

# News from the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center



Hello, and welcome to the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center newsletter! We are pleased to share our exciting work through a new avenue.

With the current ever-changing healthcare system environment, our Center's longstanding work and expertise in the areas of substance use disorder payment and delivery system reform are more important than ever. Especially in light of the ongoing opioid crisis, the Center has been emphasizing the need to include a focus on delivery systems and payment reform. Recent examples are our roles in the NIH HEALing Communities Study, and telemedicine for opioid use disorder treatment through a newly-funded grant.

In keeping with our dedication to drive the next generation of research in addiction health

services research, we provide funding and mentorship to early-career investigators through our pilot paper program. Since its inception last spring, we have funded 7 proposals for pilot papers. Our reach at conferences through the NIDA Center mentoring program has grown over the years, and is an excellent opportunity for doctoral students and early-career investigators to network with experts in addiction health services research.

Please read on for more Center activities. It's an exciting time to be engaged with this research.

**Constance M. Horgan, ScD, Director**

## Center Highlights:

- [Events](#)
- [Mentoring Activities](#)
- [Find Us At & Recent Publications](#)
- [Grant Awards to Center Researchers](#)
- [Methods Workshops](#)
- [Selected Presentations](#)

## Events

### **NIDA Center Director Organizes Session on Opioid Crisis at Princeton Conference XXVI**

Constance Horgan, Brandeis/Harvard NIDA Center Director, and Michael Botticelli, Executive Director of the Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center, organized a session: **What are States Doing Around the Opioid Crisis?** at the [26th Annual Princeton Conference](#) held at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Auditorium in Princeton, NJ on May 21- 23, 2019. This conference is an important platform for bringing together clinical and policy experts to discuss key health policy issues. This year's theme was: **Will Federalism Improve the US Health Care System?** and covered a range of topics from impact on Medicaid, issues in the Medicare program, and state-level innovations, including alternative payment models. Panel presenters in the opioid session included: Patrice Harris, MD, President-Elect of the American Medical Association; Van Ingram, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy; and Hemi Tewarson, Director, Health Division, Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association.

---

# NIDA Center Co-Sponsors Massachusetts Health Policy Forums on Opioids in the Workforce & Opioids in Small and Rural Settings

While much effort has been put into research and interventions regarding best practices for treating opioid use disorder and reducing overdose deaths, only recently has there been a focus on how to address the issue of opioids in the workplace, and how employers can coordinate efforts to help promote treatment and sustained recovery for its employees. Researchers from the [Heller School for Social Policy and Management](#), including NIDA Center researchers, looked into the state of opioids in the MA workforce and wrote an issue brief on the subject. The issue brief was released at an event hosted by the [Massachusetts Health Policy Forum](#) – in partnership with the Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center, Opioid Policy Research Collaborative, and with funding by [RIZE Massachusetts](#) – entitled [Opioids in the Workforce](#). This forum provided a platform for various stakeholders to gather together with common aims: understand the issue of opioids in the workforce, identify ways to address and decrease impact of opioid use disorder on the MA workforce, learn about workplace and insurance initiatives that have already been implemented, and discuss potential barriers to implementation of initiatives and recommendations to overcome these barriers.

*Learn more about the **September 6th, 2019 Forum, "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Small and Rural Communities in Western Massachusetts"***

---

## NIDA Center Spring 2019 Symposium: Lisa Marsch, PhD presents *Anytime/Anywhere Science-Based Behavioral Health Care via Digital Technology*



Technology in the behavioral health delivery system overall, as well as treatment specifically, has emerged as a means of reducing barriers and increasing access to behavioral health treatment. To delve deeper into the role and impact of digital technology and digital therapeutics in behavioral health, the Center held its annual Spring Symposium, bringing together students, researchers and behavioral health professionals to hear Lisa Marsch, PhD, Director of the Dartmouth Center for Technology and Behavioral Health.

---

## Mentoring

### Pilot Paper Funding

In Spring 2018, the Center started a program to fund pilot papers for graduate students and early-career investigators. This program provides funding for young researchers to facilitate publishing papers on Center-related themes, as well as receive mentoring from Center researchers, with three people funded in the first round.

Brandeis University recent-PhD **Jennifer Miles**'s paper, [Changes in Residential Substance Use Treatment Service Access Resulting From Recent Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers](#), was recently published in *Psychiatric Services*' Economic Grand Rounds Column. Congratulations, Jenn!



---

#### Four new pilot papers funded by the Center in Spring 2019:

- **[Rob Bohler](#)** (PhD student, Brandeis University) is examining the diffusion of opioid-related state policies, and how state characteristics and regional influences affect adoption of these policies.
- **[Carrie Fry](#)** (PhD student, Harvard University) is analyzing the behavioral health system's capacity to provide substance use disorder treatment, with a focus on opioid use disorder treatment of work requirements in the context of Medicaid.
- **[Shayna Mazel](#)** (PhD student, Brandeis University) is using a mixed methods, social media analysis to better understand women's perceptions of the SUD delivery system and the policies and delivery system aspects preferred by pregnant women and mothers with co-occurring opioid use and mental illness.
- **[Morgan Shields](#)** (PhD student, Brandeis University) is examining the adoption of electronic health records in inpatient psychiatric units of general hospitals, and what hospital characteristics predict EHR use and interoperability.



## **Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center Mentoring Program**

The NIDA Center facilitates mentoring opportunities at Addiction Health Services Research Conference, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, and the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting in order to connect doctoral students and early-career investigators with senior, expert researchers in health services research.

Mentees use this opportunity to address a range of topics, including career development, networking, and proposal planning to kick-start an ongoing relationship and future opportunities for collaboration.

### **Mentoring at upcoming conferences:**

[Oct 16-19: Addiction Health Services Research \(AHSR\) Conference, Park City, UT](#)

### ***Former mentees and mentors:***

*Have NIDA Center mentoring programs at conferences led to longer-term communication, collaborations and activities?*

[Share your NIDA Center mentoring success stories with us!](#)

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or mentee, please email [Hillary Richards](#)

---

## **Find Us At & Recent Publications**

### **Find Us At:**

**October 16-18, 2019:** [Addiction Health Services Research Conference 2019](#), Park City, Utah

### **Recent Center Publications:**

Huskamp HA, Busch AB, Souza J, Uscher-Pines L, Rose S, Wilcock A, Landon BE, and

NIDA Center researchers will participate in four panel sessions:

- Innovations and Quality in Opioid Treatment Systems and Policy
- Unhealthy Alcohol Use: Multi-Pronged Efforts to Improve Identification and Treatment
- Intersecting Research on Opioid Misuse, Addiction and Disability
- Recovery Residences: Context and Outcomes

The NIDA Center is also leading 2 pre-conference workshops on October 16th, as well as organizing the mentoring program at AHSR. More details on Center activities at AHSR to follow!

Mehrota A. (2018). [How is Telemedicine Being Used for Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders?](#) Health Affairs, 37(12), 1340-1347.

Acevedo A, Panas L, Garnick DW, Acevedo-Garcia D, Miles J, Ritter GA, and Campbell K. (2018). [Disparities in the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders: Does Where You Live Matter?](#) Journal for Behavioral Health Services and Research, 45(4), 533-549.

Busch, AB, Bates, DW, and Rauch, SL. (2018). [Improving Adoption of EHRs in Psychiatric Care.](#) New England Journal of Medicine, 378(18), 1665-1667.

Garnick D, Horgan CM, Mark TL, Lee M, Acevedo A, Neager S, O'Brien P, Hashmi A, Marder B, and Miller K. (2019). [Importance of Identification When Measuring Performance in Addiction Treatment.](#) Substance Abuse, epub ahead of print.

## Grant Awards to Center Researchers



## NIDA Center Researchers Participating in Newly-Launched HEALing Communities Study

NIDA Center researchers are part of Boston Medical Center's newly-awarded HEALing Communities grant in Massachusetts. The [HEALing Communities Study](#), under the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative, is a NIDA-funded study awarded to academic institutions in four states. It aims to reduce opioid deaths by 40% by bolstering prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

The NIDA Center researchers Dominic Hodgkin and Connie Horgan will lead the focus on examining the payment system and its role in opioid use disorder services.

## Center Researcher Receives NIDA-Funded Grant to Study Telemedicine in SUD

NIDA Center researcher Haiden Huskamp, PhD, along with colleague Ateev Mehrotra, MD, MPH in the Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy, are multiple PIs on a NIDA-funded project examining how telemedicine for substance use disorder ("tele-SUD") is being used for patients, what drives the variation in use, whether tele-SUD is associated with better care, and how some providers have successfully used tele-SUD. Congratulations, Haiden and Ateev!

---

## Selected Presentations



### **The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center goes international!**

Center researchers Connie Horgan and Haiden Huskamp served as presenter and discussant on the panel

**Measuring Performance and Paying for Value in Behavioral Health** at the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics Workshop, **The Value of Mental Health Services**, in Venice, Italy. Haiden Huskamp additionally presented on telemedicine use in SUD treatment on the panel **Digital Health**.

---

## **Center Researcher Participates in SUD Payment Conference**

Center researcher Dominic Hodgkin, PhD, was an invited panelist at the [CHERISH](#) conference **Achieving Value in Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Paying for What Works (and Not Paying for What Doesn't)**, on May 31st. The conference brought

together an impressive array of SUD treatment experts and stakeholders. Hodgkin joined panelists Dan Polsky, PhD, MPP, Ellen Montz, PhD, and Kathleen Noonan, JD, to discuss **Models for Payment & Reimbursement**. Hodgkin praised the efforts by researchers and policymakers to extend OUD treatment access to more health care settings using new delivery models. However, he suggested that those models will only be sustainable if they are designed with careful attention to the payment incentives in the existing health care delivery system. Throughout the day, participants at the conference gave examples of ways that payment arrangements are shaping or hindering treatment access, based on their experiences in a range of settings.

---

## Methods Workshops



*Attend our pre-conference workshops at  
AHSR 2019 in Park City, Utah!*

**The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center is sponsoring two pre-conference workshops on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at AHSR 2019:**

- Research Collaboration with States - Opportunities to Shape Addiction Treatment Systems
- Tips to Launch a Successful Career for Early Investigators

For more information, [click here](#).

---

## **Methods Workshop: Social Network Analysis for Health Systems Research**

The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center aims to broaden and advance the next generation of behavioral health services research. Through our Center-sponsored Methods Workshops, students, researchers and others are exposed to new tools and methodologies to apply to behavioral health system research. This spring, the Center hosted an introductory workshop, presented by Peter Kreiner, PhD, on social network analysis (SNA) and its application to behavioral health research. SNA allows researchers to examine nuances of systems that may matter for understanding the impact of delivery and payment reforms.





---

## Sign Up For Our Mailing List!

### A NATIONAL RESOURCE FOR PAYMENT & DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

NIDA P30 DA035772  
nidacenter.brandeis.edu

---

*Copyright © 2019 Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center, All rights reserved.*  
Sharing news with NIDA Center friends.

**Email:**

nidacenter@brandeis.edu

**Phone:**

(781)736-7629

**Our mailing address is:**

Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center  
415 South Street  
MS 035  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.



