

UI ARC Insights

University of Iowa Addiction & Recovery Collaborative

Issue 01 - December 2024

Overdose awareness event unites community in compassion for recovery

September 2024 - [Internal Medicine at Iowa](#)

The department's Engagement & Belonging Committee teamed up with the University of Iowa Health Care Addiction and Recovery Collaborative (ARC), as well as the Iowa City area's Community & Family Resources addiction treatment center, to host an event for the community in support of International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, which is "the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember those we have lost to an overdose, acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind, and renew our commitment to end overdose and related harms." The United States Drug Enforcement Administration recognizes overdose as one of the world's worst public health crises.

Set at FilmScene the Thursday evening prior, the event was free and open to the public. Before the selected film screening, attendees could visit information tables from the three sponsors, write a dedication to a lost loved one to post on the remembrance board, or pick up free doses of naloxone—a lifesaving medication that can revive someone who has



overdosed on opioids. Complimentary soda or popcorn was served to attendees to enjoy during a screening of the Netflix documentary, *Recovery Boys*, which follows four men through part of their recovery journeys at the West Virginia residential substance abuse treatment center, Jacob's Ladder. Film reviews from its 2018 release focused on the de-stigmatization of addiction, with Forbes stating directly in its review title that the movie "humanizes the opioid epidemic." Following the film, a panel of providers and recovering patients discussed their reactions to it and answered questions from the audience




from everything about managing relationships with addicts to recovery resources in the state of Iowa.


Stay connected:

New website!
www.uiarc.uiowa.edu

Subscribe / Contact:
uiarc@healthcare.uiowa.edu

 addiction_arc

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 Addiction and Recovery Collaborative - UI ARC

In case you missed it...

Nicole Smith is now the part-time program coordinator and case manager for IACCESS. Nicole will continue to be an important member of our Bridge Projects Team as a re-entry liaison and case manager. She will continue to staff the Walk-In MAT clinic on Wednesday afternoons and be on the MAT Mobile when the team travels to the Nelson Center.

Amanda Eleazer is the new coordinator for our Addiction Medicine Fellowship and our Integrated Medicine Fellowship Programs – taking over from Hailey Brown (thanks, Hailey!). Please reach out to Amanda for all things related to our fellowship programs.

We appreciate Nicole and Amanda's work and their contributions to the UI ARC team!

In the news

Medicine Iowa Q&A: Alison Lynch

Fall 2024 - Aleksandra Vujcic

As a dedicated advocate for her patients, she fights against stigma and works to ensure they receive the health care they deserve.



[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)

Hepatitis See You Later: Faster Time-to-Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C in an Addiction Medicine Clinic

October 2024 - The American Journal of Gastroenterology

There has been a substantial increase in chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections among people with substance use disorders (SUD). Nine contributing UIHC authors reviewed patients with chronic HCV. Our local addiction medicine (AM) clinic sought to create an interdisciplinary care model to expedite screening and treatment of HCV in a predominantly rural state. DOI: [10.14309/01.ajg.0001036828.04700.68](https://doi.org/10.14309/01.ajg.0001036828.04700.68)



[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)

Iowa overdose deaths rise despite steep national drop, millions in unspent funds

October 2024 - Iowa News Now | Nick El Hajj

While most states in the U.S. have seen a sharp decrease in opioid-related overdose deaths, Iowa stands as an outlier.



[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)

Trauma-Focused ACT: A Practitioner's Guide to Working With Mind, Body, and Emotion Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

November 2024 - Iowa Research Online | Brandon Neiswander and Christopher Moreau
American Journal of Psychotherapy

A book review article by two UI Department of Psychiatry doctors. It explores the psychiatry residency in training, skills and clinical practice. This book is well suited for beginners to trained faculty. DOI: [10.1176/appi.psychotherapy.20240018](https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.psychotherapy.20240018)



[READ ARTICLE HERE](#)

The Integrated Liver Recovery Service (ILRS) was honored at the [Association of Medicine and Psychiatry](#) Annual Conference on October 5, 2024, with an Innovative Models for Integrated Care Award. The ILRS was one of three award recipients and was presented to the conference attendees by Dr. Andrea Weber. The award presentation was further supported by ILRS team members, Chris Harris and Vickie Roesner.

In January, the [Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) will be kicking off the national Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month – a time to raise awareness of the benefits and availability of evidence-based treatments for people with a substance use disorder. What better time for us to highlight information and resources that can help support treatment and recovery from a substance use disorder? Check out the [toolkit](#) and keep your eyes on all of SAMHSA's social media platforms.

Podcasts

To help those with addiction, health care providers must confront their own biases

February 2023 - IPR News | River to River

River to River host Ben Kieffer meets with healthcare professionals to discuss the harm that can come from stigma and what the medical community is doing to combat it – including an innovative storytelling project intended to help medical students. In addition, Iowans share their experiences with addiction and discuss how stigma affected their recovery.



[LISTEN HERE](#)



WE ARE HIRING!

[Peer Recovery Coach](#)

[Social Worker II](#)

[Program Coordinator](#)

[Communications
Coordinator](#)

Contact [Julianna Lee](#)
for the status of
these positions.

UI ARC offers training to providers in MOUD

We offer education in medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), including presentations and trainings.

We can also provide Naloxone and training on how to use it.

Contact us:

uiarc@healthcare.uiowa.edu

Awards / Shout outs

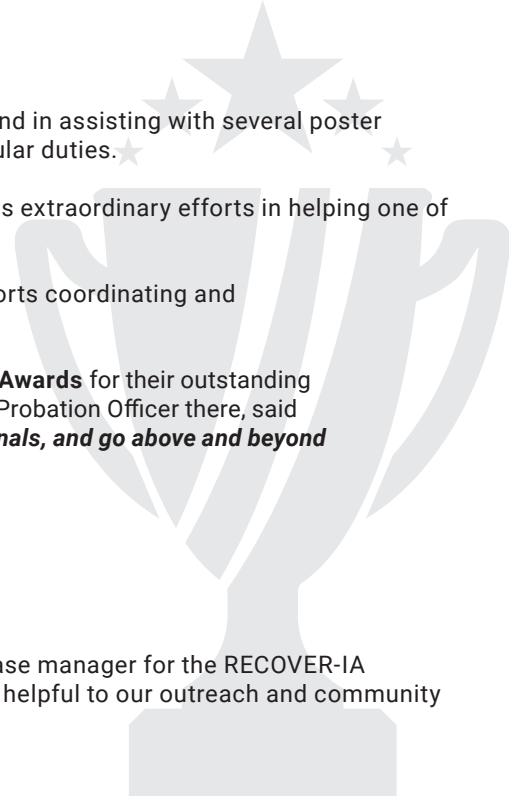
Sayeh Sabbagh was nominated for a **SPOT Performance Award** for going above and beyond in assisting with several poster presentations in September. She helped us meet our deadlines – in addition to all her regular duties.

Jared Swartzendruber was nominated for a **SPOT Performance Award** in November for his extraordinary efforts in helping one of our patients get his VA benefits.



Amanda Eleazer was nominated for a **SPOT Performance Award** for her efforts coordinating and volunteering at the Holiday Hope Gift Drive.

Kim Sheridan and **Nicole Smith** were nominated for **SPOT Performance Awards** for their outstanding work at the Hinzman Center Residential Correctional Facility. Wil Shaw, a Probation Officer there, said recently, *"Kim and Nicole have been great to work with, are true professionals, and go above and beyond to help our clients."*



Welcome!



Zach Palmer has joined the team as a case manager. He'll be the primary case manager for the RECOVER-IA project. His experience and connections to the Iowa Judicial system will be helpful to our outreach and community collaboration goals.



UI ARC Community & Events Calendar

We had a very busy October and November with our Outreach events!

We went to 16 events, these included:

- 1 MOUD training
 - 1 Naloxone Train the trainer event
 - 10 Naloxone hand out events
- and 1 presentation about our MAT mobile!
And we handed out 656 boxes of Naloxone!

Stay connected for all of our upcoming events!