

The NIDA CTN New England Consortium

CTN New Englander newsletter



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Node News!

Welcome to the *New Englander*, the newsletter of the New England Consortium Node of the Clinical Trials Network. As you are all aware, as of September 1, 2010 the Northern New England Node (RRTC: McLean/Harvard) and the New England Node (RRTC: Yale University) merged to become the *New England Consortium Node* under the direction of Roger D. Weiss, M.D., and Kathy M. Carroll, Ph.D. This newsletter will be published quarterly! We welcome your contributions.

Current Protocol Updates

The **CTN-0044** study, "Web-delivery of Evidence-based, Psychosocial Treatment for Substance Abuse Disorders" lead by the Long Island Regional Node is being conducted locally at Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) in Fall River, Massachusetts under the direction of Genie Bailey, M.D. and at Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism (MCCA) under the direction of Michael Norton. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of including an interactive, web-based version of the Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) intervention plus incentives targeting drug abstinence and treatment participation as part of community-based, outpatient substance abuse treatment. *Recruitment is complete for the CTN-0044 study as of August 24, 2011.* 507 participants were randomized in the study overall, with 53 randomized at SSTAR and 49 randomized at MCCA. Congratulations to SSTAR and MCCA!

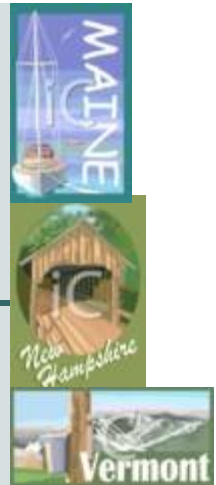


The **CTN-0030 POATS Long-Term Follow-up Project** continues to proceed on schedule. To examine long-term outcomes for individuals with opioid analgesic (OA) dependence who participated in CTN-0030. Specifically, we wish to describe the substance use trajectories of randomized participants and identify factors associated with long-term recovery from OA dependence for future research. This exploratory, naturalistic study is intended to help generate hypotheses and guidance for further treatment research on opioid analgesic dependence. The window for month -18 assessments is now closed. 252 month-18 assessments, 300 month-30, and 178 month-42 assessments were completed as of August 29, 2011.



CTN-0047 Screening, Motivational Assessment, Referral, and Treatment in Emergency Departments (SMART-ED). This study is being conducted in collaboration with the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Emergency Department. The study will contrast substance use and substance-related outcomes among patients endorsing problematic substance use during an emergency department (ED) visit who are randomly assigned to one of three treatment conditions: 1) minimal screening only (MSO); 2) screening, assessment, and referral to treatment (if indicated) (SAR); and 3) screening, assessment, and referral plus a brief intervention (BI) with two telephone follow-up booster sessions (BI-B). To date, 61 participants have been randomized at the MGH site as of September 11, 2011.

CTN-0050 START Follow-Up Study. Lead Investigator, Yih-Ing Hser is conducting a long term follow-up of participants from the original START protocol (CTN 0027). Two sites from the former New England Node, Connecticut Counseling Centers and Hartford Dispensary participated in CTN0027. The Hartford Dispensary, Connecticut Counseling Centers, and the research team from the Yale RRTC will participate in CTN 0050.



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News from the Field

Shelly F. Greenfield, M.D., M.P.H. from McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School was recently profiled in an article in the July-August 2011 issue of the Harvard Magazine for her many contributions to the addictions field through her pioneering work developing and testing the effectiveness of gender-specific treatment interventions for women.



Nancy Paul, M.S., CEO of Stanley Street Treatment & Resources, Inc. (SSTAR) and a participating New England Consortium Node community treatment program, recently co-authored an article published in the May-June 2011 issue of the Addiction Professional magazine entitled "Save our Staff: On-site education helps cultivate counselors' talents in the wake of labor shortages," describing the experiences at SSTAR in the innovative on-site workplace-based training and educational program called Jobs to Careers (J2C) funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Hitachi Foundation, which provided 17 of our front-line workers with classroom training, college credits and career counseling as a way to address the looming labor shortage in addiction treatment settings.

CTN Research News

10 years of the CTN Lessons learned

*Consensus statement on outcome measurement**

Background: The first 10 years of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) yielded a wealth of data on the effectiveness of a number of behavioral, pharmacological, and combined approaches in community-based settings. Methods: We summarize some of the methodological contributions and lessons learned from the behavioral trials conducted during its first ten years, including the capacity and enormous potential of this national research infrastructure. Results: The CTN made contributions to the methodology of effectiveness research; new insights from secondary analyses; the extent to which approaches with strong evidence bases, such as contingency management, extend their effectiveness to real world clinical settings; new data on 'standard treatment' as actually practiced in community programs, the extent to which retention remains a major issue in the field; important data on the safety of specific behavioral therapies for addiction; and heightened the importance of continued sustained attention to bridging the gap between treatment and research. Conclusions: Areas of focus for the CTN's future include defining common outcome measures to be used in treatment outcome studies for illicit drugs; incorporating performance indicators and measures of clinical significance; conducting comparative outcome studies; contributing to the understanding of effective treatments of comorbidity; reaching underserved populations; building implementation science; understanding long-term outcomes of current treatments and sustaining treatment effects; and conducting future trials more efficiently.

*abstract from:

Carroll KM, Ball SA, Jackson R, Martino S, Petry NM, Stitzer ML, Wells EA, Weiss RD. Ten Take Home Lessons from the First 10 Years of the CTN and 10 Recommendations for the Future. Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse. 2011 Sep;37(5):275-82.



NNE Node Presentations/Publications

PRESENTATIONS:

Members from the Node recently presented some lessons learned about the NIDA Clinical Trials Network at the 2011 NIATx Summit and The State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS) Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts July 10-13, 2011.

- **Carroll, KM.** [Top 10 CTN Accomplishments in Behavioral Therapies in the Past 10 Years](#)
- **Weiss RD.** [What the National Institute on Drug Abuse's Clinical Trials Network Can Do for You](#)
- **Levy, M.** [NIATX and the CTN: It's All About Improving Care](#)

PUBLICATIONS:

- **Greenfield SF**, Rosa C, **Putnins SI**, Green CA, Brooks AJ, Calsyn DA, Cohen LR, Erickson S, Gordon SM, Haynes L, Killeen T, Miele G, Tross S, Winhusen T. Gender research in the national institute on drug abuse national treatment clinical trials network: a summary of findings. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2011 Sep;37(5):301-12.
- **Potter JS**, Donovan DM, **Weiss RD**, Gardin J, Lindblad R, Wakim P, **Dodd D**. Site selection in community-based clinical trials for substance use disorders: strategies for effective site selection. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2011 Sep;37(5):400-7.
- **Carroll KM**, **Ball SA**, Jackson R, **Martino S**, **Petry NM**, Stitzer ML, Wells EA, **Weiss RD**. Ten Take Home Lessons from the First 10 Years of the CTN and 10 Recommendations for the Future. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2011 Sep;37(5):275-82.
- Svikis DS, Keyser-Marcus L, Stitzer M, Rieckmann T, Safford L, Loeb P, Allen T, Luna-Anderson C, Back SE, Cohen J, Debernardi MA, Dillard B, Forcehimes A, Jaffee W, Killeen T, Kolodner K, **Levy M**, Pallas D, Perl HI, **Potter JS**, **Provost S**, Reese K, Sampson RR, Sepulveda A, Snead N, Wong CJ, Zweben J. Randomized multi-site trial of the Job Seekers' Workshop in patients with substance use disorders. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2011 Jul 27. [Epub ahead of print]
- Donovan DM, Bigelow GE, Brigham GS, **Carroll KM**, Cohen AJ, Gardin JG, **Hamilton JA**, Huestis MA, Hughes JR, Lindblad R, Marlatt GA, Preston KL, Selzer JA, Somoza EC, Wakim PG, Wells EA. Primary outcome indices in illicit drug dependence treatment research: systematic approach to selection and measurement of drug use end-points in clinical trials. *Addiction*. 2011 Jul 22. doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2011.03473.x. [Epub ahead of print]
- Hamdi NR, **Levy M**, Jaffee WB, Chisholm SM, **Weiss RD**. Implementing an adapted version of the job seekers' workshop in a residential program for patients with substance use disorders. *J Addict Med*. 2011 Jun;5(2):148-52.
- Riggs PD, Winhusen T, Davies RD, Leimberger JD, Mikulich-Gilbertson S, Klein C, Macdonald M, Lohman M, **Bailey GL**, Haynes L, Jaffee WB, Haminton N, Hodgkins C, Whitmore E, Trello-Rishel K, Tamm L, Acosta MC, Royer-Malvestuto C, Subramaniam G, Fishman M, Holmes BW, Kaye ME, Vargo MA, Woody GE, Nunes EV, Liu D. Randomized controlled trial of osmotic-release methylphenidate with cognitive-behavioral therapy in adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and substance use disorders. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2011 Sep;50(9):903-14. Epub 2011 Aug 4.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES:

- Addiction Health Services Research (AHSR) Conference, October 3-5, 2011 at the Mason Inn, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
- Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA's) 35th National Conference - November 3-5, 2011 Sheraton Crystal City Hotel Arlington, VA, <http://amersa.org/conf.asp>
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry ([AAAP 22nd Annual Meeting and Symposium](#)) December 8-11, 2011 Scottsdale Resort & Conference Center, Scottsdale, AZ, USA