

ISBRA Communications Committee: Bulletin Vol. 1 (2019) Issue 1, Pg. 1-5



Bulletin of the Communications Committee July - August 2019 Inauguration issue

Contributing to the advancement of alcohol research globally

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| New Communications Committee | 1 | <p>The International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) has created a new Communications Committee in 2019. This Communications Committee will provide the latest news and updates on ongoing research, insights from recent publications, funding and job opportunities. The new Communications Committee will also establish a presence in various media platforms to facilitate engagement in information dissemination, dialogue and interaction for the scientific community in alcohol research. The Communications Committee will also publish this Bulletin periodically to address the same issues comprehensively. The Communications Committee welcomes the ideas and engagement of ISBRA members in this new initiative. Lastly, the Communications Committee thanks the ISBRA Board of Directors and all members for their kind support. We hope to enhance ISBRA's presence through social media and outreach.</p> |
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Publications You May Have Missed

By Robert Leeman, Ph.D.

Society newsletters often include references for relevant articles. We would like our publication listing

in the ISBRA Bulletin to be unique. Thus, we have decided to focus our attention on quality publications that may be overlooked or may have been overlooked for various reasons such as having been published in a lesser known journal. Each issue, we will report on a selection of such articles with a brief description of

why we believe they are worthy of members' attention. If you know of any such publications that may have been missed, please contact us at isbraisbra@gmail.com

1. Mun et al. (2019) Multivariate Higher-Order IRT Model and MCMC algorithm for linking individual participant data from multiple studies. *Frontiers in Psychology: Quantitative Psychology and Measurement*
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01328>

This paper presents an approach to synthesis of individual participant data across multiple studies where domain-specific, lower-order traits relate to multiple higher-order traits.

2. Special issue of the journal *Addictive Behaviors*, entitled "Improving the Implementation of Quantitative Methods in Addiction Research", edited by Kevin King and Kristina Jackson

This issue contains articles pertaining to several types of analyses and data analytic issues common to addiction research including multiple types of mediation models, time-to-event analyses, structural equation modeling and measurement invariance.

3. Ramsey et al. (2019) Technology-Based Alcohol Interventions in Primary Care: Systematic Review. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 21,
<https://www.jmir.org/2019/4/e10859/>

Based on a systematic review including 42 articles, they concluded provider involvement and use of implementation strategies related to efficacy

4. Robinson, J., Rosenzweig, C., Moss, A. J., & Litman, L. (2019, June 7). Tapped Out or Barely Tapped? Recommendations for How to Harness the Vast and Largely Unused Potential of the Mechanical Turk Participant Pool.
<https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/jq589>

Article presents pro and con of different sampling strategies that can be implemented on MTurk.

gut (known as gut microbiota) that occurs as a result of chronic alcohol misuse. In a new NIAAA-funded study, a research team from the University of California, San Diego has identified an underlying mechanism for how alcohol-induced changes in gut microbiota may contribute to AALD. Building on this finding, the team demonstrated that engineered gut microbes could potentially provide a new treatment for AALD. More reading:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/research/niaaa-research-highlights/new-treatment-strategy-alcohol-associated-liver-disease>

- New clinical research supported by the National Institutes of Health shows that increasing the intensity of treatment for alcohol use disorder (AUD) over time improves alcohol-related outcomes among people with HIV. This stepped approach to AUD treatment also improves HIV-related disease measures in this patient population. A report of the new study, led by researchers at Yale University, is now online in *The Lancet HIV*. More reading:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/integrated-stepped-alcohol-treatment-people-hiv-care-improves-both-hiv-and>

- A new study found that multiple state-level policies targeting alcohol/drug use during pregnancy may actually lead to greater numbers of low birthweight (LBW) and preterm births (PTB). This would lead to hundreds of millions of dollars of additional public health spending per year. More reading:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BxPIMorgEA5/>

- More reading on new and emerging research:
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events>

New Directions

By Ricardo Pautassi, Ph.D.

- There is an urgent need for effective interventions for alcohol-associated liver disease (AALD), a complex disease with multiple contributing factors. One of these factors is the change in the levels and types of bacteria in the

Funding Opportunities

By Vatsalya Vatsalya, M.D.

The economic environment over the past few years has made the application and review process for funding opportunities much more competitive than it has been in the past. Understanding the grant process, planning, and strategic proposal development at the

early and independent stages of a scientist's career can allow for a smoother navigation of the funding process. Diversity supplements are additional resources of funding that are administrative supplements and are intended to help increase the numbers of underrepresented scientists in the biomedical and behavioral research. Minority and health disparity initiatives extend the activities and capability of the scientific community to increase evidence-based epidemiologic and etiologic understanding, develop improved treatment and preventive interventions, and decrease alcohol-related health disparities. Current research seeks to better understand these differences and develop effective interventions. Research areas critical to these goals include epidemiology; intervention (prevention and research); underage drinking; fetal alcohol spectrum disorders; health services; genetics, including gene by environment interactions; neuroscience; metabolism and health effects; and basic research. Further reading and information on funding and some new research initiatives can be found here:

- 1) <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pew-funds-biomedical-research-for-10-latin-american-scientists-300866574.html>
- 2) <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm>
- 3) <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-noteworthy/abcd-study-completes-enrollment-announces-opportunities-scientific>
- 4) <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/science-areas/neurosciences-mental-health/our-science-and-contacts-nmh/addiction-research/>

Global Jobs

By Nioud (Neo) Gebru, M.P.S.

With globalization of alcohol research, individuals looking for new opportunities may want to consider relocating to a different country. The following are resources on the web to locate a new position internationally some new positions available:

- (1) RSA: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/jobsearch/>
- (2) NIAAA jobs: <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/about-niaaa/jobs-training>
- (3) National Drug and Alcohol Research Center at the University of New South Wales, Australia:

- (4) <https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/node/300000163>
Clinical Research Fellow (Hepatology) -
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust Company,
Portsmouth, Great Britain:
https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1347667437/?eBP=NotAvailableFromVoyagerAPI&recommendedFlavor=HIDDEN_GEM&refId=de2a5d3a-8b0e-424f-92c8-b217a1fcebada&trk=d_flagship3_search_srp_jobs
- (5) Associate Researcher, Neurosciences – Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Company, New York City, New York:
https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1343291864/?eBP=NotAvailableFromVoyagerAPI&recommendedFlavor=HIDDEN_GEM&refId=de2a5d3a-8b0e-424f-92c8-b217a1fcebada&trk=d_flagship3_search_srp_jobs
- (6) Research Assistant – Victorian Government Company, Melbourne, AU:
https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1337619546/?eBP=NotAvailableFromVoyagerAPI&recommendedFlavor=HIDDEN_GEM&refId=16fec381-aa57-4ce8-b09b-b953d9f91ea0&trk=d_flagship3_search_srp_jobs

Fellowships/Post-doctoral positions

- (7) NIDA international fellowships:
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/international/fellowships-landing>
- (8) University of Florida NIAAA T32 in Translational Science Training to Reduce the Impact of Alcohol on HIV Infection:
<https://epidemiology.phhp.ufl.edu/training/niaaa-t32-training-program/>
- (9) University of Florida NIDA T32 in epidemiology and prevention of substance use:
<https://epidemiology.phhp.ufl.edu/training/nida-t32-training-program/>
- (10) Alcohol Research Group at University of California, Berkley:
<http://arg.org/training/postdoctoral-fellowship/>
- (11) Postdoctoral Research Associate and Training Fellow in Alcohol use Disorder Across the Lifespan – Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ:
https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/1326756828/?eBP=NotAvailableFromVoyagerAPI&recommendedFlavor=COMPANY_RECRUIT&refId=34194b7c-ee92-40eb-ac83-243f141dc60f&trk=d_flagship3_search_srp_jobs

News and Events

By Fengyuan (Linda) Li, M.S.

News

- The newest edition of the annual ISBRA Newsletter (Volume 9) is now available on the society's website!

https://isbra.com/pdf/news/2019_isbra_newsletter.pdf

The newsletter is full of valuable information, including a note from our President, Dr. Tamara Phillips; a recap of the 2018 ISBRA Congress in Kyoto, Japan; an early word about the 2020 Joint Scientific Meeting with RSA; and news about member publications. Take a look!



- Dr. Markus Heilig received the Tabakoff Award during 2018 ISBRA meeting.

- NIAAA honored Dr. Geoffrey K. Mumford with Senator Harold Hughes Award:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/niaaa-honors-dr-geoffrey-k-mumford-senator-harold-hughes-award>

- May 2019 Director's report and NIAAA spectrum:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-noteworthy/nw-online-director%E2%80%99s-report-and-niaaa-spectrum>

- ASAM unveiled a national public policy statement on substance use prevention:

https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/asam-prevention-policy-priorities-statement-final.pdf?sfvrsn=ef0747c2_2#search=%22alcohol%22

- May 2019 RSA White Paper:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/files/RSA%20Final%20White%20Paper%202005-31-19.pdf>

- Dr. George F. Koob gave an update on NIAAA initiatives at the June 2019 annual meeting of the research society on alcoholism (RSA). Slides from Dr. Koob's talk can be found here:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/index.cfm?ID=B6W5ycZ&CFID=3752482&CFTOKEN=700d6d73f90b0cf5-4896A181-A2FA-F5C7-09631779828CB9F8>

- Dr. Paule Joseph Selected as Lasker Clinical Research Scholar in NINR/NIAAA Intramural Research Program:

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-noteworthy/dr-paule-joseph-selected-lasker-clinical-research-scholar-ninrniaaa>

- Dr. Carlo C. DiClemente to Deliver the 11th Annual Jack Mendelson Honorary Lecture at the National Institutes of Health

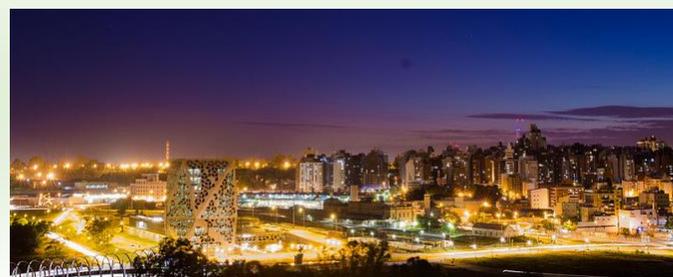
<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/dr-carlo-c-diclemente-deliver-11th-annual-jack-mendelson-honorary-lecture>

Events

- September 16, 2019 - 8:30am to September 17, 2019 - 12:30pm

Alcoholic and Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis: Pathogenesis and Mechanisms of Liver Injury -- Joint NIAAA-NIDDK Research Workshop
Lister Hill Auditorium, Building 38A, NIH Main Campus, Bethesda, MD

- The Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA, the south American branch of ISBRA) will be having its regular 2019 meeting at Córdoba, Argentina, on November 7-9.



Meeting registration and poster submission is open at <https://form.jotformz.com/71073874339665>

There will be SEVERAL fellowships for students who are presenting a poster as first authors. The

fellowship will cover the registration fees and the lodging. Some students may get some of the transportation fees paid as well, but that will depend on availability of funds at the time of the meeting. To apply send an email to rpautassi@gmail.com with your CV and the poster abstract.

The best and 2nd best posters presented by graduate or undergraduate students will be given US \$700 and US \$300, respectively. This “Harold Kalant” award honors the long-term career of Dr. Kalant, and is possible thanks to the generous donation of a LASBRA member.



Dr. Kalant

***** The 43rd Annual RSA Scientific Meeting and ISBRA Congress will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 20-24, 2020. *****

Communications Committee Bulletin Editors

Dr. Ricardo Pautassi, Managing Editor
Email: rpautassi@immf.uncor.edu

Dr. Robert Leeman, Managing Editor
Email: robert.leeman@ufl.edu

Dr. Vatsalya Vatsalya, Managing Editor
Email: vovats01@louisville.edu

ISBRA Communications Committee

Rosana Camarini, Board of Directors Rep
Robert Leeman, Co-Representative
Ricardo Pautassi, Board of Directors Rep
Vatsalya Vatsalya, Co-Representative

Members

Fengyuan (Linda) Li
Nioud (Neo) Gebru, M. P. S.

Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

Be part of an organization that is dedicated to building community amongst ISBRA’s diverse population; that is committed to bringing news about career building resources and events to ISBRA members; to being a voice regarding issues that are of importance to ISBRA members. Contact any of the committee officers to find out about being a part of the Communications Committee.

We are on the Web!

Web address: <https://isbra.com/>

Email: isbraisbra@gmail.com

We are on Twitter now! - @ISBRAComm

Find us at <https://twitter.com/ISBRAComm>