

October 2025 Monthly E-Newsletter



Notable Mentions

Move over, October, November is here! 🍁



Internal updates

INTS is continuing to grow! Please join us in welcoming Administrative Coordinators **Tanya McDonald** and **Donna Davis**, as well as Research Teaching Specialist III, to the team!



"Breathe Easy: Educating, Empowering & Uniting Communities Against Menthol," public symposium

Ollie Ganz and **Kevin Schroth**, together with Diane Hill, Assistant Chancellor, University-Community Partnerships at Rutgers University-Newark and founder of the Center for Health Excellence and Community Empowerment (CHECE), attended and presented at a public symposium on October 17 held in Union, New Jersey, highlighting the results of a two-year, community-engaged research collaboration aimed at reducing the harmful impact of menthol and flavored tobacco products. The Intergenerational Fight Against Menthol (I-FAM) initiative is led by INTS and CHECE, in collaboration with five community-based organizations in the Greater Newark area.



2025 Public Health Associations (NJPHA) Conference Award

At the 2025 NJPHA conference ON October 16, **Mary Hrywna** was honored with the Dr. Ezra Mundy Hunt Award for outstanding service and leadership to the cause of public health. The award was presented by INTS member and previous NJPHA president, **Michelle Kennedy**. Mary also received the 2025 Rutgers Health Chancellor Award for Excellence in Clinical or Health Sciences Research and was honored at a reception held at the Rutgers Club on October 30.

 A graphic with a white background and red diagonal accents. It features the Rutgers Health logo and text: "RUTGERS HEALTH Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies Tobacco Dependence Program", "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", and a red circle stating "Select disciplines can earn approximately 32 CE credit hours*". A small note at the bottom right says "*Visit [tobaccoprogram.org](\"http://tobaccoprogram.org\") for comprehensive CE credit hour information".

Rutgers Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Training

The October 2025 TTS training session was a success! The training had 17 attendees, over half from New Jersey, while others joined from Connecticut, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington. The trainees were a diverse group of professionals, ranging from respiratory therapists, health educators, nurses, researchers, patient navigators, a physician, and a mental and behavioral health therapist. Several Rutgers-affiliated individuals were represented at this training, including INTS, the Cancer Institute, and New Jersey Medical School. The next TTS training session will take place January 26-27, 2026. You can learn more about the training and register for the next session at tobaccoprogram.org.



RWJMS Wellness Fair

The Tobacco Dependence Program (TDP) had a fantastic time at this year's RWJMS Wellness Fair on October 27, alongside many amazing programs promoting health and well-being available at RWJMS! They were able to speak to many people about TDP and share some INTS-branded swag.

Important Reminder



The 2026 Open Enrollment Period for the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) and NJ Tax\$ave Program runs until **October 31, 2025**. This is your annual opportunity to assess your benefits needs and revise your medical, prescription, dental, and pre-tax flexible spending account selections. The **deadline for modifications is Friday, October 31, 2025**, for an effective date of January 1, 2026. You can learn more here: [Open Enrollment | uhr.rutgers.edu](https://uhr.rutgers.edu)

Recent Publications



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

Reed EC, **Ackerman C**, Lee JGL, Kong AY, Giovenco DP, **Delnevo CD**, **Hrywna M**. "You're Not a Cop, Right?" How Tobacco Retailers Navigate Underage Tobacco Purchases at the Point of Sale: A Qualitative Analysis of Underage Buyers' Comments from Three U.S. states. *Subst Use Misuse*. 2025 Oct 6:1-6. doi: 10.1080/10826084.2025.2568149. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41051030.

Russell AM, **Allem JP**. We need more rigorous research on social media and substance use to move from association to causation. *Addiction*. 2025 Oct 14. doi: 10.1111/add.70217. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41088744.

Russell AM, Colditz JB, **Allem JP**. The Need for Oversight Over Apps for Substance Use Reduction. *JAMA*. 2025 Oct 27. doi: 10.1001/jama.2025.19143. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41143809.

Mercincavage M, Barnwell PV, Kennedy M, Ganz O, Delnevo CD, Steinberg MB. Trends in patient tobacco use behaviors as reported by tobacco treatment providers: Findings from a repeated cross sectional survey. *Tob Prev Cessat*. 2025 Oct 20;11. doi: 10.18332/tpc/210929. PMID: 41142369; PMCID: PMC12550529.

Levy DT, Buszkiewicz JH, Yuan Z, Li Y, **Meza R**, Fleischer NL. SimSmoke simulation models by educational status: past and future US trends and the potential role of policy. *Tob Control*. 2025 Oct 28;tc-2025-059371. doi: 10.1136/tc-2025-059371. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41151800.

Hrywna M, Wackowski OA, Robichaud MO, Talbot EM, Barnwell PV, Delnevo CD. Oral Tobacco and Nicotine Marketplace Trends Since the Tobacco Control Act. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025 Oct 1;8(10):e2540747. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.40747. PMID: 41165711.

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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