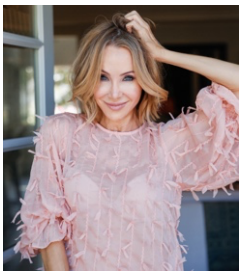
Sunday, November 9, 2025
Cameo Beverly Hills
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Panelists

Lisa Breckenridge, Moderator



Lisa Breckenridge is a television newscaster with nearly 40 years of experience. Since 1999 she's been in the Los Angeles television market working first for Fox and now on a daily lifestyle show for NBC that highlights the best of California. In 2017 she pivoted and started working more on her online presence, from her website Happily Lisa to her other social channels. Lisa now focuses on the happier side of life after a lifetime of covering hard news which more often than not focused on the worst or the worst. Lisa is mother to 19-year-old twins and lives in Los Angeles with her two yorkies. She volunteers as much as she can and is adjusting to the new normal of being an empty-nester.

Colby Betschart, Recovery Advocate



My name is Colby. I have been battling substance abuse since the age of 16. I was born in the state of Washington and raised in the smaller country town of Redmond, OR. I was lucky enough to be introduced to AA and NA at the age of 14 when my mother started bringing me due to her own dependency. Throughout high school, I was very uncomfortable in my own skin which started me on my path of self-destructive behaviors that led me to jail, homelessness, drug addiction, losing jobs, losing connections with family, and most of all losing myself. I have been blessed with many years of being clean in the past, but it never worked as it would drag me down again and again. I'm thankful to say, I now have well over 5 years of full continuous sobriety off every mind-altering substance. I also own a beautiful little salon and have put myself through school, paid off all my prior debts, and have given myself that independent steady freedom I thought never seemed to be possible.

R. Andrew Chambers, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine



R. Andrew Chambers, MD is a Professor of Psychiatry at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Andy is a practicing Addiction Psychiatrist, neuroscientist and physician educator, graduating from Duke Medical School in 1996 and Yale Psychiatry Residency in 2000. Andy has conducted pioneering basic research funded by APA, NARSAD, NIDA and NIAAA describing the causal, neurodevelopmental and neurocircuit links between mental illness and addiction. His work has helped overturn the self-medication hypothesis--formerly the most widely held explanation for substance use in mental illness—while supplying a new neuroscience for the field of addiction psychiatry that reinvigorates calls for fully integrated, widely accessible, addiction and mental health services, clinical training and research. As director of the IU addiction psychiatry fellowship, Andy has trained 75% of the addiction psychiatry physician workforce in Indiana while authoring two field-defining textbooks "the 2x4 Model: A Neuroscience-based Blueprint for the Modern Integrated Addiction and Mental Health Treatment System (2018: Routledge) and "Introduction to Addiction Psychiatry (2025: Cambridge). Currently, Andy's research is focused clinically on medication development targeting glutamate systems involved in both addiction and mental illness.

Kathryn A. Cunningham, Ph.D., FASPET, University of Texas Medical Branch



Kathryn A. Cunningham, Ph.D., has catalyzed translational research in substance use disorders (**SUDs**) with a particular emphasis on phenotyping in preclinical and human sciences, biological signaling networks for psychedelics, novel chemical molecules for future SUD therapeutics, and human laboratory and clinical trials. Dr. Cunningham has been continuously funded by NIH for 30 years and has made seminal observations and developed new technologies which are described in 180+ peer-reviewed publications, and 40+ research-related chapters, reviews and/or commentaries [h-index is 66 and i10-value is 177 (Google Scholar)]. Her 50+ mentees have published 100+ publications, captured 50+ grants and crafted successful careers in academia, government, and industry. She holds a Certificate in Business Administration and was selected into the 2024 I4SUD cohort at Johns Hopkins University to foster solutions to the biggest unmet needs in SUDs through innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives. Dr. Cunningham and her team translate this research into our service communities, including the first SUD clinic (Galveston Against the Fentanyl Crisis; **G-SAFE**) for our uninsured and unhoused patients. She founded and created the vision for the Center for Addiction Sciences and Therapeutics (**CAST**), implementing key strategies to expand research and mentoring activities in SUD sciences. Her commitment to community engagement spans over 30 years, and she has been recognized with the Angel Among Us Award for Long-Standing Community Support of Women in Recovery, and the Cruisin' to Recovery Community Award.

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. MBA, Kahlert Institute for Addiction Medicine Director, University of Maryland, Baltimore



Kelly E. Dunn, Ph.D., MBA is a Professor in Psychiatry and Neurobiology at the University of Maryland and the Director of the Kahlert Institute for Addiction 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 was a faculty in the Johns Hopkins Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit and helped found the Maryland Opioid Research program from 2009 - 2024 before moving to the University of Maryland to direct the Kahlert Institute for Addiction Medicine. 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 use 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 the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence, served as Co-Editor of the Journal of Addiction Medicine and Editor for the journal "Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology". She also edited the Oxford Handbook on Opioids and Opioid Use Disorder, available early 2023.

Adam Kaplin, MD, PhD, CEO and Co-Founder of Nousynapse Pharmaceuticals



Adam Kaplin, MD, PhD, CEO and Co-Founder of Nousynapse Pharmaceuticals 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 worked for Miralogx Pharmaceuticals, a scientific investigation and drug development company, where he helped launch three companies: MyMD, Mira, and Telomir Pharmaceuticals. In 2025 Dr. Kaplin co-founded Nousynapse Pharmaceuticals (formerly Minerve), a startup company focused on developing novel treatments for the cognitive impairment component of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis.

Paul J. Kenny, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



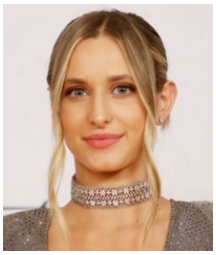
Dr. Kenny is the Ward-Coleman Professor and Chairman of The Nash Department of Neuroscience and an Interim Director of the Friedman Brain Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Kennyis also co-founder of Eolas Therapeutics Inc., a company focused on developing novel medications for drug addiction. Dr. Kenny is Deputy Editor of Biological Psychiatry and was a Senior Editor for The Journal of Neuroscience. Dr. Kenny was member of the advisory council for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Advisory Council on Drug A use. He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he earned a degree in Biochemistry. Dr. Kenny completed his Ph.D. in neuropharmacology at King's College London. He received postdoctoral training at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. Prior joining the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Kenny was on the faculty of The Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida. Research in Dr. Kenny's laboratory is focused on understanding the molecular neurobiology of drug addiction, obesity and schizophrenia. Dr. Kenny has received numerous awards for his research, including the Daniel H. Efron Research Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), the Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award from the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), Distinguished Investigator Award from NARSAD, and the Tom Connor Distinguished Investigator Award from Neuroscience Ireland.

Kurt Rasmussen, Ph.D., Chair of CAN Scientific Advisory Board



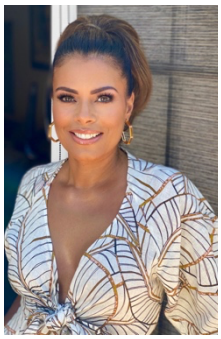
Kurt Rasmussen, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized neuroscientist with expertise in developing novel therapeutics for neuropsychiatric disorders, including substance use disorders. Dr. Rasmussen's career spans over 30 years of highly innovative scientific research in neuroscience pharmaceutical discovery, from hypothesis generation to clinical candidate evaluation. He has served as the Chief Scientific Officer of Delix Therapeutics, a biotech company focused on developing neuroplasticity-promoting therapeutics for multiple neuropsychiatric and neurodegenerative 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 neuroscience disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, and opiate use disorder. 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.

Isabella Rickel, Advocate and Co-Chair of CAN



Isabella Rickel is a student at Southern Methodist University with a passion for advancing healthcare initiatives. As the daughter of Nancy Davis and the granddaughter of Barbara Davis, Isabella carries forward a legacy of philanthropy. She is particularly dedicated to supporting Cure Addiction Now, as she lost her brother, Jason Davis, to this devastating disease in February of 2020. She continues to build upon the inspiring work of her mother while forging her own path in helping to find a cure for addiction.

Lisa Vidal, Actress and Advocate



Award winning actress Lisa Vidal, is no new comer to the challenging multi-layered roles she's been so successfully portraying. Most recently, Lisa wrapped work on the feature film Shelter, where she was lead opposite of Jania Lee Ortiz. Previously, she was seen as a Series Regular in the ABC series, The Baker and the Beauty. Lisa is also recognized for the regular roles she's played on popular hit primetime series such as Boston Legal, CSI Miami, The Division, ER, Third Watch and Southland, and starred opposite Gabrielle Union on BET's most successful series Being Mary Jane, and recurred on FOX's hit show Rosewood. Upon completion of Being Mary Jane, Lisa was cast in the lead of Gloria Calderon's CBS pilot History of Them. A strikingly beautiful seasoned actress of Puerto Rican descent, New York City native Lisa Vidal began acting in Repertory Theater at age 14 and was cast the following year in the PBS series "Oye Willie" - jump-starting a long and varied acting career, most often playing grounded professionals balancing work and family. Lisa then went on to play the charming housekeeper for a good-natured elderly heiress (Loretta Young) in the NBC holiday TV-movie tearjerker Christmas Eve, and continued with the wildly popular series The Cosby Show and Miami Vice (both NBC). Determined to take roles that reflected the diversity of the Latino community while at the same time building it up, Vidal acted in the two ABC After School Special educational presentations Class Act: A Teacher's Story and In the Shadow of Love: A Teen AIDS Story. Vidal then recurred on FOX's New York Undercover, playing the sister of Michael DeLorenzo's NYC police detective- which widened her audience growth. Next, she was cast as cocky Jessica Helgado in the Steven Spielberg police drama High Incident (ABC) and The Brian Benben Show (CBS). Though television would remain her primary medium, Vidal has also starred in various feature films from Night and the City, I Like It Like That, Dark Mirror, and Victor. Vidal's exceptionally powerful performances and ability to portray both hard and soft in turn without either side being shorted with two-dimensional treatment continues to make her one to watch. Lisa currently resides with her family in Los Angeles, California.

Sharon Walsh, Ph.D., University of Kentucky



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.