



Mew Orleans



2025 Program Book



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Rajita Sinha, Ph.D. RSA PRESIDENT Andrew Lawrence, PhD, HonFBPhS ISBRA PRESIDENT

Dear Attendees,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 RSA Annual Scientific Meeting and ISBRA Congress. We are excited about seeing colleagues again and are excited for friends to renew their connections while scientific developments and cutting-edge research are presented face-to-face in New Orleans.

We have an excellent scientific program developed by the outstanding leadership of our Program Committee Chairs, Nick Gilpin, Andrea King, and Carolyn Sartor. This year we are fortunate to have our ISBRA colleagues present and look forward to the global perspective offered by their engagement. We will bring together academic leaders who will deliver new ideas and identify new targets and models to benefit individuals who suffer from Alcohol Use Disorder and their families across the world.

Our program features invited plenary speaker Amy Arnsten, the Albert E. Kent Professor of Neuroscience and Professor of Psychology at Yale School of Medicine and international expert on the molecular regulation of higher cortical circuits. We will also hear from NIAAA Director George Koob, this year's Distinguished Researcher Markus Heilig, the 2024 RSA Early Career Researcher Awardee Emma Johnson; and the ISBRA Jellinek Awardee Rainer Spanagel.

In addition to amazing plenary sessions, we have added three Continuing Education Workshops designed to engage the local community to our agenda this year and are bringing back the popular Recovery Voices sessions. Many of our sessions will be recorded and available after the meeting for CEUs through a new partnership with TPN Health. Also new this year is a conference app to help you connect with other attendees, plan your schedule, and stay up to date on the latest announcements and schedule changes. There are also the outstanding symposia sessions, poster sessions, data blitz sessions, and plenty of opportunities to network with your peers that you can always expect at our meeting.

We want to make sure that we always provide the best conference, so please remember to complete an evaluation at the close of our time together. If you are not already a member of RSA or ISBRA, please stop by the registration desk and inquire about member benefits.

This has been a trying year for many of us. We are looking forward to seeing you all and welcoming you to New Orleans!

We hope you enjoy all this year's meeting has to offer.

Yours sincerely, Rajita Sinha, RSA President Andrew Lawrence, ISBRA President

Officers



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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

BADGES:

Attendee badges can be picked up at the Registration Desk during the times listed below. Badges must be worn to access all sessions. If you need a replacement badge, please come to the Registration Desk.

REGISTRATION:

Registration will be located in the Elite Foyer on Level 1 of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. The desk will be staffed at the following times:

Saturday, June 21	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sunday, June 22	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Monday, June 23	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Tuesday, June 24	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Wednesday, June 25	7:30 am - 1:00 pm

SPEAKER READY ROOM:

Speaker Ready Room is in **Bolden 1** and is available to all speakers during the following days/times:

Sunday, June 22	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Monday, June 23	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Tuesday, June 24	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Wednesday, June 25	7:30 am - 1:00 pm

RELAXATION ROOM:

All attendees are welcome to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the meeting and enjoy a quiet moment in **Reliance 1** on Level 4.

Sunday, June 22	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Monday, June 23	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Tuesday, June 24	7:30 am - 5:15 pm
Wednesday, June 25	7:30 am - 1:00 pm

CHILDCARE ROOM:

KiddieCorp, Inc. is providing childcare for attendees with children up to 12 years old in **Foster 2** during the following times. *Pre-registration is required*.

Sunday, June 22	8:00 am - 6:30 pm
Monday, June 23	8:00 am - 6:30 pm
Tuesday, June 24	8:00 am - 6:30 pm
Wednesday, June 25	8:00 am - 3:30 pm



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Disclosures are available for all 48th Annual RSA Scientific Meeting/ISBRA Congress presenters online at https://rsa.societyconference.com/.

Continuing Education Credits are available for physicians and psychologists.

Applications for credit must be completed online with the meeting evaluation survey. The survey may be completed during or after the meeting at https://rsa.societyconference.com/. Surveys for continuing education credit must be submitted no later than Monday, July 28, 2025.

Learner Notification

Research Society on Alcohol Congress 2025 48th Annual RSA Scientific Meeting/ISBRA Congress June 21–25, 2025 New Orleans, LA

Acknowledgement of Financial Commercial Support

No financial commercial support was received for this educational activity.

Acknowledgement of In-Kind Commercial Support

No in-kind commercial support was received for this educational activity.

Satisfactory Completion

Learners must complete an evaluation form to receive a certificate of completion. Your chosen sessions must be attended in their entirety. Partial credit of individual sessions is not available. If you are seeking continuing education credit for a specialty not listed below, it is your responsibility to contact your licensing/certification board to determine course eligibility for your licensing/certification requirement.



Joint Accreditation Statement

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Amedco LLC and Research Society on Alcohol Congress. Amedco LLC is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Amedco Joint Accreditation #4008163



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Physicians

Amedco LLC designates this live activity for a maximum of 30.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*TM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Psychologists

This course is co-sponsored by Amedco and Research Society on Alcohol Congress. Amedco is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Amedco maintains responsibility for this program and its content. 30.00 hours.

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Psychologists/Counselors: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, IO, KS, MA (LEP ONLY), ME, MO, NC, ND, NH, NE, NJ, NM, NV, OK*, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY

The following state boards accept courses approved by any other state for Psychologists/Counselors: CO, MD MI: No CE requirements.

*OK: Accepts APA credit for live, in-person activities but not for ethics and/or online courses.

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for MFTs: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, MD, ME, MO, NE, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NV, OK*, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WDC, WI, WY

AL MFTs: Credits authorized by NBCC or any other state licensing agency will be accepted.

MA MFTs: Participants can self-submit courses not approved by the MAMFT board for review.

The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Addictions Professionals: AK, AR, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IN, KS, LA, MD, MO, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NY (held outside NY ONLY), OK*, OR, SC, UT, WA, WI, WY
The following state boards accept courses from APA providers for Social Workers: AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, ID, IN, KY, ME, MN, MO, NE, NH, NM, OR, PA, VT, WI, WY

<u>Objectives - After Attending This Program You Should Be Able To</u>

- 1. The primary goal of the Annual RSA Scientific Meeting is to provide a forum for alcohol researchers from all disciplines to present their latest findings and to learn about new research developments in an environment that will provide interaction at both the professional and personal level.
- 2. The Program Committee is made up of RSA members who represent a wide range of scientific specialties. Their goal is to develop a well-balanced program that adequately reflects the broad range of interests of the RSA membership and non-member alcohol researchers.





Stay Connected!

Share your favorite moments of the conference and tag us on social!



ersaofficial.bsky.social



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Research Society on Alcohol



@Research Society
on Alcohol (RSA)

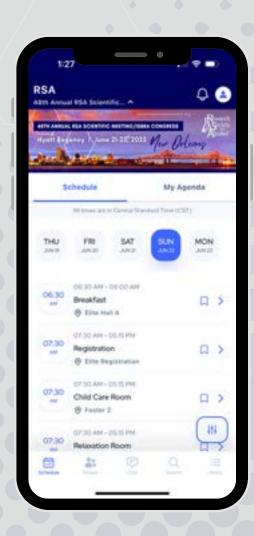
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Leverage machine learning for individualized risk assessments, targeted interventions, and data-driven treatment plans.

Meet Our Experts in Alcohol Use Modeling



James Baurley Senior Director, Research | Senior Principal Genomic Data Scientist

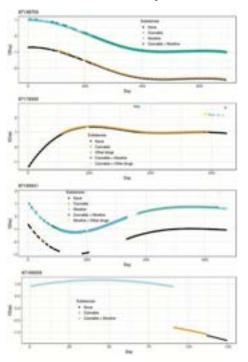


Matt Levy Commercial Manager



Carolyn Ervin Founder and **Biostatistics**

BIOREALM Predicted Alcohol Use Trajectories



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Comparing Bayesian Machine Learning and Linear Mixed Models for Predicting Longitudinal Drinking Outcomes in Alcohol Use Disorder Clinical Trials

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Journal of Alcoholand Drugs Studies on Alcoholand Drugs

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The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs is a nonprofit, multidisciplinary journal based at the Center of Alcohol and Substance Use Studies at Rutgers University. As the oldest substance-related journal in the United States (est. 1940), JSAD has a long history of advancing the field of addiction science.

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- Immediate Publication: Articles are published online within days of acceptance.
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- **Highly Respected:** Be part of nearly nine decades of impact.
 - Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (2007-present)
 - Journal of Studies on Alcohol (1975–2006)
 - Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol (1940–1974)

Editor: Jennifer P. Read, Ph.D. (University at Buffalo)



Questions?

Contact Paul Candon, Editorial Director pcandon@rutgers.edu

DITTO EDC



ALCOHOL

Clinical & Experimental Research

The Official Journal of the Research Society on Alcohol
& the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism

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Benefits of publishing in ACER:

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- advertising and marketing

- drink driving
- policy and legislation
- crime and violence
- behavior
- prevention and treatment

All citations are fully indexed and searchable, many with hyperlinks to publisher sites. Between 150 and 200 new citations are added each

week, sourced from key journals and biomedical and life science databases.

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About IARD

The International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to reducing harmful drinking and promoting understanding of responsible drinking. We are supported by the leading global beer, wine, and spirits producers, who have come together for a common purpose: to be part of the solution in combating harmful drinking. To advance this shared mission, IARD works and partners with public sector, civil society, and private stakeholders.





Enoch Gordis Research Recognition Award Finalists

Bio/Preclinical Student

Hyerim Yang Kathy Lindquist Brody Carpenter

Psychosocial Student

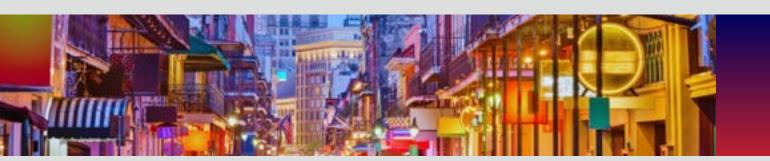
Kaitlin McManus Malia Belnap Madeleine Ingham

Bio/Preclinical Postdoc

Genesis D'aloisio Marie Doyle Siara Rouzer

Psychosocial Postdoc

Nakul Raval Krithika Prakash Ryan Sullivan





ACER Journal Award for Early Career Investigator Outstanding Paper

Post-Doc

Nicole Zabik, PhD,

Munroe-Meyer Institute,

University of Nebraska Medical Center

"Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis network responses to unpredictable threat in early alcohol abstinence"

Graduate Student

Lea Zillich, PhD student,
Department of Genetic Epidemiology in Psychiatry,
Central Institute of Mental Health
"Biological aging markers in blood and brain tissue indicate age acceleration in alcohol use disorder"



Congrats!

Undergraduate Distinguished Travel Awardees

Mumtaz Saidin, Clinical/translational
Vicky Dong, Preclinical
Nolan Lewis, Preclinical
Beier Li, Clinical

Congrats!

Nadia Choudhri Rising Scholar Awardees

Postdoc Students

Emily Helminen, Clinical Brianna George, Preclinical

Graduate Students

Kriti Behari, Clinical Shiwani Thapa, Preclinical



Congrats!

2025 Jellinek Memorial Fund Awardee



Rainer Spanagel, PhD
Central Institute of
Mental Health

Rainer Spanagel, PhD, studied biology at the Universities of Tübingen and Munich and pursued his early training in behavioural pharmacology and neurochemistry at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) in Martinsried. In 1990, he moved to the MPI of Psychiatry in Munich and became head of the addiction research group and was awarded a lectureship in Pharmacology and Toxicology. In 2000, he relocated to Heidelberg University and the Central Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) in Mannheim, a leading European institution for biological psychiatry, to become scientific director of the Institute of Psychopharmacology. He is Editor-in-Chief of Addiction Biology. At the national level, he was spokesperson for the German Research Network Systems Medicine (e:Med) and is currently spokesperson for the German Network on Addiction (ReCoDe) (https://www.trr265.org/).



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Congrats!

2025 Animal Research and Ethics Committee (AREC) Award



Jibran Khokhar, PhD
Western University

Dr. Khokhar completed his undergraduate training at Queen's University, and his Ph.D. in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Toronto and CAMH, under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Tyndale. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth College with Dr. Alan Green. Dr. Khokhar held a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship as well as NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Dr. Khokhar was recently hired as an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Translational Neuropsychopharmacology in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the Schulich School of Medicine at Western University. Since starting his independent research group the lab has published 65 papers and received nearly \$6.6 million in funding from federal and industry sources. Dr. Khokhar research revolves around establishing the behavioural and neural correlates of various types of vulnerabilities to substance use, starting from genetic risk to use in adolescence. He is also very interested in developing open-source tools to facilitate behavioural research in addictions including tools for measuring alcohol drinking as well as vapourized drug exposures.





Dr. Edith Sullivan 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

Congrats!

Dr. Sullivan's commitment to research on human alcohol use disorder (AUD) began nearly 40 years ago when she joined the Neuroimaging Group at Stanford and the Palo Alto VA under the direction of Adolf Pfefferbaum, MD. She brought to this research collaboration her background as an experimental neuropsychologist working in amnesic syndromes and Alzheimer's disease at MIT and gained from the collaboration experience and expertise as a brain imaging scientist at Stanford, thus providing complementary understanding about the potential of establishing brain structure-function relations for the first time in alcoholism. This background led to the development of her program of study in AUD, focusing on faulty frontocerebellar circuitry as underlying a selective subset of cognitive and motor dysfunctions commonly expressed in people with AUD. Toward this end, she was granted a MERIT Award, which resulted in dozens of publications describing cognitive, sensory, and motor sequelae of AUD and identifying neural mechanisms of impairment. Those results formed the bedrock for the study hypotheses focused on the clinically relevant, age-related problem of postural instability that can lead to falls, thereby putting individuals with AUD at heightened falling risk as they age. In short, her program of research has included international studies on AUD in men and women, investigation of cognitive and motor process selectively disrupted in AUD+HIV infection comorbidity, comparison brain structural and functional profiles of Mild Cognitive Impairment and AUD, and rodent models of chronic exposure to high levels of alcohol. Engagement in the National Consortium on Alcohol and NeuroDevelopment in Adolescence (NCANDA), a large-scale, multi-site consortium study aimed at determining the trajectories of brain, neuropsychological, and emotional development of adolescents and to track deviations from normal trajectories in adolescents who initiate excessive alcohol drinking and measure recovery in those who stop drinking. Coupled with her decade long NIAAA K05 Senior Mentor Award, this integrated research program has provided a rich environment for mentoring promising early investigators.



Dr. Marisa Silveri 2025 Media Award

Dr. Marisa Silveri is a Neuroscientist and Director of the Neurodevelopmental Laboratory on Addictions and Mental Health at McLean Hospital, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. For over 25 years, she has led preclinical and clinical research on neuroimaging, adolescent brain development, addiction, and mental health, with continuous funding from NIAAA since 2004. She has received multiple research and mentoring awards from RSA, McLean Hospital, and Harvard University. In 2023, Dr. Silveri pursued additional training in mental health counseling to enhance the translational impact of her alcohol research, bridging scientific discovery with direct clinical care for adolescents and families. She is also a committed public educator, having delivered over 150 talks translating neuroscience for diverse audiences. Since 2019, as Public Education Liaison for RSA and Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research, Dr. Silveri has led a science writing team that selects articles of public interest (the ACER "yellow page") and translates them into lay summaries for dissemination via Newswise. Her work in this role is substantial and transformative, exemplifying the journalistic excellence that the 2025 RSA Media Award was established to honor—the ability to distill complex alcohol research into clear, accurate, and engaging content for the public.

Congrats!



Dr. Henry Kranzler RSA Henri Begleiter Award for Research Excellence 2025

Dr. Kranzler is nationally and internationally recognized for his extraordinarily comprehensive studies outlining the etiology of alcohol use disorders (AUD) and precision medicine approaches to their treatment. From his very earliest work as a leader of various components of the Yale and University of Connecticut P50 Center grants where he developed pharmacological treatments for alcohol and cocaine use disorder, through his major contributions to characterizing the role of naltrexone for AUD treatment, and development of the Semi-Structured Assessment for Drug Dependence and Alcoholism (SSADA), to his leadership in the groundbreaking Yale-Penn and Million Veteran Program gene discovery efforts, Dr. Kranzler's research has transformed our understanding of the multi-faceted bases of AUD development and treatment. Funded by nearly 50 NIH grants that generated well over 600 papers, Dr. Kranzler has established a framework for how multiple sources of data can be brought together to tailor treatments that effectively address the clinical course of AUD. In addition to his scientific discoveries, Dr. Kranzler has mentored numerous individuals who are now leaders in the field of alcohol research, has devoted efforts as the Editorin-Chief of Alcohol, Clinical and Experimental Research (ACER) and served countless patients who have benefitted from his clinical insights. His intellectual generosity, collegiality and passion for both generating and communicating science has been a notable influence on many within the alcohol research community. For his impactful work on the diagnosis, etiology and treatment of alcohol use disorder, which exemplifies innovation and excellence, Dr. Henry Kranzler is most deserving of the RSA Henri Begleiter Award.

bongrats!



Dr. Katie Witkiewitz 2025 RSA Marlatt Mentorship Award

Dr. Katie Witkiewitz is Director of the Center on Alcohol, Substance use, and Addictions and Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Witkiewitz completed her doctoral training at the University of Washington under the mentorship of G. Alan Marlatt and has clearly carried forward the tradition of innovation and excellence in mentoring exemplified by the Marlatt Mentorship Award. Dr. Witkiewitz provides extensive and extraordinarily responsive mentorship through both formal mechanisms and a variety of informal channels. She serves as Director of a NIAAA T32 training program, is a mentor on multiple individual training grants for students, postdocs, and junior faculty at UNM, and has routinely mentored outside UNM through professional organizations and as a committee member for multiple international students. In addition to her incredible success in preparing her trainees for academic and clinical careers and her status as one of the most productive, rigorous, and impactful researchers in the field, Katie is described as an extremely generous, approachable, dedicated, and enthusiastic mentor who maintains a perfect balance between professionalism and fun. This approach enhances creativity and encourages retention of diverse scientists in the alcohol research field.

Congrats!

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Dr. Mary Beth Miller 2025 RSA Early Career Investigator Award

Congrats!

Dr. Mary Beth Miller is a licensed clinical psychologist and Associate Professor at the University of Missouri. With nearly 14 years of experience delivering brief interventions for health behavior change, Dr. Miller's research focuses on improving the efficacy and understanding of substance use treatments. Her program of research is particularly distinguished by its emphasis on the role of sleep in substance use outcomes. She has led or contributed to multiple NIH-funded projects, including clinical trials testing the impact of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) on substance use in various populations—ranging from young adults and Veterans to individuals with diverse substance use disorders. In 2022, she was awarded Diplomate status by the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine, the organization's highest recognition of expertise. Dr. Miller is currently Principal Investigator on several NIH/NIAAA grants including a current R01 examining sleep as a mechanism of change in alcohol use outcomes among adults (R01AA030525), a study developing personalized feedback for young adults with a history of blackout (R34AA029132), and a career development award assessing the impact of insomnia treatment on heavy alcohol use among Veterans (K23AA026895). She also serves as co-investigator on a project studying high-intensity drinking and blackouts in young adults (R01AA027495), and previously led a trial evaluating CBT-I as an adjunct to alcohol treatment in Veterans (R21AA025175). Dr. Miller is a prolific contributor to scientific literature with over 80 peer-reviewed publications. She currently serves as Field Editor for Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research, Associate Editor for Addiction, and Consulting Editor for Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. She is also a standing member of the Science & Research Committee for the Society of Behavioral Sleep Medicine and serves as a grant reviewer for several NIH study sections. Among her numerous accolades, Dr. Miller has received the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity in Behavioral and Social Sciences (2024), the G. Alan Marlatt Memorial Research Award (2023), and the APA Division 50 Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions Award (2021). Dr. Miller continues to lead innovative research that bridges sleep science and addiction studies, aiming to refine treatment strategies for those affected by substance use disorders.



Dr. Markus Heilig 2025 RSA Distinguished Researcher Award

Dr. Markus Heilig is a physician scientist with exceptional and sustained contributions to basic, translational, and clinical neuroscience of alcohol use disorder (AUD). Dr. Heilig is clearly an international leader who has done outstanding bench-to-bedside research that has had a huge impact on AUD research and on our society. He has published more than 250 articles and several of them in very high impact journals, such as science, science advances, Lancet, Molecular Psychiatry, Biological psychiatry and PNAS. He has conducted both preclinical and clinical research leading to better understanding of neurobiology of alcohol and drug addiction. Some of his research is seminal contribution, such as discovery of NPY in regulation of anxiety and drinking, CRF and NK1 antagonism approach for the potential treatment of AUD. He has trained several leading alcohol researchers throughout the world. He served as a clinical director at NIH-NIAAA before moving to Sweden taking role as Vice-Chancellor's Professor of Psychiatry and founding Director of the new Center on Social and Affective Neuroscience (CSAN) at Linköping University in 2015. Dr. Heilig has a distinguished career as demonstrated by several US and European recognitions for his scientific excellence. His nomination letter cited a quote from former director of NIAAA, late Dr. TK Li- "Dr. Heilig has a unique strength and interest in translational research in the neurobiology of alcoholism, an area where few people are as highly qualified as he is. He has carried out both basic and clinical research on topics ranging from gene expression to treatment of addiction". Dr. Heilig's exceptional contributions in basic and clinical neuroscience as well as in treatment of AUD are recognized with 2025 RSA Distinguished Researcher award.

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Dr. Christina Lee 2025 RSA Dora Goldstein Award

Dr. Lee has dedicated her career to transforming how we understand addiction among people of color by focusing on structural determinants such as stigma, racism, and immigration policies. Her pioneering work has not only showcased the harms caused by stigma but has also demonstrated that addressing discrimination significantly improves alcohol outcomes for marginalized groups. Additionally, Dr. Lee has been a dedicated mentor, imparting her knowledge and commitment to equity and social justice to the next generation of researchers. Her extensive contributions through research, mentorship, and national discourse on addiction and health equity exemplify the values of the Dora Goldstein Award.

Congrats!



ANNUAL RSA SCIENTIFIC MEETING June 20-24, 2026 Grand Hyatt San Antonio

