Transdiagnostic Vulnerabilities

Come Learn More:

♦ **Monday, October 7th, from 11:30 to 12:45 pm**
The Role of Psychopathology in Tobacco Addiction: A Transdiagnostic Psychiatric Vulnerability Framework
Adam Leventhal

A number of psychiatric disorders heighten risk of tobacco addiction onset and maintenance. Comorbidity across and heterogeneity within the individual psychiatric disorders implicated in tobacco use impede the advancement of addiction research and treatment. This talk puts forth a framework for overcoming these impediments. The speaker proposes that “transdiagnostic psychiatric vulnerabilities”—core psychobiological traits shared across different psychiatric disorders yet may also differentiate subtypes within certain disorders—may be useful for understanding how psychopathology affects addiction. Results from a line of clinical and laboratory studies are reviewed, which investigate the relation between tobacco addiction and anhedonia (i.e., a candidate transdiagnostic vulnerability indicative of diminished pleasure and interest in response to rewards). This talk also addresses how a transdiagnostic vulnerability framework: (1) is useful for understanding several developmental stages of the addiction process, including drug use onset, maintenance, and relapse; (2) provides insight for understanding use of various addictive substances and other health behaviors; and (3) informs the development of novel interventions that target the most etiologically potent psychiatric determinants of addiction. (See enclosed article for further background)

♦ **Monday, October 14th, from 9:00 to 4:30 pm**
A. Steven Frankel, Ph.D., J.D. will present a workshop on ethics entitled “Dancing with the Risks: Safe steps, tricky steps, landmines.” Please RSVP with Dr. Shannon Couture: scouture@usc.edu

Clinical Faculty Meetings

- **Oct. 2nd & 16th**
- **Nov. 6th & 20th**
- **Dec. 4th**

Faculty meetings are scheduled in SGM 901

Please send agenda items to: quinly@usc.edu