



RESEARCH IN ADDICTION MEDICINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2020-2022 Scholars

Scholars

Anees Bahji, BSch, MD, CISAM, FRCPC

Addiction Psychiatry

BC Centre on Substance Use

NAC Mentor: Michael Stein, MD

Dr. Bahji is currently an International Collaborative Addiction Medicine Research Fellow through the British Columbia Centre on Substance Use. He completed a one-year Addiction Psychiatry clinical and research fellowship through the University of Calgary, where he works as a part-time staff psychiatrist in various addiction programs. He is looking to focus on cannabis research as this may harmonize well with his training as a psychiatrist. Dr. Bahji is also returning to graduate school, in advance of a formal Ph.D. start date for September 2022.

Tommy Brothers, MD

Addiction Medicine
Dalhousie University

NAC Mentor: Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA, MPH

Dr. Brothers is a subspecialty resident, training in General Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He is also a PhD student in epidemiology and public health at University College London, UK. His clinical and research work focuses on the prevention and treatment of medical complications of substance use, including integration of addiction treatment and harm reduction into general medical settings. He co-leads an unofficial, trainee-run hospital inpatient addiction medicine consultation service and helped to organize Halifax's first safe injection site.

Leah Harvey, MD, MPH

Addiction Medicine
Boston Medical Center

NAC Mentor: Patrick O'Connor, MD, MPH

Dr. Harvey is in her third year of a combined Infectious Disease and Addiction Medicine fellowship at Boston Medical Center in Boston, MA. Her research is focused on the infectious sequelae associated with injection drug use, particularly HIV and invasive bacterial infections, and in optimizing harm reduction strategies and adapting clinical treatment modalities to address health disparities and reach marginalized patients.

Robert Kleinman, MD

Addiction Psychiatry
University of Toronto
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

NAC Mentor: Kathleen Brady, MD, PhD

Dr. Kleinman is an Assistant Professor and Clinician-Scientist in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. He is also a staff psychiatrist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, Canada. His research evaluates the effectiveness of treatments for substance use disorders and examines barriers to accessing evidence-based treatments for substance use disorder.

David Crockford, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Crockford is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary School of Medicine. He is also Academic Medical Director of the Psychosis Programs at Foothills Medical Center. His published work focuses on education in addiction, gambling disorder, functional brain neuroimaging, and concurrent psychiatric and substance use disorders. He is the past Chair of the Addictions Section for the Canadian Psychiatric Association as well as prior International Area Director for the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry.

University of Calgary

Duncan Webster, MD, MA

Dr. Webster is an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Dalhousie Medical School. He is also an infectious diseases physician at the Saint John Regional Hospital through the Department of Medicine with a cross-appointment in the Department of Laboratory Medicine as well as honorary research associate with the University of New Brunswick. His research interests relate to chronic viral infections including hepatitis C as well as harm reduction, tuberculosis, zoonotic infections, and glycosylation.

Dalhousie University

Simeon Kimmel, MD, MA

Dr. Kimmel is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine and an attending physician in the sections of General Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Boston Medical Center. He is the Medical Director of Project TRUST, BMC's harm reduction focused drop-in center. His research focuses on improving retention in treatment with medications for opioid use disorder following hospitalization of serious injection related infections, and the integration of addiction and harm reduction services with infectious disease care.

Boston University School of Medicine

Roger Weiss, MD

Dr. Weiss is a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is Chief of the Division of Alcohol, Drugs, and Addiction and Director of the Alcohol, Drug, and Addiction Clinical Research Program at McLean Hospital. Dr. Weiss has received numerous NIH grants, including for developing integrated group therapy, an evidence-based treatment for co-occurring bipolar and substance use disorders, and leading a multi-site treatment study of prescription opioid dependence. He has also authored over 400 publications, including several books.

Harvard Medical School

Mentors



Boston University School of Medicine



Yale School of Medicine



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Mentors



Kenisha Nisbett, DO, MS

Addiction Medicine
Loma Linda University
NAC Mentor: Edward Nunes, MD

Dr. Nisbett is an attending physician practicing addiction medicine in Southern California. She completed her fellowship in June 2021 and her research project at Loma Linda University – critically evaluating the needs of veterans with substance use disorders at Loma Linda VA Hospital. She used the breadth of data to identify and address gaps in SUD care being delivered to veterans and used implementation science methodologies to frame strategies to successfully integrate improved delivery of SUD care to champion change for veterans that suffer from SUDs. Dr. Nisbett is also hoping to apply implementation strategies to her clinical practice.

Lori Karan, MD, DFASAM, FACP

Loma Linda University
Medical School

Dr. Karan is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Preventative Medicine and Program Director of the Addiction Medicine Fellowship at Loma Linda University. Additionally, she works in the Substance Treatment and Recovery Program at the Loma Linda VA Healthcare System. Her research interest is examining the similarities and differences between nicotine and other addictive drugs, and she works toward developing effective treatments for nicotine and tobacco use, especially in patients with substance use disorders.



Ashish Thakrar, MD

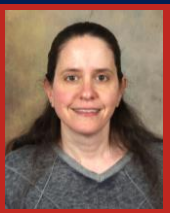
Addiction Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine
NAC Mentor: Roger Weiss, MD

Dr. Thakrar is a Fellow in the National Clinician Scholars Program at the Perelman School of Medicine. He is an Internist and an Addiction Medicine Specialist. Dr. Thakrar's research and advocacy focuses on improving access to treatment for opioid use disorder in the fentanyl era, improving quality and retention in care for patients with addiction, and in health services reform to standardize hospital-based care for patients with addiction. Dr. Thakrar works clinically in primary care and as a hospital-based Addiction Medicine Consult physician.

Geetanjali Chander, MD, MPH

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dr. Chander is a Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and holds a joint appointment in Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has expertise in the areas of General Internal Medicine and HIV. She is the PI of a research lab that examines the epidemiological aspects of HIV and alcohol use/other drug use among persons with HIV, and works on adaptation and testing of person- and computer-delivered interventions for unhealthy alcohol use, particularly among women.



Stephanie Weiss, MD, PhD, MS

Addiction Medicine
NIDA IRP TAMB
NAC Mentor: Gail D'Onofrio, MD, MS

Dr. Weiss is a Staff Clinician serving the Translational Addiction Medicine Branch (TAMB) of the NIDA Intramural Research Program. She completed her fellowship in Addiction Medicine Research at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Dr. Weiss's research interests include novel psychoactive substances, medication misuse, and improving interpretation of urine tests. Her RAMS project involved analyzing the urine samples of trauma patients to determine the rate of false negatives in urine drug screens, as well as characterizing the classes of compounds that are being missed by relying on urine drug screens.

Laura Veach, PhD, LCAS, LCMHC

Wake Forest School of Medicine

Dr. Veach is a Professor of Trauma Surgery with a joint appointment in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She is also the Director of the MS Addiction Research and Clinical Health Program. Her research interests include substance-related misuse and disorders, cost-effective evidence-based interventions, trauma centers and injury prevention, and her model for hospital bedside interventions has been presented around the world. She is passionate about connecting the past with the future by creating interventions to change outcomes for her patients and learners.



Boston University School of Medicine



Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE