We are delighted to share some recent research by members of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. Below is a selection of recent publications of our faculty. We encourage you to browse through these interesting citations to see what everyone is doing. If you see opportunities for collaborations, please reach out!

Austin Blum, MD, JD, Resident


Blum A.W., Jacobson K., & Grant J.E. (2022). Legal settlements and the reporting of adverse drug events: Insights from the aripiprazole products liability litigation. *Psychiatry Research*, 309, 114411. doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2022.114411. *This study found that physician reports of aripiprazole-induced gambling disorders significantly declined from 5.9% to 2.9% in the wake of a 2019 settlement (after which monetary damages could no longer be readily obtained)*.

Neda Laiteerapong, MD, MS, FACP


Maureen Lacy, PhD

Satzer, D., Mahavadi, A., Lacy, M., Grant, J. E., & Warnke, P. (2021). Interstitial laser anterior capsulotomy for obsessive–compulsive disorder: Lesion size and tractography correlate with outcome. Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry. [https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2021-327730](https://doi.org/10.1136/jnnp-2021-327730) Working with the neurosurgery team, Drs. Grant and Lacy examined the medical and psychiatric outcome following laser ablation for OCD.
Karam Radwan, MD, Joshua Kellman, MD

Kellman J, Radwan K. Towards an expanded neuroscientific understanding of social play. Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2022 Jan; 132:884-891. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2021.11.005. Epub 2021 Nov 9. PMID: 34767879. Kellman and Radwan review the literature on the neural basis of social play. They identify circuits involved in play, especially those related to behavioral switching and set shifting, prepulse inhibition of the acoustic startle reflex, and the basal ganglia. They suggest that the parafascicular nucleus of the thalamus plays a key role in social play and coordinates many of these circuits. Their paper elicited a commentary in the same journal “Old wine in new bottles, but with a twist”

Andrea King, PhD


This paper examined the popular phenomenon of vape tricks and cloud-chasing that appeal to youth using e-cigarettes and describes its recent decline that may be due to changes in device and product preferences as well as the COVID pandemic.

Jon Grant, MD, JD


Grant JE, Drummond L, Nicholson TR, Fagan H, Baldwin DS, Fineberg NA, Chamberlain SR. Obsessive-compulsive symptoms and the Covid-19 pandemic: A rapid scoping review. Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2022 Jan;132:1086-1098. doi: 10.1016/j.neubiorev.2021.10.039. This review identified important unaddressed issues on OCD treatment, such as how should exposure based therapy be adapted during pandemics and how can we minimize harm from exacerbation of OCD in vulnerable individuals arising from public health messaging.
Bowden-Jones H, Hook RW, Grant JE, Ioannidis K, Corazza O, Fineberg NA, Singer BF, Roberts A, Bethlehem R, Dymond S, Romero-Garcia R, Robbins TW, Cortese S, Thomas SA, Sahakian BJ, Dowling NA, Chamberlain SR. Gambling disorder in the UK: key research priorities and the urgent need for independent research funding. Lancet Psychiatry. 2022 Apr;9(4):321-329. doi: 10.1016/S2215-0366(21)00356-4. In this health policy paper, we outline the status of research and treatment for disordered gambling in the UK (including funding issues) and key research that should be conducted to establish the magnitude of the problem, vulnerability and resilience factors, the underlying neurobiology, long-term consequences, and treatment opportunities.

Harriet de Wit, PhD


Weafer, J, KL Phan, H de Wit (2021) Neural correlates of inhibitory control are associated with stimulant-like effects of alcohol. Neuropsychopharmacology 46, 1442-1450. doi: 10.1038/s41386-021-01014-5. Both poor inhibitory control and enhanced stimulant-like subjective effects of drugs have been linked to excessive use. Here, we present data that poor inhibitory control and alcohol reward are linked at the neural level.

Murray CH, Huang Z, Lee R, de Wit H (2022). Adolescents are more sensitive than adults to acute behavioral and cognitive effects of THC. Neuropsychopharmacology. doi: 10.1038/s41386-022-01281-w. Adolescents may be at especially high risk for adverse consequences of cannabis use. In this controlled, double blind study, we found that adolescents were more sensitive to oral THC on several measures.

Kate Keenan, PhD


Keenan K, Fu H, Tung I, Berona J, Krafty RT, Hipwell AE, Stepp SD, Carpio K. Capturing the dynamic nature of stress exposure in the Pittsburgh Girls Study. SSM Popul Health. 2021 Nov 30;16:100983 PMC8671117. The science of stress exposure and health in humans has been hampered by differences in operational definitions of exposures and approaches to defining timing, leading to results that lack consistency and specificity. In the present study we derived trajectories that varied in type, timing and chronicity of stress exposure for Black and White females using prospectively collected data in the Pittsburgh Girls Study (PGS).
Candice Norcott, PhD


Kristen Jacobson, PhD

Chen, P., Voisin, D.R., Marotta, P.L., & Jacobson, K.C. (2020). Race and ethnic comparison of ecological risk factors and youth outcomes: A test of the desensitization hypothesis. Journal of Child & Family Studies, 29, 2722-2733. This study found that associations between common risk factors (e.g., low family warmth, peer deviance), youth depression and delinquent behavior were consistently lower among youth of color, especially Black youth, in comparison to White youth.


Park, L., Costello, S., Li, J., Lee, R., & Jacobson, K. (2021). Race, health, and socioeconomic disparities associated with malingering in psychiatric patients at an urban emergency department. General Hospital Psychiatry, 71, 121-127. This study found that emergency room patients suspected of malingering were more likely than non-malingerers to be male, over age 45, Black, and unhoused. They were also more likely to be discharged without treatment. However, psychiatric diagnoses were found in ~75% of malingerers, indicating that malingering patients have unmet clinical needs.

Blum A.W., Jacobson K., & Grant J.E. (2022). Legal settlements and the reporting of adverse drug events: Insights from the aripiprazole products liability litigation. Psychiatry Research, 309, 114411. doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2022.114411. This study found that physician reports of aripiprazole-induced gambling disorders significantly declined from 5.9% to 2.9% in the wake of a 2019 settlement (after which monetary damages could no longer be readily obtained).
Royce Lee, MD


Murray CH, Huang Z, Lee R, de Wit H. Adolescents are more sensitive than adults to acute behavioral and cognitive effects of THC. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2022 Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35110688.


Eliott Gershon, MD

Gershon ES, Lee SH, Zhou X, Sweeney JA, Tamminga C, Pearlson GA et al. An opportunity for primary prevention research in psychotic disorders. *Schizophr Res* 2021. Risk of a psychosis disorder can be predicted from psychophysiological and behavioral features that predate the onset of the psychotic disorders. The predictions have accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity of 78%, 85%, and 63% respectively. Although promising, further measurements are needed to yield clinically useful predictions.

Jennifer Wildes, PhD

Kim YK, Di Martino JM, Nicholas J, Rivera-Cancel A, Wildes JE, Marcus MD, Sapiro G, Zucker N. Parent strategies for expanding food variety: reflections of 19,260 adults with symptoms of Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder. *Int J Eat Disord*; 2022 Jan;55(1):108-119. This study used machine learning to analyze qualitative data on the perceived helpfulness of childhood feeding strategies in adults with a prolonged history of food avoidance/restriction. Results showed that positive and encouraging feeding strategies were perceived as helpful even if they did not result in behavior change, whereas strategies perceived as coercive were regarded as unhelpful.

Richson BN, Johnson SN, Swanson T, Christensen KA, Forbush KT, Wildes JE. Predicting probable eating disorder case-status in men using the Clinical Impairment Assessment: Evidence for a gender-specific threshold. *Eat Behav*; 2021 Aug;42:101541. This collaboration with colleagues at the University of Kansas showed that the optimal clinical cutoff on a widely used measure of eating disorder-related impairment is lower in men than in women, which has implications for the use and interpretation of this measure in men.

to meet the need of adults with food insecurity. Three themes emerged: 1) ability to access the intervention; 2) ability to complete intervention recommendations; and 3) preference for intervention features.

Dan Fridberg, PhD

Wang, Y., Fridberg, D.J., Shortell, D.D., Leeman, R.F., Barnett, N.P., Cook, R.L., & Porges, E.C. (2021). Wrist-worn alcohol biosensors: Applications and usability in behavioral research. Alcohol, 92, 25-34. This paper, written in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Florida and Brown University, describes the latest advances in alcohol biosensor technology. We describe potential clinical and research applications of these devices, as well as results of three pilot studies deploying alcohol biosensors across a variety of settings.

Fridberg, D.J., Cao, D., & King, A.C. (2021). Alcohol subjective responses in heavy drinkers: Measuring acute effects in the natural environment versus the controlled laboratory setting. Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, 45(6), 1287-1297. This study of adult heavy drinkers was the first to assess the reliability and validity of using smartphones to capture alcohol responses during real-world heavy drinking episodes in drinkers’ natural environments. Participants’ responses to alcohol in the real world, as measured by smartphone, bore a fair-to-good correspondence with their responses during a controlled laboratory alcohol challenge. The results suggest that smartphones can be a valid way to collect data on real-world drinking experiences.

Andrea Mann, DO, MPhil


Sarah Keedy, PhD.


Daniel Yohanna, MD


Khalid Afzal, MD


This paper focused on the use of targeted neuropsychological testing at inpatient children hospitals.

This review paper examines suicide poisoning in Pakistan, highlighting differences in various regions of the country. The type of poisoning depended on accessibility of agents such hair dyes, wheat poisoning, household chemicals, etc.


Joseph Fink, Ph.D., ABPP/CN


*These studies advance our program of research into the neuropsychological sequelae of electrical injury. The papers use our expanding database (the largest known dataset in the world with full neuropsychological characterization of electrical injury survivors) and demonstrate base rates of performance invalidity, characteristics of memory and processing speed impairments, and the influence of pain on neuropsychological performance.*

**Molly Erickson, Ph.D.**


**Shivani Kumar, MD, Marie Tobin, MD**

