

Division of Clinical Phenomenology
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Overview

Primary research interests in the division focus on identification of risk factors for the occurrence and chronic course of mental and substance use disorders, developing interventions to improve outcomes, and advancing diagnostic and other assessment procedures. The work of the division is organized into two component groups:

Major Mental Disorders Research Group, headed by Dr. Endicott. This group focuses on diagnosis and assessment of the major mental disorders and on their long-term course, including identification of factors predicting relapse and recovery. Studies of affective disorders are addressed in large multi-site studies. Studies of depression also focus on women during the pre- and post-partum periods, and interventions to improve outcome. Research also includes prospective studies of psychotic emergency room patients and homeless adults. This group also considers conceptual issues in the developments of new nomenclatures, and develops new assessment procedures for clinical features such as quality of life.

Substance Dependence Research Group, headed by Dr. Hasin. The mission of this group is to reduce the risk for the occurrence or chronic course of substance use disorders by achieving a better understanding of individual, contextual and genetic risk factors. This research is conducted in national general population samples, and samples of clinical populations. Randomized trials also address enhancements of evidence-based treatments to improve outcomes. Studies related to diagnosis focus on the latent meta-structure of major psychiatric disorders (including substance use disorders), and on improved formulation of the criteria for substance use and personality disorders for new nomenclatures.

Current Research

Research of the Affective and Psychotic Disorders Research Group was funded by the NYS Office of Mental Health, a NIH award, a Cyberonics contract and funds from the GAP Committee on Human Sexuality.

Research of the Substance Dependence Research Group was funded by the NYS Office of Mental Health and 8 NIH awards.

Key Research Findings of the Substance Dependence Research Group, headed by Dr. Hasin:

Epidemiology. A history of childhood maltreatment was found to predict chronic alcohol and nicotine dependence over three years in national data (with post-doctoral fellow **Elliott** and **Hasin**). Childhood maltreatment was also found to exacerbate the effects of several other risk factors on the risk for and persistence of alcohol and other substance disorders, including exposure to wartime stress in Israel (with **Keyes, Aharonovich, Shmulewitz** and **Hasin**), the protective allele of ADH1B in Israel (with post-doctoral fellow **Meyers, Aharonovich, Shmulewitz** and **Hasin**), and recent stressful life events in the risk for alcohol craving in the United States (with pre-doctoral fellow **Kim** and **Hasin**). In national longitudinal data, poverty and substance use disorders both predicted first-time homelessness among those who were never homeless at baseline (with **Thompson, Greenstein** and **Hasin**).

Diagnosis. Dr. **Hasin** was lead author on a paper presenting the rationale of the DSM-5 changes in criteria for substance use disorders made by the DSM-5 Substance-Related Disorders Workgroup, now in press in American Journal of Psychiatry (AJP), and lead author on a letter to AJP commenting on the DSM-5 Field

Trials. In a procedural validity study for the new national survey, the NESARC-III, Dr. Hasin's group conducted 714 telephone PRISM-5 re-interviews of NESARC-III participants administered by clinician interviewers, achieving a 90.7% response rate of all participants assigned for re-interview. Ms. **Greenstein** and Ms. **Aivadyan** led this successful effort, completed earlier than expected.

Clinical. In HIV primary care patients, several key findings were obtained: (1) Motivational interviewing (MI) plus HealthCall (an interactive voice response system for patient self-monitoring we developed) more effectively reduced heavy drinking among patients with low commitment to reduce drinking (with **Aharonovich** and **Greenstein**); (2) Drinking motives, i.e., drinking to cope with negative affect, predicted heavier drinking pre- and post-treatment (with post-doc **Elliott**, **Aharonovich** and **Greenstein**); and (3) Nearly half the patients (including those with hepatitis) felt they had no medical reason to reduce their drinking (with post-doc **Elliott**, **Aharonovich** and **Greenstein**). Dr. **Aharonovich** tested new measures: (1) "In-vivo" patient cognitive performance during therapy sessions (patient and therapist versions), which predicted treatment outcomes (with post-doctoral fellow **Elliott**); and (2) Intrinsic and extrinsic motivations to change substance use, which differentially predicted treatment outcome (with **Stohl** and **Cannizzaro**).

Research Activities and Findings of the Affective and Psychotic Disorders Group, headed by Dr. Endicott:

Dr. **Endicott** was a co-editor and author on three chapters in a recently published book "Clinical Guide to Depression and Bipolar Disorder: Findings from the Collaborative Depression Study" published by American Psychiatric Publishing. The book is focused upon the findings from 30 years of intensive follow-up of over 900 patients who entered the study with a manic or major depressive episode. The book has already received several excellent reviews.

Dr. **Endicott** has continued to work with Dr. Janice Egeland and colleagues on the long term study of bipolar disorder among the Old Order Amish in Pennsylvania. A recent publication summarized the results of a 16-year prospective study of prodromal features prior to BPI onset in well Amish children all of whom had their first manic episode after puberty.

Dr. **First** continued his work in diagnostic evaluation and classification. He has worked closely with the ICD-11 project and on planning of the ICD-11 field trials. He was also a reviewer and editorial and coding consultant for DSM-5 which involved reviewing all of the proposed diagnostic criteria and text for clarity, consistency, and clinical utility.

Dr. **Spinelli** has completed her primary analyses of her study of interpersonal psychotherapy for antepartum depression in 3 NYC sites and the findings are now in press. She has continued to examine other features of the patients (e.g. breastfeeding). She has submitted a grant proposal to NIMH focused upon breastfeeding.

Dr. **Downey** has continued work on a research study being performed by the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry Committee on Human Sexuality, "Psychiatrists' Knowledge of Patients' Sexual Experiences and Behavior." She has an invited chapter "Talking to patients about sex" in Behavioral and Social Science in Medicine: Principles and Practice of Biopsychosocial Care, a textbook for medical students, edited by S. Locke and PA Shapiro.

Dr. **Caton** has continued her focus upon homeless individuals, particularly mothers with depression, young women during pregnancy and postpartum who may be at risk for HIV, and those involved in cognitive skills training to improve vocational outcome.

Education and Training

Dr. Hasin is Program Director for the NIDA-funded pre- and post-doctoral training program, "Epidemiology of Substance Use Disorders Training Program at Columbia University". She is sponsor for Dr. Ronald Thompson's NIDA K23 grant to study brief drug and HIV interventions for homeless young adults, for Dr. Mark Hatzenbuehler's new NIDA K01 grant to study social stress and substance abuse disparities in sexual minority youth and for Dr. Katherine Keyes pending NIDA K01 grant to study paradoxical aspects of alcohol problems in

African-Americans. Dr. Hasin chaired a mock review session of the K seminar for junior scientists at Psychiatric Institute. She, Dr. Keyes and Dr. Aharonovich actively mentor several other junior scientists who are developing scientific research programs. Dr. Aharonovich serves as faculty to two T32 substance abuse training programs and teaches Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Drs. Hasin and Aharonovich and Ms. Aivadyan provided international consultation to addiction research centers in Norway, Spain and Israel on diagnosis in substance abuse and psychiatric research.

Dr. Downey co-teaches (with Dr. Friedman) Human Sexual Development and Pathology, a required course for PGY III Psychiatry Residents.

Dr. First taught a class on the SCID for the residents, a class on personality disorders for medical students, and a class the DSM-IV for social work interns.

Dr. Spinelli serves as Senior Medical Consultant to the Women's Program in Psychiatry.

Honors and Awards

Dr. Hasin was a member of the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5 Substance Use Disorders Workgroup, and gave multiple invited lectures on this topic in the United States and elsewhere.

Dr. Skodol was a member of the DSM-5 Task Force and Chair of the DSM-5 Personality Disorders Workgroup. He is Chair of the Steering and Publications Committee of the Collaborative Longitudinal Study of Personality Disorders (CLPS).

Dr. First is one of only four external consultants to the NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) project, an NIMH initiative to develop an alternative classification system for research that is based on brain circuitry rather than descriptive symptoms.

Dr. Downey is Deputy Editor of the first English-language psychiatric journal to focus on psychodynamic psychiatry, "Psychodynamic Psychiatry."

Publications

Hasin DS, Aharonovich E, O'Leary A, Greenstein E, Pavlicova M, Arunagadai S, Waxman R, Wainberg M, Helzer J, Johnston B. Reducing Heavy Drinking in HIV Primary Care: A Randomized Trial of Brief Intervention, with and without Technological Enhancement. Addiction 2013 Feb 25. doi: 10.1111/add.12127. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 23432593

Keyes KM, Eaton NR, Krueger RF, Skodol A, Wall MM, Grant BF, Sever LJ, Hasin DS. Thought disorder in the meta-structure of psychopathology. Psychological Medicine 2012 Nov 21:1-11. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 23171498

Caton CLM, El-Bassel N, Gelman A, Barrow S, Herman D, Hsu E, Tjochterman AZ, Johnson K, Felix A. Rates and correlated of HIV and STI infection among homeless women, AIDS and Behavior. 2013 ; 17:856-864. PMID 22610369.

Samet S, Fenton MC, Nunes E, Greenstein E, Aharonovich E, Hasin D. Effects of Independent and Substance-induced Major Depressive Disorder on Remission and Relapse of Alcohol, Cocaine and Heroin Dependence. Addiction. 2013 Jan;108(1):115-23 PMID: 22775406

Thompson RG, Hasin D. Psychiatric disorders and treatment among newly homeless young adults with histories of foster care. Psychiatr Serv. 2012 Sep 1;63(9):906-12. PMID: 22706986

Division Highlights

Dr. Hasin received a new five-year NIDA R01 grant, "State Medical Marijuana Laws and MTF Teen Marijuana Use and Attitudes Since 1991" to study the relationship between social attitudes, state legislation and adolescent marijuana use in yearly national surveys conducted by the Monitoring The Future study.

The findings from the over 30 year follow-up evaluations of the Collaborative Depression Study were published by American Psychiatric Publications in a book entitled "Clinical Guide to Depression and Bipolar Disorder" Edited by Martin B. Keller, M.D., William H. Coryell, M.D., Jean Endicott, Ph.D., Jack D. Maser, Ph.D. and Pamela J Schettler, Ph.D.

Dr. Hasin joined the Alcohol Clinical Trials Initiative (ACTIVE) Group (affiliated with the American College on Neuropsychopharmacology) and is Associate Editor for the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Dr. Aharonovich's work on cognition and the outcome of substance abuse treatment was recognized by her role as consultant to the NIDA Clinical Trials Network on this issue and by the large and growing number of citations of her seminal work on this topic.