

# Director's Report to the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse

May 12, 2020

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director



# ***“In Memoriam”***



## **Dr. Ron Duman**

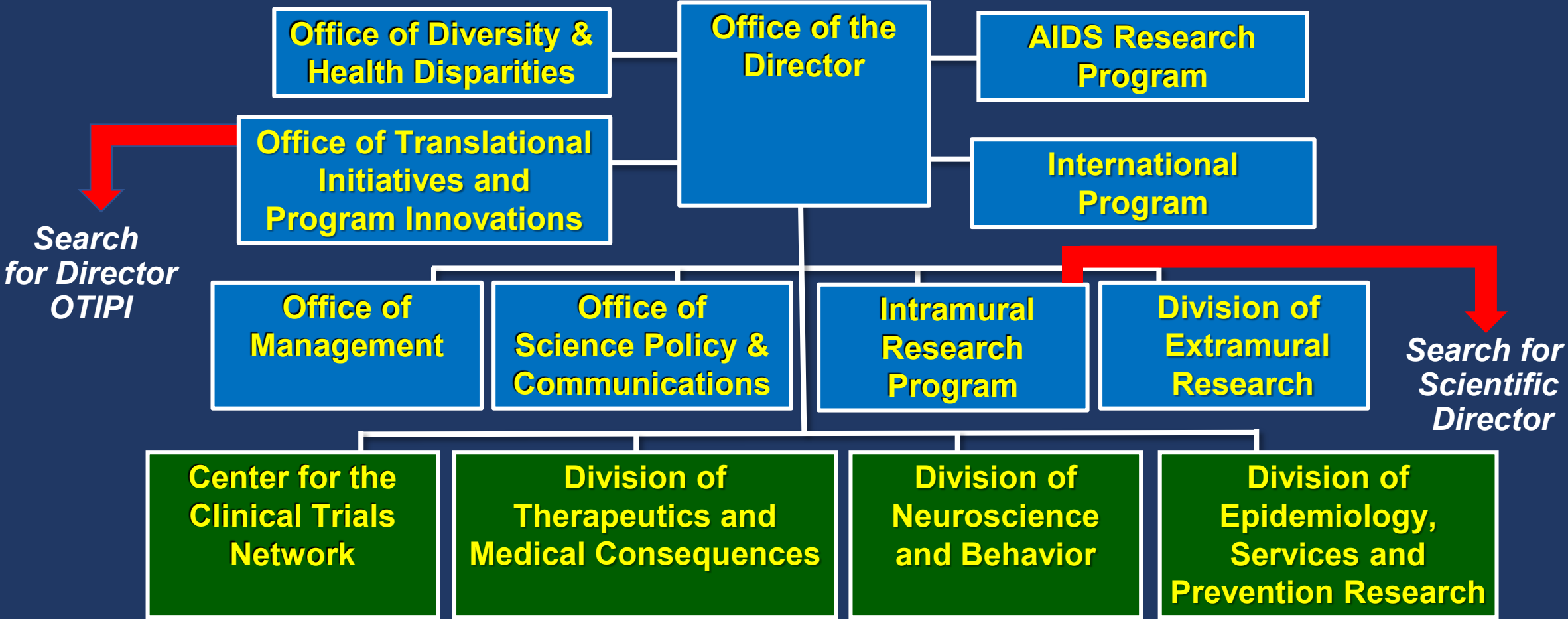
- Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Neuroscience, Yale University passed away on February 1, 2020 at the age of 65.
- Seminal contributions to the neurobiological effects of stress and to the action of antidepressants.



## **Dr. Eric Simon**

- Professor Emeritus of New York University Medical Center passed away on March 30, 2020 at the age of 95.
- Major contributor to the field of opioid pharmacology, including being one of first to uncover opioid receptors in brain and he coined the term “endorphin”.

# NIDA



# New NIDA Staff



## **Nathaniel "Natty" Davis, M.B.A.**

**Budget Officer and Chief, Financial Management Branch  
National Institute on Drug Abuse**

*Formerly Budget Officer at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities*



## **Anne Rancourt, M.P.S.**

**Communications Director  
National Institute on Drug Abuse**

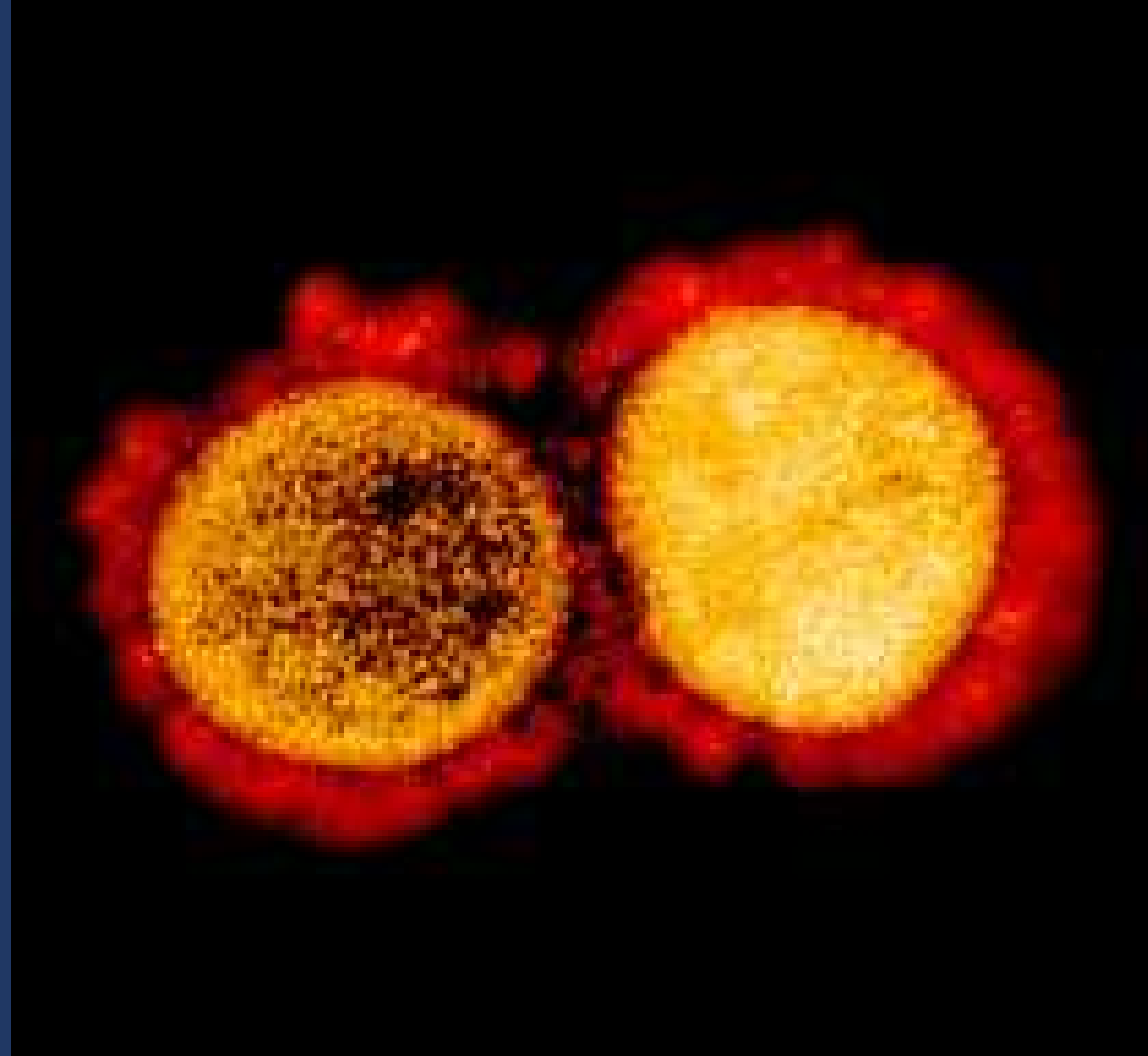
*Formerly Section Chief responsible for communications on HIV, allergy, and immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases*

# NIDA Budget

	FY 2019 Actuals (\$k)	FY 2020 Enacted (\$k)	FY 2021 PB (\$k)
<b>Base</b>	\$1,150,367	\$1,191,403	\$1,165,449
<b>HEAL</b>	\$470,967*	\$266,321	\$266,321
<b>Total</b>	\$1,621,334*	\$1,457,724	\$1,431,770

\*Reflects total HEAL funding obligated in FY 19, regardless of source. Includes 1-year funds provided in FY 19 and balance of 2-year funds provided in FY 18.

# COVID-19 and NIH



# Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions & Vaccines (ACTIV)



Partnership with 16 biopharmaceutical companies, academicians, and government agencies: CDC, BARDA, FDA, VA, and DoD (April 17)

Aims to accelerate progress towards treatment of COVID-19:

- *Reviewed >170 therapeutic compounds and >50 vaccine candidates and prioritized them for testing.*
- Conducted an inventory of clinical trials networks to identify capacity
- Working on a master protocol

# Rapid Acceleration Diagnostics RADx



## **RADx Underrepresented Populations Project – \$500M**

*Series of interlinked community-based demonstration projects focused on implementation strategies to enable and enhance testing of COVID-19 in underserved, under-resourced, rural, and/or vulnerable populations*



## **RADx Non-Traditional Approaches Project – \$200M**

*Develop and advance novel, non-traditional approaches or new applications of existing approaches for testing, including unconventional screening, biological or physiological markers, new platforms, POC devices, etc.*



## **RADx Scale-up Project – \$230M**

*Rapid scale-up of advanced technologies to increase rapidity and enhance and validate throughput – create ultra-high throughput machines and facilities*

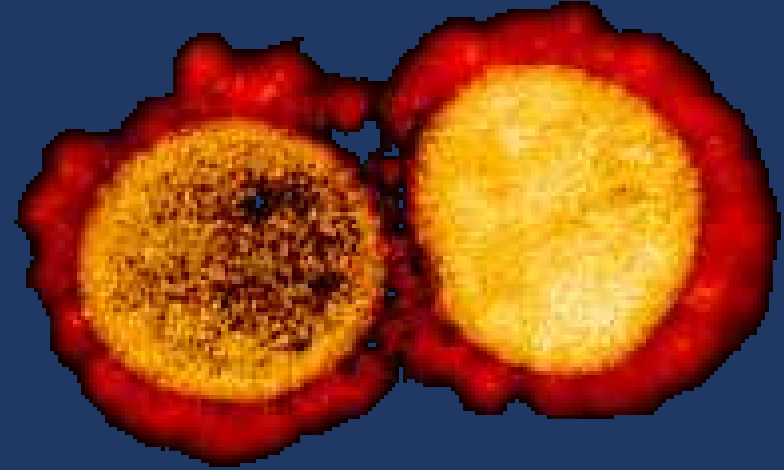


\*Remaining \$70M for Data Management Support for Testing for Safe Release Project





# COVID-19, Drugs and SUD



# ***Acute and Chronic Pharmacological Effects of Drugs' Impact on COVID-19 Infections and Outcomes***

- ***Tobacco Smoking***
- ***Vaping***  
*(Nicotine and/or THC)*
- ***Opiate Use***
- ***Psychostimulant use***
- ***Cannabis***

## ***Nicotine Patch***

RCT (n=1900) to be done by Changeux and colleagues who found in a study that smokers are less likely to contract COVID-19



**Worse COVID outcomes among smokers**



# Structural Challenges for SUD During COVID-19

- **Stress**
- **Stigma**
- **Access to medications for OUD**
- **Limited access to peer-support groups or other sources of social connection**
- **Social distancing increases likelihood of opioid overdoses happening with no observers who can administer naloxone**



# ***Social Challenges to SUD During COVID***

- ***Housing instability/homelessness***
  - ***Increased risk for disease transmission in homeless shelters***
- ***Incarceration***
  - ***More than half of U.S prisoners have SUD***
  - ***Prison populations are at greatest risk for disease transmission during epidemics***



# Intersection Between Opioid Crisis and COVID-19

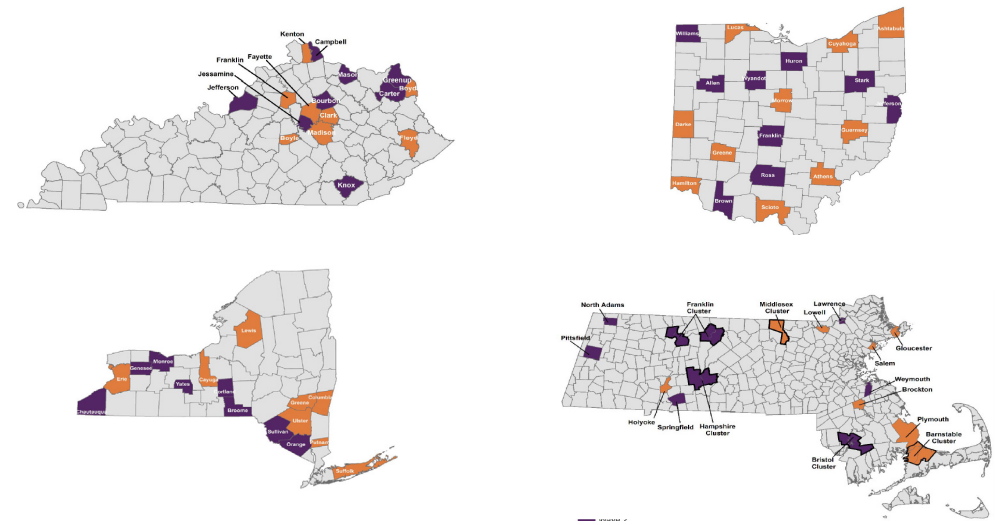


# *Opportunities From COVID Pandemic?*

- Increased use of **telemedicine**
- Establishment of **mental health hot lines**
- Deployment of **virtual support meetings**
- Expansion of **take-home medicines** for MOUD
- **Buprenorphine prescribing** via Telehealth
- Release of non-violent offenders with SUD from **jails and prisons**, which might improve their long-term outcomes
- Development of web-based **educational material** that can be used to help in rehabilitation

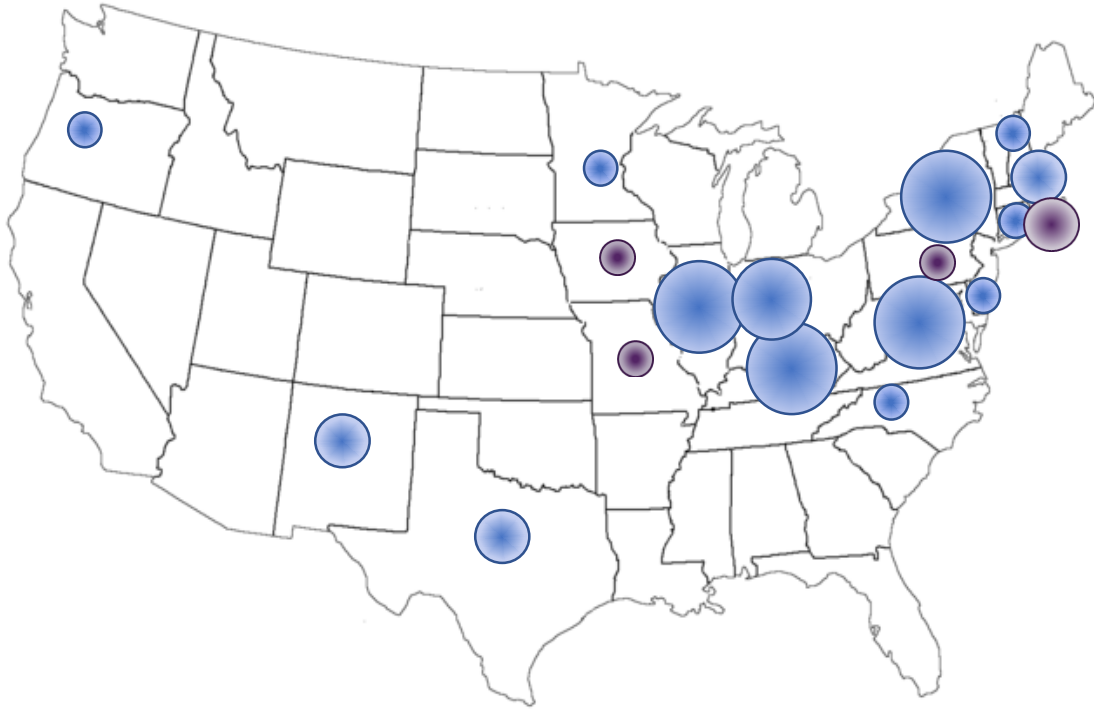
# HEALing Communities Study

- Moved community meetings and activities to web-based format
- Accelerated efforts to assist Wave 1 communities in selecting activities related to Naloxone distribution and overdose protection
- Launched communication campaign in Wave 1 communities for Naloxone
- Provided information about OUD treatment resources to community coalitions to assist decision making for evidence-based practices.



- Has the rate of overdoses changed?
- Impact on treatment initiation and retention
- Impact on access to drugs in the community
- Challenges experienced by providers and first responders
- Challenges by those with SUD

# Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network



18 States + Puerto Rico  
88 communities  
>25,000 justice-involved  
individuals

- Compiled >120 guidelines/resources for justice systems responding to COVID-19
- Advisory group to provide real-time information to NIDA COVID-19 impact in justice settings



# Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research 2019 Novel Coronavirus Notice Number: NOT-DA-20-047

- *Dates*

**Release Date:** March 19, 2020

**First Available Due Date:** March 19, 2020

**Expiration Date:** March 31, 2021

- *Related Announcements*

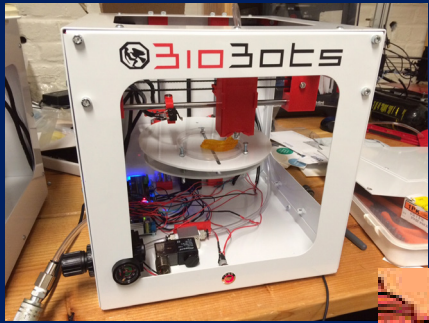
[PA-18-935](#) Urgent Competitive Revision to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Urgent Supplement - Clinical Trial Optional)

[PA-18-591](#) Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional)

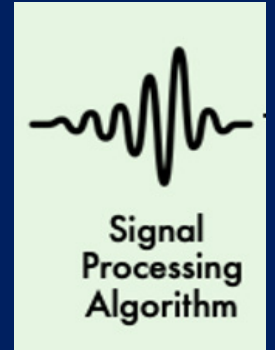
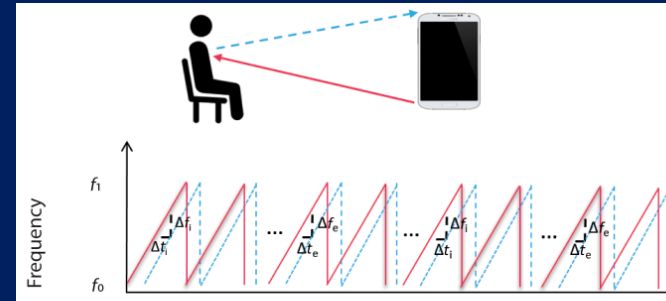
- **Purpose:** NIDA is issuing this NOSI to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. NIDA is especially interested in **research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from SUD.**

# SBIR/STTR COVID-19 + Opioid Crisis

## Biobot Analytics Inc.

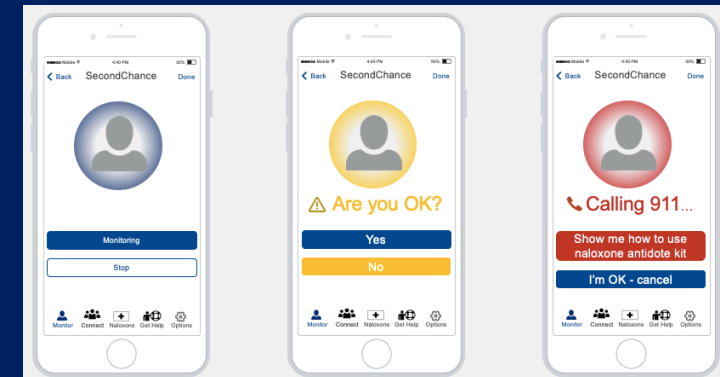


## Sound Life Sciences Inc.



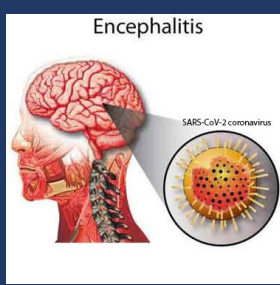
Proprietary active sonar technology that uses smart phone microphone

Respiratory failure detected



Rapidly connecting to naloxone

# COVID-19, HIV and SUD



- COVID-19 impact on health behaviors and treatment services including **barriers to HIV, HCV and drug treatments** and HIV/HCV and overdose risks
- COVID-19 impact on **drug markets**, HIV risk, access and use of HIV prevention services, how SSPs have adapted to delivery with COVID-19.
- Co-occurring **meth and HIV** impact on **COVID seroprevalence** via gut-immune dysregulation, smoking, decreased social distancing.
- OUD impact on incidence and progression of COVID-19 in those with **HIV and OUD**: clinical course and outcomes.
- Compare **COVID-19 /HIV coinfecting patients with and without OUD**: viral loads, immune function and HIV reservoir

# Virtual BRAIN Initiative Investigators' Meeting

Creating a community, regardless of funding source

- Registration open through May 29!
- [www.braininitiative.org/events/pimeeting](http://www.braininitiative.org/events/pimeeting)

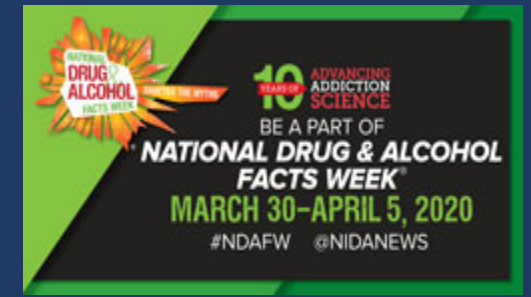


Meeting features:

- 4 Plenary talks and 8 attendee-organized symposia
- Virtual poster hall, exhibit hall, and networking room
- Special session highlighting the Trainee Awards
- Science communications specialty sessions
- Scientific photo and video competition
- On-demand content for 12 months after the event

# NATIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL FACTS WEEK

*March 30 to April 5, 2020*



Record year when due to COVID-19 we went totally virtual.

**2,733 registered events** representing 50 states + DC, and 11 countries.

