

March 2026 Monthly E-Newsletter



Notable Mentions

As we "March" into April, let's take a moment to reflect on the highlights from the previous month. 🍀



Internal updates

Join us in welcoming our new team members, Temporary Research Assistant, **Sandy Kehla**, and Post Doc, **Arpita Tripathi**!



SRNT Conference

Another successful SRNT conference is in the books! INTS members delivered or co-authored over 70 unique abstracts, including three INTS-authored poster spotlights. Our Center for Rapid Surveillance of Tobacco (CRST) was also one of three conference exhibitors. And for the first time, INTS hosted a Friends & Family reception at the conference hotel, inviting colleagues and collaborators together to build community and celebrate.

March Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Training

TDP's Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) March Training session was a success! Attendees were a diverse group of professionals, with about half from NJ and others from New York, Virginia,



Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program
in collaboration with the
Division of Addiction Psychiatry
and co provided with
Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care
Rutgers Center for Public Health Workforce Development

Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training

Select disciplines can earn approximately
32
CE credit hours*

*Visit tobaccoprogram.org for comprehensive CE credit hour information

North Carolina, New Mexico, and even Saudi Arabia. Three participants also attended through Intergenerational Fight Against Menthol (IFAM) scholarships. The last session for Spring takes place on May 4-5, and further training dates for the fall sessions will be announced at a later date.



Regional STOMP Conferences
INTS members **Chris Ackerman, Mary Hrywna, and Kevin Schroth** presented at each of the three regional Stop Tobacco Offense Merchant Program (STOMP) Conferences being held in New Jersey this week. The conferences focus on preventing youth tobacco access, enhancing enforcement efforts, and strengthening policies.

Upcoming Events & Important Reminders



**Save the Date:
Rutgers Day**

**Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

Rutgers Day is just around the corner! If you would like to stop by the INTS table or participate in any way, please contact Paige or Caitlin to see how you can get involved!

Seminar



PATH Study Analyses: A Decade of Opportunities and Obstacles

Karin Kasza PhD

INTS Brown Bag Seminar Series: Karin Kasza

**Wednesday, April 8,
2026**

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

Join us in person or virtually for the INTS Brown Bag Seminar Series, "PATH Study Analyses: A Decade of Opportunities and Obstacles." This seminar will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and will be led by Karin Kasza, PhD, Assistant Professor of Oncology in the Department of Health Behavior at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Location: In person in room 516, or you can access the seminar via [Zoom](https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/9189467429?pwd=fDNTdcUeXxVgnKaHRlfUTOibe6k2Uq.1&omn=96790463869):
[https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/9189467429?
pwd=fDNTdcUeXxVgnKaHRlfUTOibe6k2Uq.1&omn=96790463869](https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/9189467429?pwd=fDNTdcUeXxVgnKaHRlfUTOibe6k2Uq.1&omn=96790463869)

Grants & Awards



Congratulations to Jessie Jensen on her recent grant!

Jessie Jensen was awarded a 5-year R01 grant as Principal Investigator from the National Cancer Institute (R01CA300339), titled "The Implementation of Local Flavored Cigar Restrictions." This project will run from 4/01/26 to 3/31/2031.

Recent Publications



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

Aro RP, Lam S, Warkentin MT, Liu G, Diergaarde B, Wilson DO, Yuan JM, Al-Sawaihey H, Murison K, Moez EK, Brhane Y, **Meza R**, Myers R, Hung RJ. Integrating deep learning of low-dose computed tomography with clinical data for lung cancer risk prediction. *Chest*. Published online March 13, 2026. doi:10.1016/j.chest.2026.02.022.

Chen-Sankey J, Mercincavage M, La Capria K, Jeong M, Strasser AA, Delnevo CD, Wackowski O. Assessing the Impact of a Reduced Chemical Exposure Claim in Advertisements for FDA-authorized E-cigarette Products among Youth and Young Adults. *Nicotine Tob Res*. Published online February 21, 2026. doi:10.1093/ntr/ntag040.

Donaldson SI, Russell AM, Allem JP. Exposure to Alcohol-Related Social Media Content and Desire to Drink Among Young Adults. *JAMA Pediatr*. Published online February 23, 2026. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2025.6335.

Fullerton AJ, Issanov A, **Meza R.** Childhood maltreatment and mental-physical multimorbidity: An analysis of Canadian survey data using entropy balancing. *Can J Public Health*. Published online March 19, 2026. doi:10.17269/s41997-026-01173-2.

Han DH, Duran CB, Martines PW, Skinner S, Harlow AF, Li M, Barrington-Trimis JL, Halbert CH, **Meza R**, Levy DT, Leventhal AM. Oral Nicotine Product Use and E-Cigarette Use Persistence in Adolescents and Young Adults: An Analysis Using Augmented Inverse Probability Weighting. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2026 Feb 21:kwag033. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwag033. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41721514.

LoConte NK, Gatti-Mays ME, Hirko KA, Scherr CL, **Villanti AC**, Mays D. Can I Have One Minute of Your Time? Strategic Message Design Is Needed to Change Behavior. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2026;35(3):367-368. doi:10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-25-1869.

Ra CK, **Villanti AC, Bover-Manderski MT, Mercincavage M, Steinberg MB.** Sleep Difficulties and Their Associations with Smoking Abstinence among Adults Seeking Tobacco Cessation Treatment. *Am J Prev Med*. Published online March 17, 2026. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2026.108342.

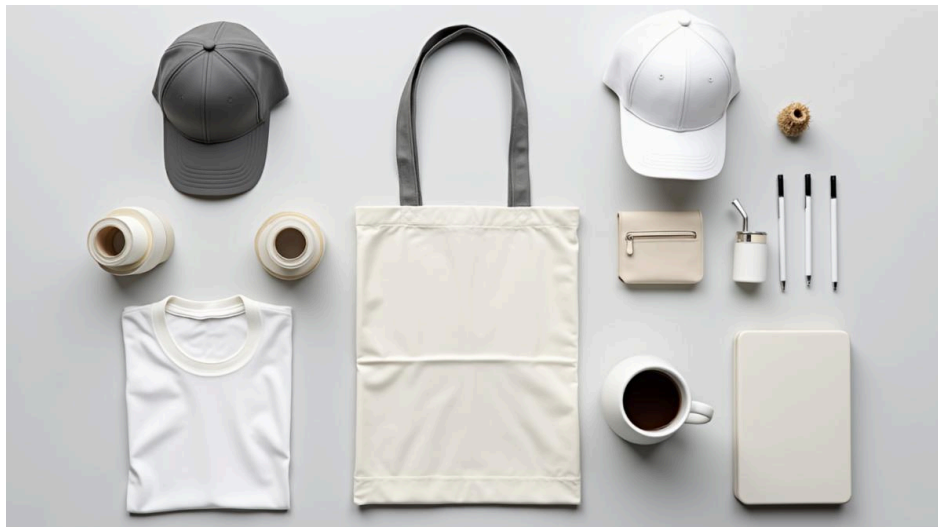
Rubenstein D, **Pacek LR**, Green MJ, Sweitzer MM, Kozink R, Holloway A, Donny EC, Smith TT, McClernon JF. Restricting choice of e-cigarette flavor and device type increases choices to use combusted cigarettes among adults who dual use both products: Results from a within-subjects randomized trial. *Addict Behav.* 2026;174:108578. doi:10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108578.

Salgado MV, Cao P, Jeon J, Sanchez-Romero LM, Holford TR, Levy DT, **Tam J**, Mejia R, **Meza R**. Modeling the Impact of Smoking on Mortality in Argentina From 2000 to 2100. A Maximum Potential Reduction in Premature Mortality Analysis. *Nicotine Tob Res.* 2026;28(3):499-503. doi:10.1093/ntr/ntaf117.

Talbot EM, **Ganz O**, **Jensen JK**, Mays D, Rose SW, **Ackerman C**, **Hrywna M**, Lee JGL, **Bover-Manderski MT**, **Barnwell PV**, **Mercincavage M**, Henriksen L, **Delnevo C**. Pushing the US nicotine pouch market: insights from Zyn's free can campaign in September 2025. *Tob Control.* Published online February 23, 2026. doi:10.1136/tc-2025-060004.

Yang M, Sutton SK, Cottrell-Daniels C, Ritterband LM, Blackwell R, Maconi ML, Poudel R, Pabbathi S, Simmons VN, Vinci C. Mindfulness-based ecological momentary intervention for smoking cessation addressing cancer-related relapse risk factors: Intervention development and usability findings. *Mindfulness.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12671-026-02775-0>.

INTS Merchandise



Do you have any upcoming tabling events where you need merchandise to distribute? For any merchandise needs, we have a fresh stockpile of outreach materials in the 4th floor storage room, including: INTS-branded hand sanitizer, 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!

Follow us on social media!



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