

## Quarterly News & Updates

Fall | 2023

*Welcome to the Division on Addiction's Fall Quarterly Newsletter!*

### Announcements



Image: Dr. Sarah Nelson, Ms. Raisa Jones, Dr. Martina Whelshula, Ms. Donell Barlow, Ms. Jennifer Folayan, Dr. Eric Louderback, and Ms. Hannah Tomeo provided the first, First Face training to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians in northeast Washington.

As a part of our Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH XII) grant, on September 19th, at the Kalispel Tribe of Indians reservation, Training and Research Coordinators at [The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations](#) began their [First Face](#) training series. First Face is a culturally-appropriate, community-based mental health program that prepares trainees to provide assistance to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. These trainings are being conducted in Tribal communities in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon to promote mental health and wellness. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Professional Education Corner

### Upcoming Events



[The MA Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment \(M-TAC\)](#) is hosting two upcoming trainings: [Introduction to Screening & Assessment for Gambling Disorder: Part I \(Screening\)](#) on October 20 from 12:00pm-1:30pm and [Introduction to Screening & Assessment for Gambling Disorder: Part II \(Assessment\)](#) on October 27 from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Although it is not required, we strongly recommend attending both trainings to gain a better understanding of the screening and assessment process. Click [here](#) to register and learn more.

We are proud to partner with Health Resources in Action to produce M-TAC trainings and resources, which are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling Services.



For nearly 30 years, [The BASIS](#) has delivered addiction science to the public by providing easy-to-digest reviews of recent studies. Now, we have turned those reviews into a new online course! The Brief Addiction Science Information Source (BASIS) Microlearning Course gives allied health professionals the opportunity to read past reviews and learn more about addiction-related research and its implications for treatment and public health. Financial support for this conversion comes from a research and consulting contract with DraftKings, Inc. Learners can earn 1 CE credit hour per module for a total of up to 28 CE credit hours. Click [here](#) to learn more and enroll for free!



As part of our [Catalyst Phase award](#) from the US National Academy of Medicine Healthy Longevity Global Competition, the Division on Addiction's Research Coordinators will be hosting a second [Computerized Assessment and Referral System \(CARS\)](#) Silver focus group. CARS Silver is a mental health screener adapted for older adults that provides them with structured mental health and wellness screening, automated referrals to treatment, and community resources. The focus groups will provide feedback to improve the continued development of CARS Silver.

## Did you know?



Systemic racism is pervasive in the United States, particularly within its housing system, where racially segregated, Black, urban neighborhoods suffer from neglect and poor maintenance, resulting in dilapidated and abandoned buildings. These structures pose health risks and serve as hubs for weapon storage, substance use, and other illegal activities. A recent study conducted in Philadelphia revealed that after workers repaired neglected buildings, weapon violations decreased by 8.4% and gun assaults by 13.1%, with no indication that gun violence was displaced into surrounding areas. Unfortunately, rates of illegal substance use did not similarly drop. Nevertheless, these optimistic findings suggest that housing remediation

## Research Spotlight



## Research Spotlight

Open science research practices are intended to improve the quality, transparency, and replicability of scientific research. Although scientists across various disciplines are beginning to adopt these practices, previous studies indicate that they are still not widely used throughout the research community. [Dr. Debi LaPlante and colleagues](#) conducted a survey of 86 gambling research stakeholders who attended a major gambling studies conference. The survey assessed respondents' awareness of open science practices, concerns related to open science, and views on the importance of research replicability (i.e., the ability to successfully repeat the results from one study across one or more other studies). The findings revealed that 44% of respondents reported some or extensive experience with open science practices, generally. The most widely used open science practice was open data (48%) (i.e., making data freely available to the public), with issues related to privacy being their primary concern related to this practice. Despite the limited adoption of open science practices, 51% of respondents indicated that replicability is relevant for all gambling studies, suggesting an interest in replicating existing gambling research. Overall, this study's findings emphasized the importance of replicating gambling studies to gain a better understanding of the validity of this published research, and also highlighted the need for open science education and awareness across aspiring and established scholars. If you'd like a full copy of this article, contact us at [info@divisiononaddiction.org](mailto:info@divisiononaddiction.org).

Dr. LaPlante says "I'm optimistic that more and more gambling researchers will adopt open science practices as a regular part of their research process. I was happy to learn that there is strong interest in replicating well-known findings. To date, replication work has been limited. Supporting replication and open science will be a game changer for this area of study."

## Meet the Team

### Dr. Timothy Edson

*Research & Evaluation Scientist  
Instructor, Harvard Medical School*

Dr. Timothy C. Edson joined the Division in 2017. Dr. Edson is a Research & Evaluation Scientist at the Division and Instructor at Harvard Medical School. His primary research focus is understanding



the causes and consequences of risky human decision-making in the addiction sciences. In his current role, he has served as the project lead and lead author of several peer-reviewed studies covering diverse topics such as [DUI](#), [self-harm](#), [gambling big wins](#), and [evaluating gambling budget management systems](#). He is also the Project Lead for the *Pilot Project* component of the [Assessing Cultures of Recovery in Tribal Communities \(NARCH XII\)](#) project, which is being conducted in partnership with the Healing Lodge of Seven Nations. In 2019, he began serving as a voting member on the Cambridge Health Alliance Institutional Review Board. He is currently the Section Editor of The ASHES newsletter, a part of the weekly [Brief Addiction Science Information Source \(BASIS\)](#) newsletter, which provides summaries of recent published research in the addiction sciences. In his free time, Dr. Edson enjoys hiking, movies, video games, and reading, with a special interest in books, movies, and video games in the “horror” genre.

Learn more about our faculty and staff  
here.

## Our Latest Publications

Gray, H. M., Beu Rae, M., Anderson, C., Nelson, S. E., LaPlante, D. A., Whelshula, M. M., & Bowman, M. (2023). Recommendations for optimizing xaʔtus (First Face) for Mental Health training: Insights from key informants. *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research (Online)*, *30*(2), 22–54.

<https://doi.org/10.5820/aian.3002.2023.22>

Nelson, S. E., Slabczynski, J. M., Lee, T. G., & LaPlante, D. A. (In press). All in: A scoping review of the association between gambling and athletic participation. *International Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2023.2229417>

Perrault, E. K., McCulloch, S. P., Hildenbrand, G. M., & Walter, K. J. (In press). The effects of safe zone badges in physicians’ online biographies: Evidence from an experimental study. *Health Communication*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2249625>

Dr. Debi LaPlante is quoted in a recent Harvard Health Publishing article about online gambling harm. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

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