

June 2026 Monthly E-Newsletter



Notable Mentions

Who knew June would be over so soon! ☀️



Welcome to the Team

Please join us in welcoming **Spencer Wilson**, who has joined INTS as a Research Support Associate, reporting to **Heather Jordan-Tse**. We also congratulate **Jenna Brophy** on beginning her new role as Research Scientist II this month.



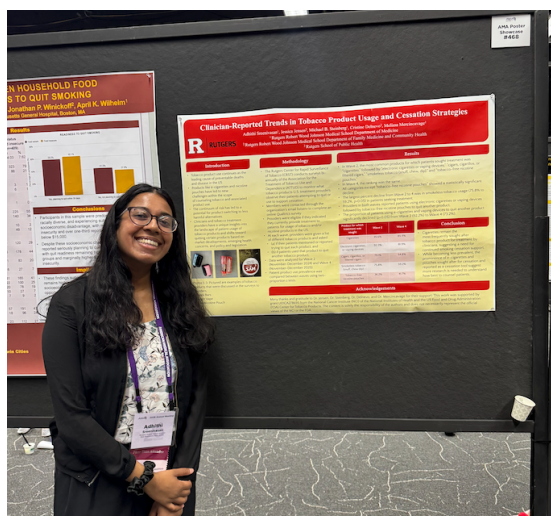
Cristine Delnevo Takes on New Leadership Role at the Rutgers Cancer Institute

Cristine Delnevo, PhD, MPH, has been appointed *Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Policy and Regulatory Science*, reporting to Steven Libutti, MD, Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute (NCI) and Vice Chancellor for Cancer Programs, as of June 1. In this new role, she will help coordinate and advance Rutgers' work in health policy and regulatory science, building on INTS' national leadership in tobacco regulatory science and strengthening the translation of research into policy and regulatory action.



Olivia Wackowski Promoted to Full Professor at SPH

Congratulations to **Dr. Olivia Wackowski** on her promotion to Full Professor (Tenure Track) at the Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH), effective July 1, 2026! This well-deserved achievement recognizes her outstanding contributions to tobacco regulatory science, public health research, mentorship, and service. We are proud to celebrate this important milestone and look forward to her continued impact in the field. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Wackowski!



Medical Student Presents Poster at AMA Meeting

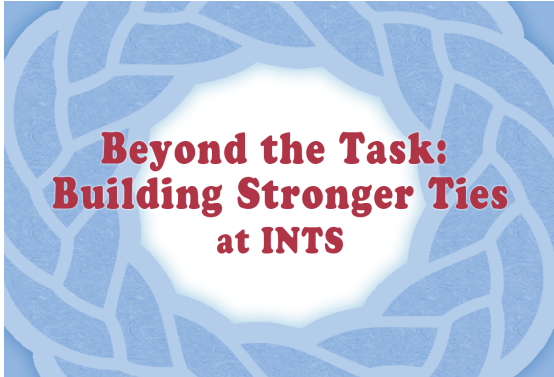
Adhithi Sreenivasan, a medical student working with INTS this summer under the guidance of **Dr. Jessie Jensen**, recently presented her poster titled "Clinical-Report Trends in Tobacco Product Usage and Cessation Strategies" at the House of Delegates Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) this June. For this presentation, she also worked with **Dr. Melissa Mercincavage** to present data from a CRST survey of tobacco treatment providers. **Dr. Cristine Delnevo** and **Dr. Michael Steinberg** contributed to the development of the abstract as well.



Melissa Mercincavage Presented THC Research at the College on Problems of Drug Dependence Annual Meeting

Dr. Melissa Mercincavage recently presented her poster, "Awareness and Knowledge of Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) Serving Size in Cannabis Products Among Young Adults and Associations with Perceived Effects," at the Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) in Portland, Oregon. INTS coauthors

include **Matthew Joy**, **Kathryn La Capria**, and **Dr. Julia Chen-Sankey**.



Beyond the Task: Building Stronger Ties at INTS

Rutgers Health Joy at Work Mini Grant Wellness Initiative

We are excited to announce that INTS has been awarded the Rutgers Health Joy at Work Mini Grant to support a new wellness initiative. The Joy at Work Program provides funding for workplace projects that strengthen community, collegiality, and overall well-being in our work environments. Our project, *"Beyond the Task: Building Stronger Ties,"* is led by **Heather Jordan-Tse**, with team members **Evelyn Blas** and **Eugene Talbot**. It will create opportunities for faculty, staff, trainees, students, and affiliates to connect beyond day-to-day responsibilities and build stronger relationships through engaging activities throughout the year. Planned offerings include walking groups, yoga, art and creative projects, tabletop games, and more. Stay tuned for details about the kickoff event this summer, along with the full schedule of activities.

Grants & Awards



Dr. Michelle Jeong was awarded a 5-year R01 grant as Principal Investigator from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R01DA063720), titled "Preventing

Recent Publications



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

Cao P, de Nijs K, Lee J, Jeon J, de Koning HJ, Plevritis SK, Ten Haaf K, Han SS, **Meza R**. Performance of smoking duration-based lung cancer screening eligibility criteria: a comparative modeling study. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. 2026 June 1;118(6):1015-1024. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djag018. PMID: 41578016; PMCID: PMC13247339.

Donaldson SI, DeJesus A, Wang E, **Wang G**, **Ganz O**, **Chen-Sankey J**, **Allem JP**. Monitoring policy compliance and marketing practices on Geek Bar's official Instagram account: content analysis. *Tobacco Control*. 2026 June 18;tc-2026-060174. doi: 10.1136/tc-2026-060174. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42315341.

Horta M, Poudel R, Brandon KO, Dougan SO, Yates H, Rivera MS, Martinez U, Sutton SK, Vidrine DJ, Ritterband LM, Wiseman KP, Vickerman KA, Turner K, Byrne MM, **Yang MJ**, Anyanwu OA, Brandon TH, Vinci C. Glitches to growth: Lessons learned from developing and testing an augmented reality smartphone app for substance use treatment. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 2026 June;34(3):261-270. doi: 10.1037/pha0000815. Epub 2025 December 18. PMID: 41411021; PMCID: PMC12716370.

Pandya T, Zagorulya M, Leung MM, Augustine M, Liu LY, Leppä A-M, Baruchel U, Ng SW, Klockner T, Mugabo M, Griffen AJ, Blyuss O, Iliakis CS, Grenov A, Haase K, Muller DC, Chan KH, Wu J, Burk VA, Wright N, Le Marois A, Pazukhina E, Ward S, Slawinski H, Pelletier M, Murphy C, Park MD, Snoeks T, Suarez-Bonnet A, Priestnall SL, Chardas A, Grieco C, Archer A, Celik A, Jimenez-Sanchez A, Scott R, Zahed H, Montégut L, **Meza R**, et al. Plasma signals of lung tumor promotion for molecular cancer prevention. *Cell*. 2026 June 4:S0092-8674(26)00522-2. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2026.05.005. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42242224.

Ntansah CA, Garmon J, Delnevo CD, Sterling K. Rolling with a rap icon: an exploration of the Backwoods × TICAL collaboration. *Tobacco Control*. 2026 June 16;tc-2026-060202. doi: 10.1136/tc-2026-060202. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42303315.

Rubenstein D, Vilardaga R, Evins AE, McClernon FJ, **Pacek LR.** U.S. Cannabis use trends at the intersection of serious psychological distress and race/ethnicity, 2008-2019. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. 2026 June;13(3):1648-1655. doi: 10.1007/s40615-025-02360-6. Epub 2025 March 3. PMID: 40029483; PMCID: PMC12354020.

Strayer LG, Luo X, Jensen J, Alcheva A, Cao Q, Heckman CJ, **Steinberg MB,** Stepanov I, Hatsukami DK. Effects of relighting cigarettes on biomarkers of carcinogen and toxicant exposures. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. 2026 June 9;ntag131. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntag131. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42261671.

Marketing and Communication Services



For those new to INTS or unsure how to use marketing and communications services, here's a quick overview. [Paige Gerald](#)s, Marketing and Communication Coordinator, handles a wide range of requests, including:

- Photography/videography needs
- Graphic design/photo editing (flyer creation, social media posts, etc.)
- Marketing and promotion of upcoming events, presentations, or speaking opportunities
- Merchandise orders
- Promotion of recent publications

Please keep Paige informed of interviews, speaking engagements, publications, media features, and upcoming events. Advance notice allows her to support promotion across our platforms and assist with communications and marketing materials. If you're unsure whether to share something, feel free to reach out.

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 Geraldts](#).

Communications Strategies



Do you have any ideas or important items to share each month? Reach out to **Paige Geraldts**, 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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