

Announcements

Dr. Ashley L. Merianos, Assistant Professor in the School of Human Services at the University of Cincinnati, is the proud recipient of a National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (1K01DA044313-01). The research aims are to identify the health and economic burden of child secondhand smoke exposure on the Pediatric Emergency Department and create an implementation plan to reduce exposure. The K01 Award will provide her with fundamental research and career training in mixed-methods methodology and implementation of prevention interventions to meet her long-term career goal of being a health services researcher with expertise in developing, adapting, and implementing evidence-based prevention interventions for substance use disorders affecting children in the acute healthcare setting.

Dr. LaTrice Montgomery, Assistant Professor in the Addiction Sciences Division, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati College Of Medicine, received a K23 career development award from NIH/NIDA. The title of the project is "Twitter-Based Intervention for Young Adult African American Blunt Smokers." The project period is from 8/15/17-7/31/22. The career plan proposes training and stage IA-AB intervention development research with her primary mentor, Dr. Theresa Winhusen, and co-mentors, Drs. Judith Prochaska, Alan Budney and Vicki Plano Clark. The combined use of tobacco and cannabis through blunts is a serious public health problem among African American youth due to the increased risk of acquiring smoking-related diseases, and for developing a lifelong addiction to both of these substances. This project involves the development and evaluation of a low-cost, fully automated and accessible internet-based social media (i.e., Twitter) treatment intervention to help reduce blunt use among young African American adults, which will have a significant public health impact for an understudied and underserved population.

Dr. Lauren R. Pacek, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Addiction Division, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Duke University School of Medicine, received a K01 career development award from NIDA. The title of the project is "Mobile health interventions for varenicline adherence among HIV-positive smokers." The project period is from 8/15/17-7/31/17. The research aims to evaluate an existing smartphone application that targets medication adherence, in combination with contingency management to improve varenicline adherence among smokers living with HIV. The primary training goals of this proposal are to gain skills in clinical trials research methodology and mobile health intervention development, and develop content expertise in medication adherence. The results of the proposed research and training plans will facilitate Dr. Pacek's development as an independent investigator and provide preliminary data for a future large-scale efficacy study.

Dr. Tracy Smith, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Addiction Sciences Division at the Medical University of South Carolina, received an R03 award from NIDA. The title of the project is "Impact of exclusive use of low nicotine cigarettes on compensatory smoking" and will test whether a mandated reduction in the nicotine content of cigarettes is likely to produce compensatory changes in smoking behavior by confining participants to a setting in which they can only access low nicotine cigarettes.