

Quarterly News & Updates

Fall | 2022

Welcome to the Division on Addiction's quarterly newsletter!

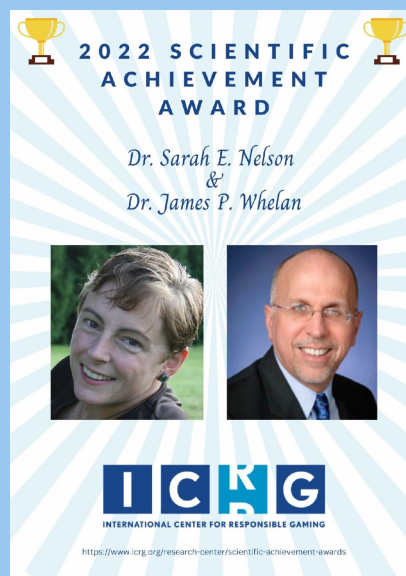
Announcements



We're thrilled to announce that the Center for Indigenous Research Collaboration Learning & Excellence (CIRCLE), a partnership between the [Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations](#) and the Division on Addiction, has been awarded a 4-year, \$4.2 million, Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) grant. This grant will fund a program called *Assessing Cultures of Recovery in Tribal Communities*. We will use funding to rigorously evaluate the *xa?tus* (First Face) for Mental Health training at seven Tribal communities in the Northwest U.S. while building the Healing Lodge's capacity to become a self-sustaining research and training center. This award represents a continuation of CIRCLE's previous 8 years of NARCH center grant funding and represents the Division's firm commitment to advancing health equity through research, broad dissemination, and community-wide education.



Upcoming Events



Dr. Sarah Nelson, Director of Research, is being honored with the Scientific Achievement Award at this year's ICRG Conference for her exceptional work contributing to research in the gambling field. Click [here](#) to learn more. Congratulations, Dr. Nelson!

Did You Know?



Migrating to another county in

Just announced! The Division on Addiction has won a Catalyst Phase award from the U.S. National Academy of Medicine Healthy Longevity Global Competition! Drs. Sarah Nelson and Debi LaPlante will use competition funding to adapt the Computerized Assessment and Referral System (CARS) to provide older adults with structured mental health screening, automated referrals to treatment, and community resources. Learn more [here!](#)

which you are a part of the minority population can create minority stress. Minority stress, in turn, elevates the risk for substance misuse. However, people can draw on recovery capital at the personal, social, and community levels to start on a path to recovery. In a recent study, migrant minority populations noted that recovery capital comes in the form of social support, basic needs such as housing, and religion. They also indicated personal-level factors such as willpower and resilience and community-level factors such as professional support to be motivators for recovery, both of which encourage personal growth. But it is important to remember that society also has a responsibility to decrease barriers to recovery and create pathways to recovery that are culturally appropriate. [Read more](#) at The BASIS.

Outreach Corner



[The M-TAC](#) fall live training calendar is here! All Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) licensed providers can attend these free online trainings on various gambling related topics. [Click here](#) to see training descriptions and to register.

Research Spotlight



Research Spotlight

Online gambling has grown in popularity over the years, exposing more people to its potential risks. However, online gamblers leave digital traces that researchers and operators can use to spot emerging gambling harm and intervene. Have you heard of “Markers of Harm”? These are behaviors (e.g., frequency of play, playing late at night, failed deposits) that can be combined to yield a risk score for each gambler. Division on Addiction researchers led by Dr. William H. B. McAuliffe evaluated two datasets composed of users who wagered online only on sports, one covering 2005-2007 and the other

covering 2015-2017. Though there were exceptions, gamblers in these datasets typically wagered on only sports occasionally, spending less than 5 minutes a week on this activity. McAuliffe and colleagues found that during these two time periods, less than 1% of gamblers’ risk scores met the threshold for an intervention. Either the risk thresholds were set too high, or very few occasional sports bettors were

truly at risk. The risk thresholds might need to be better customized for different gambling activities. For example, one Marker of Harm is gambling at least 60 minutes between 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM on a single night, something that sports bettors rarely do but which might be a true Marker of Harm for casino gambling. Read the full study [here](#).

Meet the Team

Mr. John Slabczynski

Research Coordinator

Division on Addiction

Mr. John Slabczynski joined the Division on Addiction in 2021. Since then, he has contributed to a number of the Division's projects, including publications, writing for The BASIS, and further development of [CARS \(the Computerized Assessment and Referral System\)](#), which he will be presenting to court administrators attending the [2022 Nevada Specialty Court Conference](#). This year, he presented some of [his research](#) at both the [Harvard Psychiatry Research Poster Session](#) and [Cambridge Health Alliance's Virtual Poster Session](#). Outside of work, he enjoys football, video games, and spending time with his dog, Noodles.

[Learn more about our faculty and staff here](#)

New and Notable

Here's a sample of our recent publications.

Blaszczynski, A., Shaffer, H. J., Ladouceur, R., & Collins, P. (2022). Clarifying responsible gambling and its concept of responsibility. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 20, 1398-1404.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-020-00451-5>

Gray, H. M., Louderback, E. R., LaPlante, D. A., Abarbanel, B., Kraus, S. W., & Bernhard, B. J. (2022). Who holds a shared responsibility view of minimizing gambling harm? Results from a multiwave survey of casino gamblers. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 36(4), 347-357. <https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000767>

Edson, T. C., Tom, M. A., Louderback, E. R. Nelson, S. A., & LaPlante, D. A. (2022). Returning to the virtual casino: A contemporary study of actual online casino gambling. *International Gambling Studies*, 22(1), 114-141.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2021.1985581>

Shaffer, H. J., Gray, H. M., Slabczynski, J. M., Lee, T. G., & LaPlante, D. A. (2022). Stakeholder definitions of responsible drinking: a call to define an ambiguous construct. *Addiction Research & Theory*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2022.2081839>

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