

# NIAAA NEWSLETTER

FEATURING INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

FALL 2007 NUMBER 14

## NIH Guide: Register Clinical Trials by December 26

The NIH Office of Extramural Research notice NOT-OD-08-014 indicated that December 26, 2007, is the deadline for publicly registering ongoing clinical trials of drugs and biologics, other than Phase One investigations.

To register NIAAA-sponsored clinical trials at NIH's free site, investigators can visit [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)—see the “Investigator Instructions” or contact Gregory Roa at [greg.roa@nih.gov](mailto:greg.roa@nih.gov).

For the complete NIH guidance, visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-014.html>.

## Two NIH Institutes Share Emmy Award for HBO's *The Addiction Project*

At the Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony, held September 8 in Los Angeles, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences honored the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) with the Board of Governors Award for their work with HBO on *The Addiction Project*. The award is the academy's highest honor and is given to individuals or organizations committed to important social causes.

“This honor reflects our commitment to effectively communicate research results to the public,” said National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni.

*The Addiction Project* is a 14-part documentary series and multimedia initiative revealing the science of addiction, treatment options, recovery, and the costs of untreated addiction to

families and society. The series, which originally aired March 15 to more than 13 million viewers, featured NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow; NIAAA's Dr. Mark Willenbring, Director of the Division of Treatment and Recovery Research; and many NIH grantees across the country.

“HBO's *The Addiction Project* afforded us the opportunity to directly acquaint viewers with available evidence-based medical and behavioral treatments,” said NIAAA Director Dr. Ting-Kai Li. “This is especially important for disorders that for many years were treated outside the medical mainstream.”

Support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation enabled advocacy groups, including Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, to promote the series through grassroots activities. The centerpiece documentary is available online at [www.hbo.com/addiction/](http://www.hbo.com/addiction/).

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Above, left to right: NIAAA Director Dr. Ting-Kai Li, holding an Emmy statuette awarded for HBO's *Addiction Project*, with NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow (also with an Emmy), and NIAAA's Dr. Mark Willenbring, Director of the Division of Treatment and Recovery Research.



## Staff Updates

**Dr. Angela Martinelli** from the Division of Treatment and Recovery Research, as a volunteer nurse for Operation Smile, joined a mission to Honduras in November. She represented the Office of Global Health Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**Dr. Howard Moss**, Associate Director for Clinical and Translational Research, has been named one of 27 members of the task force that will oversee the development of the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V)*. The task force includes research scientists, clinical care providers, and consumer and family advocates.

**Dr. Kenneth Warren**, Associate Director for Basic Research, was recognized by the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NoFAS) for his work in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) arena and was named to the Tom and Linda Daschle FASD Hall of Fame (for details visit [www.nofas.org/](http://www.nofas.org/)).

## New Appointments

**Dr. Thomas Greenwell** has joined the Division of Neuroscience and Behavior (DNB) as a health scientist administrator. He manages a program dealing with neuropeptide involvement in alcohol dependence, as well as stress and alcohol interactions.

**Dr. M. Katherine Jung** has joined the Division of Metabolism and Health Effects (DMHE) as a program director. Her areas of expertise include molecular biology, molecular genetics, and cell biology, with special interests in mitosis and signal transduction.

**Dr. He (Joe) Wang** has joined DMHE as a program director. He comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His areas of expertise include molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, and microbiology.

**Dr. Bridget Williams-Simmons** has become a full-time staff member in the Science Policy Branch following her internship in the Emerging Leaders Program in the Department of Health and Human Services.

## Awards

**Dr. Andrew Holmes** received the 2007 Senior Preclinical Wyeth Award of the British Association for Psychopharmacology.

**Dr. Bill Huang** received the Progress in Lipid Research Young Investigator Award at the 2007 meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

**Dr. George Kunos**, Director of the Division of Intramural Clinical and Biological Research, received the Hyman-Zimmerman State-of-the-Art Lecture Award from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

**Dr. Antonio Noronha**, DNB Director, received the NIH Director's Award as part of a group honored for providing extraordinary scientific leadership of the Molecular Libraries and Imaging Roadmap.

**Dr. Ellen Witt** received the Blueprint for Neuroscience Research Directors Award for significant achievement in recognition of her outstanding effort and exemplary teamwork.

## Grant Receives Jellinek Award

**Dr. Bridget F. Grant** received the 2007 Jellinek Memorial Award. She is chief of NIAAA's Laboratory of Epidemiology and Biometry in the Division of Intramural Clinical and Biological Research and the principal investigator of the National Epidemi-



ologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC). She was cited for "Outstanding Leadership in the Design, Implementation, and Analysis of Major Epidemiologic Surveys in the Field of Alcohol and Drug Use Disorders and Psychiatric Comorbidities."

The prestigious international prize, named for alcohol research pioneer E.M. Jellinek, is given annually for outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge of alcohol and alcoholism.

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# NIAAA Budget Documents and Strategic Plan on the Web

Under the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2008, NIAAA will receive \$436.5 million. This would represent an increase of about 0.2 percent over the 2007 budget. Until Congress approves the final budget, this is still open to change.

Based on current calculations, NIAAA could anticipate supporting an estimated 751 research project grants, including 211 awards for new and competing grants.

The NIAAA budget information can be found in the Congressional Budget Justification document, which appears online under the "About NIAAA" section of the Institute's Web site found at <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/AboutNIAAA/CongressionalInformation>.

## Strategic Plan

NIAAA also posted an update of its *Five Year Strategic Plan – Alcohol*

*Across the Lifespan*. Among the changes in the current version, there is a new chapter, entitled "Birth to Age Ten," that addresses research opportunities in this area.

A link to the NIAAA Strategic Plan appears in the "What's New" section of the NIAAA home page. To access the site directly, visit <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/StrategicPlan/NIAAAStrategicPlan.htm>.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### *What Colleges Need to Know Now: An Update on College Drinking Research*

This update provides the latest scientific research on college student drinking. It is the first NIAAA publication on college drinking since its Task Force on College Drinking Prevention released its landmark report, *A Call To Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges*, in 2002. The original task force report was the result of a groundbreaking initiative and provided a clear picture of how students drink and the consequences of that drinking. Statistics first introduced in the report are now routinely used to convey the magnitude of college drinking consequences, and recommendations from the Task Force have been influential in the college alcohol prevention and treatment field. The new bulletin picks up where the earlier report left off, providing updated statistics, analysis, and recommendations. For up-to-date information on college drinking prevention, visit [www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov](http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov).



*Tips for Cutting Down on Drinking*  
Adapted from material in the popular publication *Helping Patients Who Drink Too Much: A Clinician's Guide*, this brochure provides practical and realistic strategies for individuals who want to drink less. In addition, it describes what constitutes a standard drink of beer, malt liquor, wine, and 80-proof spirits. It is available in both English and Spanish.



### *Alcohol Alert: Underage Drinking—Highlights from the Surgeon General's Call to Action To Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*

In March 2007, the Acting Surgeon General of the United States issued a *Call to Action To Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking*. The *Call to Action* highlights the nature and extent of underage drinking and its consequences and suggests a new, more comprehensive and developmentally sensitive approach to understanding, preventing, and reducing underage drinking. This *Alcohol Alert* presents highlights from the *Call to Action*.



### *Reacciones adversas: La mezcla de bebidas alcohólicas con medicamentos*

This Spanish version of the *Harmful Interactions: Mixing Alcohol With Medications* brochure describes the harmful effects that can result when people drink alcohol while taking medications. The brochure recently has been updated with an expanded list of medications and a user-friendly design that features larger, easier-to-read type.



For these NIAAA publications and other resources available free for downloading as full-text documents, visit [www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov), or write to: NIAAA, Publications Distribution Center, P.O. Box 10686, Rockville, MD 20849-0686.

## New Friends of NIAAA Cosponsor Congressional Briefing

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**O**n November 15, a newly established coalition called “Friends of NIAAA,” working in conjunction with the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus in the House of Representatives, organized an educational briefing for Congressional staffers on Capitol Hill.

The briefing focused on underage drinking. Speakers included NIAAA Director Dr. Ting-Kai Li; former NIAAA Associate Director Dr. Mark S. Goldman, Distinguished Research Professor and Director of the Alcohol and Substance Use Research Institute at the University of South Florida; Dr. Sandra A. Brown, professor of

Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego; and Mimi Fleury, founder of the Community of Concern. The briefing was very well-attended, according to Geoff Mumford of the American Psychological Association, the organization responsible for hosting the briefing and one of the founding member organizations of the Friends of NIAAA.

Similar “Friends of” groups exist in support of a number of Institutes at the National Institutes of Health. Typically, these stakeholder-organized coalitions comprise patient groups, scientific and professional societies,

and concerned individuals committed to supporting biomedical and behavioral research. More events are planned for the year ahead.

For additional details about the briefing, visit <http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107drink.html>.

To view the meeting’s slide presentations, visit the following Web sites:

- [www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107TKLIPresentation.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107TKLIPresentation.pdf)
- [www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107GoldmanPresentation.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107GoldmanPresentation.pdf)
- [www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107BrownPresentation.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107BrownPresentation.pdf)
- [www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107FleuryPresentation2.pdf](http://www.apa.org/ppo/issues/1107FleuryPresentation2.pdf)

## Calendar of Events

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*NIAAA will participate in or exhibit at meetings and conferences listed below. For additional information or updates on these events, consult the sponsoring organization.*

### F E B R U A R Y

- *February 7*  
*National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)*

5635 Fishers Lane, Conference Center  
(Terrace Level)  
Bethesda, MD  
Contact: Melvin Carter, 301/443-9788;  
carterm@mail.nih.gov

- *February 11-14*  
*Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)*

18th Annual National Leadership Forum  
Washington, DC  
Contact: [www.cadca.org](http://www.cadca.org)

### M A R C H

- *March 14-17*  
*American Pharmacists Association (APhA)*

APhA 2008 Annual Meeting and Exposition  
San Diego, CA  
Contact: [www.aphanet.org](http://www.aphanet.org)

- *March 17-20*  
*National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)*

12th Annual Medical Conference  
Washington, DC  
Contact: [www.nhma.org](http://www.nhma.org)

### A P R I L

- *April 5-9*  
*Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)*

Experimental Biology 2008  
San Diego, CA  
Contact: [www.nhma.org](http://www.nhma.org)

- *April 10-13*  
*American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)*

39th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Contact: [www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org)