Words from Woody
Reykjavik, Iceland

Drs. Woody, Pettinati, Kojic (consultant from Brown who trained in Reykjavik), and Charlotte Royer-Malvestuto completed training on a study entitled "Extended Release Naltrexone for Treating Amphetamine Dependence in Iceland". This study developed as a result of a NIDA meeting in Reykjavik in June 2008 and will attempt to replicate Swedish studies showing that naltrexone is effective for treating amphetamine dependence. It is a component of the medications treatment center award to Dr. Helen Pettinati and will randomize 100 amphetamine dependent individuals seeking treatment at the Society of Alcoholism and other Addictions (SAA) in Reykjavik to a 24-week course of extended release naltrexone (Vivitrol®) or Vivitrol placebo. The primary outcome will be amphetamine positive urine samples and we expect that it will take two years to complete. Iceland has a significant amphetamine problem and a very low rate of HIV infection at present, but 60% of the amphetamine dependent individuals are injecting. If we receive a signal that naltrexone is effective in this study, it could lead to effectiveness studies in the U.S.

In celebration of Public Health Week, PHMC is honored to recognize Dr. McLellan, a true public health hero! Learn where the Obama administration is focusing federal resources in drug control and what this means for addiction treatment in public health, behavioral health and primary care.

To register for this training and/or to see other trainings being offered at PHMC, please visit http://www.phmc.org/

Save the Date!
Friday April 9, 2010
9 am - 12 pm
“Highlighting the Federal Agenda for Drug Control Policy”
Featuring A. Thomas McLellan, PhD
Deputy Director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy

$50 for non-PHMC/Affiliate staff
NIDA Clinical Trials Network
Steering Committee
Meeting and 10th Anniversary
Symposium April 19-21, 2010 Albuquerque, NM. Registration is now open at:
http://www.seiservices.com/NIDA/CTN/Meetings/1025029/index.asp

CTN Meetings will be followed by the:

CTN 0027-START Retention survey (ROSP)
Waiting for California Node’s IRB Approval before submitting to UPenn and City of Philadelphia.

Potential Studies

CTN 0047 “Screening, Motivational Assessment and Referral to Treatment in the Emergency Department” (SMART-ED).
Study Objectives: To evaluate the implementation of and outcomes associated with a screening and brief intervention process to identify individuals with substance use, abuse, or dependence seen in emergency departments (EDs) and to provide interventions and/or referral to treatment consistent with the severity of their substance use disorder. Thomas Jefferson in the running for this study. Pending notification from Lead Node.

New Federal Per-Diem Rates for 2010

The General Services Administration (GSA) publishes guidance on domestic and international per diem rates for travelers. The link for federal reimbursement for travel (specifically the per diem rates for each city) is at http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentType=GSA_BASIC&contentId=17943

Del Val Node Current Studies

LAX Pilot Project: Staying or Not Staying in HIV Treatment Site: Jonathan Lax Clinic, Phila., PA
Recruitment is ongoing at the Jonathan Lax Center at Philadelphia Fight. To date, 50 clients have been interviewed. After a bit of a lull during the holidays, recruitment has picked up thanks to the efforts of Anna Pecoraro, Psy.D., University of Pennsylvania/CTN Post-doc, and Allen Howell, LAX Outreach Coordinator.

CTN Dissemination Library

The CTN Library is web-based, and includes all the CTN related publications (under What’s New). The web site is maintained by the Pacific Northwest Node of the Clinical Trials Network. The address is: http://ctndisseminationlibrary.org

The Dissemination Workshop video is now up and running on the Dissemination Library Website. The workshop “Methods for Disseminating Evidence-Based Treatments from the Frontlines of Community Treatment Programs” was held at the March 2009 Steering Committee meeting. The workshop features presentations from a variety of CTPs and researchers, as well as a demonstration about using the CTN Dissemination Library.

For additional info, contact Ed Weiss, Assoc. Project Manager, Delaware Valley Node eweiss@tresearch.org or call 215-399-0980 x.145.
Penn professor works to transform drug-control policy  By Don Sapatkin  
Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer

To much of official Washington, the portrait of substance abuse in the United States is grim: More than 22 million Americans abuse drugs or alcohol.

Just 10 percent of them get treated - and an alarming number relapse.

At treatment centers designed to help them, half the counselors quit each year. Worse, the newest research-based therapies often do not reach clinics at all.

In the dysfunction, A. Thomas McLellan sees opportunity.

"We've got to put scientific information into policies that make sense and will deliver for Americans," said McLellan, who left Philadelphia six months ago to become the nation's No. 2 drug-policy official.

Science, he says, can make treatment inviting, catch abuse before it turns into addiction, save communities millions of dollars - in short, remake a system that has been shaped by the politics of avoidance. There is even a "science of recovery," and he said he believed that talking about it would help move the national conversation about recovery from one of shame to one of triumph.

Passionate about bringing science to Washington, yes. Enjoying doing it, no. Seated on a couch in his sparsely furnished office a few blocks from the White House, the lanky and mustachioed psychologist was characteristically blunt.

"I guess I could be called a ready, fire, aim kind of guy," said McLellan, 61. "Government is ready, aim . . . aim . . . aim . . . you get the drift?

To read full article, go to:  

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Delaware Valley Node  
CTPs/Collaborators

Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment  
http://www.einstein.edu/facilities/belmont/article9780.html

Caron Treatment Centers  
http://www.caron.org/

Christiana Care Health System  
http://www.christianacare.org/

Firetree, Ltd.  
http://www.firetree.com/

Fresh Start Foundation  
http://www.freshstartfoundation.org

Jonathan Lax Center  
http://www.fight.org/

NET  
http://www.net-centers.org/

Northeast ATTC  
http://www.attcnetwork.org

PHMC  
http://www.phmc.org/

Princeton House  
http://www.princetonhcs.org/page1848.aspx

Presbyterian  
http://pennhealth.com/behav_health/addiction/presby/

Rehab After Work (RAW)  
http://www.rehabafterwork.com/contact.htm

Thomas Jefferson University  
http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/psychiatry/article4821.html

Treatment Research Institute  
www.tresearch.org

The University of Pennsylvania, Center for Studies on Addiction (TRC)  
http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/trc/

Grants Corner  
The following funding opportunities may be of interest to researchers:

Deep Sequencing and Analysis of Pharmacogenomic Regions: Discovery and Analysis of Genetic Variants Contributing to Drug Abuse and Addiction (R01)  
RFA-DA-10-019 (R01) - [Receipt Date: April 29, 2010]

Medications Development for Substance Related Disorders (R01)  
RFA-DA-10-018 (R01) - [Receipt Date: April 29, 2010]
Systems Biology, HIV/AIDS, and Substance Abuse (R01) RFA-DA-10-014 (R01) - [Receipt Date: April 29, 2010]

2010 NIDA Translational Avant-Garde Award for Medication Development for Diseases of Addiction (DP1) RFA-DA-10-013 (DP1) - [Receipt Date: July 2, 2010]

2010 NIDA Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV/AIDS Research (DP1) RFA-DA-10-012 (DP1) - [Receipt Date: June 2, 2010]

Cognitive Remediation Approaches to Improve Drug Abuse Treatment Outcomes RFA-DA-10-006 (R01), RFA-DA-10-007 (R21) - [Receipt Date: April 7, 2010]

Seek, Test, and Treat: Addressing HIV in the Criminal Justice System (R01) RFA-DA-10-017 (R01) - [Receipt Date: April 1, 2010]

Support Opportunity for Addiction Research (SOAR) for New Investigators (R03) RFA-DA-10-015 (R03) - [Receipt Date: April 16, 2010]

Medications Development for Cannabis-Related Disorders (R01) RFA-DA-10-016 (R01) - [Receipt Date: April 30, 2010]

http://www.nida.nih.gov/Funding/rfa.html

Send updates for this newsletter to dcardillo@tresearch.org