

Quarterly News & Updates

Summer | 2022

Welcome to the Division on Addiction's quarterly newsletter!

Announcements

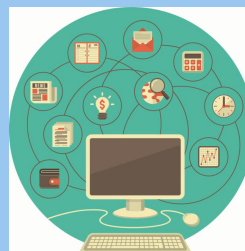
New Hire!

 **CHA** Division on
Addiction
Cambridge Health Alliance



We're pleased to announce that Seth McCullock, PhD, will be joining the Division on Addiction as a Research & Evaluation Scientist. Dr. McCullock recently earned his PhD in Communication, with a specialization in Health Communication, from Purdue University. His dissertation examined the impact of media literacy education on people's ability to identify health-related misinformation online, a timely and important issue. We look forward to Dr. McCullock's contributions to our education and outreach initiatives!

Upcoming Events



Two Division on Addiction researchers will be featured at the October 9-10 International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) Conference on Gambling Addiction in Las Vegas. Dr. Debi LaPlante will appear with Ms. Cassie Anderson, of the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations and the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Indians, to discuss *Building Cultures of Recovery in Tribal Nations*, a NARCH-funded program that led to the creation of *xa? t'us* (First Face) for Mental Health, a culturally grounded, mental health first-response training program for Tribal communities in the northwest U.S. Dr. Matthew Tom will be speaking about his use of electronically recorded betting records to study big wins and their relationship with excessive gambling. [Learn more here.](#)

Outreach Corner



The 3rd edition of Your First Step to Change – a self-help workbook for individuals thinking about changing their gambling behavior – is here! Download or order free copies from the [MA Department of Public Health Clearinghouse](#). Available in 5 languages!



The MA Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment (M-TAC) has launched two online courses: Ask an Expert and Gambling Case Study Series. These courses are free to all providers and offer up to 12 CEU credit hours. [Learn more](#) and enroll for free!

The Division is proud to have contributed to both of these resources.

Did You Know?



The DRAM, Vol. 18(6)

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) can be a pathway towards recovery from alcohol-related problems. But, some small studies from the 1990s and early 2000's suggested that people minoritized by sexual orientation found AA not to be welcoming to them. New research using large, nationally representative samples provides some good news. These days, bisexual and gay/lesbian people appear more likely than heterosexual populations to attend AA meetings. This is particularly true of older bisexual/lesbian women who are highly religious and experience less-severe alcohol use disorder symptoms. These findings suggest that providers should consider referring their sexually minoritized clients to AA to help support their recovery. [Read more](#) at The BASIS.

Research Spotlight

You've probably heard the tagline, "drink responsibly." This phrase is often used as a health warning in alcohol ads. But what does it mean? In a recent study, Howard Shaffer, Heather Gray, John Slabczynski, Taylor Lee, and Debi LaPlante examined how six stakeholder groups – academics, government organizations, the alcohol industry, alcohol treatment centers, U.S. higher education institutions, and addiction professionals'

Research Spotlight



organizations – use and define the term, “responsible drinking.” They found that although many stakeholder groups use the term “responsible drinking” or a close derivative, they rarely provide an explicit definition. And when stakeholders did provide definitions, those definitions were typically vague (e.g., “Not drinking too much or too often”). This means that consumers are not being provided clear guidance on how to avoid harm from drinking. Dr. Shaffer and his colleagues called for future research to create a consensus definition of responsible drinking that could be used in research and public messaging. This study is in press at *Addiction Research & Theory*. If you’d like a copy of the published study,

contact us at info@divisiononaddiction.org.

Meet the Team

Ms. Taylor Lee

Research Coordinator

Division on Addiction

Ms. Taylor Lee joined the Division on Addiction in 2021. She contributes to various addiction-related projects and writes for the BASIS. She is passionate about mental health and provides research support to CARS ([the Computerized Assessment and Referral System](#)). Ms. Lee has also been part of research publications and presented a poster at both the Harvard Psychiatry Research Poster Session and CHA's Virtual Poster Session. Outside of work, she loves exploring Boston and looking for great restaurants or coffee shops.

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

New and Notable

Here's a sample of our recent publications.

Edson, T. C., Slabczynski, J. M., Lee, T. G., McAuliffe, W. H. B., & Gray, H. M. (2022). A meta-analytic investigation of problem gambling and self-harm: A causal inference perspective. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* (ahead of print).

<https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000858>

Louderback, E. R., Gainsbury, S. M., Heirene, R. M., Amichia, K., Grossman, A., Bernhard, B. J., & LaPlante, D. A. (2022). Open science practices in gambling research publications (2016–2019): A scoping review. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-022-10120-y>

Nelson, S. E., Edson, T. C., Grossman, A., Louderback, E. R., Gray, H. M., &

LaPlante, D. A. (2022). Time out: Prediction of self-exclusion from daily fantasy sports. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 36(4), 318-332.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/adb0000829>

Tom, M. A., Edson, T. C., Louderback, E. R., Nelson, S. E., Amichia, K. A., & LaPlante, D. A. (2022). Second Session at the Virtual Poker Table: A Contemporary Study of Actual Online Poker Activity. *Journal of Gambling Studies* (ahead of print). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-022-10147-1>

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