

EXPLORING AN ARC ON THE TOPIC: *Bridging Basic and Clinical Science to Reduce the Harms and Consequences of Persistent or Risky Substance Use*

Overview: The formation of this pre-ARC stems from the opportunity to foster collaboration among the continuum of nationally-recognized clinical and basic science researchers housed in various schools and departments across Boston University campuses, but with not enough collaboration between these often-times separate worlds. In this pre-ARC, we will explore ideas for building an ARC geared towards understanding the persistent or risky use of addictive substances (i.e., alcohol or other licit and illicit substances) despite negative consequences to the individual, including impairments in cognitive and emotional health, long-term medical complications, and overdose death. Through the discovery of genetic, neurobiological and psychosocial underpinnings of persistent or risky substance use, we hope to discover new pathways for prevention and harm reduction. We are in the process of recruiting more members and forming faculty teams interested in utilizing resources from the Brain Tissue Repository, the Animal Science Center Breeding Programs, and existing clinical human cohorts, data, and sample repositories. Long-term objectives for the ARC include fostering back-translational collaborations among clinical and preclinical substance use researchers across BUMC and CRC and to advance new collaborations with, for example, researchers from Computer and Data Sciences and the Center for Systems Neuroscience to broaden the approaches used to mitigate the individual and societal burdens of persistent and risky substance use.

Leadership

Alexander Walley, General Internal Medicine:
Kathleen Kantak, Psychological and Brain Sciences

Current Faculty

Camron Bryant, Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
Lindsay Farrer, Department of Medicine
Michael Fischer, General Internal Medicine
Theresa Kim, General Internal Medicine
Thor Stein, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, CTE Brain Bank
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Venetia Zachariou, Pharmacology & Experimental Ther, Physiology & Biophysics

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