



Association for Multidisciplinary
Education and Research in
Substance use and Addiction

AMERSA PROGRAM HISTORY

PROGRAM THEMES

2024	Empowering Change: From Evidence to Action in Addiction Care and Research	Chicago, IL
2023	Advocacy for Equity Around Evidence-Based Treatments	Washington, D.C.
2022	Examining Systems, Substance Use and Disenfranchisement	Boston, MA
2021	Transforming Care Through Evidence and Policy	Virtual
2020	Together We Rise: Confronting COVID, Racism and Addiction	Virtual
2019	Challenges and New Horizons in Substance Use and Addiction	Boston, MA
2018	Interdisciplinary Addiction Strategies: Discover, Prevent, Teach, Treat	San Francisco, CA
2017	AMERSA at 41: Reducing the Societal Impact of Alcohol and Drugs	Washington, DC
2016	AMERSA at 40: Reflecting Back, Looking Forward	Washington, DC
2015	Integrating Policy and Research into Teaching and Practice	Washington, DC
2014	Building Connections: Bridging Interdisciplinary Leadership in Substance Use Education, Research, Care and Policy	San Francisco, CA
2013	Innovations for Meeting New Challenges	Bethesda, MD
2012	Shaping Practice through Education, Research and Policy	Bethesda, MD
2011	AMERSA at 35: New Times - New Paradigms	Arlington, VA
2010	P.R.E.P. for the New Decade - Policy, Research, Education and Practice	Bethesda, MD
2009	Substance Abuse in an Era of Change - Education, Research and Care	Bethesda, MD
2008	Substance Abuse: Current Trends, Current Solutions	Washington, DC
2007	Drugs, Alcohol & Healthcare: Systems, Scholarship & Solutions	Washington, DC
2006	AMERSA 30 th Anniversary - Three Decades of Leadership	Washington, DC
2005	Substances, Services and Systems' Changes	Bethesda, MD

2004	Scientific Advances in SA: Patients, Pop and Policy	Washington, DC
2003	Promoting Partnerships for Change	Baltimore, MD
2002	New Challenges...New Directions	Washington, DC
2001	Looking Back - Moving Forward	Alexandria, VA
2000	From Research to Practice: Clinical and Educational Applications of Addictions Research	Alexandria, VA
1999	Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Improve Substance Abuse Care	Alexandria, VA
1998	NONE	Washington, DC
1997	NONE	Alexandria, VA
1996	NONE	Reston, VA

PLENARY TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

2024	McGovern Award	Gail D'Onofrio, MD, MS
	Betty Ford Award	Sean Esteban McCabe, PhD
	Plenary Session - Cutting Edge Harm Reduction	Traci Green, PhD, MSc Kailin See Kinna Thakarar, DO, MPH
	Local Hot Topics Plenary Panel Session - Improving Access to Addiction Treatment	Nicole Gastala, MD, Tondalaya Henry, LSW, CADC Mistead Sai, MSW, LCSW Anthony "Tony" Strong, CRSS Takara Wallace, RN, CARN, CCM Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, MD, MPH
	Rich Saitz "What's the Evidence Really?" Plenary Session - Updates on Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) Treatments	Alyssa Falleni, PharmD David H. Jernigan, PhD Katie Witkiewitz, PhD Anika A. H. Alvanzo, MD, MS, FACP, DFASAM
	Plenary Session - AMERSA Discourse - Role of Drug Testing in Clinical Addiction Care	Stephen A. Martin, MD, EdM, FAAFP, FASAM Annie Potter, MSN, MPH, FNP-C, CARN-AP Phil Reason, MSW, MPH
	Plenary Session - Spectrums in Recovery and Treatment	Onawa LaBelle, PhD Tiffinee Scott, BA-CJA, CPRS, RPS, CHW Caty Simon David Scott, CRS

Plenary Session -
Preventing and Minimizing Harms Related to Adolescent
and Young Adult Opioid Use

Larissa K. Laskowski, DO
Kristen O'Connor, RN, BSN, CARN
Kevin M. Simon, MD, MPH
Sarah Bagley, MD, MSc

2023 McGovern Award

Jeanette M Tetrault, MD

Betty Ford Award

Mishka Terplan, MD

Plenary Session- How to Effectively Advocate to Create Change

Jules Netherland, PhD
Helena Hansen, PhD
Sheila P. Vakharia, PhD, MSW

Local Hot Topics Plenary Panel Session -
Innovative Programs to Expand Access to
MOUD in Rural Maryland

Eric Weintraub, MD
Alicia Lebon
Roger McKnight
Tracy Agee, NP

Rich Saitz Plenary Panel Session – Stimulant Use Disorder:
Emerging Pharmacotherapies, Behavioral Therapies and
Harm Reduction

Daryl Shorter, MD
Steve Shoptaw, PhD
Stephen P Murray, MPH
Joy Chudzynski, PsyD
Justin Alves, RN

Plenary Session – AMERSA Discourse -
Methadone Deregulation

Ruth Potee, FASAM, MD
Denis Antoine
Michelle Geier, BCPP, PharmD

Plenary Session- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs):
Common, Complex and Unrecognized

Kendra Gludt, MPH
Vincent C. Smith, MD, MPH
Jeffrey Wozniak, PhD
Sue Terwey, BA, MSc
Daniel P. Alford, MD, MPH

Native Health Plenary: Advocating for Culturally Centered
Evidence-based Treatments with Native Americans

Maria C Crouch, PhD
Loretta Christensen, MBA, MD
Kamilla Venner, NCSE, NCTTP, NE-BC, NP,
PA, PA-C, PharmD, PharmD Candidate, PhD

2022 McGovern Award – Centering the Disadvantaged

Ricky Bluthenthal, PhD

Betty Ford Award - Addiction Nursing:
Some Things Change; Some Things Stay the Same

Donna Beers, MSN, RN-BC, CARN

Plenary Session – Making our Work Meaningful:
The Power of Incorporating Lived Experience
and Harm Reduction

Nabarun Dasgupta, PhD

Local Hot Topics Plenary Panel Session -
Applying the 72-hour Rule for Methadone Initiation

James Evans, BSN, RN
Natalija Farrell, PharmD, BCPS, DABAT
William Soares III, MD, MS
Daniel Greer, LMHC
Jessica Taylor, MD

Rich Saitz Plenary Panel Session – Care of the
Hospitalized Patient with Substance Use Disorder

Theresa Rolley
Elaine Hyshka, PhD
Ashish P. Thakrar, MD

Plenary Session – Spicy Debate -
Mandated Treatment Systems: Abolish or Adjust?

Kassandra Frederique, MSSW
Bertha Madras, PhD

Plenary Panel Session – Beyond the Evidence Base:
Preserving Dignity and Countering Discrimination
in Pregnancy and Parenting

Mishka Terplan, MD, MPH
Nikki Bell Peña
Lisa Sangoi

2021 McGovern Award -
Driving Improvements in Population Health and
Substance Use Disorders: How Far Upstream?

Marc N. Gourevitch, MD, MPH

Betty Ford Award -
Drinking-Related Identity: Cognitive Vulnerability
for Alcohol Use and Alcohol Problems

Colleen Corte, PhD, RN, FAAN

Plenary Panel Session -
Guidance for Incorporating the Perspectives of People
with Lived Experience

Ariel Britt, MSW
Joy Rucker
Scott Steenbergh, MSW, LMSW, CAADC
Jess Tilley

Plenary Session -
Stimulants: Evidence and Policy Considerations
to Save Lives in the Fourth Wave
Plenary Panel Session -
Eliminating Stigma of Substance Use Disorders

Sheila P. Vakharia, PhD
Nora D. Volkow, MD

Corrina Chase, MA
Morgan Godvin
Kim Sue, MD, PhD
Deanna Wilson, MD, MPH

Plenary Session - Spicy Debate -
Safer Supply Models to Reduce Overdose Death:
Lessons Learned from British Columbia, Canada

Rupinder Brar, MD, CCFP, CSIAM
Donald MacPherson

Plenary Panel Session -
Rich Saitz's "What's the Evidence?" Endowed Plenary:
A Panel Discussion of Alcohol Use in Special Populations

Katherine Keyes, PhD, MPH
Kim O'Brien, PhD, LICSW
Tricia E. Wright, MD, MS
Tamika Zapolski, PhD

2020 McGovern Award -
Combatting Intersecting Epidemics of Opioid Use
and Racism to Improve Health Outcomes for People
Who Use Drugs

Julia H. Arnsten, MD, MPH

Betty Ford Award -
Caring about Pain in Persons with Opioid Use Disorder

Peggy Compton, PhD, RN, FAAN

	Plenary Session – Creating Conditions of Possibility: Harm Reduction as a Pathway to Autonomy, Connection, and Healing	Monique Tula, BA
	Plenary Panel Session - Caring for People who use Substances in the Context of COVID-19: Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned	Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS Meaghan Thumath, RN, MPH Shannon Smith Bernardin, PhD, MSN, RN Hiawatha Collins
	Plenary Session - Spicy Debate - X the X Waiver	Sarah Wakeman, MD Melissa Weimer, DO, MCR, FASAM
	Plenary Panel Session – Anti-racism in Addiction: Eradicating Racism in Policy, Practice, Education and Research	Kima Taylor, MD, MPH Eric Manbossia, RN, BSN Holly Echo-Hawk, MS Haner Hernandez, PhD, CPS, CADCI, LADCI
2019	McGovern Award - Opioids and Me: The Long and Winding Road	Daniel P. Alford, MD, MPH
	Betty Ford Award - Emergency Departments: A 24/7/365 Option for Combating the Opioid Crisis	Gail D’Onofrio, MD, MS
	Plenary Session - Systems of Oppression: The Ecology of Health Disparities in Addiction	Ayana Jordan, MD, PhD
	Plenary Panel Session - Trauma-Informed Care for Substance Use Prevention and Treatment	Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, FSAHM, Lynn Sanford, LICSW
	Plenary Session - Spicy Debate - Tapering Opioids: Compassionate Care or Punitive Policy?	Anna Lembke, MD Stefan Kertesz, MD
	Plenary Panel Session - Psychedelics in Addiction Treatment	Mary P. Cosimano, MSW Matthew W. Johnson, PhD Christopher Stauffer, MD
2018	McGovern Award - Transformative Change	Kevin Kunz, MD, MPH, DFASAM
	Betty Ford Award - The Many Pathways to Recovery from SU Disorders: Contributions from Psychology, Public Health, and Behavioral Economics	Jalie A. Tucker, PhD, MPH
	Plenary Session - The Neural Pathway of Stigma	Deborah S. Finnell, DNS< CARN-AP, FAAN

Interdisciplinary Plenary Panel Session –
Meeting the Need: Collaborative Courts, SF

Lisa, Lightman, MA
Angelica Almeida, PhD
Linda Wu, MSW, LCSW
Charles Houston
Judge Eric Fleming, JD

Interdisciplinary Plenary Session –
Cannabis: Updates, Neurobiology

Garth Terry, MD
Tista Ghosh, MD, MPH
Rick Garza

Plenary Session - Spicy Debate -
Are Safe Consumption Spaces a Necessity
For Public and Person Health?

Lindsay LaSalle, JD
John Lovell, JD

Interdisciplinary Panel Session -
Stimulant Use: Epidemiology and Interventions

Glenn-Milo Santos, PhD, MPH
Elise Riley, PhD
Walter Gomez, MA MSW, PhD(c)
David Olem, MS

2017 McGovern Award -
Reducing the Impact of Substance Use Through
Primary Care: From Research to Policy

Patrick G. O'Connor, MD, MPH, FACP

Betty Ford Award -
Can Nurses be a Secret Weapon against
Opioid Addiction?

Colleen Labelle, MSN, RN-BC, CARN

Plenary Session -
Addiction and Stigma: Science = Solutions

Wilson M. Compton, MD, MPE

Plenary Panel Session - Addiction Treatment for
Incarcerated Populations, Harm Reduction and
Treatment

Megan Comfort, PhD
Radha Sadacharan, MD, MPH
Emily Wang, MD, MAS

Plenary Session - Harm Reduction in the US:
Next Steps

Jessie M. Gaeta, MD

Plenary Session - Spicy Debate -
Positive Role of Stigma for Tobacco Cessation:
Implications for Marijuana Policy

Ronald Bayer, PhD
Scott Burris, JD

Plenary Interdisciplinary Panel Session – Myths &
Realities of the Opioid Epidemic

Richard C. Dart, MD, PhD
Nabarun Dasgupta, PhD
Scott Novak, PhD

2016 McGovern Award -
From the Shadows to the Spotlight – Improving
Care for Patients with Substance Use – Education,
Research and Clinical Innovation

Jeffrey H. Samet, MD, MA, MPH

Betty Ford Award -
Women and Substance Use: Successes and
Challenges

Mary Marden Velasquez, PhD

Plenary Session - Research as a Vehicle for Engaging Patients with SUD and their Clinicians	Joe Selby, MD, MPH
Plenary Panel Session - Breaking Down the Silos: Next Steps in Harm Reduction and Treatment	Evan Wood, MD, PhD, ABIM, Cheyenne Johnson, RN, MPH, CCRP
Plenary Panel Session - Old Patterns or New Perils? Substance Use and Older Adults	Frederic C. Blow, PhD Alexis Kuerbis, PhD, MSW Alison A. Moore, MD, MPH, FACP Madeline Naegle, PhD, CNS-PMH, BC, FAAN
Plenary Session - Spicy Debate - The Good and Not So Good Effects of Benzodiazepines in Addiction Treatment	Robert L. DuPont, MD Tae Woo Park, MD
2015 McGovern Award - A 21 st Century Drug Policy: Implications for Research and Policy	Michael P. Botticelli, MEd
Betty Ford Award - Drinking and Alcohol-Related Problems among US Hispanics	Raul Caetano, MD, MPH, PhD
Plenary Session - Advancing the Rights, Health, and Well-Being of Pregnant Women and their Children: Ending Punitive Drug Policies and Medical Misinformation	Lynn Paltrow, JD
Plenary Session - The Role of Counseling in Office-Based Opioid Treatment	Kathleen M. Carroll, PhD Roger D. Weiss, MD
Plenary Panel Session - Implementing Naloxone Rescue Kits for Opioid Overdose	Ingrid A. Binswanger, MD, MPH, MS Jeffrey Bratberg, PharmD Elizabeth M. Oliva, PhD
Plenary Session - Spicy Debate - Substance Use Confidentiality Laws: Helpful or Harmful?	Westley Clark, MD, JD MPH Keith Humphreys, PhD
2014 McGovern Award - How Addiction Research Can Have the Greatest Impact on US Alcohol and Drug Policy	The Honorable Patrick J Kennedy
Betty Ford Award - Building a Research Career Focused on Alcohol Use in a Stigmatized and Marginalized Population Group	Tonda L. Hughes, PhD, RN, FAAN
Plenary Session - Selling Sin or Sainthood? Tobacco Marketing and Counter-Marketing Strategies to Reach Young Adults	Pamela Ling, MD, MPH

Plenary Panel Session - Addressing the Prescription Opioid Misuse Epidemic: Should we Legislate or Educate?

Daniel P. Alford, MD, MPH,
Jane C. Ballantyne, MD, FRCA
Daniel Ciccarone, MD, MPH

Plenary Session - Spicy Debate - Should Medical Providers Recommend E-Cigarettes to their Patients as a Smoking-Cessation Tool?

Neal Benowitz, MD
Michael Siegel, MD

2013 McGovern Award - Progress in Addiction Treatment: From One-Size Fits all to Medications and Treatment Matching

George E. Woody, MD

Betty Ford Award - Yours or Mine? Adolescents' Abuse of Controlled Medications

Carol J. Boyd, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN

Plenary Session - Changes to the Diagnostic Criteria for Substance Use Disorders in the DSM-5

Charles P. O'Brien, MD, PhD

Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate - Should we Recommend Alcohol for its Health Benefits?

Richard Saitz, MD, MPH
R. Curtis Ellison, MD

Plenary Session - Global Perspective on HIV Dual Risks and Vulnerabilities among Women who use Drugs: No Single Prevention Strategy is the Answer

Nabilia El-Bassel, PhD, DSW

Plenary Session - Innovative Solutions for the Chronic Pain Patient at High-Risk for Addiction

Nancy Wiedemer, MSN, CRNP
Peggy Compton, RN, PhD, FAAN

Public Policy Luncheon - Substance Abuse/ Mental Health and Disaster Preparedness

Carol S. North, MD, MPE

2012 McGovern Award - Genes, Environment, and Substance Use Disorders: Where are we, and Where are we Going?

Marc Schuckit, MD

Betty Ford Award - Treating Opioid Dependent Women During Pregnancy: How Research Findings Can Inform Clinical Practice

Hendree Jones, PhD

Plenary Session - Community Approaches to the Opioid Epidemic

Traci C. Green, PhD, MSc

Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate - Choosing Science over Politics in the Medical Marijuana Debate

Ethan Nadelmann, JD, PhD
Kevin A. Sabet, PhD

Plenary Session - Engaging Drug Users in Care and Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis

Alain Litwin, MD, MPH
Irene Soloway, RPA-C

Plenary Panel Session - Substance Use and the Criminal Justice-Involved: From Community to Incarceration to Community

Peter Friedmann, MD, MPH
Faye Taxman, PhD,
June Tangney, PhD

Public Policy Luncheon - Treatment Access and Workforce Capacity in the Setting of Health Reform

John P. O'Brien, MA

2011 McGovern Award - Adolescent Substance Use: New Strategies for Early Identification and Intervention in Primary Care

John R. Knight, MD

Betty Ford Award - Prescription Opioid Abuse: Translating Laboratory Findings to Clinical Practice

Sharon L. Walsh, PhD

Plenary Session - Behavioral Economics: Implications for the Conceptualization and Treatment of Addiction

James G. Murphy, PhD

Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate - Resolved: Employers, the Government, and Third Party Payors Should Incentivize Smokers to Quit

Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD
Geoffrey C. Williams, MD, PhD

Plenary Breakfast Session - NIDA's Electronic Health Records Project: From Screening to Decision Support

Betty Tai, PhD
Richard Saitz, MD
Robert Lindblad, MD

Plenary Session - The Role of the Medical Home in Addressing Behavioral Risk Factors

Richard L. Brown, MD, MPH
Seiji Hayashi, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Plenary Panel Session - I Want a New Drug! Novelties in Adolescent Substance Abuse

J. Wesley Boyd, MD, PhD,
Ximena Sanchez-Samper, MD
Miriam Schizer, MD, MPH
Patricia Schram, MD

Public Policy Luncheon - Update on the Proposed NIH Institute that will Focus on Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction Research

Lorraine Gunzerath, PhD, MBA
David Shurtleff, PhD
Kenneth Warren, PhD
Susan R. B. Weiss, PhD

2010 McGovern Award - Depriving Patients of the Opportunity to Receive Potentially Beneficial Medication: Is this Ethical?

Charles P. O'Brien, MD, PhD

Betty Ford Award - Prescription Opioid Abuse: Translating Laboratory Findings to Clinical Practice

Sharon L. Walsh, PhD

Plenary Session - Implementation Research: Using Science to Guide Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices

Brian S. Mittman, PhD

	Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate - Is Addiction “REALLY” Like other Chronic Illnesses?	Gene M. Heyman, PhD, Charles P. O’Brien, MD, PhD
	Plenary Session - Technology: The Bridge to Improving Access to Care	Mary R. Haack, PhD, RN, FAAN
	Health Policy Luncheon	Pamela S. Hyde, JD
	Plenary Panel Session - Delivery of Integrated Clinical Care for Patients with Addictions and Federal Confidentiality Laws	Eric Goplerud, PhD Sharon Levy, MD, MPH Catherine H. O’Neill, JD Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, FACP, FASAM
2009	McGovern Award - Addiction Science for Non-Scientists	Carlton K. Erickson, PhD
	Betty Ford Award - The Link between Trauma and Substance Abuse	Lisa M. Najavits, PhD
	Addiction and its Treatment During National Economic Upheavals	Paul M. Roman, PhD
	Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate – Should We Lower the Drinking Age to 18?	John M. McCardell Jr., PhD David L. Rosenbloom, PhD
	Plenary Session - Responding to Substance Abuse in Older Adults	Frederick C. Blow, PhD
	Plenary Session - A Spicy Debate - Lessons from the CSAT State SBIRT Initiatives: What Have we Learned about Implementation and Sustainability?	Thomas F. Babor, PhD, MPH Jeremy W. Bray, PhD, Frances K. Del Boca, PhD
	Public Policy Luncheon - Drug Control Policy in the Era of Health Care Reform	Director R. Gil Kerlikowske, MA
2008	McGovern Award - Mysteries of Opium Revisited: Unresolved Issues in Opioid Addiction	J. Jaffe
	Betty Ford Award - Naltrexone Treatment of Alcohol Dependence: Does Gender Matter	O’Malley
	Internet & New Media as Tools to Recovery Combat Stress and SA in the Wake of War	Cunningham Keane, Rodolico, and Storti
	SBIRT: Adolescents and Transition Age Youth Debate: Contemplating Change: The Transtheoretical Model for Understanding Changes in Substance Abuse	W. Clark DiClemente and Herzog

2007	Aberrant Drug-Taking Behaviors during Pain Management What Science tells us about Self-Help Groups for Addictions McGovern Award Betty Ford Award Debate: Universal Profiling of Physician Prescribing to fight Prescription Drug Abuse Public Policy - Update on SA Policy Initiatives	Passik Humphreys Kleber Weisner Schnoll and Kertesz Qazilbash
2006	Opioids, Genetics, Addictions, Maint. Therapy Social Marketing Alcohol Treatment Self-Change and Addiction Treatment Co-morbid Mood and Substance Abuse Disorders Debate: School-Based Drug Testing	Kreek Marston McLellan Sobell Brady Knight and Barthwell
2005	Public health/safety: Criminal justice research Technology use in screening and BI Methamphetamines Addiction Rx access and funding Betty Ford Award Vaccines for drug addiction	Chandler Pantaloni, Maio, and Degutis Rawson Horgan Stitzer Kosten
2004	Spirituality Health Disparities Alcohol Genomics NIDA CTN 5 yrs later Debate: BI - Do they work? Drugs and Chronic Disease	Tonigan Caetano Ting-Kai Tai Saitz, Fiellin, D'Onofrio Turner
2003	Alcohol: Legal and community interventions NIDA overview Prevention in schools Smoking cessation in AA Measuring alcohol consumption	Hingson Compton Hawkins Ahluwalia Sawyer Sommers
2002	Gambling Pain and Addiction NIDA Clinical Trials Network Smoking among alcohol/drug users Drug Courts Betty Ford plenary	Shaffer Compton Tai Hughes Cohen Amaro
2001	OBOT Alcoholism Genetics ETOH Education of health professionals Cultural competence Parity	Strain, Fiellin, McNicholas Gordis Schuckit Lewis Westermeyer Wellstone

2000	College-age binge drinking New pharm for ETOH Workplace drug testing Post-marketing abuse liability 12 step	Wechsler O'Malley Bush Schnoll Morgenstern
1999	Wisdom of AA Drug Courts Cost Effectiveness Addiction and Brain Managed Care	Valiant Love McLellan Hyman Baird
1998	Spiritual dimensions Adolescent treatment Biological basis of addiction Impaired health professional Federal perspective on prevention Outcomes research	Chappel Winters Leshner Trinkoff Adger Gerstein
1997	Managed care Women and children Complimentary therapy Physician leadership Treatment in correctional setting	Kraus Haack Trachtenberg Lewis Taylor
1996	Policy advocacy Stage paradigm Harm reduction Opioids, cocaine Community and state programs	Lewis Prochaska Drucker Kreek Frantz