TITLE: Florida Recovery Center Addiction Research Lab

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RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are a leading cause of disability in the United States, with annual economic costs of more than $740 billion related to crime, lost productivity, and health care expenditures (NIDA[1]). In 2013, an estimated 23.5 million Americans aged 12 or older needed treatment for a SUD (NIDA[2]). The timely screening and assessment of individuals entering addiction treatment is essential to the treatment planning process (Perkinson, Jongsma & Bruce, 2014). Additionally, the systematic and uniform delivery of psychometrically sound measures that may predict variability in treatment outcomes is essential to research reporting.

Our lab developed and implemented a 23-measure standard-of-care assessment that screens for common comorbid conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, OCD, PTSD, gambling disorder, etc.), evaluates elements of the psychosocial history (e.g., trauma exposure, perceived social support), and assesses important personality components (e.g., emotion regulation, motivation, attitudes, and mindfulness). This assessment is conducted with patients entering treatment for substance use disorders at the UFHealth Shands Psychiatric Hospital and the Florida Recovery Center.

Medical students will be trained to conduct baseline and follow-up assessments with patients at the UF Health Florida Recovery Center. All lab team members will participate in the scoring and reporting of individual assessment results. The MSRP student will work with Dr. Merlo to develop an empirical question that can be answered with the available data. For example, students may wish to examine predictors of treatment outcome and/or length of stay.

This project would be most appropriate for students with an interest in psychiatry, addiction medicine, internal medicine, or family medicine who wish to gain additional experience interacting with patients while developing skills in clinical/translational research.

References:
Perkinson R. R., Jongsma, A. E., and Bruce, T.J. (2014). In: *The Addiction Treatment Planner*, Fifth Edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons

NIDA[1] https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics

NIDA[2] https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/nationwide-trends