Vermont Hub & Spoke Model Supports Effectiveness Against Opioid Addiction

Richard Rawson, PhD, UVM/VCBH Research Professor, led an evaluation of the Vermont Hub & Spoke system of care. The model demonstrates success in combating Vermont's critical battle against opioid addiction. The report summary brief outlines the findings of the 2017 study to understand the impact of the model on those in treatment, and their families. The evaluation shows a 96% decrease in opioid use after admittance into the Hub & Spoke treatment program, along with a 90% decrease in illegal activity among study participants. Dr. Rawson also presented his findings at a February lecture sponsored by the VCBH and UVM's Psychiatry Grand Rounds.
Sessions at 2018 SRNT Conference

VCBH Director, Stephen Higgins, PhD, and other leading tobacco researchers, were invited to give the plenary presentation at the 2018 SRNT conference to provide supporting evidence of a proposed nicotine reduction policy. Their symposium was titled, "Reducing Nicotine Content Cigarettes: A Discussion of the Evidence and Policy Implications". This presentation aligned with FDA's recent announcement proposing a reduction in nicotine content in cigarettes, which undoubtedly been influenced by research on the impact of this policy, which is the primary focus of the UVM TCORS.

Allison Kurti, PhD, and Dr. Higgins, co-chaired a presentation on tobacco use among reproductive-aged women titled, "Vulnerabilities to Tobacco Product Use and Strategies to Reduce Use Among Women of Reproductive Age".

Andrea Villanti, PhD, MPH, gave a plenary talk on "Developing Research to Inform Tobacco-Related Policy", as part of her 2018 Jarvik-Russell Early Career Award. To view Dr. Villanti’s talk and other SRNT presentations, please click here.

Sharon Walsh, PhD, Keynote Speaker at 2018 VCBH National Conference

Sharon Walsh, PhD, Professor of Behavioral Science and Psychiatry, and Director of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research at the University of Kentucky, will be the Keynote Speaker at the 6th Annual VCBH Conference. An accomplished researcher and scholar, Dr. Walsh is known for her research on pharmacological issues in opioid and cocaine dependance. The two-day conference on October 11-12, will focus on the nation's opioid epidemic, improving access to treatment, and effective pain/addiction management.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive conference announcements and updates, please contact Marissa Wells.
Drs. Philip Ades and Diann Gaalema have received acceptance of their editorial titled, "Geographic Variations in Cardiac Rehabilitation Use: Regional Variations in Medical Care or in Patient Behaviors?", from one of the leading cardiology journals, Circulation. The editorial describes the importance of individual patient's health oriented behaviors and socio-economic measures as key factors explaining the regional variations in cardiac rehabilitation participation. E-publication will be available soon!

VCBH Trainees Take the Next Jump in their Careers!

Elias Klemperer, a clinical psychology predoctoral trainee in the T32 training program, was recently accepted as a fellow in the Yale School of Medicine’s Doctoral Internship in Clinical and Community Psychology. He will be completing a clinical placement in the Forensic Drug Diversion Clinic and a research placement in nicotine and tobacco with Dr. Sherry McKee. Eli is grateful for the exceptional training and mentorship he received during his five years in the VCBH. He believes his experience in the VCBH studying with Dr. John Hughes has prepared him to pursue a career as a researcher in addiction.
Cecilia Bergeria is a fifth year experimental/general psychology predoctoral TCORS trainee at the VCBH and recently accepted a postdoctoral trainee position at the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine with Dr. Kelly Dunn. Cecilia is thankful for all of the exciting and rewarding research training opportunities at the VCBH and the thoughtful mentorship provided by Dr. Sarah Heil. She will miss the VCBH, her collaborative fellow trainees, and passionate mentors, but is excited to continue her training at Johns Hopkins University.

Highlighted Publications


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