

# April 2026 Monthly E-Newsletter

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## Notable Mentions

April has come and gone to make way for May 🌻



### TDP Educational Activity

On April 13th, the Tobacco Dependence Program's **Drs. Michael Steinberg and Kimberly Jordan-Casarona** led a virtual training workshop for 27 student assistance professionals working in Washington State. The workshop, *Practical Treatment Skills to Support Students Who Use Tobacco or Nicotine Products*, equipped staff with evidence-based strategies to address youth tobacco and nicotine use and support student quit attempts.



### Administrative Professionals Day

Administrative Professionals Day was April 22, and we wanted to shout out the Administrative Team for all of their hard work and efforts! Our Admin Team ensures that INTS runs smoothly and allows us all to do the great work that we do. Thank you all!

### Take Your Kid to Work Day

The kids gathered to play the INTS trivia game of "Two Truths and a Lie - Nicotine and Tobacco Edition," crafted and drew pictures to display at



Rutgers Day, and had fun learning about the work their parents do at INTS!

### Rutgers Day 2026

Despite the rain, Rutgers Day was a great success! Our interactive game, "Two Truths and a Lie - Nicotine and Tobacco Edition," was an engaging activity that our visitors enjoyed participating in. Visitors answered trivia questions and spun the prize wheel to choose from a wide selection of merchandise. Thanks to the large crowds at our table, we gave away all of our prizes including: hats, pens, lip balm, snacks, and more! Thank you to everyone who helped plan and execute the many details of this year's Rutgers Day. We truly appreciate all of your hard work and dedication!



### Congratulations to Julia and Olivia on their recent awards!

We are proud to recognize **Assistant Professor Julia Chen-Sankey** and **Associate Professor Olivia Wackowski** for their recent faculty awards! Olivia has been selected as a recipient of the **Presidential Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award for the 2025–2026 academic year**.

This honor recognizes tenured faculty whose academic portfolios reflect outstanding research, scholarship, or creative work, as well as exceptional contributions to teaching and extensive service to the Rutgers community and beyond. Olivia will be honored at a reception on May 6. Julia is the recipient of the **Rutgers School of Public Health 2026 Excellence in Faculty Advisement Award**, which is presented annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated



**Julia Chen-Sankey:**  
**Excellence in Faculty Advisement Award**



exceptional mentorship, guidance, and support for student advisees, emphasizing advising excellence in the MPH APE and Practicum Capstone, MS Capstone, and DrPH and PhD dissertation requirements. Julia will be recognized at the School of Public Health's End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on May 8. Please join us in congratulating Julia and Olivia on these well-deserved achievements!

## New Member Highlights

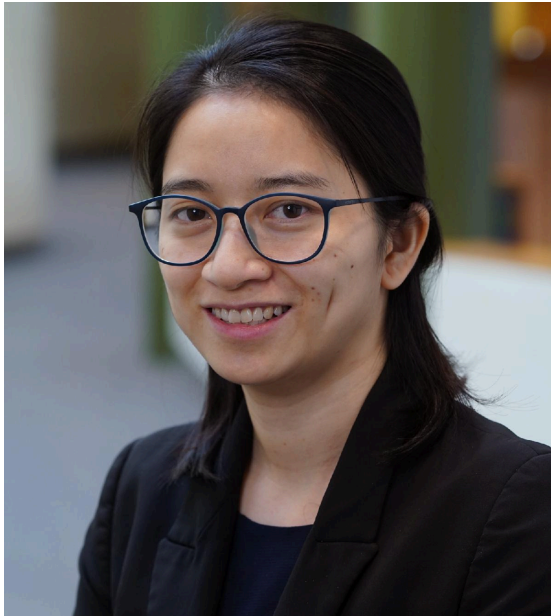


Join us in welcoming our new **Associate Member, Travis E. Baker, PhD**, an Associate Professor at Rutgers University in the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience and Director of the Neurostimulation and Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory! Dr. Baker's research focuses on understanding how brain systems that support motivation and reward become disrupted in substance use disorders, with a particular emphasis on tobacco and opioid use disorders.

By using a combination of EEG, neuroimaging, and noninvasive brain stimulation, his work aims to identify and restore the neural processes that support healthy goal-directed decision-making and recovery. His research has shown that targeted brain stimulation can improve sensitivity to non-drug rewards and enhance reward learning in individuals who use nicotine, offering a promising, circuit-based approach to treatment. Dr. Baker completed his PhD in Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Victoria, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Montreal and Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University. He is currently leading several NIH-funded studies

focused on developing more effective, personalized interventions for substance use disorders.

## Upcoming Events & Important Reminders



### INTS Brown Bag Seminar Series: Thuy Le

**Wednesday, May 6,  
2026**

**10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**

Join us in person or virtually for the INTS Brown Bag Seminar Series, "Advancing Tobacco Control with Machine Learning and Generative AI." This seminar will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and will be led by Thuy Le, PhD, Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Michigan.

**Location:** In person in room 516, or you can access the seminar [via this Zoom link](#).

**Meeting ID:** 977 1966 9795

**Passcode:** 674318

### Budget Fun Workshop

**Wednesday, May 6,  
2026**

**2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**



This session will provide faculty and trainees with hands-on experience in developing preliminary budgets for research projects and grant applications. It aims to help faculty members better understand total project costs at the outset

of the planning period, without reliance on the Finance Office. It will also reduce the need for detailed back-and-forth communication with the Finance Office on early-stage budget specifics, allowing faculty to focus more on the scientific aspects of their work.

This workshop will take place in the **5th floor conference room (516)**. Please **be sure to bring your laptops with you**.

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## **Seminar: "Lung Cancer Prevention: Where are We and Where are We Going?"**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**  
**1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

The Rutgers Cancer Institute is hosting Cancer Prevention and Control Center is hosting this seminar, which will be presented by **Dr. Rafael Meza**, on May 19, in person at Rutgers Cancer Institute – **120 Albany St. Tower 2, 8th floor, conference room 8023**, as well as virtually via Zoom. A light lunch will be served for those attending in person. You can [click here to register for the Zoom meeting](#). If you have any comments and/or questions, please send inquiries to [cpc\\_program@cinj.rutgers.edu](mailto:cpc_program@cinj.rutgers.edu).

## **Grants & Awards**



**Olivia Wackowski and Cris Delnevo** received a Rutgers Health Pilot Award for their proposal titled “*Patient Physician Communication Regarding Smoking Cessation and Harm Reduction.*” This is a 1-year pilot program.

## Recent Publications



Below are the most recent publications from INTS faculty and staff:

LoParco, C. R., Rossheim, M. E., **Chen-Sankey, J.**, Tillett, K. K., Thakkar, S., Speer, M., Cui, Y., Johnson, M., Cavazos-Rehg, P. A., & Berg, C. J. (2026). Perceptions of Cannabis Vaping Advertising Messages and Warnings Among US Young Adults. *Substance Use & Addiction Journal*, 29767342261429618. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/29767342261429618>

**Donaldson, S. I., & Allem, J. P.** (2026). The Need to Advance the Measurement of Exposure to Digital Tobacco Content. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, ntag081. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntag081>

**Glasser, A. M., Tomaino, M., Uriarte, C.,** Carman, C., Roemhildt, M., Williams, R., **Chen-Sankey, J., & Villanti, A. C.** (2026). Trajectories of Lifetime Vaping in Teens and Young Adults: Latent Transition Analyses Over One Year. *BMC Public Health*, 10.1186/s12889-026-27204-8. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-026-27204-8>

Hinds, J. T., **Talbot, E. M., Ganz, O., & Delnevo, C. D.** (2026). The Use of Interactive and Engaging Events in Austin, Texas, to Promote the US Return of IQOS. *Tobacco Prevention & Cessation*, 12, 10.18332/tpc/214726. <https://doi.org/10.18332/tpc/214726>

Padon, A. A., **Chen-Sankey, J.**, **La Capria, K.**, Royne Stafford, M., Silver, L. D., & Ghahremani, D. G. (2026). How Do Cannabis Ads Influence Youth Perceptions of Cannabis? *Substance Use & Misuse*, 1–9. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2026.2645776>

Ozga, J. E., **Jensen, J. K.**, **Chen-Sankey, J.**, Pérez, A., & Stanton, C. A. (2026). New Versus Continued E-Cigarette Use and Cigarette Reuptake Among US Adults Who Formerly Smoked Cigarettes. *Addictive Behaviors*, 178, 108677. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2026.108677>

**Donaldson, S. I.**, Russell, A. M., & **Allem, J. P.** (2026). Exposure to Alcohol-Related Social Media Content and Desire to Drink Among Young Adults. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 180(4), 456–458. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2025.6335>

Lukey, A., do Valle, H. A., Howard, A. F., Pearce, C. L., Huntsman, D. G., Kwon, J. S., McAlpine, J. N., Law, M. R., Kaur, P., **Meza, R.**, & Hanley, G. E. (2026). Complications Following Bilateral Salpingectomy by Indication: Population-Based Cohort Study. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 133(5), 1056–1064. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0528.70143>

**Villanti, A. C.**, **Bover Manderski, M. T.**, **Tomaino, M.**, **Uriarte, C.**, **Weiger, C.**, **Wackowski, O. A.**, **Delnevo, C. D.**, & Peterson, E. B. (2026). Impact of Survey Item Wording and Response Options on Prevalence of Beliefs About Nicotine Causing Cancer: A Randomized Survey Experiment. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, 28(4), 634–641. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntaf215>

Stevens, E. M., Lee, D. N., Kim, S., Clayton, R. B., Oduguwa, K., Leshner, G., Mays, D., **Villanti, A. C.**, & Wagener, T. L. (2026). Young Adults' Responses to E-Cigarette Advertisements: An Examination for Potential Regulation. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 70(4), 108188. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2025.108188>

Vassey, J., **Chen-Sankey, J.**, & Unger, J. B. (2026). E-cigarette and Cannabis in Social Media Influencer Marketing and Its Effect on Adolescents: A Survey-Based Experiment. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, 28(4), 658–667. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntaf225>

**Pacek, L. R.**, **Ganz, O.**, Rubenstein, D., **Barnwell, P. V.**, & McClernon, F. J. (2026). Identifying Latent Classes of Dual Cigarette/ENDS Users Based on Motivations for ENDS Use: Product Substitution Versus Complementary Use. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research: Official Journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*, 28(4), 668–676. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntaf188>

Ozga, J. E., Bold, K. W., Giovenco, D. P., **Villanti, A. C.**, Unger, J. B., Leventhal, A., & Stanton, C. (2026). Recommended Self-Report Measures for Use of Menthol, Mint and Cooling-Flavoured Nicotine and Tobacco Products. *Tobacco Control*, 35(2), 260–263. <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2024-059157>



lip balm, pens, mints, tablecloths, and Rutgers-branded bucket hats. **Please inform Paige and Mary if you intend to take any supplies, and sign out the amount on the sign-out sheet on the wall of the storage room.** For future merchandise needs for marketing purposes, feel free to reach out to [Paige Gerald](#)s.

## Communications Strategies



Do you have any ideas or important items to share each month? Reach out to **Paige Gerald**s, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator, to share your items and ideas or if there is anything we want to consider for wider promotion. Additionally, help us grow by following INTS on **LinkedIn**, **Twitter (X)**, and **Bluesky**, and interacting with us on social media!

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