

The NIDA Connector

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

From the Office of Science Policy and Communications

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is continuing its long tradition of investing in research intended to translate the science of addiction into successful drug abuse treatments. This year's Blending Addiction Science and Treatment conference, June 2-3 in Cincinnati, Ohio, is the seventh in a series of meetings designed to bring together treatment professionals, researchers, and policymakers to examine cutting-edge scientific findings and to enhance drug addiction practitioner's access to the best research-to-practice information available. This year's theme, [*The Impact of Evidence-Based Practices on Individuals, Families, and Communities*](#), reflects an emphasis on encouraging clinicians and providers to work together with treatment developers to implement empirically supported treatments. Click on the link to the right for more information.

Another NIDA initiative designed to increase communication across disciplines is the [*NIDA Networking Project*](#) (NNP). This project currently consists of 11 networks and more than 150 sites involved in NIDA-sponsored research and data collection across the nation. The NIDA Networking Project (NNP) Website provides access to the locations, people, and resources of NIDA-sponsored research networks, including, the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network (CTN) and the NIDA Genetics Consortium (NGC). The goal is to encourage cooperative scientific discussion and research collaboration to accelerate addiction science.

For more information on any of the topics covered in this newsletter please contact me at 301-443-6480 or Jane Smither, at 301-443-6071.

Timothy P. Condon, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, NIDA

Recent Publications

NIDA has introduced two new fact sheets in our InfoFacts series: one on **Khat** and another on **Salvia**. Both drugs have gained recent notoriety in the U.S. Khat is a stimulant derived from a shrub (*Catha edulis*) native to East Africa and southern Arabia. Salvia is a drug that acts at the kappa opioid receptors in the brain and has hallucinogenic effects that can include changes in visual perception and feelings of detachment. More information on both these drugs

For more information:

Blending Conference



To register for this year's *Blending Addiction Science and Treatment meeting, June 2-3 in Cincinnati, Ohio, please go to:* <http://www.NIDABlendingConference.info>

NIDA Networking Project



For more information on the NIDA Networking project see: <http://nnp.drugabuse.gov/>

Funding News

In the interest of keeping you informed of NIDA's Request for Applications (RFA) we are including a new announcement that may be of interest: NIDA has partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration on a Request for Applications titled *Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Drug Abuse in General Medical Settings*. This RFA is designed to support projects that will develop and test the

can be found at
<http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/index.html>.

NIDA's Perspectives journal has a new name: **Addiction Science and Clinical Practice**. The most recent issue covers topics such as: marijuana dependence, screening instruments, and addiction as a chronic condition.

Links to recent NIDA Publications

For Latest **NIDA Notes** issue, click here:
http://www.drugabuse.gov/NIDA_Notes/NNindex.html

To read NIDA's journal offering **Addiction Science and Clinical Practice**, click here: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/ascp/>

Research News

The role of the environment in regulating gene expression—**Epigenomics**—is an area of research of particular interest. We have recently joined with a number of other NIH Institutes to create a trans-NIH initiative on this topic. Over the next 5 years, nearly \$200 million will be invested in a range of research projects designed to facilitate interdisciplinary work in this rapidly growing field. NIDA is excited to be co-leading this trans-NIH program. For more information see: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jan2008/od-22.htm>

Other Meetings of Interest

NIDA is organizing a program at the annual meeting of the **American Psychiatric Association** May 3-8, 2008 in Washington, DC. A number of NIDA staff and NIDA researchers will participate in several symposia and workshops on a wide range of topics. For more information please go to: <http://www.psych.org/>

The next meeting of NIDA's **National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse** is May 13-14, 2008. NIDA constituent representatives are welcome to attend the open session of the meeting on Wednesday, May 14th, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., in the Neuroscience Center Building, 600I Executive Blvd., Bethesda, MD, Conference Rooms C and D.

The **College on Problems of Drug Dependence** will be holding their Annual Scientific Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 14-19, 2008. NIDA will be conducting workshops on topics such as grant writing for young investigators and a number of NIDA scientists will be presenting. For more information please go to: <http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/>

NIDA Quick Reference List

Office of the Director	301-443-6480
Office of Deputy Director	301-443-6480
Constituent Liaison	301-443-6071
Congressional Liaison	301-443-6036
Public Information	301-443-1124
NIDA Homepage	www.drugabuse.gov

effectiveness of models that integrate screening, brief intervention, and referral to specialized treatment for individuals with drug abuse entering into primary care and other general medical settings. More information can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-08-021.html>

Congressional Interests

NIDA has continued to have a presence on Capitol Hill:

- On March 12 NIDA's Director, Dr. Volkow appeared before a joint hearing of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, and the U.S. Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control on the topic of prescription drug abuse. For a copy of her testimony please go to: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Testimony/3-12-08Testimony.html>
- On February 12 Dr. Volkow testified in front of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs regarding the scope, pharmacology, and health consequences of cocaine abuse and addiction. A copy of her testimony is available at: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Testimony/2-12-08Testimony.html>

Other News

Addiction Cover Story. On March 3 *Newsweek* featured a cover story titled "The Hunt for an Addiction Vaccine." The story featured Dr. Volkow, other NIDA staff, and NIDA-supported scientists discussing the future of addiction treatment research. To view this article, please go to: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/114716>

Inhalants Press Conference. On March 13 Dr. Condon represented NIDA at the 16th annual National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week press conference held by the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition. The event took place at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, and brought together government agencies, community-based organizations, family members affected by inhalant abuse, as well as those in recovery to discuss the associated dangers.

New Location for IRP. NIDA's Intramural Research Program is in the process of moving to a new building in East Baltimore. The new address is: 251 Bayview Blvd., Suite 200, Baltimore, MD 21224.

New NIDA Council Members. NIDA is pleased to announce the addition of five new members to the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse:

- Francisco X. Castellanos, M.D., New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY.
- Steven R. Childers, Ph.D., Wake Forest University, School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC.
- Thomas J. Crowley, M.D., University of Colorado Health Science Center, School of Medicine, Denver, CO.
- Anita Smith Everett, M.D., Johns Hopkins

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- Hazel H. Szeto, M.D., Ph.D., Weill Medical
College, Cornell University, New York, NY.

