

# Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research



## Substance Use Research Core



**Christopher Kahler, PhD**

Core Director, Substance Use Research Core,  
Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences,  
Director of Alcohol and Addiction Studies,  
Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior



**Karsten Lunze, MD, MPH, DrPH**

Core Director, Substance Use Research Core,  
Associate Professor of Medicine, Boston  
University School of Medicine

The **Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research Substance Use Research Core (SURC)** is led by co-Directors [Christopher Kahler, PhD](#) (Brown University) and [Karsten Lunze, MD, MPH, DrPH](#) (Boston University).

Drawing on the expertise of its faculty members, the core offers comprehensive support to investigators conducting substance use and HIV research. Since 2020, the core has been active on the national stage by leading the Inter-CFAR Substance Use Research Community (I-SURC), which brings together hundreds of HIV and substance use researchers across the country. Through the I-SURC, the core provides a number of resources and opportunities for early-stage investigators, including being matched with a mentor, presenting work to a national audience, and receiving feedback on K or R-level grants from leading experts in HIV and substance use research across the CFARs. If you are not yet a member, you can join the I-SURC [here](#) and view our past and future events on our [webpage](#).

Within our CFAR, the core is working on establishing two interest groups to serve as platforms for Prov/Bos CFAR researchers to discuss their HIV and substance use work, brainstorm solutions to shared challenges, and enable a rapid response to funding announcements. One group will coalesce investigators around HIV/substance use research in international settings and one group will focus on HIV prevention and PrEP.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND TRAININGS

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**  
**1PM-2PM ET**

## International Urban Arch Webinar

**Topic:** Alcohol Research Consortium in HIV: Ending the HIV Epidemic through Interventions and Epidemiology at the Intersection of the Alcohol and HIV Care Continua.

Join us to hear [Dr. Geetanjali Chander](#) (University of Washington) present [progress and emerging results from the Alcohol Research Consortium in HIV \(ARCH\) P01 program](#)

**Location:** Zoom

INTERNATIONAL URBAN ARCH CENTER  
TRAINING & MENTORING PROGRAM PRESENTS:  
A VISITING SCHOLAR RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS  
WEBINAR



**Alcohol Research Consortium in HIV: Ending the HIV Epidemic through Interventions and Epidemiology at the Intersection of the Alcohol and HIV Care Continua**

Join us to hear Dr. Geetanjali Chander (University of Washington) present progress and emerging results from the [Alcohol Research Consortium in HIV \(ARCH\) P01 program](#).



Wednesday, May 28, 2025  
1PM-2PM ET / 12PM-1PM CT / 10AM-11AM PT



[Register Here!](#)

**June 5 - 6, 2025**

## Second Artificial Intelligence / Human Intelligence & Immunoinformatic Workshop

Join Us for a 2-Day In-Person Event on AI/ML in Immunology & Bioinformatics!

► Researchers, clinicians, and students are invited to explore emerging trends and connect with experts in immunoinformatic, computational vaccinology, and biologics immuno-engineering.

**Location:** South Street Landing, 350 Eddy St, Providence, RI 02903

## Artificial Intelligence / Human Intelligence & Immunoinformatics Workshop

June 5 & 6, 2025 | Providence, RI

Organized by:  
BROWN UNIVERSITY, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Bristol Myers Squibb, THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, BROWN HEALTH

EpiVax

Sponsored by:  
Rhode Island Life Science Hub

[Learn More & Register](#)

**June 17, 2025**  
**8:30AM - 3:00PM**

## The Emerging Areas of Science IDEa Symposium: "Chronic Diseases: From Cells to Community"

► Meet us at the intersection of molecular discovery and community health. This dynamic symposium will explore cutting-edge research and



[Learn More & Register](#)

innovative collaborations that are transforming the way we understand biology and improve human well-being—from the smallest molecule to large populations.

**Location:** The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

**July 14 - 18, 2025**

## BRIDGE Implementation Science Trainings

**Location:** South Street Landing  
Providence, RI

**July 14 - 16:** Foundational  
Implementation Science Bootcamp

**July 17-18:** Advanced  
Implementation Methods Workshop



[Register Here!](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Cesar Augusto Caceres Award: Innovations in HIV Prevention and Care

► The Cesar Augusto Caceres Award for Innovations in HIV Prevention and Care honors innovative uses of technology in HIV prevention and treatment, from smart health apps to AI-driven medicine.

► The **\$25,000 award** is open for applications **until May 15, 2025**.

- Please visit the [website](#) for information about award eligibility and how to apply.
- Application Deadline: **May 15, 2025**

[Apply Here!](#)

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Equity Grant Opportunities

#### Rapid Response Research Grants:

For early to mid-career researchers of color affected by loss of federal funding.

► Awards: \$50K-\$200K (up to 24 months)



Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation

► Interested? [Register for an informational](#)

► **Brief proposals due May 28, 2025**  
– 3 PM EDT

[webinar](#), May 2nd, 2:00PM ET.

**New Research Support Awards:**

For community-driven health equity projects.

► Awards:

- Up to 4 grants of \$250K
- Up to 4 grants of \$500K
- (Each for up to 36 months)

► **Letters of intent due July 16, 2025 – 3 PM EDT**

[Learn More](#)



## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



**Patricia Cioe, PhD**

Associate Professor,  
Brown University School  
of Public Health

Dr. Patricia Cioe is Associate Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the Brown University School of Public Health (SPH), Center for Alcohol & Addiction Studies. Dr. Cioe's program of research uses mixed methods to design tailored behavioral interventions that help people with HIV reduce cardiovascular risk, with a particular focus on smoking cessation and harm reduction. As a licensed, certified nurse practitioner, she has been providing care to patients with HIV since 2001. Dr. Cioe especially enjoys mentoring students at the SPH, and her current doctoral student recently described her as a mentor who "offers unwavering support and inspiring guidance, which continuously encourages me to think critically, innovate, and apply practical solutions to complex problems." In her free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking in national parks, and relaxing by the Rhode Island shore.



**Miriam Harris, MD,  
MSc**

Dr. Miriam Harris is an addiction medicine specialist and co-medical director of the Rhode Island overdose prevention center, focusing on women's health and substance use. Her mixed-methods research examines treatment experiences and how to integrate sexual and reproductive health services within substance use service settings. Specifically, she focuses on enhancing HIV prevention for women who use drugs. Utilizing her clinical and research platforms, she advocates for structural changes to improve substance use treatment and harm reduction in New England. A native Canadian, Dr. Harris is also passionate about hockey and enjoys watching the new professional women's league with her family.



Assistant Professor,  
Boston University,  
Chobanian & Avedisian  
School of Medicine



**Abigail (Abby) W. Batchelder, PhD, MPH**

Associate Professor,  
Director of Behavioral  
Health Equity Program.  
Associate Vice Chair of  
Psychology at BMC

Dr. Abigail Batchelder is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and General Internal Medicine at BU's School of Medicine with a secondary appointment in Community Health Sciences at BU's School of Public Health. She is also director and founder of the Behavioral Health Equity Program and an affiliated investigator at the Fenway Institute. She has been awarded 15 unique grants as principal investigator. Her research aims to collaboratively identify, adapt, and implement evidence-based interventions with and for underserved people with unmet psycho-behavioral needs, including people with and vulnerable to HIV, people who use drugs, and sexual and gender minority people with a goal of increasing behavioral health equity.

## FEATURED WORK

**Assoumou SA**, Bonilla HV, Ruiz-Mercado G, Von Lossnitzer M, Baker R, Crawford ND, Bernstein JA. [Community-based HIV self-testing for persons who use drugs can contribute to reaching ending the HIV epidemic in the US \(EHE\) goals.](#) Open Forum Infect Dis. 2024 Jun 17;11(6):ofae189. PMID: PMC11181192.

**Cioe PA**, Pinkston M, Stang GS, Tashima KT, **Kahler CW**. [Peer navigation for smoking cessation in people with HIV who smoke: a pilot randomized controlled trial.](#) Nicotine Tob Res. 2024 Sep 10;ntae214. PMID: PMC11847771

Palfai TP, Winter MR, Magane KM, Heeren TC, Bernier LB, Murray GE, Saitz R, Kim TW, **Stein MD**. [Pain and unhealthy alcohol use among people living with HIV: a prospective cohort study.](#) Alcohol Clin Exp Res (Hoboken). 2024 Nov;48(11):2089-2098. PMID: PMC11884506.

Gomillia CE, **Arnold T**, Dobbs TE, Monger ML, Nunn A, Ward LM. [Access and Utilization of HIV/STI Testing Services among Men Who have Sex with Men During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Systematic Review.](#) J Racial Ethn Health Disparities. 2025 Mar 18. doi: 10.1007/s40615-024-02103-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40102349.

Singh M, Nyandiko W, **DeLong A**, Ashimosi C, Munyoro D, Lidweye J, Nyagaya J, Biegon W, Aluoch J, Chory A, Sang E, Jepkemboi E, Orido M, Novitsky V, **Hogan JW**, Vreeman R, **Kantor R**. [Challenges Faced by Perinatally-Infected Kenyan Adolescents and Youth Living with HIV During the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#) AIDS Behav. 2025 Mar 20. doi: 10.1007/s10461-025-04689-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40111580.

*The Providence/Boston CFAR Cores are available to help you with your research. Please click the link to request services.*

[Request Core Services](#)



## ACKNOWLEDGE CFAR (P30AI042853)

Funding from NIH for the CFAR is dependent on evidence that the CFAR is providing value added in the conduct of HIV/AIDS research. One way this support is documented is through the acknowledgement of the Providence/Boston CFAR in publications, abstracts and presentations. If you have received funding, consultation, mentorship, research support services, materials, training, access to shared equipment and/or space from one of the CFAR Cores, please acknowledge the CFAR by using the following statement:

*This work was facilitated by the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (P30AI042853).*

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The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is a joint research effort between Brown University/Lifespan and Boston University/Boston Medical Center. The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS research is devoted to the pursuit of translational research to reduce the burden of HIV infection worldwide, with special focus on substance users, women, MSM, justice-involved persons, and at-risk youth. To achieve this goal, we are committed to fostering emerging HIV investigators both domestically and within resource-limited settings.



Providence/Boston CFAR | 164 Summit Ave | Providence, RI 02906 US

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