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UMSARC and OVPR sponsor a Small Grants Program

The Substance Abuse Research Center (UMSARC) and the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) announce a collaborative small grants project and invite research proposals on topics related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use/abuse. The goal of this small grants program is to enhance disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on substance abuse at the University of Michigan. Faculty members are encouraged to submit collaborative research proposals that involve colleagues in more than one discipline and that reach across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Funds are available to support new research efforts and/or assist faculty in launching new research programs. Awards will range from $5,000 to $15,000.

While providing funds for new research endeavors is a priority for this program, requests for support of on-going programs of research are also considered. All University faculty - tenure and non-tenure track faculty, clinical faculty or research scientists are eligible to submit applications. We especially encourage UMSARC members to apply. Applicants are encouraged to include junior faculty or research fellows but graduate students or research fellows are not allowed to be Principal Investigators. In general, applications will not be accepted from individuals who have received these funds within the past three years.

Applications must be received by June 15, 2000. Applications will be judged on the basis of: quality of the work proposed; centrality of substance use/abuse to the work being proposed; value of the project to the career development of faculty; contribution of the project to the study of substance use/abuse; evidence of interdisciplinary collaborations; and the likelihood that the project will lead to extramural funding. An interdisciplinary panel of (UMSARC) Executive Committee members will complete reviews. If necessary, the Executive Committee may request an additional review from an UMSARC member who does not serve on the Executive Committee.

For more information contact Rachel Harris (rachelha@umich.edu) or LaCheryl Wicker (lwicker@umich.edu) at 734-998-6500.

Smoke: Brief update from the Student Life Survey

UMSARC completed data collection for the Student Life Survey: Beliefs, Behaviors and Substance Use in May 1999 and preliminary findings were reported in October 1999. The final report was delivered to the Provost’s Office and the Office of the Vice President for Research in February 2000.

Some of the most frequently asked questions about the Student Life Survey data concern student smoking. Below, data are provided on the smoking rates among our University of Michigan students.

We had 2,824 respondents, and of these respondents, 24% reported smoking cigarettes, although 28% of undergraduates (n=2026) reported smoking cigarettes. However, some subgroups of students were more likely to smoke. For instance, 42% (n=148) of fraternity and sorority members who reside in Greek houses smoke cigarettes; these students are more likely to smoke than any other student group. Indeed, fraternity men and sorority women are 2.7 times more likely to smoke cigarettes than are other students at the University of Michigan. However, undergraduate males also smoke heavily, at a rate 1.7 times the other students. Thirty percent of undergraduate men and women living in residence halls, houses or apartments reported smoking; however, men were statistically more likely to be heavy smokers (1+ packs/day); in contrast, 17% of men and women living in substance free housing or living-learning residences reported smoking cigarettes.

For more information on the Student Life Survey, contact Carol Boyd, Ph.D., Principal Investigator (caroboyd@umich.edu).
UMSARC Welcomes New Members

UMSARC welcomes our new members; both full and affiliate members are important additions to our Center. Below is a list of our new members and a brief summary of their current research activities and interests.

**Jim Weber, D.O.,** Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Weber is currently investigating the acute and chronic effects of cocaine on the heart. In addition, he collaborates with other UMSARC members - Drs. Blow and Maio - in their study of the effects of alcohol and other drugs on pedestrian and cyclist injury and crashes.

**Colleen Pilgrim, Ph.D.,** is a research investigator at the Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research. Currently, she oversees a large Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project titled, Youth, Education and Society (YES); UMSARC researchers, Drs. Johnston, Bachman, O’Malley and Schulenberg are the Principal Investigators. Data collected annually from 100 schools will be compared with Monitoring the Future data in order to evaluate three or four programs aimed at reducing adolescent substance use. Dr. Pilgrim is also investigating peer and parental factors related to adolescent substance use.

**Jerry Stitzel, Ph.D.,** Assistant Research Scientist, Pharmacology, School of Medicine. Dr. Stitzel is working to advance our understanding of the molecular genetic basis of individual differences in response to nicotine in a model organism (mouse). In addition, he is focused on identifying the role of specific nicotinic receptor subunits in modulating the physiological and behavioral effects of nicotine.

Karen Labuhn, Ph.D., RN, MPH, Associate Professor, Family and Community Health, College of Nursing, Wayne State University. Dr. Labuhn is investigating the risks and protective factors evidenced in special-need, adopting families. She hopes to develop effective psychosocial interventions for families who adopt children and teens with Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) and prenatal drug exposures.

**Colleen Corte, M.S., RN,** doctoral student, School of Nursing. Ms. Corte is focusing on self-cognitions in the development of alcohol abuse/dependence and as a means for promoting recovery. She currently works with Dr. Karen Stein, using social and psychological theories to understand the role of self-cognition in psychopathology.

**Julie Broadbent, Ph.D.,** Assistant Research Scientist, Psychiatry & Behavioral Pharmacology. The overall goal of Dr. Broadbent’s research program is to develop more effective treatment strategies to combat drug addiction. She currently is exploring the processes underlying sensitization to alcohol and the role of conditioning in drug craving; she is using animal models.

**Natalia Bobrova, B.A.,** Tutor (ESL) & Research Assistant, Eastern Europe. Ms. Bobrova has worked extensively with field researchers in Russia; indeed, she has worked with her collaborators on formal surveys to the extent and nature of I.V. drug use in Roma communities in Eastern Europe. In addition, she is on the Drugs Expert Committee for the Russian AIDS Prevention Initiative.

Information on the World Wide Web: Surfing ATOD

(Compiled by Dawn Lievois and Carol Boyd)

Increasingly, the Internet is providing websites relevant to our research activities. However, with little spare time to surf, it may be difficult to figure out which website is most apt to yield the needed information. Below is a description of the five sites most likely to provide useful information. In this review of the sites, we considered the following: source, content, ease of use, documents available and the relevancy and timeliness of the information.

**The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) -** (http://www.nida.nih.gov)
The NIDA web site is a good source of information regarding drug use/abuse prevention, treatment and policy. The site is current and is updated approximately once a week. Many documents are available at the NIDA site; they can be reviewed online or downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format. The NIDA site also includes, “NIDA INFOFAX: Science Based Facts on Drug Abuse and Addiction.” The INFOFAX provides information on the health effects of specific drugs, prevention and treatment and includes survey data. The INFOFAX is likely to be useful to the general public.

**The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) -** (http://www.niaaa.nih.gov)
The NIAAA web site includes information on alcohol abuse, prevention and treatment. Several of NIAAA’s pamphlets and publications are available on-line and other publications can be ordered through the web site. Press releases and publications appear current but other areas of the site may not be updated as often as NIDA’s. This is a useful site but not nearly as active as NIDA’s site.

**Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) -** (http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)
This web site offers information compiled by many sources. Included are: statistics, publications, the national drug control policy, national media campaign information, prevention and education, treatment, science, medicine, technology, enforcement and funding opportunities. This site also has useful links. There is a useful database of treatment programs at this site; by typing in your name,
The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center

Announces

A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Pre-doctoral and Post-doctoral
Interdisciplinary Training Program

The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center is accepting applications for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows for the 2000-01 academic year beginning July 1, 2000. The purpose of the training grant is to prepare researchers and scholars to expand their work beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The Substance Abuse Research Center is comprised of over 90 individuals from 29 departments at the University of Michigan who have significant interest in the study of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. The Center exists to stimulate the study of psychoactive substance abuse of all kinds and to extend the knowledge regarding substance abuse prevention.

Program components include: Research with two faculty mentors, and interdisciplinary pro seminar, course work, training in ethical conduct of research and research communication, a dissertation for pre-doctoral fellows and independent research for post-doctoral fellows. The pool of potential faculty mentors is comprised of established investigators working on projects involving behavioral, biological, psychosocial, or public health aspects of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. Research interests range from cellular investigations to policy development and evaluation. (Fellowships are for two years contingent on satisfactory completion of the first year).

Pre-doctoral applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline, have the promise of academic excellence, significant interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine and other drugs, and (by June 2000) have successfully completed their preliminary exams in a doctoral program at the University of Michigan. Applicants must work with two faculty mentors from different disciplines. The 12-month NIH stipend for 2000-01 will be $14,688. Funding is also available for tuition, travel, and other training related expenses.

Post-doctoral applicants must have earned a doctorate within the past eight years in an appropriate field such as: M.D., Dr.P.H., J.D., D.O., Psy.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., D.N.S., or D.S.W. and have demonstrated research productivity and academic excellence as well as an interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs. The 12-month stipend for 2000-01 will be $26,256-$41,268 depending on years of post-doctoral experience. Health insurance and a dental assistance plan are provided. Funding is also available for travel and other training related expenses.

Applications will be reviewed beginning March 27, 2000. An Application packet is available from the Substance Abuse Research Center. Applications must include a goal statement, an outline of the proposed research program and the names of potential mentors. A list of the Substance Abuse Research Center members is included in the application packet. Also required with the application form: transcripts, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and a doctoral advisor form for evidence that the doctorate has been completed.

For further information and an application packet, contact the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center, 475 Markert Place, Suite D, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1649; telephone (734) 998-6500; Fax (734) 998-6508; E-mail: rachelha@umich.edu or visit our Web Site at http://www.umich.edu/~umsarc.

The University of Michigan is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Women and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply.

The Substance Abuse Research Center welcomes new members. If you are interested in applying please contact Rachel Harris at 734-998-6500 for an application.

Information on the World Wide Web: Surfing ATOD

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address and phone number you will be given information on treatment programs in your area. The information at the ONDCP site is available at other sites as well; however, ONDCP has done an excellent job of presenting information and making it easily accessible. Updated frequently.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) - (http://www.samhsa.gov)
This site is somewhat difficult to use and the information found at this site can be more easily obtained at other sites (e.g. NIDA); however, the site is frequently updated and provides a direct link to the Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment.

Bureau of Justice Statistics: U.S. Department of Justice - (http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs)
This web site contains statistics related to drug use and crime. The site is well organized and can be accessed directly from the site (while online) or a consolidated version can be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format. Many of the statistics available at this site come from other sources; however, the sources are generally highly regarded. Of particular interest are the data on drug use by youth (from Monitoring the Future Http://www/isr.umich.edu/src/mtf/).

News of Substance