

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NIDA Contacts:**     **Stephanie Older**  
                                  **301-443-6145**  
                                  [media@nida.nih.gov](mailto:media@nida.nih.gov)

## **National Institute on Drug Abuse to Unveil Comprehensive Drug Use Screening Tools for Physicians**

**What:**           Washington, D.C. – The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health, will unveil its Physicians’ Outreach Initiative, **NIDAMED**, on Monday, April 20, 2009. NIDA is joined by U.S. Senator Carl Levin, the Acting U.S. Surgeon General, the Acting Director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy, the Director of SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the CEO of the American Medical Association and others leading U.S. efforts to improve access to care for people addicted to drugs.

At the heart of **NIDAMED** are tools and resources for medical professionals to screen their patients for substance use. Research shows that screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment, by clinicians in general medical settings, can promote significant reductions in alcohol and tobacco use. A growing body of literature also suggests clinician interventions lead to potential reductions in illegal and nonmedical prescription drug use. However, many patients do not discuss their drug use with their physicians, and only a fraction of individuals who need addiction treatment receive it each year.

**NIDAMED** enables physicians to be the first line of defense against substance abuse and addiction and to increase awareness of the likely impact of substance abuse on a patient’s overall health. The **NIDAMED** tools, including an online screening tool and quick reference guide, are designed to fit into today’s busy clinical practices.

In 2007, an estimated 20 million Americans aged 12 or older (around 8 percent of the population) were current (past month) users of illegal drugs—nearly one in five of those 18-25 years old—and almost 71 million Americans were current users of tobacco products. The consequences of such drug use can be far reaching—playing a role in the cause and progression of many medical disorders.

**When:**           Monday, April 20, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:**           The National Press Club  
                          Holeman Lounge, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
                          529 14th Street, N.W.  
                          Washington, D.C. 20045

**Host:** National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Speakers:** Nora D. Volkow, M.D.  
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

Edward Jurith, J.D.  
Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Honorable Carl Levin  
United States Senator, Michigan

Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting United States Surgeon General

H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM  
Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment  
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Michael Maves, M.D., M.B.A.  
Executive Vice President & CEO, American Medical Association

Louis Baxter, M.D., FASAM  
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

Maristela Monteiro, M.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Advisor, Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Team Leader of Tobacco, Alcohol  
and Substance Abuse, Pan American Health Organization

John Roser (a.k.a. Radio Personality “Mink Rockmoore”)  
Patient in recovery, referred to drug treatment by his primary care physician

At 1:00 p.m., NIDA will convene a scientific meeting (open to interested reporters) in which researchers will discuss the latest advances and the role of the medical community in drug addiction treatment. (An agenda for this meeting is below.)

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The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world’s research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov). To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA’s new *DrugPubs* research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or fax or email requests to 240-645-0227 or [drugpubs@nida.nih.gov](mailto:drugpubs@nida.nih.gov). Online ordering is available at <http://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov>.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — *The Nation's Medical Research Agency* — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov).



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**The Science of Recognizing and Treating Substance Abuse and Addiction**  
**The National Press Club, Holeman Lounge, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Washington, D.C. 20045**

**Monday, April 20, 2009**

**AGENDA**

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- 1:00 – 1:10 p.m.      *Welcome*  
Nora D. Volkow, M.D.  
*Director*  
*National Institute on Drug Abuse*
- 1:10 – 1:50 p.m.      *Integrating Drug Abuse Treatment into Medical Care*  
Dennis McCarty, Ph.D.  
*Oregon Health and Science University*
- 1:50 – 2:30 p.m.      *Medications for Addictive Disorders*  
Charles P. O'Brien, M.D., Ph.D.  
*University of Pennsylvania*
- 2:30-2:45 p.m.      Break
- 2:45 – 3:25 p.m.      *Recent Advances in Behavioral Therapies for Addictive Disorders*  
Kathleen Carroll, Ph.D.  
*Yale University School of Medicine*
- 3:25 – 4:05 p.m.      *Screening and Brief Intervention - Emergency Medicine Perspectives*  
Gail D'Onofrio, M.D.  
*Yale University School of Medicine*
- 4:05 – 4:15 p.m.      *Closing Remarks*  
Wilson Compton, M.D.  
*Director, Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research*  
*National Institute on Drug Abuse*