

May 2020 Newsletter
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RESEARCH RELIEF REQUESTED FOR NEXT STIMULUS PACKAGE

On May 4, Senators Edward Markey (D-MA) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) sent a letter with 33 signatories to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) proposing that the next virus relief package include \$26 billion to address the challenges faced by the U.S. scientific research workforce during the COVID-19 crisis. Read more [here](#).

TEENS WITH VAPING ILLNESS OFTEN OBTAINED PRODUCTS FROM INFORMAL SOURCES

According to a new study in JAMA Pediatrics, a survey of more than 2,000 patients with a vaping-related lung illness showed a strong association between experiencing lung injury and using THC vapes they got from family, friends and illicit dealers. Read more [here](#).

CONGRESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE

On May 18, the Congressional Mental Health Caucus held a virtual roundtable with mental health organizations. Some of the key issues raised by the Members included telehealth, suicide prevention, medication assisted treatment (MAT) and parity. In conjunction with the event, the Caucus also released a [list](#) of all mental health legislation introduced in the 116th Congress. Read more about the Caucus [here](#).

ELINORE McCANCE-KATZ MAKES MENTAL HEALTH CASE TO RE-OPEN

At a May 19 Cabinet meeting, Elinore McCance-Katz argued that in her capacity as “a psychiatrist who also happens to hold a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology,” she is worried about the shutdown driving economic trauma that boosts addiction and substance use. See clip [here](#).

SENATE DEMOCRATS REQUEST MORE FUNDING TO ADDRESS ADDICTION

On May 19, a group of 19 Senate Democrats led by Senators Baldwin (D-WI) and Shaheen (D-NH) sent a letter to House and Senate leadership asking that additional funding for opioid and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery and surveillance be included in the next COVID-19 supplemental. The text of the letter and a full list of signers are available [here](#).

ADDICTION DISCUSSION WITH MISS AMERICA

On May 27, Dr. Volkow discussed the Science Behind Addiction with Miss America 2020, Camille Schrier. Ms. Schrier is a Virginia Commonwealth University Pharmacy student whose “Mind Your Meds” platform focuses on drug safety and substance use prevention. Watch the discussion [here](#).

HOUSE PASSES HEROS ACT

On May 15, the House passed their latest stimulus package, the HEROS Act. The bill includes \$4.745 billion for NIH to expand COVID-19-related research and to support the shutdown and startup costs of biomedical research laboratories nationwide. The Senate has not yet taken up this bill. Bill text and summary materials can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR NIH RESEARCHERS

The NIH Office of Extramural Research continues to update its webpage with COVID-19 information relevant to NIH grant applicants and recipients of NIH research funding. Read more [here](#).

FDA SENDS CANNABIS RESEARCH DRAFT GUIDANCE TO OMB FOR REVIEW

On May 28, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) began reviewing an FDA draft guidance on clinical research for cannabis, according to [OMB's regulatory review dashboard](#). OMB does not provide a

summary of the draft guidance, “Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Compounds: Quality Considerations for Clinical Research,” as it hasn’t previously been published in FDA’s Unified Agenda.

FOAs: RAPID ACCELERATION OF DIAGNOSTICS FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

On May 29, NIH issued a Notice of Intent to Publish (NOITP) four Funding Opportunity Announcements as part of the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative. The FOAs, in which NIDA will be participating, will include three Notices of Special Interest to solicit community-engaged research to understand COVID-19 disparities and increase access to and effectiveness of diagnostic testing interventions among underserved and vulnerable populations, and to understand the social, ethical, and behavioral implications of testing in these populations. The FOAs are expected to be published in early June and applications will be accepted through August 2020. Read more [here](#).