



RESEARCH IN ADDICTION MEDICINE SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2024-2026 Scholars

Scholars



Megan Heeney, MD

Addiction Medicine
Alameda Health System

NAC Mentor: Ingrid Binswanger,
MD, MPH, MS

Dr. Heeney is an Emergency Medicine physician and current Addiction Medicine Fellow at Alameda Health System. Her research interests include improving access to care at safety net hospitals for patients who use drugs; studying outcomes of initiation of XR buprenorphine in the ED, implementation of behavioral emergency response teams, and interventions to increase access to MAT and harm reduction supports for patients presenting to care due to traumatic injuries.



Tim Kelly, MD

Addiction Medicine
University of Pennsylvania

NAC Mentor: Federico Vaca, MD,
MPH

Dr. Kelly is an Addiction Medicine Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Before entering medicine, he worked for 7 years in mental health research where much of his work focused on dissemination and implementation of evidence based mental health therapies. His RAMS research will be exploring barriers and facilitators to patients with substance use disorders seeking care in the emergency department. He hopes that his work can inform emergency departments about what programming and resources they can offer to encourage patients to seek out care earlier on in their disease process, thus reducing morbidity and mortality.



Clarissa O'Connor, MD

Addiction Medicine
Montefiore Einstein

NAC Mentor: Katharine Bradley, MD,
MPH

Dr. O'Connor is an Addiction Medicine Fellow at Montefiore Einstein. She completed family medicine residency at West Suburban Medical Center in Chicago, where she became involved in research on integrating long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB) into inpatient addiction care. Her RAMS project will continue this work by using implementation science methodology to examine barriers and facilitators to integrating LAIB into inpatient addiction care at Montefiore's teaching hospitals, as well as studying early implementation outcomes.



Kristin Prewitt, MD, MPH

Addiction Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University

NAC Mentor: Patrick O'Connor,
MD, MPH, MACP

Dr. Prewitt is a dual Addiction Medicine and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow at Oregon Health & Science University. Her research and work focus on substance use in pregnancy and postpartum, family unification, birth trauma, abortion care, harm reduction, co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in pregnancy, and acute pain management during procedures for patients with drug use. Her RAMS project is a prospective cohort study comparing cardiac point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) findings, electrocardiogram, and serum biomarkers in pregnant patients with methamphetamine use compared to those without methamphetamine use.



Tony Spadaro, MD, MPH

Addiction Medicine
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

NAC Mentor: Jeffrey Samet, MD, MA,
MPH

Dr. Spadaro is a Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine Fellow at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System. His research interests include naloxone distribution from the emergency department, buprenorphine precipitated withdrawal, and the impact of xylazine on patients with opioid use disorder. His RAMS project will focus on the acute management of patients with prolonged sedation after an opioid overdose.

Mentors



Erik Anderson, MD

Erik Anderson is an addiction and emergency physician working at Alameda Health System in Oakland, California. He is the medical director of the addiction consult service for the health system and a research faculty member for the Addiction Medicine Fellowship. He has experience working with NIDA CTN clinical trials, and is interested in strategies to integrate addiction treatment into acute care and low-threshold settings.

Alameda Health System



Maggie Lowenstein, MD, MSHP

Dr. Lowenstein is a general internist, addiction medicine physician, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Lowenstein's research focuses on novel strategies for implementing evidence-based treatment and harm reduction interventions for opioid and other substance use disorders. She is interested in the delivery of substance use care in general medical settings as well as developing and studying low-barrier treatment models for substance use disorder. Dr. Lowenstein also co-chairs the Opioid Use Disorder Workgroup of the Penn Medicine Opioid Task Force and collaborates with partners in Philadelphia to disseminate best practices for opioid use disorder care.

University of Pennsylvania



Andrea Jakubowski, MD, MS

Dr. Jakubowski is a general internist, addiction medicine specialist, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Jakubowski provides primary care and medications for opioid use disorder in a syringe services program and opioid treatment program, and cares for patients on a hospital addiction consult service. Dr. Jakubowski's research focuses on expanding access to evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorder within and outside traditional healthcare settings.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine



Ximena Levander, MD, MCR

Dr. Levander is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Clinician Investigator at OHSU in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Addiction Medicine Section. Her research interests focus on developing and implementing effective and innovative interventions for delivering evidence-based substance use disorder treatment in a patient-centered approach to people who use drugs. She is also interested in how to ensure equitable access to addiction treatment using telemedicine and how telemedicine could expand access particularly to those with barriers to care including those living in rural communities, those experiencing homelessness, and women.

Oregon Health and Science University



Howard Greller, MD

Dr. Greller is Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, and the Program Director of the Medical Toxicology Fellowship. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine, Medical Toxicology, and Addiction Medicine. He currently serves as the Deputy Editor of the Journal of Medical Toxicology, and has served on the board of directors of both the American College of Medical Toxicology and the Medical Toxicology Foundation. He is co-founder and editor of the Tox and the Hound blog, and is the 'Howard' of the Dantastic Mr. Tox & Howard podcast. He additionally promotes his educational outreach as co-host of the Emergency Medicine show on Sirius/XM Doctor Radio.

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School



Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine
Department of Medicine



Yale School of Medicine