

Quarterly News & Updates

Summer | 2024

Welcome to the Division on Addiction's Summer Quarterly Newsletter!

Announcements!

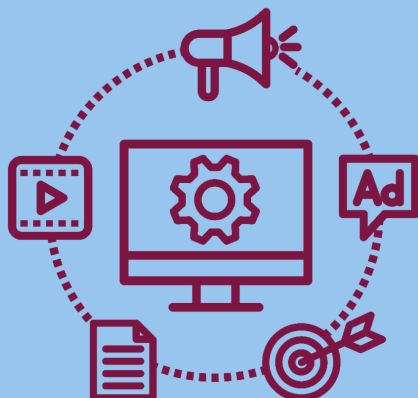
Science Literacy in Your Practice

A Case-based
Understanding of
Addiction and
Initiating Addiction
Science in Your Work



We are proud to announce the launch of a new **free** Continuing Education (CE) course! *Science Literacy in Your Practice: A Case-based Understanding of Addiction and Initiating Addiction Science in Your Work* is designed for clinicians working with clients experiencing mental health and addiction concerns, who are interested in enhancing their knowledge about scientific research and evidence-based practices. Learners can earn 1.5 hours of CE credits. [Click here](#) to learn more and enroll for free!

Financial support for the development of this course comes from a research and consulting contract with DraftKings, Inc.



We are excited to announce that Dr. Eric R.

Upcoming Events



On October 7, Dr. Eric R. Louderback will be presenting on “Who is Responsible for Responsible Gambling” at the International Center for Responsible Gaming Conference on Gambling and Addiction in Las Vegas, Nevada. [Click here](#) to register and learn more!

[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 September 19 from 9:30-11:00am and Introduction to Screening & Assessment for Gambling Disorder: Part II (Assessment) on September 26 from 10:00-11:00am. 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

Louderback has been awarded a Research Fellowship from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) International Gaming Institute, with funds contributed by ESPN. To inform this Fellowship, Dr. Louderback will use his knowledge about the influence of responsible gambling messaging on advertisement effectiveness and his understanding of how the analysis of publicly-available data can inform research on responsible gambling. With this funding, he will analyze video-based sports gambling advertisements on social media and will generate findings that can help to inform efforts to promote safer gambling beliefs and behaviors among people who engage in sports betting. [Click here](#) to view the official announcement from UNLV and learn more details about the Fellowship.

Outreach Corner

Gambling Disorder Screening Day

2024 Report

Our 2024 Gambling Disorder Screening Day Report summarizes this year's Screening Day activities, support, and participation. We are grateful to all of the individuals and organizations around the world who supported and participated this year! [Click here](#) to access the report.

resources, which are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling Services.

Did You Know?



Tobacco use and alcohol consumption are associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes. This is especially true for individuals who engage in both smoking and drinking behaviors, simultaneously. One study examined whether an individual's success in smoking cessation varied depending on the amount of alcohol they consumed. The research revealed that participants with higher levels of alcohol use were less likely to successfully quit smoking, compared to those who either did not use alcohol or consumed alcohol at lower levels. These findings shed light on the importance of understanding the comorbid nature between tobacco and alcohol use and the barriers that could impede recovery. Providers should consider incorporating brief alcohol interventions into existing tobacco addiction treatment for individuals who also consume alcohol. Read more about this study at [The BASIS](#).

Research Spotlight

It has long been thought that experiencing a big gambling win early on in one's gambling career can promote unrealistic expectations about future

Research Spotlight



winnings, which may contribute to increased gambling involvement, greater losses, and the development of gambling-related problems over time. But what does actual gambling data say about this assertion? [Timothy Edson and colleagues](#) analyzed data from 34,596 daily fantasy sports (DFS) players from DraftKings, a large US-based DFS provider, and examined how big wins predict future DFS activity. They defined “big wins” in two ways: (1) winning a single prize of at least \$1,000, and (2) winning a prize with a value that is significantly greater than the fee paid to enter the contest.

The researchers began by identifying how many DFS players experienced a big win, by both definitions, and then individually matched each big winner with another player who exhibited similar playing behaviors but did not experience a big win. The researchers compared big winners with their matched controls in terms of weekly engagement (total entry fees, number of DFS contest entries) and losses for 24 weeks after the respective week of the big win experience. They found that although a minority of players experienced a big win, those who did placed more entries, paid more entry fees, and had higher net losses in the week immediately following their big win compared to matched controls. These effects of the big win diminished over time but were still present at least several weeks later for all outcomes and across both big win definitions. Lastly, the effect of a big win that occurred later on (i.e., a month after the player started playing) persisted slightly longer than the effect of an earlier big win. Overall, the study suggests that both early and later big wins, of both types, encouraged more future gambling engagement, possibly because they boost a player’s confidence in their ability to win. Therefore, gambling researchers should raise awareness of the risk associated with big wins, and DFS providers should offer safer play tools to players who experience big wins. If you’d like a full copy of this article, contact us at info@divisiononaddiction.org.

Dr. Edson says “What interested me the most about this study are the details we didn’t think to look at, and specifically those related to the big winners themselves. For example, among big winners, what percentage ended up eventually blowing through their entire big win? What were the cumulative net gains, or losses, for these individuals both before and after the big win experience? How common are repeat big win experiences, and are they only unique to certain types of players? These questions, which we hope to look at in future research, can help us to craft more effective messaging for gamblers about how to responsibly think about and manage a big win experience, in order to reduce the risk for potential future harms.”

Meet the Team

Nakita Sconsoni, MSW
Community Health Educator

Nakita Sconsoni, MSW is a Community Health Educator with the Division on Addiction. She joined the Division in 2022. Ms. Sconsoni contributes to multiple capacity-building and education projects, including the [Massachusetts Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment \(M-TAC\)](#) where she co-facilitates various gambling-focused trainings for healthcare providers, community members, recovery coaches, and more. She develops the Division's [quarterly newsletter](#), writes for [The Brief Addiction Science Information Source \(BASIS\)](#), and recently secured grant funding to translate and disseminate addiction-related resources for Cambridge Health Alliance patients. In her free time, she enjoys learning pottery, practicing yoga, tending to her houseplants, and spending time with her cat, Beesly.



Faculty & Staff Updates

Join us in congratulating [John Slabczynski](#) on his promotion to Research Associate! John joined the Division on Addiction in 2021 after earning a Dual Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Click [here](#) to learn more about Division on Addiction staff members.



Our Latest Publications

Heirene, R., LaPlante, D., Louderback, E. R., Keen, B., Bakker, M., Serafimovska, A., & Gainsbury, S. M. (2024). Preregistration specificity and adherence: A review of preregistered gambling studies and cross-disciplinary comparison. *Meta-Psychology*. 8. <https://doi.org/10.15626/MP.2021.2909>

Nelson, S. E., Louderback, E. R., Edson, T. C., Tom, M. A., & LaPlante, D. A. (2024). Overtime: Long-term betting trajectories among highly-involved and less-involved online sports bettors. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-024-10294-7>

Request full-text copies by emailing info@divisiononaddiction.org

[Browse our research library here.](#)



CHA Division on Addiction | 350 Main Street | Malden, MA 02148 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!