



UCLA

SART

Substance Abuse Research Training Program

WHAT IS SART?

Training program funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Grant no. 1R25DA050723-01A1).

Designed to advance research skills and reduce health disparities in substance use disorders.

SART provides in-person and online training in research methods, biostatistics, grant writing, professional development, and more!

GOAL

Provide training in substance use disorder research, responsible conduct of research (RCR), and career advancement with a novel emphasis on community engagement and dissemination.



WHO IS IT FOR?

1. Pre-professional Trainees

(undergraduates, master's students, and post-baccalaureate; early-stage)

- ✓ *From academic programs at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) or California State University, Dominguez Hills that require a thesis*

2. Post-doctoral Fellows

- ✓ *Recently completed PhD or first post-doctoral fellowship with prior experience or interest in substance use research and have other similar skills such as neurobiology or molecular biology*

Candidates from underrepresented groups in science, including those who are Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander are encouraged to apply. Individuals with disabilities or those from disadvantaged backgrounds are also encouraged to apply.

READY TO APPLY?

We are now accepting applications!

Please have the following:

- ✓ Curriculum vitae
- ✓ Names and contact info for three references
- ✓ Personal statement
- ✓ Letter of interest
- ✓ Letter of support from program director or current mentor

Please contact Cristina Moldovan, PhD at cristinamoldovan@cdrewu.edu for instructions on how to apply.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Pre-professional Trainees

- ✓ 20 hours/week for 1 year
- ✓ Write and publish one paper
- ✓ Produce a written thesis and present at SART Student Research Symposium

Post-doctoral Fellows

- ✓ Full-time for 2.5 years
- ✓ Mentor junior trainees
- ✓ Publish 2-5 papers
- ✓ Submit 1 or more grants

Trainings on Substance Abuse Research

- Half-day orientation; mentors present their research; trainees choose mentors
- 5 all-day institutes with various topics
- 10-part, weekly 1-hour lunchtime seminars on responsible conduct of research
- 8-part, weekly 1-hour lunchtime grant writing course
- Several additional optional trainings

Practicum in Clinical Addiction

- Offers exposure to a variety of settings that deliver addiction medicine services

Conferences/Special Events

- Annual Substance Abuse Research Day
- UCLA Translational Neuroscience of Drug Abuse Annual Research Retreat
- Smoking Cessation/ Drug Abuse Dissemination Day
- Student Research Symposium

Mentor meetings

- Weekly with research mentor; monthly with community mentor

BENEFITS

- ✓ Prepares you for career in biomedical research or medicine
- ✓ Helps you progress to the next stage of your career
- ✓ Completion Certificate to add to CV
- ✓ Networking opportunities, in person and via social media (Facebook page and LinkedIn group)
- ✓ Learn how to write grants
- ✓ Opportunities to publish in peer-reviewed journals
- ✓ Be mentored by diverse CDU/UCLA faculty who have a track record of assisting trainees at all levels
- ✓ Access to highly skilled and reputable faculty with experience in NIDA, NIH, and/or other funding in substance use research
- ✓ Practice multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary team science and work with various health care professionals
- ✓ Post-doctoral fellows on track for faculty positions
- ✓ Stipend may be available to pre-professional trainees depending on eligibility

MENTORS & RESEARCH TOPICS

Name (Institution)	Title of Project	Project Description (Agency, Grant #)
Assari, Shervin (CDU)	Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Protective Effects of Socioeconomic Status and Policies on Tobacco Use	Use existing national data sets such as PATH to test how racial and ethnic groups differ in the protective effects of social determinants of health, socioeconomic status, and tobacco control policies.
Bath, Eraka (UCLA)	Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in Specialty Courts: Examining Substance Use and Mental Health Problems and Adapting Emerging Technologies to increase Engagement	This project will adapt emerging technologies, such as mHealth and text messaging, for justice-involved youth to increase their engagement and retention in mental health and substance use services. The project is being undertaken through a partnership with the STAR Court, a specialty court in Los Angeles County's juvenile justice system, focused on judicially-involved girls who are impacted by commercial sexual exploitation.
Booker-Vaughns, Juanita (CDU Comm. Faculty)	Improving Quality of Care for Psychiatric and Neurological Disorders	Research will focus on improving quality of care for psychiatric and neurological disorders across the lifespan, with a particular interest in improving health literacy.
Evans, Chris (UCLA)	Studies concerning the relationship between pain and modulation of opioid reward (Project III of CSORDA)	Preclinical research using mouse models to determine the effects of chronic pain on affect and opioid systems, including self-administration of opioid drugs such as fentanyl and oxycodone.
*Friedman, Theodore (CDU)	Metabolic, Cardiovascular and Carcinogen Effects of Electronic Cigarettes	Study the detrimental effects electronic cigarettes on hepatic steatosis and cardiac dysfunction in mice. Projects on policy and epidemiology of electronic cigarettes or tobacco are also available. Additional animal research projects available.
*Grella, Christine (UCLA)	Linking individuals with opioid use disorders to treatment: Community and criminal justice system interventions.	These studies address the challenges of accessing treatment for individuals with opioid use disorders, including strategies to link individuals to treatment following an opioid overdose and after release from jail/prison, and to promote their treatment engagement and retention over time.
Harawa, Nina (CDU/UCLA)	HIV Intervention Models for Criminal Justice Involved Black MSM Networks (Community title: Building Agent-Based Models for Racialized Justice Systems)	Develop an agent-based model in order to simulate the impact of various interventions/policies on HIV risk and HIV transmission in criminal justice involved black men who have sex with men.
Hasan , Kamrul (CDU)	Role of CARF in Insulin Resistance and NAFLD	Determine if CARF inhibition by <i>p53</i> causes insulin resistance in mice treated with HFD with and without nicotine.
Hurley, Brian (CDU/LAC DHS)	Embedding Comprehensive Smoking Cessation Programs into Community Clinics	Evaluate the implementation of a validated specialty smoking cessation intervention within Los Angeles County-operated Primary Care and Community Mental Health clinics.
*Lee, David (CDU Comm. Faculty)	Coalition Building to address HIV Prevention and Care Disparities.	Associate Director for Drew Center for AIDS Research Education and Services (Drew CARES) and Coordinator for Partnerships of Unified Services in HIV (PUSH).

London, Edythe (UCLA)	Neural Substrates of Cigarette Craving, Withdrawal, and Relief: Male-Female Differences	Determine the neural bases for male-female differences in smoking-related states, such as craving and withdrawal, which contribute to susceptibility to lapses in abstinence.
Maidment, Nigel (UCLA)	Genetic Dissection of Striatal Indirect-Pathway in Opioid Withdrawal Aversion (Component 1 of CSORDA)	Evaluate a major force driving relapse in drug addiction, including opiate addiction, is the almost intolerable aversive effects of drug withdrawal.
Murillo, Jovita (CDU Comm. Faculty)	Stigma and Substance Use in Communities	Explore stigma among SUD/ODU communities and examine the relationship between the built environment and the importance of providing "holistic" community-based solutions to this problem.
*Pervin, Shehla (CDU)	Metabolic and Carcinogen Effect of Electronic Cigarettes	Assess the carcinogenic effect of electronic cigarettes in a mouse model of breast cancer.
Ray, Lara (UCLA)	A RCT of the Neuroimmune Modulator Ibudilast for the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder	Advance medication development for alcohol use disorder by conducting a 12-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized trial of ibudilast.
Shaheen, Magda (CDU)	Accelerating Excellence in Translational Science (AXIS)	1) secondhand smoke and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; 2) combined effect of secondhand smoke and diet on metabolic syndrome; 3) relation of smoking, sleep disorders, and healthy eating index with cognitive function; 4) electronic cigarette, metabolic syndrome and cognitive function (NIHMD Grant # U54MD007598)
Shao, Max (CDU/UCLA)	Maternal Inhaled Nicotine Leads to Aberrant Development of Hypertensive Phenotype	(1) Test the hypothesis that antenatal exposure to maternal inhaled nicotine programs vascular oxidative stress via epigenetic up-regulation of NOX2 gene, resulting in a hypertensive phenotype in offspring. (2) Developing an efficient E-cigarette aerosol generation and exposure system for rodent models with aerosol characteristics equivalent to those inhaled by E-cigarette users.
*Shoptaw, Steve (UCLA)	Co-lead for the Big South/West Node of NIDA's Clinical Trials Network	(1) Two Phase 2/3 medication trials evaluating buprenorphine for cocaine (CTN 0109) and methamphetamine (CTN 0110) use disorders are ongoing; (2) mSTUDY cohort data available for secondary analyses.
Sinha-Hikim, Amiya (CDU)	Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program	Research activities focus on detrimental effects of e-cigarettes of transgenerational asthma and the germ cell epigenic memory.
Williams, Pluscedia (CDU Comm. Faculty)	Community-Academic Coalition	Engage with trainees around mental health issues, mitigating homelessness, and wellness programs for illnesses such as diabetes and cancer.
Young-Brinn, Angela (CDU Comm. Faculty)	Adapting for a Conceptual Framework for Patient Engagement in Emergency Department Research	Refining care delivery in the emergency dept. setting plays a major role in the resulting relationships and experiences patients and families have within the healthcare setting and with those who provide care.
Ferrini, Monica (CDU)	The Effects of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems on Mice Corpora Cavernosa associated with erectile dysfunction	Cigarette smoke is considered proatherogenic due to increased oxidative stress of the entire vascular system, leading to erectile dysfunction. There has been a rapid rise in the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), or e-cigarettes, as a presumed safer alternative to tobacco smoking. We aim to be at the forefront in contributing to the field of sexual health by examining the effects of ENDS exposure on penile tissue and function in animal models.

*Project suitable for remote access.

For more information, contact: Cristina Moldovan, PhD at cristinamoldovan@cdrewu.edu.