Science Saves Lives

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Interactions between Drugs, SUD and COVID

- **Stress: biopsychosocial**
- **Structural Factors**
  - Access to Treatment Programs
  - Access to Peer-support groups
  - Isolation
  - Access to Community Services
- **Social factors**
  - Stigmatized Disease
  - Homelessness
  - Criminalization

*Nicotine Patch*
French researchers reported smokers were less likely to contract COVID-19

Worse COVID outcomes among smokers
Multiple System Changes

• Changes in Access: Telemedicine
  Remote medical practices (rural)
  Virtual support meetings

• Regulatory changes: Take-home medicines for MOUD
  Changes in buprenorphine induction
  Interstate practice

• Reimbursement changes

• Release on non-violent offenders with SUD from jails and prisons,
  which might improve their long-term outcomes
Challenges

• Limited evidence-based approach
• Lack of epi and outcome data
• Assessment of emergencies
• Direct observation
• Home office
• Uncertainty and clinicians’ anxiety
Opioids and Stimulants: Challenges

• Cocaine and methamphetamine consequences are increasing in the context of mixed evidence for overall population prevalence increases.

• Links to the evolving opioid overdose crisis
  - Increasing prevalence of stimulant use among those with OUD
  - Since 2008, >300% increase in methamphetamine among heroin treatment admissions
  - 50% of psychostimulant-related overdose deaths involved opioids (2017)

• People using stimulants have
  - High rates of co-occurring mental illness
  - Poly-substance use is common (including nearly universal prior use of cigarettes, alcohol, cannabis)

• No FDA approved medications for treatment (“MOUD”) or rescue (“naloxone”)

• Contingency management is time consuming and difficult to access
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Notice Number: NOT-DA-20-047

- **Key Dates**
  - **Release Date**: March 19, 2020
  - **First Available Due Date**: March 19, 2020
  - **Expiration Date**: March 31, 2021

- **Related Announcements**
  - [PA-18-935](#) Urgent Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Urgent Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)
  - [PA-18-591](#) Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)

- **Issued by**
  - National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#))

- **Purpose**
  - NIDA is issuing this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV, also known as COVID-19). NIDA is especially interested in research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from SUD.
A New Way of Doing Science

- Using *Clinical Practice/Public Health Needs* to *Generate Research Questions*

- Ensuring that *Research Findings are Applied to Practice*
Traditional View of Science: Top Down

Rogers, 1962
Dialogue and Iteration

In a learning health care system, research influences practice and practice influences research.

**EVALUATE**
Collect data and analyze results to show what works and what doesn’t.

**ADJUST**
Use evidence to influence continual improvement.

**IMPLEMENT**
Apply plan in pilot and control settings.

**DESIGN**
Design care and evaluation based on evidence generated here and elsewhere.

**DISSEMINATE**
Share results to improve care for everyone.

**INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SCAN**
Identify problems and potentially innovative solutions.

Greene et al., Ann Int Med, 2012
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