Director’s Report to the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse

May 12, 2020

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director

National Institute on Drug Abuse

@NIDAnews
“In Memoriam”

Dr. Ron Duman
• Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Neuroscience, Yale University passed away on February 1, 2020 at the age of 65.
• Seminal contributions to the neurobiological effects of stress and to the action of antidepressants.

Dr. Eric Simon
• Professor Emeritus of New York University Medical Center passed away on March 30, 2020 at the age of 95.
• Major contributor to the field of opioid pharmacology, including being one of first to uncover opioid receptors in brain and he coined the term “endorphin”.
New NIDA Staff

Nathaniel “Natty” Davis, M.B.A.
Budget Officer and Chief, Financial Management Branch
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Formerly Budget Officer at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Anne Rancourt, M.P.S.
Communications Director
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Formerly Section Chief responsible for communications on HIV, allergy, and immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019 Actuals ($k)</th>
<th>FY 2020 Enacted ($k)</th>
<th>FY 2021 PB ($k)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Base</strong></td>
<td>$1,150,367</td>
<td>$1,191,403</td>
<td>$1,165,449</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HEAL</strong></td>
<td>$470,967*</td>
<td>$266,321</td>
<td>$266,321</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,621,334*</td>
<td>$1,457,724</td>
<td>$1,431,770</td>
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*Reflects total HEAL funding obligated in FY 19, regardless of source. Includes 1-year funds provided in FY 19 and balance of 2-year funds provided in FY 18.
COVID-19 and NIH
Partnership with 16 biopharmaceutical companies, academicians, and government agencies: CDC, BARDA, FDA, VA, and DoD (April 17)

Aims to accelerate progress towards treatment of COVID-19:

• Reviewed >170 therapeutic compounds and >50 vaccine candidates and prioritized them for testing.
• Conducted and inventory of clinical trials networks to identify capacity
• Working on a master protocol
Rapid Acceleration Diagnostics  RADx

RADx Underrepresented Populations Project – $500M
Series of interlinked community-based demonstration projects focused on implementation strategies to enable and enhance testing of COVID-19 in underserved, under-resourced, rural, and/or vulnerable populations

RADx Non-Traditional Approaches Project – $200M
Develop and advance novel, non-traditional approaches or new applications of existing approaches for testing, including unconventional screening, biological or physiological markers, new platforms, POC devices, etc.

RADx Scale-up Project – $230M
Rapid scale-up of advanced technologies to increase rapidity and enhance and validate throughput – create ultra-high throughput machines and facilities

*Remaining $70M for Data Management Support for Testing for Safe Release Project
COVID-19, Drugs and SUD
Acute and Chronic Pharmacological Effects of Drugs’ Impact on COVID-19 Infections and Outcomes

- **Tobacco Smoking**

- **Vaping**  
  *(Nicotine and/or THC)*

- **Opiate Use**

- **Psychostimulant use**

- **Cannabis**

**Nicotine Patch**  
RCT (n=1900) to be done by Changeux and colleagues who found in a study that smokers are less likely to contract COVID-19.

Worse COVID outcomes among smokers
Structural Challenges for SUD During COVID-19

• Stress
• Stigma
• Access to medications for OUD
• Limited access to peer-support groups or other sources of social connection
• Social distancing increases likelihood of opioid overdoses happening with no observers who can administer naloxone
Social Challenges to SUD During COVID

• Housing instability/homelessness
  • Increased risk for disease transmission in homeless shelters

• Incarceration
  • More than half of U.S prisoners have SUD
  • Prison populations are at greatest risk for disease transmission during epidemics
Intersection Between Opioid Crisis and COVID-19
Opportunities From COVID Pandemic?

- Increased use of telemedicine
- Establishment of mental health hot lines
- Deployment of virtual support meetings
- Expansion of take-home medicines for MOUD
- Buprenorphine prescribing via Telehealth
- Release of non-violent offenders with SUD from jails and prisons, which might improve their long-term outcomes
- Development of web-based educational material that can be used to help in rehabilitation
HEALing Communities Study

- Moved community meetings and activities to web-based format
- Accelerated efforts to assist Wave 1 communities in selecting activities related to Naloxone distribution and overdose protection
- Launched communication campaign in Wave 1 communities for Naloxone
- Provided information about OUD treatment resources to community coalitions to assist decision making for evidence-based practices.

- Has the rate of overdoses changed?
- Impact on treatment initiation and retention
- Impact on access to drugs in the community
- Challenges experienced by providers and first responders
- Challenges by those with SUD
Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network

18 States + Puerto Rico
88 communities
>25,000 justice-involved individuals

- Compiled >120 guidelines/resources for justice systems responding to COVID-19
- Advisory group to provide real-time information to NIDA COVID-19 impact in justice settings
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research 2019 Novel Coronavirus Notice Number: NOT-DA-20-047

• 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)

• Purpose: NIDA is issuing this NOSI to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. NIDA is especially interested in research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from SUD.
SBIR/STTR COVID-19 + Opioid Crisis

Biobot Analytics Inc.

Sound Life Sciences Inc.

Proprietary active sonar technology that uses smart phone microphone

Respiratory failure detected

Rapidly connecting to naloxone
COVID-19, HIV and SUD

• COVID-19 impact on health behaviors and treatment services including barriers to HIV, HCV and drug treatments and HIV/HCV and overdose risks
• COVID-19 impact on drug markets, HIV risk, access and use of HIV prevention services, how SSPs have adapted to delivery with COVID-19.
• Co-occurring meth and HIV impact on COVID seroprevalence via gut-immune dysregulation, smoking, decreased social distancing.
• OUD impact on incidence and progression of COVID-19 in those with HIV and OUD: clinical course and outcomes.
• Compare COVID-19 /HIV coinfected patients with and without OUD: viral loads, immune function and HIV reservoir
Virtual BRAIN Initiative Investigators' Meeting

Creating a community, regardless of funding source
- Registration open through May 29!
  - www.braininitiative.org/events/pimeeting

Meeting features:
- 4 Plenary talks and 8 attendee-organized symposia
- Virtual poster hall, exhibit hall, and networking room
- Special session highlighting the Trainee Awards
- Science communications specialty sessions
- Scientific photo and video competition
- On-demand content for 12 months after the event

JUNE 1-2, 2020
Record year when due to COVID-19 we went totally virtual. 2,733 registered events representing 50 states + DC, and 11 countries.