



The Communication Committee presents:

The International Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism BULLETIN

Contributing to the advancement of alcohol research globally

Communication Committee Updates

- ✓ The Communications Committee of ISBRA has successfully **started media accounts on Twitter and LinkedIn** in the past two months (details are on the last page). We have received robust growth of followers on both.
- ✓ We have also expanded our membership with the addition of **Dr. Karina Possa Abrahao**, who is responsible for the beautiful redesign of the Bulletin. Please let us know if you would like to actively participate in our committee. There are a lot of exciting things happening in alcohol research.
- ✓ **Important conferences were held in the past couple of months:** ESBRA, EASL ALD, and the Society of Neuroscience.
- ✓ **The call for proposals and abstracts for the RSA/ISBRA conference (20-24 June 2020) is OPEN!** The program proposal/speaker abstract deadline is **December 2nd 11:59pm US Central time**. This conference provides a meeting place for scientists and clinicians from around the world. Next year, the conference will be a joint RSA and ISBRA meeting.

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

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Committee Leadership:

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

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Cont. Publications You May Have Missed

By Robert Leeman, Ph.D.

[The importance of stupidity in scientific research](#)

In: *Journal of Cell Science*, 2008

By: Martin A. Schwartz

Unlike the other papers, this is not a new paper, an empirical paper or an addiction-related paper. Though not new, it is new to me as I just came across it. Great essay that reminds us that asking questions we do not know the answers to and that are hard to solve is part of good science.

[Reward, Relief and Habit Drinking: Initial Validation of a Brief Assessment Tool](#)

In: *Alcohol and Alcoholism*, 2019

By: Erica N Grodin, Spencer Bujarski, Alexandra Venegas, Wave-Ananda Baskerville, Steven J Nieto, J David Jentsch, Lara A Ray

A unique study that combined IV alcohol administration with a parallel survey recruited via Amazon M-Turk.

[Impulsivity Derived From the Dark Side: Neurocircuits That Contribute to Negative Urgency](#)

In: *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience*, 2019.

By: Eric P Zorrilla, George F Koob

This review makes a strong argument that negative urgency has transdiagnostic relevance to multiple addictive behaviors

[The effectiveness of attentional bias modification for substance use disorder symptoms in adults: A systematic review](#)

In: *Systematic Reviews*, 2018

By: Janika Heitmann, Elise C. Bennik, Madelon E. van Hemel-Ruiter & Peter J. de Jong

Though there has been a mixture of positive and null studies in this literature, this review indicates that studies implementing multi-session attentional bias retraining have tended to yield significant results

New Directions

By Ricardo Pautassi, Ph.D.

- A new study supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) identified a section of the rat genome associated with a trait linked to addiction. Specifically, researchers at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor led by Huda Akil, Ph.D identified seven DNA regions that account for a significant part of the variability in the rats' hyperarousal behavior, which in turn is highly predictive of addiction onset and progression. According to NIAAA Director George F. Koob "This finding underscores the value of preclinical models in unraveling the complexity of addiction-related behaviors in humans". Citation: Zhou Z, et al (2019). Exploratory locomotion, a predictor of addiction vulnerability, is oligogenic in rats selected for this phenotype. *PNAS*. 116 (26): 13107-13115.

- A new article from *Alcohol Research Current Reviews* describes the association between alcohol use and suicidal behavior. The article highlights that alcohol use disorders are prevalent in those who die by suicide and that this association is still higher in men than in women, though rates have increased recently among women. See full article [here](#):

- For more reading on new and emerging research, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities

By Vatsalya Vatsalya, M.D., Rosana Camarini, Ph.D.



There are some new funding sources that are now open. We found some exciting opportunities. Further reading and information on funding and some new research initiatives can be found below:

1) The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) has funding opportunities for international researchers in the following programs: postdoctoral, summer, short-term, strategic, standard and pathway to University positions. For more information click:



There are long-term and short-term funding opportunities for mid-career and advanced career level candidates as well.

2) In the USA, we found some new funding opportunities from the NIH, including new NIAAA funding opportunities. Click to find out:



3) The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) funds a wide range of medical research. More information on funding availability in their medical innovation program can be found here:



4) The National Natural Science Foundation of China awards research funding on healthcare research including addiction. For more information click:



5) Information on various society/foundation grants can be found here:



6) Research Funding opportunities in Brazil:

- CNPq Call No. 08/2019 - Scholarships in Brazil and Abroad: These awards support research projects aimed at contributing to the scientific and technological development and innovation of the country, through scholarships within the country and abroad.



- Information on the CAPES-Yale PhD Scholar Program in Biomedical Sciences found here:



Cont. Funding Opportunities

By Vatsalya Vatsalya, M.D., Rosana Camarini, Ph.D.

- The CAPES-DFATD (Global Affairs Canada) Program aims to select joint research projects between Brazil and Canada in all areas of knowledge to foster high-level research and training of through scientific exchange and research.



-The CAPES / Humboldt Research Scholarship Program is a CAPES initiative in cooperation with the Alexander von Humboldt (AvH) Foundation in Germany with the objective of awarding scholarships to highly qualified researchers, whether employed or not, in Educational Institutions and Brazilian research in all areas of knowledge. The partnership aims to internationalize research more consistently, improve scientific production and qualification, and develop methods and theories in conjunction with researchers of recognized scientific merit, German or foreign resident in Germany.



- CAPES/FCT The program aims to approve joint research projects between Brazilian and Portuguese educational institutions.



Note: We will provide more information on funding opportunities in the Sao Paulo region of Brazil in the next issue.



Global Jobs

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

Jobs posted on LinkedIn account of ISBRA Communication Committee



NIAAA



RSoA



- (1) [The Department of Health Education & Behavior at the University of Florida](#) is hiring 2 tenure-track positions, open-rank, in the areas of obesity/physical activity, addiction and HIV/sexual health.
- (2) [The Department of Neurosciences of University of New Mexico School of Medicine](#) invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level.
- (3) [NIAAA's Laboratory of Molecular Signaling](#) is seeking a Staff Scientist in the Intramural Research Program to participate in multi-disciplinary research in neuroscience experiments.

Global Jobs**By Nioud (Neo) Gebru, M.P.S.****Fellowships/Post-doctoral positions**[NIDA international fellowships](#)

- (1) The [Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh](#) is seeking a PhD in Medicine, Biology, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Bioengineering or other relevant background with experience in liver patho-physiology and/or endocrinology research, preferably translational bench-to-bedside oriented, for a Post-Doctoral position.
- (2) The [Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at the University of South Florida School of Medicine](#) invites applications for a postdoctoral research scholar in Neuroscience of Alcohol Use Disorder.
- (3) The [Department of Psychology at the University of Binghamton](#) invites applications for a NIAAA-funded T32 postdoctoral fellowship in Development and Neuroadaptations in Alcohol and Addictions.

News and Events**By Fengyuan (Linda) Li, M.S.****Information:**

Monday, August 5, 2019

In Memoriam: Robert E. Taylor, MD, PhD

[In Memoriam of Dr. Robert E. Taylor](#)

Thursday, September 5, 2019

September 9: International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Awareness Day

Find more details about FASD Awareness Day here:

<https://www.nofas.org/fasdmonth/>

Friday, September 13, 2019

The Director's Report to the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism is now online: [NIAAA Director's Reports to Council](#)

Thursday, September 26, 2019

The links between alcohol use and suicidal behavior were explored: Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is prevalent among individuals who die by suicide; AUD is a potent risk factor for suicidal behavior; acute use of alcohol (AUA) increases risk for suicidal behavior by lowering inhibition and promoting suicidal thoughts. Click here to read the full article: [Suicidal Behavior and Alcohol Use Disorder](#)

Cont. News and Events **By Fengyuan (Linda) Li, M.S.**

Research News:

1) A New Treatment Strategy for Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease (AALD). [NIAAA Spectrum Volume 11, Issue 2](#): Dr. Bernd Schnabl and his team showed that gut bacteria could be manipulated to produce IL22 as potential treatment for AALD. Reference [PMID: 30448775](#)

2) Reduction in Drinking Associated with Improvements in Health and Quality of Life. [NIAAA Spectrum Volume 11, Issue 3](#): Stepped Alcohol Treatment Improves HIV and Alcohol Outcomes. Reference [PMID: 30395350](#)

3) New preclinical study points to potential role of human gene in addiction. Take a look of the study online at <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1820410116>. Reference [PMID: 31182603](#)

Events

November 8, 2019 to November 12, 2019 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) The Liver Meeting. Boston, MA. Registration is now open: [2019 AASLD Registration](#)

November 13, 2019 to November 17, 2019. Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting. Austin, TX. Registration is now open: [2019 GSA Registration](#)

November 13, 2019 to November 16, 2019. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). Anaheim, CA. Registration is now open: [2019 ABRCMS Registration](#)

The 43rd Annual RSA **Scientific Meeting and** **ISBRA Congress** **New Orleans, Louisiana** **June 20-24, 2020**



Find out the RSA/ISBRA joint meeting program committee and timeline: [43rd RSA/ISBRA joint meeting program committee and timeline.](#)

Call for Program Proposals, Abstracts and other Meeting related information:

<https://www.xcdsystem.com/rsoa/index.cfm?ID=LeJoWZu&CFID=6491948&CFTOKEN=43aeae49e78c602a-33381D63-F207-9F92-2BD18814132DE6B2>

Deadline
December 2nd, 2019

Conference Report

**By Mickael Naassila, Ph.D.
and Rosana Camarini, Ph.D.**

The 17th ESBRA congress was held in Lille, France, from 21st to 24th of September and organized by Prof. Mickael Naassila. There were more than 350 participants including about 60 students. The five Young Investigator Symposium awardees were Drs. Séverine Lannoy, Eric Augier, Sophie Laguesse, Esa Domi and Patrick Bach.

Five poster prizes were also given. The Manfred Lautenschläger prize was awarded to Professor Markus Heilig. A social event « meet the PI » dedicated to young researchers was a success (see picture). The President of the Interministerial Mission Fighting against drugs and addiction (MILDECA), Dr Nicolas Puisse, opened the meeting and the gala dinner was hosted by the Regional Council of the Hauts-de-France Region.

We are on the Web!

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

Email: isbraisbra@gmail.com

We are on LinkedIn now:
[Communication Committee](#)
[ISBRA](#)

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





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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: v0vats01@louisville.edu

ISBRA Communication Committee

Dr. Rosana Camarini, Board of Directors Rep.

Dr. Robert Leeman, Co-Chair

Dr. Ricardo Pautassi, Board of Directors Rep.

Dr. Vatsalya Vatsalya, Co-Chair

Members

Dr. Karina Possa Abrahao (E-Bulletin layout)

Dr. Mickael Naassila (E-Bulletin writer)

Fengyuan (Linda) Li M.S. (LinkedIn moderator/E-Bulletin writer)

Nioud (Neo) Gebru, M. P. S. (Twitter moderator/ E-Bulletin writer)

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.