

CURE ADDICTION NOW

CAN Forum and Webinar
Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 9:30 am PST

Panelists

Scott C. Bunce, Ph.D., PennState Health | Guest Panelist



Scott C. Bunce, PhD is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Penn State Hershey Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, & Health Systems at Drexel University. Dr. Bunce received his B.A. (double major in Philosophy and Biology) from Wheaton College and received doctorates in Clinical and Personality Psychology (1993) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He completed post-doctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan. Trained in family systems, cognitive and psychodynamic psychotherapy, Dr. Bunce works with both families and individuals with a history of psychological trauma and its sequelae, including addiction, and provides clinical supervision to PGY

III residents and clinical psychology interns. While at MCP Hahnemann/Drexel, Dr. Bunce served as the Director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit and the APA-accredited Clinical Psychology Internship Program, while seeing patients in the Center for Addictive Disorders. Dr. Bunce's research interests lie at the intersection of clinical and affective/motivational neuroscience, with a focus on translational neuroimaging to elucidate the influence of emotional and motivational processes in both healthy and pathological behavior, especially in reward processing, substance use disorder, and interpersonal relationships. While at Drexel University, Dr. Bunce's focus on objective neurophysiological techniques (EEG, ERPs, EMG) led to a collaboration with Dr. Britton Chance (UPenn) to develop fNIRs technology for use in human neuroimaging. Dr. Bunce's research interests include the development of objective, brain-based measures of vulnerability to relapse in substance use disorders; neurofeedback as an adjunct treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs); and the use of Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) to understand emotional regulation that supports recovery from SUDs. He is currently Principle Investigator or Multi-PI on two studies evaluating the repurposing of FDA-approved medications for use in SUD populations. Dr. Bunce is also keenly interested in understanding the influence of psychological trauma and loss on the nature and capacity to form emotionally intimate relationships, as well as neuropathological mechanisms underlying anorexia nervosa. Dr. Bunce's research has been funded by both federal and private agencies, including NIDA, DOD, DARPA, ONR, Department of Homeland Security, FAA, Pennsylvania DoH CURE Funds, the Coulter Foundation, the Brad Hollinger Eating Disorder Research Endowment, and the Klarman Family Foundation. When not at work, Dr. Bunce can be found hiking, biking, kayaking, parenting, and otherwise engaged in activities that do not require a computer.

Sandra Comer, Ph.D., Columbia University Irving Medical Center | CAN Team



Sandra Comer, Ph.D., is Professor of Neurobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Research Scientist VI at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Following Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan and post-doctoral research at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Comer joined Columbia University in 1993, where her research focus has been on the development and clinical testing of novel approaches to the treatment of opioid use disorder. She is Director of the Opioid Laboratory in the Division on Substance Use Disorders and runs a very active research program devoted to examining various aspects of the abuse liability of opioids. Dr. Comer served on the Institutional Review Board at NYSPI for 10 years, so she is familiar with the regulatory requirements of research with human volunteers. In addition, she is an active member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the longest-standing group in the United States addressing problems of drug dependence and abuse. She served as Chair of the Program Committee, was elected President in 2015-2016, and currently serves as the Public Policy Officer of CPDD. She currently is a member of the World Health Organization Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence, gives presentations to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, reviews grant applications for the National Institutes of Health, and mentors both pre-and post-doctoral students. She has published over 200 papers and chapters on issues related to substance use disorders.

Nancy Davis | CAN Founder and President



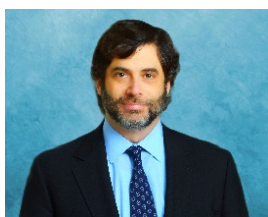
Nancy Davis is an extremely dedicated philanthropist, jewelry, and clothing designer, and author. Most importantly, she is a full-time mother who is devoted to her children. Nancy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 33 in 1991. She was determined to devote her time, relationships, and resources to finding a cure and founded Race to Erase MS in 1993 to fund MS research. Nancy's hope, courage, and strength continue to inspire her to maintain a vibrant quality of life despite this chronic disease, but most of all, she remains positive, continues to live her life to the fullest, and is tireless in her efforts to find the cure for MS. In 2018 Nancy founded Cure Addiction Now with her son Jason Davis who had struggled with substance use disorder. Jason tragically passed away in February of 2020. His brother Brandon Davis and sisters, Isabella and Mariella Rickel, have joined Nancy in the foundation's commitment to fund ground-breaking research to find therapies to help stop the vicious cycle of substance use disorder (SUD) and help people not only detox but stay in permanent recovery. This was Jason's passion and as a family, it has become our personal mission.

Kelly E. Dunn, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins School of Medicine | CAN Team | CAN Award Recipient



Kelly E. Dunn, Ph.D. is a Professor in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Dunn received her M.S. in Applied Biopsychology from the University of New Orleans (2005), her Ph.D. in Human Behavioral Pharmacology from the University of Vermont (2009), and her MBA from the Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business (2019). Dr. Dunn's primary interest is in opioid use disorder and she has been continuously funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse for the past decade. She is the principal investigator on clinical trials ranging from the genetics of opioid misuse risk, opioid and cannabis interactions for pain treatment, examining and identifying methods for treating opioid withdrawal, and treatment of pain in persons with opioid use disorder. She also contributes to numerous other projects examining elements of opioid use disorder, including overdose risk and treatment. Dr. Dunn has served in leadership roles in organizations that support research on substance use disorder. She managed conferences for the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence and the American Psychological Association, served as President of the Division on Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse for the APA, and President-elect for the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence, serves as the Co-Editor of the Journal of Addiction Medicine and editor-in-chief for the journal "Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology". Finally, she is the editor of the 1st edition of the Oxford Handbook on Opioids and Opioid Use Disorder, available June 2024.

Adam Kaplin, M.D, Ph.D., President Mira1a Pharmaceutical and Adjunct Faculty Johns Hopkins | CAN Team



Dr. Adam Kaplin completed his undergraduate training at Yale University and his MD and PhD training at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. His research training experience includes having trained in the labs of two Nobel Laureates, and completed his PhD and postdoctoral training in the Lab of Solomon Snyder, MD, who was the 2005 recipient of the National Medal of Science (the highest science honor in the United States). Dr. Kaplin, who maintains his Adjunct Faculty appointment at Johns Hopkins, was the Chief Psychiatric Consultant to the Johns Hopkins Multiple Sclerosis and Transverse Myelitis Centers. Dr. Kaplin investigated the biological basis of the effects of the immune

system on mood regulation and cognition, and he provided neuropsychiatric care to patients afflicted with such comorbidities. His research is focused on understanding the biological basis of depression and dementia and discovering new ways to diagnose prognosticate and treat these diseases. Dr. Kaplin has transitioned to working in the pharmaceutical industry as the Chief Scientific Officer of MyMD Pharmaceuticals, which is developing first-in-class therapeutics for a range of autoimmune diseases and immune-mediated neuropsychiatric illnesses, and President of Mira Pharmaceuticals, developing novel Cannabinoid analog therapeutics with psychotropic and anti-inflammatory benefits.

Lorenzo Leggio, M.D., Ph.D., NIDA/NIAA, NIH IRP | Guest Panelist



Dr. Leggio is a physician-scientist, whose clinical work and clinical research have been primarily focused on the treatment of alcohol and substance use disorders and on the medical consequences of alcohol use disorder, especially alcohol-associated liver and cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Leggio, together with his team of trainees, colleagues, and collaborators, have conducted research on medication development, on the role of the microbiome-gut-liver-brain axis, on the role of neuroendocrine pathways in addiction, via human laboratory studies and clinical trials as well as via translational and reverse translational experimental medicine approaches in animal models. Dr. Leggio received his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Catholic University of Rome and Agostino Gemelli Hospital, where he also completed residency and received Board Certification in Internal Medicine. He was a postdoctoral research associate in Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University, Providence, RI, where he joined the

core faculty of the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies as Assistant Professor in 2010. As PI at Brown University, he received extramural research funding from NIAAA and NIDA, as well as from several foundations. Dr. Leggio was recruited as a Tenure-Track Clinical Investigator (joint NIAAA/NIDA) at the NIH IRP, where he also serves as a NIH Senior Attending Medical Staff. In 2018, Dr. Leggio was awarded NIH tenure through the Central Tenure Committee and promoted to Senior Investigator (Clinical).

Dr. Leggio currently serves as the NIDA Clinical Director and Deputy Scientific Director. He was the founder in 2012 and current Chief of the Clinical Psychoneuroendocrinology and Neuropsychopharmacology Section, a joint NIDA and NIAAA laboratory. He was the founder in 2020 and current Chief of the NIDA IRP Translational Addiction Medicine Branch. Dr. Leggio serves as the Director for the NIDA IRP Translational Analytical Core and senior medical advisor to the NIAAA Director. He is also Adjunct Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Brown University, Adjunct Professor of Addiction Medicine at Johns Hopkins University and Adjunct Professor of Neuroscience at Georgetown University. He previously served on other NIH IRP roles, including Associate Director for Clinical Research for the NIDA IRP Medication Development Program, NIDA Acting Clinical Director, Chair of the joint NIAAA/NIDA Scientific Review Committee, and Vice-Chair of the joint NIDA/NIAAA Addictions Institutional Review Board.

Edward Nunes, M.D., Columbia University Irving Medical Center | Guest Panelist



Dr. Nunes is a Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Research Psychiatrist at New York State Psychiatric Institute. He is an internationally recognized leader in research on treatments for opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders, and on co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders. For the past thirty years with continuous funding from NIH, mainly National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), including a series of Career Development Awards, he has led clinical trials on medication and behavioral treatments for cocaine and opioid use disorders. He has over 250 peer-reviewed scientific publications, including papers in JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, and Lancet, in addition to numerous book chapters and a textbook on diagnosis and treatment of co-occurring psychiatric disorders among patients with substance use disorders. His group was among the first to demonstrate that depression could be identified with careful clinical diagnosis and successfully

treated among patients with alcohol, opioid or cocaine use disorders, and to demonstrate that behavioral intervention could improve the effectiveness of naltrexone as a treatment for opioid use disorder.

David E. Olson, Ph.D., UC Davis | CAN Team | CAN Award Recipient



David E. Olson, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the University of California, Davis who is affiliated with the Department of Chemistry, the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine, and the Center for Neuroscience. He received his PhD in chemistry from Stanford University and completed postdoctoral training in neuroscience at the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. His lab focuses on understanding how small molecules impact neural plasticity to control behavior. He coined the term “psychoplastogen” to describe a unique class of neural plasticity-promoting compounds with extraordinary potential to serve as fast-acting and sustained antidepressants, anxiolytics, and antiaddictive therapeutics. His work on psychoplastogens has included studies of psychedelics such as LSD, psilocybin, and ibogaine, as well as their non-hallucinogenic structural analogs. His ultimate goal is to develop safe and effective next-generation neurotherapeutics for treating neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Olson has received numerous awards for his research including the Jordi Folch-Pi Award from the American Society for Neurochemistry, the Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award, the Life Young Investigator Award, the Hellman Fellowship, and the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, among others. He currently serves as an associate editor of ACS Chemical Neuroscience, is on the editorial advisory board of ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science and is deeply committed to translating basic science into clinical practice. He is a co-founder of Delix Therapeutics— a company focused on using neural plasticity-promoting compounds to treat a variety of brain disorders—where he currently serves the Chief Innovation Officer and Head of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Kurt Rasmussen, Ph.D., CSO, Delix Therapeutics | CAN Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board



Kurt Rasmussen, Ph.D., is the Chief Scientific Officer at Delix Therapeutics, a new company focused on developing neuroplasticity-promoting therapeutics for multiple indications, including substance use disorders. Previous to Delix, he was the Director of the Division of Therapeutics and Medical Consequences at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), leading their efforts to promote the development of safe and effective pharmacotherapies, behavioral therapies, and devices to treat substance use disorders. Previous to NIDA, he worked as a senior research scientist in the Neuroscience Division of Eli Lilly & Co., leading efforts to discover novel treatments for psychiatric disorders such as depression and schizophrenia. Dr. Rasmussen’s career spans over 30 years of highly innovative scientific research in neuroscience pharmaceutical discovery, from hypothesis generation to clinical candidate evaluation. He received his B.A. with honors and distinction from Cornell University, his Ph.D. in neuroscience and psychology from Princeton University, and was a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Kirsten Elin Smith, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University | Guest Panelist



Kirsten Elin Smith, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. After earning her Masters in Social Work from the University of Kentucky and Ph.D. from the University of Louisville, Dr. Smith completed a 4-year postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute on Drug Abuse Intramural Research Program, working in the Translational Addiction Medicine Branch. There, Dr. Smith lead a Phase II clinical trial examining the opioid withdrawal-suppressing effects of an experimental partial mu opioid agonist (TRV734). She also completed her NIDA K99-funded project that involved a national ecological momentary assessment of daily kratom use and a controlled drug administration sub study that investigated the acute effects of commercial kratom products. Her NIDA R00-funded study at Johns Hopkins University will further examine the pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics of kratom and will assess spontaneous kratom withdrawal among chronic consumers. Dr. Smith plans to continue her kratom research by next investigating the safety, tolerability, and human abuse potential of kratom in healthy adults using both standardized whole leaf formulations and isolated alkaloids. Dr. Smith also devotes time to writing and talking about how lived experiences of addiction can inform scientific research, theory, and clinical practice.

Sharon Walsh, Ph.D., University of Kentucky | CAN Team



Sharon Walsh, Ph.D. is a Professor of Behavioral Science, Psychiatry, Pharmacology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky and serves as Director of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research and the Substance Use Disorder Priority Research Area. She has been at the University of Kentucky since 2005 and previously was a Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her clinical research focuses on pharmacological and behavioral issues in opioid use disorder, including studies on the efficacy of pharmacotherapies for opioid use disorder, abuse liability of psychoactive drugs, and the pharmacology of widely used opioid analgesics. She has published more than 170 manuscripts and book chapters. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the Betty Ford Award, the Marian Fischman Award, the Pillar of Light Award, and the Dr. Rice C. Leach Public Health Hero

Award. She has been funded by the National Institute of Health throughout her career, lectures nationally and internationally on opioid misuse, opioid use disorder, and its treatment, and has served as an advisor to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Veteran's Administration, National Institutes of Health, the American Society for Addiction Medicine, the Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization. She most recently completed service on the Scientific Advisory Council for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is presently the Principal Investigator of the HEALing Communities Study, a \$350 million effort to reduce opioid overdose deaths in highly impacted communities, that is supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.