



Vermont Center on Behavior & Health

The University of Vermont

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NEWS & VIEWS from the VCBH

*Investigating the relationships between behavior and
the risk for chronic disease & premature death.*

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.



UVM TCORS Research Presented at High-Visibility

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 dependence. 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](#).

VCBH Faculty Receive Editorial Acceptance in Top Cardiology Journal

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!*

The logo for the journal Circulation, featuring the word "Circulation" in a white serif font on a dark red background.

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

- **Kurti AN, Bunn JY, Villanti AC**, et al. (in-press). Patterns of Single and Multiple Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Women of Reproductive Age. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.
 - **Klemperer EM, Hughes JR, Naud S** (in-press). Reduction in Cigarettes Per Day Prospectively Predicts Making a Quit Attempt: A Fine-grained Secondary Analysis of a Natural History Study. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.
 - Fujii MH, Hodges AC, Russell RL...**Ahern TP**, et al. [Post-Discharge Opioid Prescribing and Use after Common Surgical Procedures](#). *Journal of American College of Surgery*. 2018, February 27.
 - **Chaarani B, Spechler PA, Ivanciu A**, et al. (in-press). Multimodal Neuroimaging Differences in Nicotine Abstinent vs. Satiated Smokers. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*. 2018.
 - Harraz OF, **Longden TA**, Dabertrand F, et al. [Endothelial GqPCR Activity Controls Capillary Electrical Signaling and Brain Blood Flow through PIP2 Depletion](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 2018, March 26.
 - **Parker MA, Streck JM, Sigmon SC**. [Associations Between Opioid and Nicotine Dependence in Nationally Representative Samples of United States Adult Daily Smokers](#). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. 2018, May.
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