



RESEARCH IN ADDICTION MEDICINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2019-2021 Scholars

Scholars



Ayesha Appa, MD

Addiction Medicine

University of
California San
Francisco

NAC Mentor: Patrick O'Connor, MD,
MPH

Dr. Appa is pursuing a joint Infectious Diseases-Addiction Medicine fellowship at UCSF. She is interested in understanding gaps in effective care for people who have substance use disorders and deep-seated infections. In fellowship, she plans to study how treatment plans and outcomes of deep-seated S. Aureus infections differ in people who inject drugs, and separately, demographic and clinical characteristics of drug-related deaths among people living with HIV in San Francisco.



Joao De Aquino, MD

Addiction Medicine

Yale University

NAC Mentor: Roger Weiss, MD

Dr. De Aquino is an Advanced Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Yale School of Medicine, where he completed his Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship and Psychiatry Residency. He is also a graduate of the Yale Neuroscience Research Training Program (N RTP). His research interests include examining the potential therapeutic effects of cannabinoids for opioid use disorder and co-occurring chronic pain. He hopes that behavioral pharmacology approaches will provide insights that innovate and advance the treatment of both conditions.



Raagini Jawa, MD, MPH

Addiction Medicine

Boston University
School of Medicine

NAC Mentor: Chinazo Cunningham,
MD, MS

Dr. Jawa received her undergraduate and medical school degree from Boston University as part of the combined BA-MD Seven year accelerated medical program. She completed her Master's in Public health with an international health concentration at Boston University School of Public Health. She completed her residency training in Internal Medicine as part of the HIV pathway as well as her Chief residency at Boston Medical Center. At Boston Medical Center, she is a combined Infectious Disease and Addiction Medicine Fellow. She is interested in developing programs that bring harm reduction strategies to the bedside so as to prevent infectious bacterial and viral complications of intravenous drug use. Her non-medical interests include directing her Indian fusion band Leher, performing as a solo ukulele artist, and being an avid amateur photographer.

Vivek Jain, MD, MAS

Dr. Jain is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) at the University of California, San Francisco. He is an infectious disease specialist focused on HIV, general infectious diseases, and internal medicine. He is the director of the SFGH Infectious Diseases Clinic, Co-Director of the SFGH Infection Control and Prevention Team, and is Co-director of the Communicable Diseases course in the UCSF Global Health Sciences Master's Degree program.

University of
California
San Francisco



Mehmet Sofuoglu, MD, PhD

Dr. Sofuoglu is a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University and Director of the VA New England Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC). He received his medical degree from Hacettepe University in Turkey, and received his PhD in pharmacology from the University of Minnesota. His research bridges the gap between human laboratory studies examining the medical safety and potential efficacy of new medications for substance dependence and outpatient trials directly examining these medications in drug relapse. His long-term goal is to develop medication for stimulant addiction including cocaine, amphetamines, and nicotine.

Yale University



Josh Barocas, MD

Dr. Barocas is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases at the Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center. He is an infectious diseases physician and addictions researcher. His research focuses on the intersection of substance use and infectious diseases. He uses a combination of clinical epidemiology, mathematical modeling, cost-effectiveness, and health economics to answer questions that impact clinical decision making and health policy.

Boston University
School of Medicine



Mentors



Boston University School of Medicine



Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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Sukhpreet Klaire, MD

Addiction Medicine
British Columbia
Centre on Substance
Use

NAC Mentor: Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA,
MPH

Dr. Klaire is an Addiction Medicine Research Fellow with the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use. He is trained as a Family Physician with a clinical focus in Addiction Medicine. His research interests include community-based harm reduction, integration of substance use disorder treatment to primary care settings, and novel approaches for the treatment for opioid use disorder. His current research project will explore the effects of drug-checking services on behaviour change.



Leah Leisch, MD

Addiction Medicine
Yale University;
University of Alabama
Birmingham

NAC Mentor: Michael Stein, MD

Dr. Leisch is an Addiction Medicine Fellow at Yale University. After completing residency in internal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she worked as an academic internist prior to entering fellowship. She is interested in the intersection of addiction and pain and has spent time working to improve care of patients on long term opioid therapy for chronic non-malignant pain. She is also interested in the development of patient-centered medical homes to provide extended primary care services including HCV treatment, contraceptive care and substance-use-disorder treatment within one clinical setting.



Kumar Vasudevan, MD

Addiction Medicine
New York University

NAC Mentor: Edward Nunes, MD

Dr. Vasudevan is an Addiction Medicine Fellow at New York University School of Medicine. He is also receiving his Masters in Comparative Effectiveness. His research interests center around patient engagement in long-term primary care and substance use treatment. His current research compares the effectiveness of different medication combinations for alcohol use disorder after inpatient hospitalizations.

Paxton Bach, MD, MSc

British Columbia
Centre on
Substance Use

Dr. Bach is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and a post-doctoral research fellow with the BC Centre on Substance Use. He serves as the Associate Director for the BCCSU Clinical Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program, and as an addiction medicine physician and preceptor at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. He conducts research on opioid and stimulant use disorders, with a focus on epidemiologic trends and development of evidence-based treatment strategies. He is currently the Qualified Investigator for the Repurposing Slow-Release Oral Morphine as a New Oral Alternative for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (pRESTO) clinical trial.



Will Becker, MD

Yale University

Dr. Becker is a general internist additionally trained in addiction medicine and pain management who co-directs the Integrated Pain Clinic and Opioid Reassessment Clinic at VA Connecticut and co-chairs Yale School of Medicine's Pain Curriculum Committee. His VA, NIH, FDA and PCORI-funded clinical research uses observational and experimental methods to examine and improve the quality of chronic pain treatment in primary care, particularly at the interface between high impact chronic pain and substance use disorders. Increasingly, his work focuses on de-implementing high-dose, long-term opioid therapy and improving patient's access to non-pharmacologic pain treatments.



Josh Lee, MD, MSc

New York
University

Dr. Lee is an Associate Professor of Population Health and Medicine/General Internal Medicine and Clinical Innovation at the NYU School of Medicine and Director of the NYU Fellowship in Addiction Medicine. His research is focused on addiction pharmacotherapies in primary care and criminal justice populations. He has conducted multiple NIH clinical trials examining the use of naltrexone and buprenorphine opioid and alcohol treatments in community criminal justice involved adults, at release from jail, and within community primary care settings.



Mentors



Boston University School of Medicine



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