



# Winter 2020 Newsletter

## Highlights:

- [Recent Center Events](#)
- [Conference Round-Up & Future Conferences](#)
- [Mentoring Activities](#)
- [Publication Spotlight](#)
- [Recent Presentations](#)
- [Methods Workshops](#)

## Recent Events

**Fall 2019 Symposium Presentation:  
Dr. Shelly Greenfield, expert on women and SUD**

and NIDA Center researcher:  
**"Gender Differences in Substance Use Disorders:  
Implications for Women's Addiction Treatment"**



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## Conference Round-up and Future Conferences

### **Round-up: The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center at AHSR**

The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center had a strong presence the Addiction Health Services Research Conference 2019 in Park City, Utah! Activities included:

- **Two** well-attended pre-conference workshops:
  - **"Research Collaboration with States -- Opportunities to Shape Addiction Treatment Systems,"** organized by **Sharon Reif, PhD**, included Julie Donohue, PhD, Tom Fuchs, M.Ed., Stephanie Jordan Brown, and Charles Neighbors, PhD, MBA. Panelists are researchers working closely with state organizations, as well as state representatives who discussed how researchers and state representatives can engage synergistically to conduct mutually beneficial research.
  - The second workshop, **"Tips to Launch a Successful Career for Early Investigators,"** organized by **Connie Horgan, ScD**, and **Haiden Huskamp, PhD**, included Andrea Acevedo, PhD, Kathy Bradley, MD, MPH, and Brooke Evans, PhD, MSW. Panelists spanned various research stages representing academia, consulting firms, and government research institutions to address

opportunities and differences in these research environments for young career investigators exploring career and research opportunities.

- **Four** Center-sponsored panels: "Recovery Residences: Context and Outcomes" (organizer: Jennifer Miles, PhD; moderator: **Sharon Reif, PhD**), "Unhealthy Alcohol Use: Multi-Pronged Efforts to Improve Identification and Treatment" (organizer: **Haiden Huskamp, PhD**; moderator: **Connie Horgan, ScD**) "Innovations and Quality in Opioid Treatment Systems and Policy" (organizer: Cindy Parks Thomas, PhD; moderator: **Connie Horgan, ScD**), and "Intersection Research on Opioid Misuse, Addiction and Disability" (organizer: **Sharon Reif, PhD**; moderator: Rachel Sayko Adams, PhD, MPH).
- The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center **mentoring** program facilitated **57** mentor-mentee matches at AHSR 2019, far exceeding the 26 matches at AHSR 2018!

We look forward to seeing everyone at AHSR 2020, October 14-16, 2020, in Providence, Rhode Island!



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## Find Us At...

**Researchers from the Center can be found at these upcoming conferences:**

- [ASHECon 2020](#) (June 7-10, St. Louis, MO)
  - [AcademyHealth ARM 2020](#) (June 13-16, Boston, MA)
  - [RSA 2020](#) (June 20-24, New Orleans, LA)
  - [CPDD 2020](#) (June 20-24, Hollywood, FL)
  - [AHSR 2020](#) (October 14-16, Providence, RI)
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# Mentoring

## Three New Pilot Papers Funded in Fall 2019

The Center has awarded funding to three new early-career investigators in Fall 2019. Recipients and their pilot paper topics are:

- [Samantha Auty, MS](#), PhD student, Boston University: A national assessment to improve the campus mental health system for college students with polysubstance use and co-occurring mental illness
- [Timothy Creedon, PhD](#), Cambridge Health Alliance. Rural trends in the availability of methadone maintenance therapy during the beginning of the national opioid crisis
- [Michael Flores, PhD](#), Cambridge Health Alliance: Assessing clinical and health service use factors associated with opioid-related mortality



### **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:**

- June 10-13, 2020: [AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting](#) (Boston, MA)
- October 14-16, 2020: [Addiction Health Services Research Conference](#) (Providence, RI)

### ***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](#)

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## **Publication Spotlight**

While the health care system pushes forward with integration of behavioral health and primary care services, little attention has been paid to the feasibility of applying certain reforms, such as payment, to specialty areas outside of general medicine. As payment for health care shifts from volume- to value-based, with a focus on using patient outcomes as a metric in addition to performance and quality, **Dominic Hodgkin** and other Center researchers reviewed literature on economic theory of pay-for-outcomes (P4O), metrics used to measure P4O in general medical care, and looked at the application of P4O in the field of SUD treatment. The resulting paper, published by *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, **Is it feasible to pay specialty substance use disorder treatment programs based on patient outcomes?**, discusses the special challenges to consider when applying pay-for-outcomes to SUD treatment from both theoretical and practical standpoints.

[Hodgkin, D., Garnick, D. W., Horgan, C. M., Busch, A. B., Stewart, M. T., & Reif, S. \(2019\). Is it feasible to pay specialty substance use disorder treatment programs based on patient outcomes?. \*Drug and Alcohol Dependence\*, 107735.](#)

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## **Recent Presentations**



### **Center Researcher Presents at Columbia University Grand Rounds**

Center researcher **Alisa Busch, MD, MS**, presented “**Improving the Quality of Care for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Opportunities and Challenges (And, Are We Ready for EHRs & Big Data to Help?)**” to medical students and clinicians at Columbia University Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

# Center Researcher Moderates Panel at Harvard-Michigan Opioid Summit

Center researcher **Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH**, participated in the Harvard University and University of Michigan Summit on the Opioid Crisis, held at Harvard University on October 10, 2019. Dr. Greenfield moderated the panel "**Stigma and Access to Treatment**," in which providers and researchers discussed stigma as a barrier to SUD treatment and offered ways to tackle stigma.

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## Methods Workshops

### Upcoming Workshop: Methods for Understanding Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Substance Use Disorder and Related Treatment Services



with  
**Ben Cook, PhD, MPH and Tim  
Creedon, PhD**

**Date:** March 27, 2020

**Time:** 9:30am-12pm

**Location:** Altman Amphitheater (G1),  
Heller School for Social Policy and  
Management, Brandeis University

The Brandeis-Harvard NIDA Center will be hosting a methods workshop co-facilitated by **Ben Cook, PhD, MPH, and Tim Creedon, PhD**. This workshop presents methods relevant to measuring, tracking and understanding mechanisms underlying substance use disorder (SUD) and SUD treatment services. After presenting a summary of evidence on what is currently known regarding how rates of substance use disorder and related treatment differs by race/ethnicity, Drs. Cook and Creedon will present, via interactive discussion, methods of measuring disparities concordant with the Institute of Medicine definition of racial/ethnic disparities as outlined in IOM *Unequal Treatment*. They will also provide an overview of a few innovative research methods that extend past measurement and tracking of SUD disparities to understanding mechanisms underlying these disparities. Examples of these latter methods include the use of structural equation modeling (SEM) to identify moderators and mediators underlying disparities and methods of eliciting discrimination in the healthcare setting and patient treatment preferences.

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## Sign Up For Our Mailing List!

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

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