



NSNDA 26TH Annual International Conference

*The National Science Network on Drug Abuse:
Rooted in Community, Driven by Science*

October 15-17, 2026

Hosted by Arizona State University
Greek Leadership Community Center
975 S. Rural Rd.
Tempe, AZ 85821



Download the program app: Jotform





Welcome to the 26th Annual National Science Network on Drug Abuse (NSNDA) Conference

Rooted in Community, Driven by Science

Arizona State University | Phoenix, Arizona

Welcome to Phoenix!

We are delighted to welcome you to the 26th Annual NSNDA Conference and to Arizona State University. This year's theme, *"Rooted in Community, Driven by Science,"* reflects what has long made this conference such a meaningful professional home: a commitment to rigorous science strengthened by the communities, relationships, and shared experiences that shape our work.

Over the next three days, we invite you to engage with a program that reflects both the rapidly evolving landscape of drug use research and the breadth of expertise within our growing community. Sessions will examine emerging issues in drug use, health, and treatment across the lifespan, including aging and older adults; vaping, inhalants, and an evolving drug landscape; PTSD, stress, and alternative therapeutic approaches; obesity and GLP-1 medications; and sex differences and women's health. Our plenary speaker, Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, will explore the transferability of substance use prevention interventions across sociocultural contexts. Together, these conversations highlight the importance of bringing a range of scientific perspectives to increasingly complex questions about drug use and health.

Being rooted in community also means recognizing that meaningful science does not happen in isolation. We are especially pleased to highlight local organizations from the Phoenix area during a session devoted to bridging research and community action. This conversation will bring researchers and community partners together to consider how scientific knowledge, local expertise, and lived experience can inform one another and strengthen the impact of our work.

This year's meeting also offers numerous opportunities to develop skills, share new ideas, and invest in the next generation of scientists. Our Data Blitz breakout sessions in social and basic science will provide a fast-paced forum for showcasing emerging research and generating new conversations. A grant-writing workshop will address the NIH's evolving review and scoring criteria while highlighting funding mechanisms and strategies relevant to investigators at all career stages. Our New Investigator Panel will provide another space for emerging scholars to share their work, build connections, and learn from colleagues across disciplines and career stages.

Just as importantly, we hope that you will take advantage of the many opportunities to connect outside of formal sessions. Our strength has always extended beyond any individual presentation, project, or discipline. It lies in the collective expertise, resilience, generosity, and mentorship of our members. Through our social activities, informal conversations, collaborations, and friendships, we can continue building our community, helping researchers at every stage of their careers navigate an evolving scientific and funding landscape.

Whether this is your first NSNDA conference or one of many, we hope you leave Phoenix with new knowledge, new collaborators, renewed energy, and an even stronger sense of connection to this scientific community. As the research funding landscape evolves, our ability to succeed will depend on excellent science *and* our willingness and readiness to learn from one another, support one another, and remain connected to the communities our work is intended to serve.



Planning and executing this conference takes a village. We extend heartfelt thanks to each member of this year's planning committee; to the session co-chairs, organizers, and presenters; to the National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN)'s Early Career Leadership Committee; to the NHSN's Steering Committee, including new Executive Directors, Dr. Laura O'Dell and Dr. Alice Cepeda; and especially to NSNDA conference coordinator, Kolby Heid. We also thank the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Office of Research on Women's Health (2R13DA026647-16), and our conference sponsors for continuing to recognize the value in our mission and providing financial resources to make this meeting possible.

Finally, thank you for bringing your ideas, your expertise, and your commitment to this meeting. We look forward to three days of discovery, conversation, mentorship, and connection, and continuing to build a scientific community that is truly *rooted in community and driven by science*.

Warmly,



Danielle Levitt, PhD, CSCS*D
Assistant Professor of Exercise Physiology
Director, Metabolic Health & Muscle
Physiology Laboratory
Department of Kinesiology & Sport
Management
Texas Tech University



Raymond Moody, PhD
Assistant Professor
Human Development and Family Sciences
University of Connecticut



CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Tempe Mission Palms

60 E 5th Street

Tempe, AZ 85821

- Lodging
- Site for ECLC Networking Mixer

Greek Leadership Community Center

975 S. Rural Rd.

Tempe, AZ 85821

A. Room 201

- Registration
- Datablitz Breakout: Social Science

B. Ballroom Room 206/208

- Awards Dinner Dance
- Conference Welcome by Provost Nancy Gonzales, PhD
- Conference Closing
- Datablitz Breakout: Basic Science
- Lunch
- Mentorship PODS Breakfast
- Plenary Session by Flavio F. Marsiglia, PhD
- Scientific Session 1: Community Action
- Scientific Session 2: Women's Health
- Scientific Session 3: Older/Aging Adults
- Scientific Session 4: Stress/PTSD
- Scientific Session 5: Obesity, Addiction, GLP-1
- Scientific Session 6: Vaping/Inhalants/Evolving Drug Use Landscape
- Career Development Session 1: ECLC Grant Writing
- Career Development Session 2: ECLC New Investigator Panel
- Career Development Session 3: Poster Session

C. Lobby

- Poster Session
- Sponsorship Tabling



Thursday, October 15

11:00 AM

REGISTRATION OPENS

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Room 201

TRANSITION TO GLCC ROOM 206/208

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

CONFERENCE CHAIRS WELCOME

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

BOXED LUNCH PICKUP

12:00 – 1:15 PM

Scientific Session 1

BRIDGING RESEARCH + COMMUNITY ACTION: TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ARIZONA/PHOENIX

CO-CHAIRS:

Alice Cepeda, PhD, Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University

Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD, Professor, College of Health Solutions, Arizona State University

Angel Algarin, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University

This panel brings together community leaders, public health practitioners, and researchers to highlight innovative partnerships addressing behavioral health, substance use, and health disparities across Arizona and the Phoenix region. Panelists will share experiences from tribal health, municipal public health, maternal and infant health, harm reduction, and community-based prevention, with particular attention to how research and community knowledge can be translated into meaningful action. The discussion will explore strategies for building equitable and sustainable partnerships, responding to local priorities, and strengthening connections between research, practice, and community impact.

PANELISTS:

Nathan Velez, PhD, LPC, LAAC Chief Behavior Health Officer, River People Health Center

Yanitza Soto, City of Phoenix Public Health Advisor

Tara Sundem, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Hushabye Nursery

Steven Levin, Independent Harm Reductionist, Participant Engagement Specialist, Sonoran Prevention Works

Krista LaBruzzo, MD, FASAM, Medical Director of Substance Use Disorder, Valle del Sol Community Health

1:15 PM – 1:30 PM

BREAK



- LOCATION:** **Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208**
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM** *Career Development Session 1*
ECLC GRANT WRITING – INTRODUCING THE NEW NIH SCORING SYSTEM AND STRATEGIES FOR APPLYING TO NIH GRANTS
- CO-CHAIRS:** **Sarah Chavez, PhD**, Assistant Professor, California State University, Fullerton
Victoria Alderete, Undergraduate Senior, Department of Psychology, University of Texas at El Paso
- This session will feature a moderated discussion with current NIH Study Section members on the new NIH scoring system and grant review process. The discussion will be followed by an interactive speed-networking workshop with mentors who have received F, K, and R-series awards, as well as continued discussion with NIH Study Section members. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss grant development, review, and funding experiences with NIH reviewers and funded investigators.
- MENTORS:** **Miguel A. Cano, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, O'Donnell School of Public Health, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Laura O'Dell, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at El Paso
Raymond Moody, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut
Laura C. Ornelas, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico
Cho-Hee Shrader, PhD, MPH, MSN, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Miguel Pinedo, PhD, Associate Professor and Director, Migration and Health Lab, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, University of Texas at Austin
Sergio Iniguez, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Texas at El Paso
Danielle Levitt, PhD, CSCS*D, Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management, Texas Tech University
Monserat Orozco, PhD Candidate, Department of Neuroscience, University of New Mexico
- STUDY SECTION MEMBERS:** **Alice Cepeda, PhD**, Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University
Joseph Daniels, PhD, Associate Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University



Patricia E. Molina, MD, PhD, *Professor and Department Head of Physiology, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Co-Director Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center of Excellence, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans*

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Scientific Session 2

SEX DIFFERENCES; WOMEN'S HEALTH - TRANSDISCIPLINARY PANEL ON WOMEN'S HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN: SUBSTANCE USE AND OTHER PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

CO-CHAIRS:

Cecilia Hinojosa, PhD, *Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico*

Catalina Lopez-Quintero, MD, MPH, PhD, *Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Florida*

Recent evidence indicates that women are disproportionately negatively affected by acute emotional and physical distress; our panelists will explore both innate and acquired factors that drive the trajectory of mental-health challenges, including substance use disorders. This transdisciplinary panel brings together leading women scientists who are advancing knowledge about women's health across the life span. The discussion will highlight unique factors that modify the risk of substance use and other psychopathology across reproductive stages. The session will open with a presentation by **Dr. Heather Richardson**, Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who will discuss her pre-clinical work investigating biological factors that contribute to sex differences in addiction and stress-related psychopathology. **Dr. Christina Chambers**, Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine at UC San Diego and co-director of the HEALTHY Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study. Dr. Chambers will provide an overview of HBCD, the largest study to date examining child health and development from prenatal life through the first decade of life. By integrating biological, environmental, and social measures across more than 5,000 mother-child pairs nationwide, HBCD offers a global resource for investigating the impacts of prenatal substance use and informing future interventions and policies. Lastly, the panel will close with **Dr. Jennifer Stevens**, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Co-Director of the Grady Trauma Project (GTP). Dr. Stevens will discuss the breadth of research from GTP that focuses on the neuroendocrine mechanisms that support posttraumatic stress symptom development. Co-chairs **Dr. Cecilia Hinojosa** (University of New Mexico) and **Dr. Catalina Lopez-Quintero** (University of



Florida) will guide the discussion and synthesize how these sex-specific factors can be integrated into future research aimed at reducing health disparities in women.

PRESENTERS:

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

[Alcohol Drinking Elicits Sex-Specific and Lasting Changes in Oligodendroglia and Fronto-limbic Myelination Patterns in Mice](#)

Heather N. Richardson, PhD, *Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM

[The HEALTHY Brain and Child Development \(HBCD\) Study](#)

Christina Chambers, PhD, *Distinguished Professor, Department of Pediatrics School of Medicine, University of California San Diego, Co-Director of the HEALTHY Brain and Child Development (HBCD) Study*

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM

[Women's Brain Health in the Context of Traumatic Stress](#)

Jennifer Stevens, PhD, *Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Co-Director of the Grady Trauma Project (GTP), Emory University*

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

[WELCOME/INTRODUCTION](#)

Provost Nancy Gonzales, PhD

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

OPEN TIME

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

[NHSN NETWORKING MIXER HOSTED BY ECLC](#)

LOCATION:

Tempe Mission Palms

Join us for an evening of connection and conversation at our Networking Mixer, held in the Palm Ballroom Foyer. This informal gathering offers attendees an opportunity to connect with fellow researchers and professionals at all career stages, from early-career investigators to established scientists, in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Guests will enjoy a selection of light appetizers. A signature host bar will feature a selection of domestic, local, imported, and craft beers, premium wines, seltzers, and signature cocktails. 100 drink tickets will be available on a first-claim basis. Once all tickets have been claimed, the bar will remain open at the venue's standard cash-bar pricing.



Friday, October 16

8:00 AM

[REGISTRATION OPENS/LIGHT BREAKFAST](#)

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Room 201

8:00 AM

[MENTORSHIP PODS BREAKFAST](#)

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

Join us for a facilitated breakfast designed to foster meaningful connections, mentorship, and conversation among colleagues across career stages. The breakfast provides an informal setting for attendees to share experiences, discuss professional and research-related topics, ask questions, and build connections within the NHSN community.

How it works: When picking up your conference badge on Day 1, you will receive a colored dot indicating your assigned discussion group for breakfast on Day 2. Please sit at the table corresponding to the color on your badge.

Each table will have a set of discussion prompts to help guide conversation and encourage meaningful exchange among participants. Attendees are encouraged to come prepared to participate, share their experiences and perspectives, and engage with colleagues from across the field.

START AT GLCC ROOM 206/208

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

[Career Development Session 2](#)

[ECLC NEW INVESTIGATORS PANEL](#)

CO-CHAIRS:

Claudia Aguirre, PhD, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles*

Alejandro Torres, *PhD Candidate, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Oklahoma State University*

PRESENTERS:

9:00 AM – 9:22 AM

[Preventive Reproductive Healthcare Utilization and Substance Use Among Low-Income Mexican American Women in San Antonio, Texas](#)

Jessica Frankeberger, PhD, MPH, *Research Assistant Professor, Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, Arizona State University*

9:22 AM – 9:44 AM

[Repeated Cocaine Exposure Reduces Ventral Hippocampal DRp1 Expression](#)

Samantha N. Scott, PhD, *Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Neurobiology, University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Medicine*



9:44 AM – 10:06 AM

[The Effects of Juvenile Amphetamine Exposure on Fentanyl Sensitization and Cross Sensitization to Morphine](#)

Teresa Falcon, *Master's Student, Psychological Research Program, California State University, Long Beach*

10:06 AM – 10:28 AM

[Structural Cannabis Laws and Methamphetamine Use Risk Among Men Who Have Sex With Men: A Longitudinal Analysis](#)

Peter S. McCauley, *Doctoral Candidate, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Connecticut*

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

BREAK

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

[PLENARY SESSION](#)

This presentation addresses the global crisis of early-onset substance use by exploring how to successfully transfer evidence-based prevention interventions across sociocultural contexts. It examines the persistent global prevention gap, contrasts domestic and international strategies for scaling programs, and analyzes the critical balance between maintaining intervention fidelity and making necessary cultural adaptations. Through a practical case study, the session illustrates the step-by-step process of replicating an effective program in a new environment, offering attendees actionable frameworks to adapt, implement, and scale sustainable prevention strategies worldwide.

PRESENTATION:

[Exploring the Transferability of Efficacious Substance Use Prevention Interventions Across Sociocultural Contexts](#)

Flavio F. Marsiglia, PhD, *Regents Professor, School of Social Work, Director of the Global Center for Applied Health Research (GCAHR), Arizona State University*

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

BREAK/BOXED LUNCH PICKUP

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

[NETWORKING LUNCH \(UPDATES ON STATUS OF NHSN\)](#)

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM

BREAK

TRANSITION TO GLCC LOBBY

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Lobby 1st and 2nd Floor

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

[Career Development Session 3](#)

[POSTER SESSION](#)



1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Even Numbered Posters

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM

Odd Numbered Posters

ORGANIZERS:

Christopher Frausto, *PhD Student, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at El Paso*

Joselynn Reyes-Arce, *PhD Student, Department of Behavioral Neuroscience, The University of Texas at El Paso*

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

BREAK

TRANSITION TO GLCC ROOM 206/208

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Scientific Session 3

AGING ADULTS – UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY TO ADVANCE RESILIENCE IN AGING: FROM MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENTATION

CO-CHAIRS:

Denise Vidot, PhD, *Founding Director of Global Cannabis and Psychedelics Research Collaborative, School of Nursing and Health Studies, University of Miami*

Arnold Gutierrez, PhD, *Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at El Paso*

This session brings together multidisciplinary perspectives to examine factors that contribute to vulnerability across the lifespan and consider how these findings may inform efforts to promote resilience and improve long-term health outcomes. Presentations will highlight evidence of the long-term effects of repeated opioid exposure during adolescence and adulthood in pre-clinical models, challenges associated with substance use treatment and opioid-related health among older adults, and emerging evidence linking motor and cerebellar changes to cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease. The session will also explore the application of artificial intelligence and implementation science as emerging approaches for translating research into practice and addressing the evolving health needs of aging populations. Together, these presentations highlight the importance of integrating basic, translational, clinical/population, and implementation science to better understand the factors that shape cognitive and functional health and identify opportunities to promote healthier aging.

PRESENTERS:

3:05 PM – 3:30 PM

Repeated Exposure to Heroin Vapor Inhalation and Repeated Kappa Opioid Receptor Agonist Treatment in Rats: Determining Age- and Sex-Specific Vulnerabilities

Arnold Gutierrez, PhD, *Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, The University of Texas at El Paso*



3:30 PM – 3:55 PM

Identifying Early Predictors of Alzheimer’s Disease Through Cross-Species Mapping of Brain Microstructure and Behavior

Jessica Verpeut, PhD, Assistant Professor, Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology, Department of Psychology, Arizona State University

3:55 PM – 4:20 PM

Set It and Forget It: Missed Opportunities to Improve OUD Treatment Access Among Older Adults on Long Term Opioid Therapy

Beth Meyerson, PhD, Beverly Benson McCord Endowed Chair of Nursing, Director of Harm Reduction Research Lab, Policy Director of Comprehensive Center for Pain and Addiction, Professor in School of Nursing and Medicine, University of Arizona

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM

BREAK

4:45 PM – 6:15 PM

Scientific Session 4

TRAUMA, STRESS, AND RESILIENCE: BRIDGING THE TRANSLATIONAL GAP BETWEEN BASIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES THROUGH BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL RESEARCH

CO-CHAIRS:

Miguel A. Cano, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, O’Donnell School of Public Health, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Laura C. Ornelas, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico

Across four studies, researchers examined how trauma, stress, adversity, and resilience influence biological systems, substance use behaviors, and risk for poor mental health. One study used a rat model of PTSD–alcohol use disorder to identify neural mechanisms. A second study follows young adults who use cannabis after emergency-department trauma, tracking daily experiences and physiology for six months. The third study focused on the development of *La Monarca*, a program designed to support Hispanic youth and their caregivers who have faced immigration-related stress and traumatic experiences. The fourth study highlights that Hispanic adolescents often have poor mental health due to disproportionate exposure to stressful life events.

PRESENTERS:

4:50 PM – 5:05 PM

Cannabis Use Behavior, Acute Stress, and Physiology Following Trauma Exposure: Perspectives from the ED CAT Study

Leslie Brick, PhD, Associate Professor, Center on Alcohol, Substance Use, and Addiction; Department of Psychology; University of New Mexico



5:05 PM – 5:20 PM

Targeting Somatostatin Systems in the Extended Amygdala to Counteract Stress-Driven Alcohol Use

Bryan Cruz, PhD, Assistant Professor; Department of Pharmacology, Addiction Science, and Toxicology; University of Tennessee Health Science Center

5:20 PM – 5:35 PM

La Monarca: A Group Intervention for Crisis Migrant Youth

Natalie Cruz, PsyD, Psychology Fellowship Training Co-Director, Community Behavioral Health Program, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

5:35 PM – 5:50 PM

From Rest to Resilience: Exploring the Role of Sleep in Promoting Mental Health Equity in Latino/a Adolescents Exposed to Stressful Life Events

Thania Galvan, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Georgia

5:50 PM – 6:15 PM

Q&A Session

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Open Time/Get Ready for Awards Dinner Dance

7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

AWARDS DINNER DANCE

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208



Saturday, October 17

7:30 AM

REGISTRATION/LIGHT BREAKFAST

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Room 201

TRANSITION TO GLCC ROOM 206/208

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

8:10 AM – 9:20 AM

Scientific Session 5

BEHAVIOR, TOXICOLOGY, AND NATIONAL TRENDS: HOW VAPOR RESEARCH IS ADVANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF INHALED DRUG USE

CO-CHAIRS:

Ian Mendez, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Texas at El Paso

Jim C. Anthony, MSc, PhD, Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Michigan State University

This panel brings together scientists who are studying drug vapor inhalation from three different angles — the animal laboratory, the toxicology bench, and the national survey. Dr. Ian Mendez opens the session by describing a rodent model of e-cigarette use and how it is used to assess the effects of nicotine vapor exposure on the brain and behavior. He will share data collected from a battery of behavioral tests that include nicotine self-administration, nicotine withdrawal, and cost-benefit decision making. Dr. Silvia Cruz will present decades of work identifying the behavioral and toxicological effects observed following exposure to toluene vapor and other inhalants. She will also discuss important methodological and procedural considerations for optimizing animal exposure paradigms that mimic inhaled drug use in humans. Dr. Andrew Hyland closes the session with findings from the PATH study, a longitudinal national survey that tracks nicotine use in tens of thousands of adolescents and adults. His talk will describe misclassification of nicotine with cannabis vaping products by respondents, how nicotine vapor inhalation influences cannabis use, and how state cannabis laws shift nicotine and cannabis use patterns. Together, these talks will present a multidisciplinary picture of inhaled drug use and its negative effects on physiology, brain, and behavior.

PRESENTERS:

8:10 AM – 8:30 AM

Vaping and the Brain: Using a Rodent Model to Characterize the Behavioral and Cognitive Effects of E-Cigarette Use

Ian Mendez, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, The University of Texas at El Paso



8:30 AM – 8:50 AM

[Lessons in Inhalation Toxicology: Applying Toluene-Research Frameworks to E-Cigarettes](#)

Silvia L. Cruz, PhD, *Professor, Department of Pharmacobiology, Center for Research and Advanced Studies (Cinvestav)*

8:50 AM – 9:10 AM

[PATH Study: Overview and Selected Research on Vaping and the Evolving Drug Landscape](#)

Andrew Hyland, PhD, *The Robert, Ann and Lew Wallace Endowed Chair, Department of Health Behavior, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center*

9:10 AM – 9:20 AM

Joint Q&A Session

9:20 AM – 9:30 AM

BREAK

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

[Scientific Session 6](#)

[THE NEXUS OF OBESITY, ADDICTION, AND DIET: GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS AND BEYOND](#)

CO-CHAIRS:

Robert Peralta, PhD, *Professor, Director of the Center for Conflict Management, The University of New Mexico*

Dolores Vazquez-Sanroman, PhD, *Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Center for Health Sciences, Oklahoma State University*

This session explores the rapidly evolving intersection of metabolic regulation, feeding behavior, and addiction by bridging cutting-edge preclinical discoveries with clinical and public health data. The presentations will examine how novel metabolic therapies, dietary habits, and healthcare disparities collectively impact substance use disorders and treatment equity. Specifically, the session will highlight preclinical evidence demonstrating that retatrutide, a novel GLP-1R/GIPR/GCGR triple agonist, can persistently reduce alcohol intake independently of its effects on food consumption. It will also address public health disparities using NIH *All of Us* data, analyzing how sociodemographic factors and psychiatric comorbidities influence GLP-1 RA access among Hispanic/Latino populations. Finally, the panel will discuss how obesogenic diets enhance tolerance to opioids like morphine, and how weight-loss dietary interventions can successfully mitigate these altered drug sensitivities. Together, these diverse perspectives offer a comprehensive look at how metabolic and dietary interventions are reshaping the landscape of addiction medicine.



PRESENTERS:

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

[Addressing Obesity, Addiction, and Health Disparities Among Hispanic/Latino Adults: Insights from the All of Us Research Program](#)

Mariana Sanchez, PhD, Associate Professor and Assistant Chair, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Florida International University

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

[Effects of Repeated Retatrutide, a GLP-1R, GIPR, and GCGR Triple Agonist, on Alcohol Intake and Lateral Septal Proteome of Mice](#)

Eric P. Zorilla, PhD, Associate Professor, Member, Pearson Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research, Department of Translational Medicine, Scripps Research

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

[Morphine Sensitivity Is Altered By Eating An Obesogenic Diet and Weight Loss-Promoting Dietary Interventions](#)

Katherine M. Serafine, PhD, Associate Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, Department of Psychology, University of Texas at El Paso

11:00 AM – 11:10 AM

BREAK

LOCATIONS:

Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

[Career Development Breakout Sessions](#)

[Basic Sciences Datablitz](#)

CO-CHAIRS:

Arturo Zavala, PhD, Professor, California State University, Long Beach

Sergio Iñiguez, PhD, Professor, University of Texas at El Paso

This breakout session will offer basic scientists the opportunity to share their exciting discoveries in the field of neuroscience that expand our understanding of the brain, and of drug abuse and addiction. The goals of this breakout session are to highlight the latest work of basic scientists with the NHSN community; to provide an opportunity for discussion with other scientists with similar interests; and to facilitate the development of collaborations among NHSN members.

PRESENTERS:

11:10 AM – 11:17 AM

[Alcohol Withdrawal Produces Selective Structural Remodeling of Dentate Gyrus Granule Cells](#)

Monica Gonçalves-Garcia, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico

11:17 AM – 11:24 AM

[Behavioral Outcomes of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation Following Oxycodone Withdrawal in WT and BDNF Val66Met Animals](#)

Alondra Chance, PhD Student, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences



11:24 AM – 11:31 AM

[Perinatal Fentanyl Exposure Downregulates Metabolic Function Within the Nucleus Accumbens, Suggesting Disruption of Neuronal and Mitochondrial Morphology Related Pathways](#)

Cinthia Flores, *Graduate Student, Department of Neurobiology, University of Maryland, Baltimore*

11:31 AM – 11:38 AM

[Neural Correlates of Deportation-Related Stress: A Systematic Review of Default Mode Network Disruption in Immigrant Populations](#)

Mariana Mendoza Ruiz, *PhD Student, Department of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University*

11:38 AM – 11:45 AM

[Postnatal Day 7 Alcohol Exposure Does Not Disrupt Home Base Organization During Spontaneous Exploration in a Dark Open Field](#)

Kehiry J. Trejo Rico, *PhD Student; Cognition, Brain, and Behavior Program; Department of Psychology, University of New Mexico*

LOCATION:

Greek Leadership Community Center Room 201

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

[Social Sciences Datablitz](#)

CO-CHAIRS:

Tara Bautista, PhD, *Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico*

Nalini Negi, PhD, *Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore*

This breakout session will offer social and behavioral scientists the opportunity to share their exciting and most recent discoveries in social and behavioral science that expand our understanding of Hispanic health disparities.

The goals of this breakout session are:

1. To highlight the latest work of social and behavioral scientists with the NHSN community,
2. provide an opportunity for discussion with other scientists with similar interests, and
3. facilitate the development of collaborations among NHSN members.

PRESENTERS:

11:10 AM – 11:17 AM

[From Stressing to Sipping: A Mixed-Methods Study about Latina Mothers Who Endorsed Drinking Alcohol to Cope with Daily Stressors](#)

Amanda Acevedo-Morales, PsyD, *Certified School Psychologist, Salt River Schools*

11:17 AM – 11:24 AM

[SubstanceTok Across Languages: Multilingual Topic Modeling of English and Spanish Substance Use Discourse on TikTok](#)

Sharon Cristell Quispe Carhuapoma, *Biomedical AI PhD Student, School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers University*



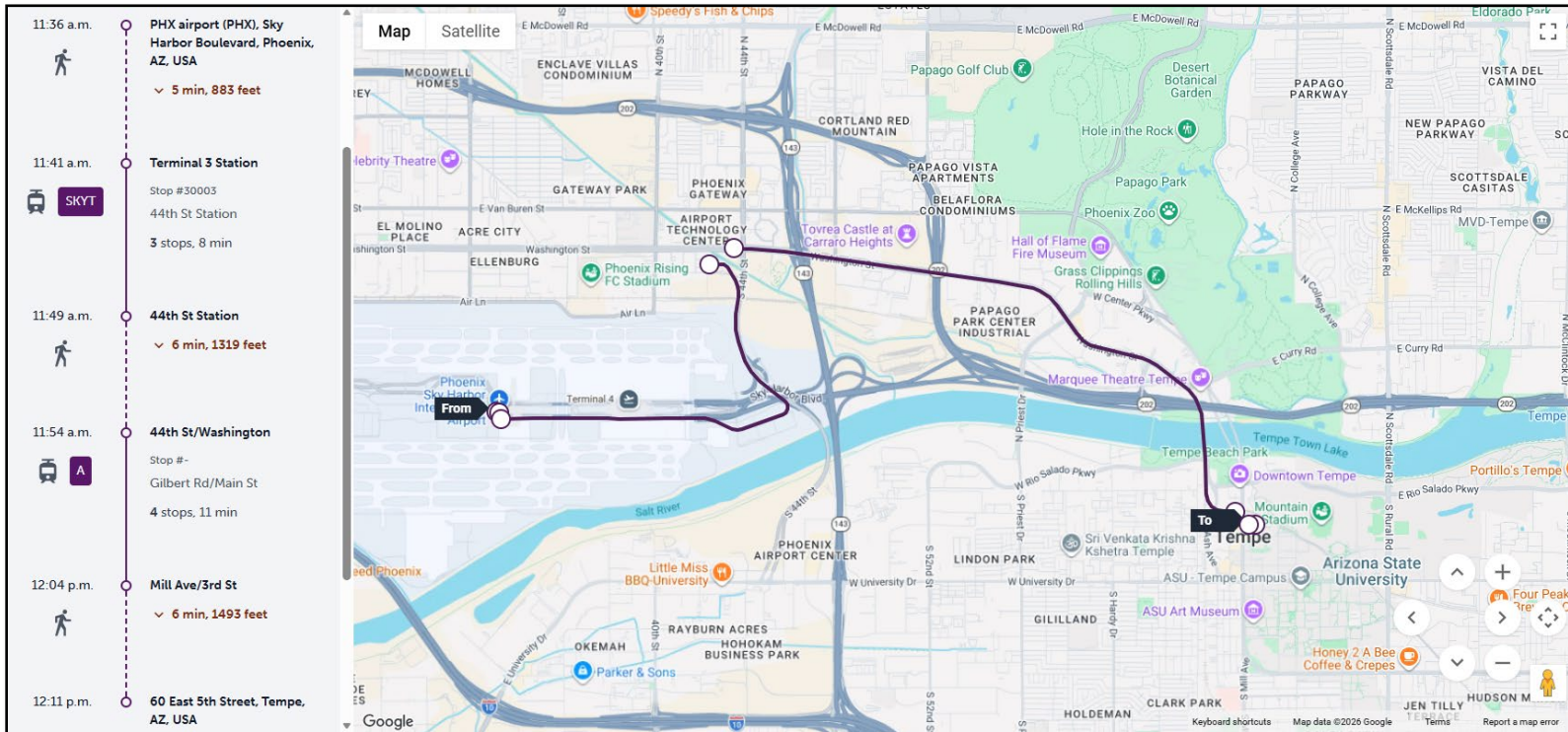
11:24 AM – 11:31 AM	Patterns of Digital and Human Engagement in a Digital Lifestyle Intervention for Hispanic Families Margarita Monge, Manager, Research Support; Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
11:31 AM – 11:38 AM	Examining Pathways Between U.S. Acculturation, Perceived Risk, and Alcohol Use Among Young Adult Latina/Hispanic Women Gabriela M. Naime, Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, Texas State University
11:38 AM – 11:45 AM	Cultivating Trust, Advancing Science: Community-Embedded Recruitment Strategies for Engaging Structurally Vulnerable Latino Immigrant Men Estefania Garcia Torres, Master's Student, School of Social Work, University of Maryland, Baltimore
11:45 AM – 11:52 AM	Youth Perceptions of Police and Their Associations with Risk and Protective Factors in Montevideo, Uruguay Imelda Ojeda, MSW, MPA, Doctoral Student and Research Assistant, School of Social Work, Arizona State University
12:10 PM – 12:20 PM	BREAK
LOCATION:	Greek Leadership Community Center Ballroom Room 206/208
12:20 PM	CLOSING

**Schedule subject to change*



MAPS

PHX AIRPORT TO CONFERENCE HOTEL

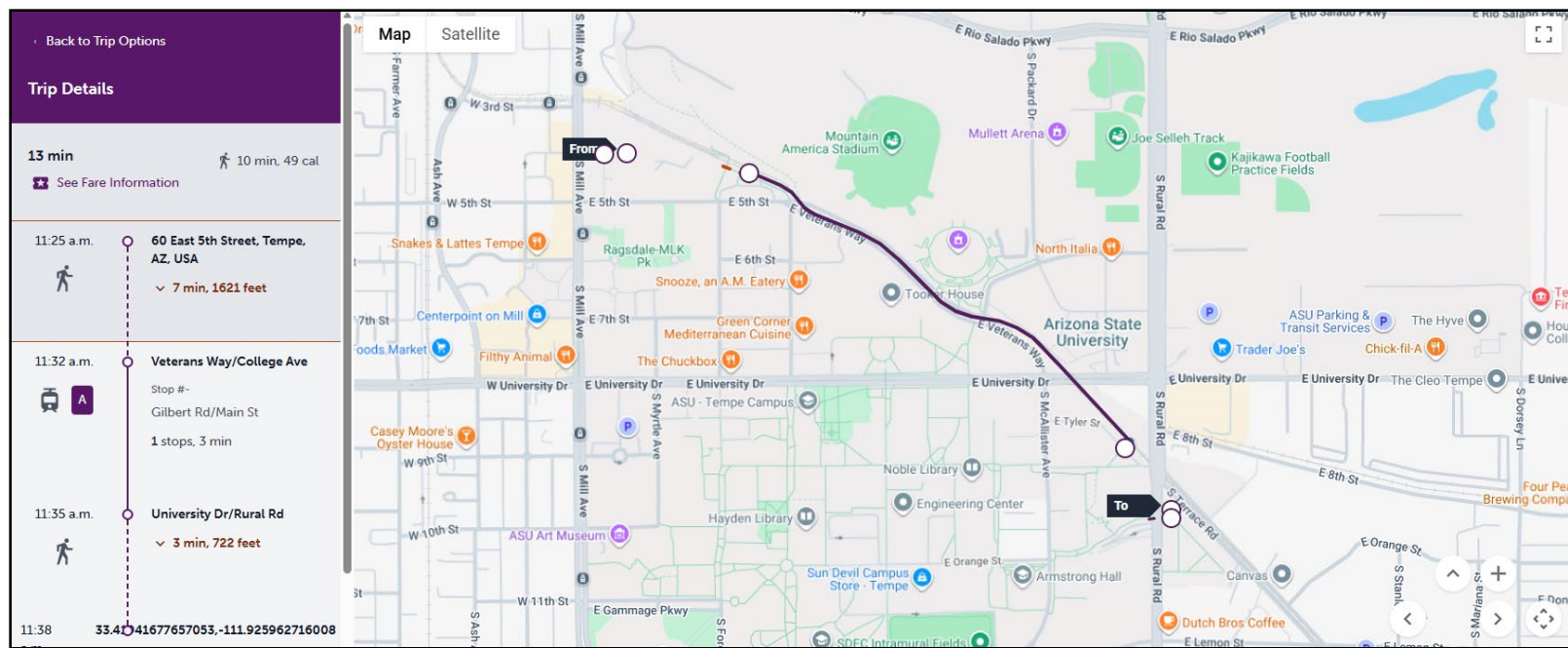


Airport to Hotel Connection: PHX Sky Train & Metro Light Rail

- **Cost:** Free for the Sky Train; \$2.00 for a one-way Light Rail ticket (Passes available via Valley Metro App or station kiosks).
- **Total Travel Time:** ~30-35 minutes
- **Directions:**
 - **Board the Sky Train:** From Terminal 3 or Terminal 4 at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), take the free, 24/7 PHX Sky Train directly to the 44th St/Washington Station.
 - **Transfer to Light Rail:** Follow the signs to the connected Valley Metro Light Rail platform and purchase a one-way ticket.
 - **Board the train:** Take the eastbound train (Line A).
 - **Arrive:** Exit the train at either the Mill Ave/3rd St Station or the Veterans Way/College Ave Station. The Tempe Mission Palms Hotel is a short 5-minute walk from either stop.



CONFERENCE HOTEL TO GLCC

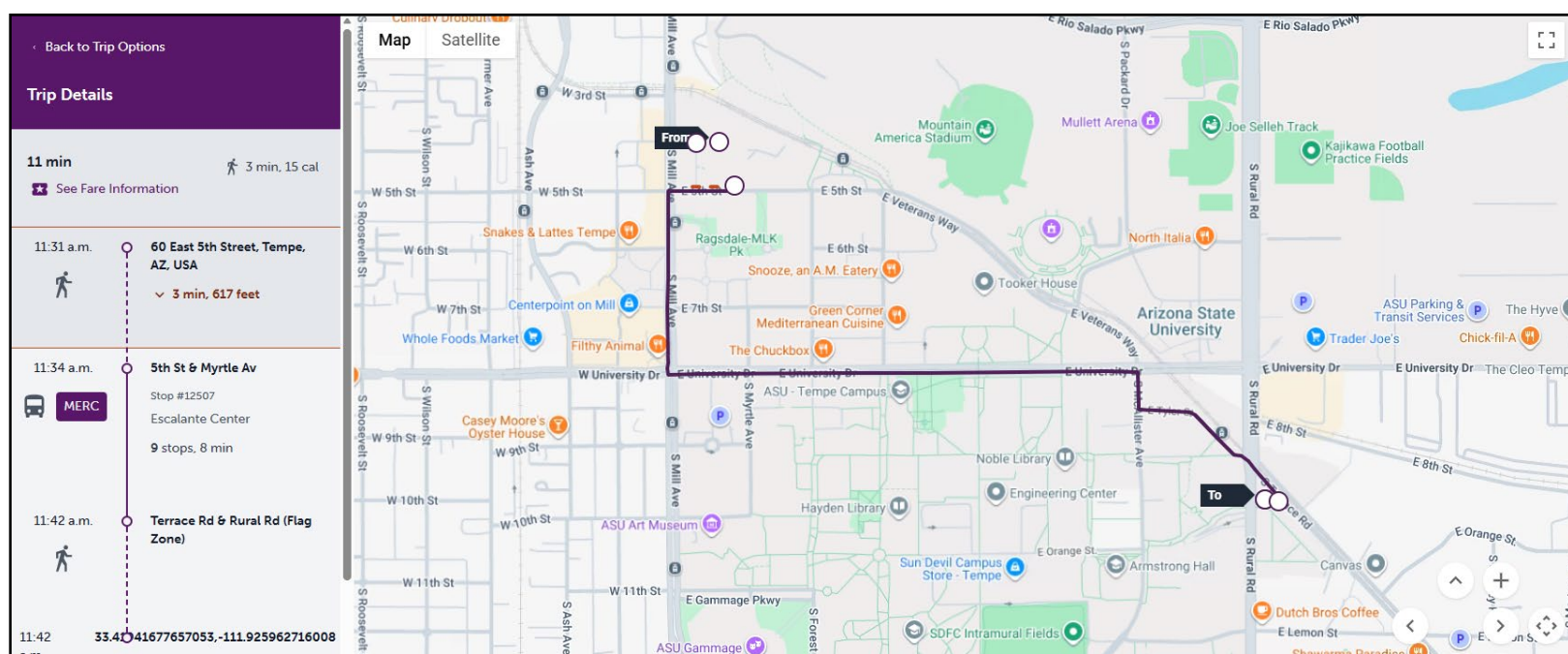


Option 1: Metro Light Rail (Line A) - Reliable Rail Service

- **Cost:** \$2.00 per ride (Passes available via Valley Metro App or station kiosks)
- **Total Travel Time:** ~10-12 minutes
- **Directions:**
 - **Walk to the station:** Walk east from the hotel along 5th Street and cut through Myrtle Ave to reach the Veterans Way/College Ave Station (approx. 5-7 minutes).
 - **Board the train:** Board the eastbound train.
 - **Ride and exit:** Ride to the University Drive/Rural Road Station.
 - **Arrive:** Head south down Rural Road for a short 3-minute walk to reach the GLCC.



CONFERENCE HOTEL TO GLCC



Option 2: The MERC Bus (Orbit Earth Shuttle) - Most Direct & Free

- **Cost:** Free
- **Total Travel Time:** ~10-15 minutes
- **Frequency:** Every 15 minutes
- **Directions:**
 - **Walk to the bus stop:** Head east from Tempe Mission Palms on 5th Street for about 2 minutes to the 5th St & Myrtle Av stop.
 - **Board the bus:** Take the Eastbound Orbit Earth (MERC) bus.
 - **Ride and exit:** Ride for approximately 7 minutes (5 stops) and get off at the Terrace Rd & Rural Rd (Flag Zone) stop.
 - **Arrive:** The ASU Greek Leadership Village (GLCC) will be right at this intersection, directly in front of you.



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