Trial Progress – Nearing 15,000!

Trial enrollment numbers reflect study information as of July 11, 2012.

Open Studies
- CTN 0037 – Enrolled 302 (N=300) (enrollment completed – in follow up phase)
- CTN 0044 – Enrolled 507 (N=500) (enrollment completed – in follow up phase)
- CTN 0046 – Enrolled 538 (N=528) (enrollment completed – in follow up phase)
- CTN 0047 – Enrolled 1,285 (N=1,285) (enrollment completed – in follow up phase)
- CTN 0048 – Enrolled 203 (N=300)
- CTN 0050 – Enrolled 540 (N=1,269)

Total Enrolled All Studies: 14,994

CTN 0052 Begins Site Initiation Process
The national training for CTN 0052 BRAC (Buspirone for Relapse-Prevention in Adults with Cocaine Dependence) was held June 25 - 26, 2012, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Representatives from all six study sites and their Node RRTC's were in attendance, as were representatives from NIDA, the CCC, and the DSC2. Following a Sunday evening welcome, over 60 trainees gathered at the Westin in downtown Cincinnati to learn about the study overview, medical procedures, other study procedures, and the data entry process. Highlights from the training included an entertaining video on participant retention that was developed by the team from Maryhaven, Inc., as well as a rowdy game of Jeopardy to wind up the training event.

The sites have now begun working through the site initiation process, which includes local Pre-Initiation Visits, Readiness Calls with the CCC, and the CCC Site Initiation Visits. To date, five of the six sites have completed at least one Readiness Call. Maryhaven, Inc. completed the study's first CCC Site Initiation Visit on July 6th. The Lead Team is looking forward to working with each of these six great study sites!

CTN 0044: Follow Up Completed!
The CTN 0044 study “Web-delivery of Evidence-Based, Psychosocial Treatment for Substance Use Disorders” completed all follow up visits on June 22nd! The follow up rates are 91% for the 12-week FU, 89% for the 3-month FU and 91% for the 6-month FU visit.

The lead team congratulates the research staff and CTP collaborators at all the sites for this impressive performance. It was truly a national team effort! On their final protocol conference call in June, outstanding sites were recognized via a Virtual Awards Ceremony. Each site received at least one special acknowledgment for their performance during the trial:

- First Site Endorsed/First Randomization – Project Outreach (Greater NY Node)
- Most Challenging IRB – Evergreen Manor (Pacific Northwest Node)
- Most Brief Screens (264) – Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism, Inc. (MCCA; New England Consortium Node)
- Most Randomizations (60) – Hina Mauka (Pacific Node)
- Most Randomizations in One Month (9) – MCCA, Center for Drug Free Living (CFDFL; Florida Node), Hina Mauka
- Highest Weekly Average of TES Modules Completed – Homeward Bound (Texas Node)
- Most Supervised Urines – Midtown Community Mental Health Center (Ohio Valley Node) and Stanley Street Treatment and Resources, Inc. (New England Consortium Node)
- Highest Follow Up Rate (100%) – CFDFL
- 2nd Highest Follow Up Rate at Week 12 (98%) – Stanley Street
- 2nd Highest Follow Up Rate at 3 Months (96%) – HARBEL Prevention & Recovery Center (Mid Atlantic Node) and Stanley Street
- 2nd Highest Follow Up Rate at 6 months (99%) – HARBEL and Hina Mauka
- Persistence in the Face of Adversity (including clinic relocation, extensive staff turnover, etc.) – Willamette Family, Inc. (Western States Node)
Texas Node Update

Becca Crowell of Nexus Recovery Center (Community Treatment Program) was recently appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Governor's Criminal Justice Advisory Council, pursuant to Executive Order RP-77. She is one of an eight-member council, plus the chair, Judge Ruben Reyes of Lubbock. The Council is tasked with identifying and developing best practices for Texas Specialty Courts, identifying methods to ensure protection of specialty court participants’ rights, and developing performance measures to evaluate program and cost effectiveness. Becca was recommended by Judge John Cruezot based on the successful collaboration between the Dallas Divert Court and Nexus Recovery Center. Congratulations Becca and Nexus Recovery!

Karen G. Chartier, Ph.D., of the University of Texas School of Public Health and PI of CTN 0052 (BRAC) at Nexus, and Denise M. Scott, Ph.D., of Howard University, co-organized and chaired a symposium titled, “Framing Ethnic Variations in Alcohol Outcomes: From Biological Pathways to Social Context,” June 27, 2012, at the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) scientific meeting, in San Francisco, California. The symposium presented new research on genetic, social, and environmental factors associated with ethnic group differences in drinking and alcohol use disorder outcomes.

Western States Node - News from Mitch Greenlick

Mitch Greenlick, one of the original Oregon Node PIs in the CTN, has been a member of the Oregon House of Representatives for the past ten years. He has written a book, Managing Research: The Cat-Herd’s Toolkit, which is both an e-mail epistolary novel and a discourse on managing professionals in complex organizations. Each chapter of the novel serves as case material for the discursive material that follows. Taken together, they provide the research manager with explicit instructions on how to develop and manage a research culture that will lead to organizational success. It is available at:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=greenlick

Mitch brings to this tale insights from his life experience, his leadership perspectives, some management stories, and a good deal of wisdom accumulated over a 50-year career in health services research.

Pacific Northwest (PNW) Node News

The Pacific Northwest Node organized a training event, Evidence-Informed Management of Co-Occurring Addiction and Mental Illness, held at the Hotel DECA in Seattle, Washington, on June 8, 2012. Its purpose was to help professionals improve their own or their agency’s competence in assessing, managing, and treating patients with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental illness. Two surveys of node providers’ perceived training needs helped organizers plan this training.

Richard Ries, MD, Professor and Director of the Addictions Division in the University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Director of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Recovery services at Harborview Medical Center in downtown Seattle, and PNW node member, led the training, assisted by a panel of clinicians from the PNW Node RRTC and Community Treatment Programs (CTPs). Panel members will be leading one-month follow-up conference calls with trainees to troubleshoot participants’ action plans formulated at the training. Of the 111 clinicians and administrators who attended the training, about 54% were from the PNW Node; the rest were from other organizations, including eight people from Washington State tribal organizations. Thanks to the Northwest Frontier ATTC for co-sponsoring and managing evaluation of the event and to Synergy for their valuable logistical support!

Lisa R. Thomas, Ph.D., Pacific Northwest Node American Indian/Alaska Native Liaison and Research Scientist at the University of Washington Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute, has been selected to receive the Young Investigator Award for Excellence in Research from the Native Research Network, Inc. She was nominated for the honor by Dr. Joseph B. Stone from the Gallup Indian Medical Center BHS, and by Dr. Diane J. Willis President of Div. 35, Section 6 (Alaska Native/American Indian/Indigenous People) of the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Stone praised Lisa for her work as a psychologist focused on the "health and well-being of her First Nations relatives. Nothing could be more honorable. Dr. Thomas has distinguished herself, honored herself, her family, her community, and First Nations people, but, further has exhibited commitment and action for the people." The award will be presented at the 2012 Annual Native Health Research Conference in Seattle, July 16-19. Congratulations Lisa!
Next CTN Steering Committee Meeting
The Spring 2013 CTN Steering Committee Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro Center (7400 Wisconsin Avenue), Bethesda, Maryland, on March 13-15, 2013. Registration, agenda, and logistical information will be available when the meeting website (www.seiservices.com/NIDA/CTN/Meetings/) opens on January 7, 2013. A notice will be sent to Steering Committee members once online registration is open. The tentative schedule is:

- March 13, 2013 Workshops and PI/CTP Caucuses
- March 14, 2013 Protocols, Committees, and SIGs
- March 15, 2013 Steering Committee

For program information, please contact Ron Dobbins at (301) 451-9575.

What’s New in the CTN Dissemination Library?
If you’re interested in keeping on top of the latest additions to the CTN Dissemination Library, as well as learning about upcoming trainings that may be relevant to you or your staff, you can subscribe (via RSS or e-mail) to the CTN Dissemination Library’s What’s New Blog (http://ctndisseminationlibrary.wordpress.org).

A recent post describes a new CTN-related article in Contemporary Clinical Trials about an ancillary analysis of data from CTN-0004 MET (Motivational Enhancement Treatment) examining pre-treatment substance use change by pregnant women in community-based outpatient treatment. The article not only reported on the direct findings of the analysis, but also suggested the possible need for re-evaluation of the nature and causes of behavior change, as well as trial design (including the addition of no- or minimal-contact control conditions, which may be important in evaluating the true effect of interventions), in clinical trials for substance abuse.

You can request a copy of this article by e-mailing the library at info@disseminationlibrary.org!

Citation: Ondersma SJ, Winhusen TM, Lewis DF. Pre-Treatment Change in a Randomized Trial with Pregnant Substance-Abusing Women in Community-Based Outpatient Treatment. Contemporary Clinical Trials 2012 (in press).

Also of Interest:
Occasionally in the What’s New Blog, the Librarians post articles not directly based on CTN research, but that would be of interest to CTN members or those following CTN research outcomes. These are tagged “Also of Interest,” and the articles frequently report on research about the implementation of interventions studied in previous CTN protocols, or on other CTN-related interests, e.g. electronic health records, health services research, staff turnover and burnout, and more. (Note: The Librarians can’t provide copies of “Also of Interest” articles).

A recent example of an “Also of Interest” item in the blog was “Brief Strategic Family Therapy: An Intervention to Reduce Adolescent Risk Behavior,” written by José Szapocznik and colleagues. Published in Couple and Family Psychology, the article presents a brief overview of the BSFT model, describes research findings about BSFT’s clinical interior and treatment outcomes, and concludes with a review of lessons learned in moving research findings into practice.

You can read the complete abstract and/or purchase a copy of this article at the APA web site: http://psycnet.apa.org/index.cfm?fa=buy.optionToBuy&id=2012-16537-005.

The CTN Dissemination Library web site is maintained by the Pacific Northwest Node of the CTN. Check it out at http://ctndisseminationlibrary.org!

New Funding Opportunities
The following announcements may be of interest to those in the CTN:

- Cohort Studies of HIV/AIDS and Substance Use (U01) (PAR-12-222) National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Women's Mental Health During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period (R21) (PA-12-215)
- Women's Mental Health During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period (R01) (PA-12-216)
Clinical Coordinating Center (CCC) at EMMES

Webinar Reminder: The NIDA CCC will host a webinar for “Co-Occurring Disorders: Integrated Treatment of Addiction and Mood and Anxiety Disorders” on Wednesday, July 18th from 1:00 – 2:30 pm (ET), which will review the relationship between mood/anxiety and substance use disorders, effects on others, and clinical strategies to aid recovery. View the CCC’s 2012 Web Seminar Series Catalog (p. 9) posted on the CTN Dissemination Library’s web site at http://ctndisseminationlibrary.org/ctntraining.htm.

If you have not received the invitation and would like to participate in this or future training sessions, please send an e-mail request to ctnt raining@emmes.com. Non-CTNers can also sign up. Please send an e-mail expressing interest in attending whichever webinar to CTNtraining@emmes.com. Someone will respond to their request with the registration information.

Other CCC related questions and topics- Principal Investigator, Robert Lindblad, at 301-251-1161, rlindblad@emmes.com, or Eve Jelstrom, Project Director, at 301-251-1161, ejelstrom@emmes.com.

Publications Committee (PC)
The Publications Committee reports that the CTN had a good showing of presentations at the recent CPDD Meeting in Palm Springs, California last month.

Upcoming International AIDS Conference. The PC has recently reviewed and approved several presentations for this upcoming meeting in Washington D.C:


- Mandler et al: HIV testing history of drug treatment participants in the US.

- Horigian et al: Substance use treatment as prevention of depression and sexual risk behavior.

Recent Acceptances for Publication:

- Winhusen et al: Pre-Treatment Change among Pregnant Substance-Abusing Women in Community-Based Outpatient Treatment Contemporary Clinical Trials.

- Winhusen et al: Frontal Systems Deficits in Stimulant-Dependent Patients: Evidence of Pre-illness Dysfunction and Relationship to Treatment Outcome Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

Recent Publications:


Aim: To address an urgent need for screening of substance use problems in medical settings, we examined substance-specific dependence criteria as potential brief screeners for the detection of patients with a substance use disorder (SUD).

Methods: The sample included 920 opioid-dependent adults who were recruited from outpatient treatment settings at 11 programs in 10 U.S. cities and who completed intake assessments of SUDs for a multisite study of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network (CTN003). Data were analyzed by factor analysis, item response theory (IRT), sensitivity, and specificity procedures.

Results: Across all substances (alcohol, amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine, sedatives), withdrawal was among the least prevalent symptoms, while taking large amounts and inability to cut down were among the most prevalent symptoms. Items closely related to the latent trait of a SUD showed good-to-high values of area under the receiver operating characteristic curve in identifying cases of a SUD; IRT-defined severe and less discriminative items exhibited low sensitivity in identifying cases of a SUD (withdrawal for all substances; time using for alcohol and sedatives; giving up activities for sedatives).

Conclusions: Study results suggest that withdrawal and time using are much less reliable indicators for a SUD than taking larger amounts than intended and inability to cut down and that the latter two items should be studied further for consideration in developing a simplified tool for screening patients for SUDs in medical settings. These findings have implications for the use of common health indicators in electronic health records systems to improve patient care.

Updates for this Bulletin should be sent to Carol Cushing at ccushing@nida.nih.gov