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Rural Drug Addiction Research Center

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2019 – 2020

RURAL DRUG ADDICTION RESEARCH CENTER

From Synapse To Society

By Paige DeBrie

Our objective over the course of the summer and the school year was to help develop a new branch of the REACH Lab called Rural Drug Addiction Research center. This branch consisted mainly with the usage of drugs across the midwest. It wasn't until 2018 that the drug crisis hit the midwest increasing by 48% bringing attention to rural drug use. We were here to help translate those findings into something the more general public would understand as well as help with spreading awareness to the community.



What is the RDAR Center?

Our mission is to understand the manifold experiences of people who use drugs in the rural Midwest. The center's core 5-year study is made possible by the National Institute of General Medical Science's Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence program. The RDAR center brings together researchers who focus on brain chemistry, social patterns of drug use, epigenetic understandings of biology and experience, and others. Working together, our goal is to understand the full range of the effects of substance use from the synapse through society. Our hope is that this research will help rural communities in our region understand regional substance use experiences and inform outreach, prevention, and treatment efforts.

Creating an Online Presence

One of the first things that was needed to be done in order to get this research up and going was creating an online presence so people had a place they could reach out if they were interested in being apart of the research. Our goal was to create something that didn't feel sterile or uninviting yet was easy for users to understand. This is also where we would put updates and registering for the conference as well as other events. Some of the struggles that we came across when building this website was that the University was that we just didn't have enough information in the beginning. Plus information was always changing and we needed to stay up to date.

Seminar Series

Seminar Series is a series hosted by the RDAR center that included a variety of different speakers that would come in and offer talks about their specific works. Our job was to help set up these meetings. Before a meeting would occur we needed to make sure we had equipment to record and had the zoom up and going. We would then take these talks and make videos out of them and post them on our social media pages.

Rural Drug Addiction Research Center

2020 Seminar Series

Missing Network Data: Implications for Immunization Strategies



Jeffrey A. Smith

Feb. 13

3:30-5:00

430G OLDH

Jeffrey A. Smith is an Associate Professor at the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research explores methodological and substantive problems related to network, individual, and the broader social context. He has done methodological work on network sampling and missing data, developing new techniques to make inferences about network properties. More recently, he has more substantive work that explores network relationships in adolescent, adult, and geriatric, as well as changes in network relationships across time, with a focus on aging in retirement. He is also currently working on a new project on rural drug use and networks. His project will study the role factors associated with rural drug use, looking at the social network dynamics and behavioral patterns that contribute to substance use and increased risk of addiction.

*This event is FREE and open to the general public and LNC community. For more information visit our website [rdar.unl.edu](#).

Rural Drug Addiction Research Center

2019 Seminar Series Presents

W. Alex Mason



W. Alex Mason

Sep. 12

3:30-5:00pm

Urbana Room 200

(Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center)

Dr. W. Alex Mason is the Geriatric Marie Monro-River Endowed Chair of Clinical Research and Senior Director of the Child and Family Translational Research Center at Boys Town. His applied research interests include the developmental ecology and family-focused prevention of adolescent and young adult substance misuse and co-occurring problems. He also has interests in longitudinal and intervention-based methods and data analytic techniques.

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Rural Drug Addiction Research Center

2019 Seminar Series Presents

Exploring the Intersection of Substance Use and Infectious Disease in Rural Southern Illinois: Lessons Learned and Preliminary Findings



Wiley D. Jenkins

Oct. 10

3:30-5:00pm

430G OLDH

Dr. Wiley D. Jenkins is currently a Research Associate Professor at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois, where his primary role is a Chair Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics within the Department of Population Science and Policy. He is currently the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and is leading multi-site efforts across the state of Illinois to address the burden of infectious diseases in rural communities. He is also the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and is leading multi-site efforts across the state of Illinois to address the burden of infectious diseases in rural communities. He is also the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and is leading multi-site efforts across the state of Illinois to address the burden of infectious diseases in rural communities.

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Rural Drug Addiction Research Center

2019 Seminar Series

The Impact of the Early Rearing Environment on Incentive Motivation in Adulthood



Mary Cain

Dec. 12

3:30-5:00

430G OLDH

Mary Cain, PhD, is Professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences and serves as the director of the Program in Neuroscience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently a Research Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where her research focuses on the role of early rearing environment on incentive motivation in adulthood. She is currently a Research Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where her research focuses on the role of early rearing environment on incentive motivation in adulthood. She is currently a Research Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where her research focuses on the role of early rearing environment on incentive motivation in adulthood.

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Social Media

Part of outreach is making sure we were available on different platforms. It was important to make a social media to ensure that we could create events as well as keep people up to date for what was going on at the center. One of my roles was to make sure that events got posted as well as creating the signage that would be used for these past. We would also take the videos created from speakers and post them. This is an easy way we could start a spread of information. We would also team up with other departments and share each other findings.

Research & Translation Symposium

The goal by hosting this Research & Translation Symposium was to bring together experts in various fields of drug addiction. Plus bringing together community members to better understand what is happening right here in Nebraska. One of my main objectives was to help supply the conference with name tags and folders. As well as help pick a venue, catering, designing the invite and make sure we set it up so people could easily register.

Keynote Speakers & Talks

Tamara Phillips-Richards (OHSU)
THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN RURAL KENTUCKY: RISK ENVIRONMENTS & BUPRENORPHINE DISPENSING

Lane Strathearn (Iowa)
THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF MATERNAL ADDICTION: WHAT'S ATTACHMENT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Hannah Cooper
IDENTIFY GENES THAT IMPACT METHAMPHETAMINE USE DISORDER

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Roberto Abadie

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Natalia Acosta

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Mindy Anderson-Knott

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Trey Andrews

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Jason Autore

2019 Rural Drug Addiction Research and Translation Symposium

Alena Balasanova

RURAL DRUG ADDICTION RESEARCH CENTER

SYNAPSE TO SOCIETY

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WELCOME TO THE FIRST ANNUAL RURAL DRUG ADDICTION RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION SYMPOSIUM

NO SINGLE FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ADDICTION. WE NEED TO BRING TOGETHER EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF DRUG ADDICTION. PLUS BRINGING TOGETHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE IN NEBRASKA. ONE OF MY MAIN OBJECTIVES WAS TO HELP SUPPLY THE CONFERENCE WITH NAME TAGS AND FOLDERS. AS WELL AS HELP PICK A VENUE, CATERING, DESIGNING THE INVITE AND MAKE SURE WE SET IT UP SO PEOPLE COULD EASILY REGISTER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [rdar.unl.edu](#)

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