs (receptor binding and in vivo toxicity).

Sean
- Selective receptor agonists, partial agonists, and antagonists with affinity for targets involved in drug abuse.
- Collaborative strategies to assess the use of models of drug abuse that can contribute to our understanding of the molecular basis of cocaine addiction and provide new strategies for drug treatment.

Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Research Branch

Kazuya Paskova, Ph.D., – Branch Chief; Section Chief
Marilyn Huestis, Ph.D. – Section Chief
Elijah J. Nestor, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- Novel (a/b)-selective antagonists for studies of dopaminergic neurotransmission and a/b (e.g., muzafone, bimpindox, rilmetion) and s/o (e.g., muzafone, bimpindox) receptors.
- Novel a/b-a/b-gamma glucose metabolism studies for the analysis of (a/b)- and s/o-receptors in biological fluids and tissues.
- Mathematical models for determining new drug use from medical records.
- Conceptual designs for measuring blood, urine, and sweat, sweat, and hair in pregnant drug addicts during gestation and detection of it in drug users.
- Novel (a/b)-selective enzymes for the analysis of (a/b)- and s/o-receptors in biological fluids and tissues.
- Novel (a/b)-selectivity of (a/b)-selective receptors in cancer cells.
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Seek
- Collaborative studies on the role of (a/b)-selective antagonists in cancer cells.
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Neuroimaging Research Branch

Elliott Stein, Ph.D. – Branch Chief; Section Chief

Here
- Novel (a/b)-selective compounds for nuclear imaging of brain dopamine, serotonin, and other neurotransmitter systems in humans and preclinical animals (MRL, MTR, TR, NMR).
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Recent Examples
- Collaboration with Trinity College (Dublin, Ireland) on receptor development in leading controls and applications in Baltimore (MD) using PET in drug-dependent subjects.
- Collaboration with Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London (UK) on the effective targeting of mood.
- Collaboration with Cambridge University, United Kingdom, on the effective targeting of mood.
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Behavioral Neuroscience Research Branch

Roy Wiles, Ph.D. – Branch Chief
Morgan D. Griffling, Ph.D. – Section Chief
Yuri Markova, Ph.D. – Section Chief
Tom Slagboom, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- Novel (a/b)-selective compounds for preclinical pharmacological profiling both in vivo and ex vivo models of potential (a/b)-selective drugs.
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Recent Examples
- Collaboration with the University of Newcastle, Spain, on the development of a novel (a/b)-selective drug for the treatment of pain.
- Collaboration with the University of Sydney, Australia, on the development of a novel (a/b)-selective drug for the treatment of pain.
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Molecular Neuropharmacology Research Branch

Jean Lest Coste, M.D. – Branch Chief
Yun Wang, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- Novel drug targets for the treatment of drug addiction.
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Recent Examples
- Collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco, on the development of a novel drug for the treatment of addiction.
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Molecular Biology Research Branch

Mark H. Smith, Ph.D. – Branch Chief

Here
- Novel high throughput gene and protein expression analysis and functional genomics for the identification of biomarkers using clinical samples from drug-dependent individuals.
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Recent Examples
- Collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco, on the development of a novel drug for the treatment of addiction.
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- Collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco, on the development of a novel drug for the treatment of addiction.

Chemical Biology Research Branch

Kenner C. Rice, Ph.D. – Branch Chief
Richard B. Rothman, M.D., Ph.D. – Section Chief
Elliot L. Gardner, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- State-of-the-art instrumentation and techniques in organic/medicinal chemistry and bioorganic chemistry for determining mechanisms underlying drug abuse and addiction.
- State-of-the-art instruments and techniques for real-time imaging of brain physiology and neurochemistry.
- State-of-the-art methods for cDNA microarray analysis of gene expression and proteonomics for identification of biomarkers using clinical samples from drug-dependent individuals.
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Recent Examples
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Cellular Neurobiology Research Branch

William Freed, Ph.D. – Acting Branch Chief; Section Chief
Carmel Lupica, Ph.D. – Section Chief

Here
- Novel (a/b)-selective microarrays for microarray expression of gene expression and functional genomics for the identification of biomarkers using clinical samples from drug-dependent individuals.
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Recent Examples
- Collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco, on the development of a novel drug for the treatment of addiction.
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National Institute on Drug Abuse • 8601 Executive Boulevard • Bethesda, Maryland 20892-9601, 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 population 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
- The Minority Institutions' Drug Abuse Research Program (MIDARP)
- Minority Workgroups of Researchers and Scholars
- Health Disparities Initiative
- Southern Africa Initiative
- African American Initiative
- Summer Internship Program at the NIDA Intramural Research Program (an intramural program)

International Focus

The Special Populations Office has limited ongoing international activities. The Office is home to the Southern Africa Initiative and is active in the newly formed NIDA Latin America Initiative.

Southern Africa Initiative

The Southern Africa Initiative's primary goal is to stimulate binational 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 their associated adverse behavioral, social, and health consequences (e.g., violence and infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, or pulmonary diseases).

The Special Populations Office held a follow-up meeting, Southern Africa Initiative: Research Progress and Perspectives, in April 2007 to discuss ongoing research in Southern Africa and the impact of NIDA funding on research, capacity development, and barriers encountered while conducting research in the region.

Latin America Initiative

The Latin America Initiative is a multicomponent 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 enhance surveillance and research.

The Special Populations Office works closely with the International Program and other components of the Latin America Initiative to assist NIDA in identifying and interacting with other Federal partners working in the region. In addition, the Office coordinates the involvement of the National Hispanic Science Network in the initiative.

Contact Us

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Goals

NIDA’s Women and Sex/Gender Differences Research Program promotes the study of women and sex/gender differences in all areas of drug abuse research. Until recent years, the subjects in drug abuse research, as in other fields of public health, were almost exclusively male; as a result, few data were available on women. For well over a decade, however, NIDA has actively promoted drug abuse research focusing not only on the study of women, but also on sex/gender differences, as this approach permits identification of outcomes that vary by sex/gender. This research is now supported in all of NIDA’s programmatic branches, and the research findings have clearly established its importance. Growing numbers of studies are reporting research outcomes that are specific to either males or females and outcomes that are opposite in males and females. From basic studies of molecular genetics and neurotransmitters to studies of etiology, epidemiology, and prevention/treatment interventions, the scientific and clinical importance of studying factors specific to women and analyzing data separately for males and females is becoming more and more evident.

Research Interests

The growing body of research on women and sex/gender differences in drug abuse is pointing to many aspects of drug abuse in which male-female differences are likely to exist but remain unexplored. Such research in the long run will improve our understanding of the mechanisms and etiology of drug abuse and addiction and how to tailor prevention and treatment interventions that maximize outcomes for both males and females. To further this research, in 2007, NIDA, along with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), issued three program announcements (PAs) titled Women and Sex/Gender Differences in Drug and Alcohol Abuse/Dependence, calling for grant applications in all areas of drug abuse research. These PAs can be accessed by Googling PA-07-329, PA-07-330, and PA-07-331.

International Focus

The NIDA International Forum, a satellite to the CPDD meeting, features drug abuse research being conducted around the world. In 2006, the International Forum had 289 participants from 31 countries, and in 2007, more than 260 participants from 46 countries. In 2006, meeting participants presented 165 posters, and in 2007, 141 posters. In an effort to determine the representation of research on women and sex/gender differences at the 2006 and 2007 International Forums, we analyzed the content of the 165 poster abstracts from the 2006 Forum and the 141 poster abstracts from the 2007 Forum. We identified abstracts that met at least one of the following three criteria: (i) the research was focused only on female subjects; (ii) examination of sex/gender differences was the focus of the research; (iii) results of a sex/gender analysis were reported, although they were not the focus of the research. Having identified the women and sex/gender differences posters, we then sorted them into the following research areas specified by the NIDA Forum: epidemiology, basic science, prevention, and treatment. Finally, we sorted the abstracts with respect to the country represented by the abstract’s first author.

Examples of epidemiology studies include:
- Gender differences in drug abuse behaviors and perceptions among youth in Palestine
- Substance use during pregnancy
- Characterization of gender differences in the relationship between violent behavior and cocaine use.

Examples of basic science research include:
- Sexual dimorphic effects in rat retrosplenial cortex
- Maternal-paternal pre-mating nicotine exposure in mice and its effects on nicotine reward and nicotine-induced locomotion in offspring.

Examples of prevention research include:
- Gender differences in EKU’s attitudes and beliefs about HIV and its relationships to other topics, particularly intentions to adopt safer needle and sexual practices
- Adolescent Canadian girls’ attitudes and intentions toward risk behaviors, including drugs, alcohol, and AIDS risk behaviors, and the role of the relationship with their mothers.

Examples of treatment research include:
- Examination of the association between a patient’s and therapist’s verbal behavior during an MI-based smoking intervention for women post partum
- Characterization of the postnatal environment of infants born to mothers receiving methadone maintenance treatment.

Examples of prevention research include:
- The impact of crack smoking using crushed aluminum cans as makeshift pipes on female crack smokers of Porto Alegre, Brazil
- The association between perceived parental monitoring and drug use in representative samples of adolescents in three cities in Peru
- Gender differences in the relationship between sexual abuse and drug use among students in two middle schools located in downtown Mexico City.
- Gender differences in the role of early behavioral intentions expressed in childhood with respect to later onset of tobacco smoking in young adulthood in Peruvians.
- A U.S.-Georgia research collaboration to provide female partners with tools to support the male’s drug abstinence.
- A brief, women-focused, HIV prevention intervention for Black and Colored high-risk drugusing women in Cape Town.
- Analyses of the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to investigate the first onset of cocaine dependence among recent onset cocaine users revealed that excess risks associated with crack-smoking included being female and of African heritage.
- Substance abuse problems in Ukraine with results showing that 97 percent of HIV-positive children were infected by their mothers.

Contact Us

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MISSION STATEMENT
The Fogarty International Center, the international component of the NIH, addresses global health challenges through innovative and collaborative research and training programs and supports and advances the NIH mission through international partnerships.

Fogarty International Center Goals

The Fogarty International Center (FIC) forges collaborations with domestic and international partners in international research and training related to global health needs and focused on developing and transitional (low and middle-income, LMIC) countries to pursue three core objectives:

- Accelerate the pace of discovery and its application by enabling scientists worldwide to share expertise, conceptual insights, analytic methods, data sets, patient cohorts, or special environments.
- Help develop a cadre of highly capable foreign investigators positioned to address global, regional, and local health needs through research and to cooperate with U.S. scientists in areas of the world that due to geography, population structure, or disease burdens provide unique opportunities to understand disease pathogenesis, anticipate disease trends, or develop interventions.
- Engage and assist both young and established U.S. investigators to address scientific challenges related to global health.

These objectives form the conceptual basis for current FIC programs related to research and research training on topics such as HIV/AIDS, emerging infectious diseases, maternal and child health, population research and demographic science, environmental and occupational health, medical informatics, nervous system disorders and function, and drug discovery from biodiversity. The disciplinary fields described are pursued through a range of funding mechanisms, including:

- Institutional research training grants for young LMIC investigators
- Cooperative agreements
- Small research collaboration grants
- Early career development awards for U.S. investigators
- Fellowships for U.S. medical and Ph.D. students
- Multilateral initiatives involving international organizations

Research Grants

Research Grants

- The Global Health Research Initiative Program for New Foreign Investigators (GRIP) supports the return of NIH-trained foreign investigators to their home countries to enhance the scientific research infrastructure in developing countries and to stimulate research on high-priority global health-related issues. Former NIDA INVEST fellows are eligible to compete for GRIP awards (PAR-07-328).
- Brain Disorders in the Developing World (BRAIN) supports collaborative research and capacity-building projects on nervous system disorders in developing countries (R01: PAR-08-112; R21; PAR-08-113).
- The Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award—Behavioral, Social Sciences (FIRCA-BSS; PAR-06-437) and the companion Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award—Basic Biomedical (FIRCA-BB; PAR-06-335) facilitate collaborative research between scientists supported by NIDA and investigators in developing and transitional countries.
- The International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups Program addresses the interdependent issues of drug discovery, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable economic growth.
- The International Tobacco and Health Research and Capacity Building Program supports transdisciplinary research on tobacco consumption in low- or middle-income nations.

Research Training Grants

Research Training Grants

- AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) Awards support biomedical and behavioral research training in developing and transitional countries on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), and research on prevention of HIV infection among drug-using populations (PAR-07-348).
- International Clinical, Operational, and Health Services Research and Training Awards (I-CORR) support institutional training programs for collaborative, multidisciplinary, international research in developing and transitional countries.
- I-CORR—AIDS/TB awards support research training programs in developing countries where AIDS, TB, or both are significant problems.
- International Research Ethics Education and Curriculum Development Awards (BIOETH) support institutional grants to develop bioethics curricula on research in low- and middle-income nations.

Contact Us

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E-mail: bridbork@mail.nih.gov
Web site: www.fic.nih.gov

Fogarty Center—NIDA Programs

Research Grants

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