

Message from the Chairman

In 2005, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) continued to set the standard for excellence in the field of peer-reviewed scientific research on pathological and youth gambling by attracting the best minds from the most prestigious institutions to conduct research in this ever-evolving discipline.

Since the NCRG was founded in 1996, we have made tremendous progress toward the understanding of gambling disorders and in the process have been instrumental in establishing the study of such disorders as a respected research field.

From the creation of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders and the NCRG's annual conference to the publication of NCRG-funded studies in more than 130 highly competitive, peer-reviewed scientific journals and the commitment of more than \$15 million to help fund this research, the impact of the NCRG in the gaming and clinical research fields is undeniable.

The three years I have served as chairman of the NCRG have been an exciting period of growth for the organization, and it has been extraordinary to witness the impact the NCRG continues to make. Since its creation in 2000, for example, the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders has supported both internal core gambling research and competitively funded external research that has fostered educational and medical research at institutions worldwide.

Led by Dr. Howard Shaffer, director of the Division on Addictions and associate professor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School,

the Institute's internal research program has not only conducted some of the most seminal investigations in the field of pathological gambling research, but has awarded fully one-third of its funds to non-Harvard institutions.

Additionally, the NCRG's annual conference, which will be held for the seventh time this year, continues to grow in popularity, providing a forum for the world's leading researchers, academics, treatment providers, industry leaders and regulators to collaboratively address disordered gambling from a public health perspective. The event continues to attract the best minds in the field and is widely recognized as the pre-eminent public conference on research about gambling and the issues that surround it.

This annual report highlights the NCRG's accomplishments for the past year, provides an update on fundraising activities and presents projected goals for 2006.

It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the NCRG, and I know I leave the organization in good hands. Phil Satre, the new chairman of the NCRG and former chairman and CEO of Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., has been an industry leader on the issue of responsible gaming, and I know he and the entire NCRG board remain fully committed to funding scientific research in the field of pathological gambling — forging new successes for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Eckart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dennis E. Eckart
2002-2005 Chairman
National Center for Responsible Gaming

NCRG Structure and Programs

NCRG Board of Directors

Role: Set policy and raise funds

Composition

Gaming Industry

Academic-Health-Civic Sector

Mission

Founded in 1996, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) was the first national organization exclusively devoted to funding scientific research on pathological and youth gambling.

The NCRG's mission is to be the leading source of science-based research and information on gambling and health, advancing education, prevention, treatment and public policy.

Research

**Institute for Research on
Pathological Gambling
and Related Disorders¹**

Division on Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

**Internal
Research**

**Competitive Research
Grants to Universities**

**Annual
Conference**

Education

**Publications, Programs
and Presentations on
Disordered Gambling**

For more information about the NCRG:

National Center for
Responsible Gaming
555 Thirteenth Street, NW
Suite 1010 East
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202-637-6500
Fax: 202-637-6507
E-mail: contact@ncrg.org
www.ncrg.org

For more information on gambling research:

Christine Reilly, Executive Director
Institute for Research on Pathological
Gambling and Related Disorders
Division on Addictions
10 President's Landing
Suite 2100
Medford, MA 02155
Telephone: 781-306-8604
Fax: 781-306-8629
E-mail: creilly@challiance.org
www.divisiononaddictions.org/institute

¹Independent entity supported by a contract from the NCRG

Board of Directors

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization founded in 1996. It is the only national organization exclusively devoted to the funding of peer-reviewed research on disordered gambling and public education about responsible gaming.

The board of directors' membership is balanced between leaders from the gaming industry and from the civic, charitable, educational, community and public service sectors. The following individuals served the organization in 2005:

Officers

Chairman

Dennis E. Eckart

Partner
Baker & Hostetler LLP

President

William Boyd

Chairman and CEO
Boyd Gaming Corporation

Secretary and Treasurer

Judy L. Patterson

Senior Vice President and
Executive Director
American Gaming Association

Counsel

Howard S. Silver

Partner
Hogan & Hartson LLP

Board of Directors

G. Thomas Baker

(through March 2005)
Chairman
International Game
Technology

Robert Boswell

Senior Vice President
Pioneer Behavioral Health

Roland W. Burris

Of Counsel
Burris, Wright, Slaughter &
Tom, LLC

Glenn Christenson

Executive Vice President
and CFO
Station Casinos, Inc.

Sue Cox

Founding Executive Director
Texas Council on Problem
and Compulsive Gambling

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

President and CEO
American Gaming Association

Alan Feldman

Senior Vice President of
Public Affairs
MGM MIRAGE

Richard J. Glasier

(through October 2005)
President and CEO
Argosy Gaming Company

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Harvey (Ret.)

President and Owner
PDH Associates, Inc.

Timothy M. Hinkley

President and COO
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

Jan Jones

Senior Vice President of
Communications &
Government Relations
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

David A. Korn, M.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Public Health
Sciences
University of Toronto

Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, J.D., M.P.A.

Associate Professor of
American Indian Studies
University of Arizona

Thomas J. Matthews

(since March 2005)
CEO
International Game
Technology

Brian McKay

Of Counsel
Lionel Sawyer & Collins

Kevin P. Mullally

Executive Director
Missouri Gaming Commission

Carol O'Hare

Executive Director
Nevada Council on Problem
Gambling

Philip G. Satre

Retired Chairman
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

Glenn Schaeffer

(through April 2005)
President, CFO and Treasurer
Mandalay Resort Group

Howard J. Shaffer,

Ph.D, C.A.S.

Associate Professor of
Psychology in Psychiatry,
Harvard Medical School
Director, Division on
Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance, a
teaching affiliate of Harvard
Medical School

Robert W. Stewart

(through June 2005)
Senior Vice President,
Corporate Communications
Caesars Entertainment, Inc.

Eric M. Turner

Former Executive Director
Massachusetts State Lottery
Commission

CONTRIBUTORS

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) has received generous support from various financial donors since its origin in 1996, including gaming companies, suppliers and vendors, NCRG board members, gaming employees and individuals. The more than \$15 million raised to date has aided the organization's mission to work toward the advancement of research, understanding of disordered gambling and public education on gaming-related issues.

The following is a list of contributors that supported the NCRG in 2005:



\$400,000

Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.*
MGM MIRAGE*

\$200,000

International Game Technology*

\$100,000

Bally Technologies*
Boyd Gaming Corporation*
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.*

\$75,000

JCM American Corporation*

\$50,000

Alliance Gaming Corporation*
Aztar Corporation*
Station Casinos, Inc.*
WMS Industries, Inc.*

\$35,000

Sandia Casino

\$15,000

The Riviera Hotel and Casino*

\$10,000

Pioneer Behavioral Health*
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada*

\$7,500

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Las Vegas*

\$5,000 and under

Glenn Christenson

\$2,500 and under

Alton Gaming Company
Thomas Armbruster
Larry Ashley
Canterbury Park
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Isle of Capri, Nachez
Rob Stillwell

**Indicates that the company's contribution is part of a multi-year pledge.*

Research Report

Since its inception in 1996, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) has been a leading source of science-based research and information on gambling and health, focused on promoting evidence-based education, prevention, treatment and public policy.

Today, with the contributions of the casino gaming industry, equipment manufacturers, vendors, related organizations and individuals, more than \$15 million has been committed to the NCRG, an unprecedented level of funding for gambling research by a private funding source.

This financial support has enabled the NCRG to attract the best minds from the most prestigious institutions to conduct research in this previously uncharted field. The NCRG has supported ground-breaking research through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at the Division on Addictions of the Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and at other leading research institutions including Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Minnesota, McGill University and Massachusetts General Hospital.

With approximately one-third of the total amount of research on gambling disorders published between 1999 and 2003, much of what we know about disordered gambling today has been learned only in the past few years¹. This is due in part to the availability of funding from the NCRG, as well as from other sources, including the federal government. The NCRG is proud to have played a role in this dramatic increase in knowledge about the potential health consequences of gambling.

¹Shaffer, H.J., Stanton, M.V., & Nelson, S.E. (in press). Trends in gambling studies research: Quantifying, categorizing, and describing citations. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

2005 Publications by NCRG-funded Investigators

Publishing research findings in a peer-reviewed scientific journal is the way in which researchers not only share their work with colleagues and the public, but also subject their conclusions to the judgment of the scientific community. NCRG-supported research has been published consistently in the most highly regarded journals with the most rigorous acceptance standards.

The following publications were released in 2005:

- Cohen, M.X., & Ranganath, C. (2005). Behavioral and neural predictors of upcoming decisions. *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*, 5(2), 117-26.
- Cohen, M.X., Young, J., Baek, J.M., Kessler, C., & Ranganath C. (2005). Individual differences in extraversion and dopamine genetics predict neural reward responses. *Cognitive Brain Research*, 25(3), 851-61.
- Cunningham-Williams, R.M., Grucza, R., Cottler, L.B., Womack, S.B., Books, S.J., Przybeck, T., Spitznagel, E.L., & Cloninger, R. (2005). Prevalence of pathological gambling among St. Louis area household residents. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 39, 377-90.
- Hodgins, D.C., Peden, N., & Cassidy, E. (2005). The association between comorbidity and outcome in pathological gambling: A prospective follow-up of recent quitters. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21(3), 255-71.
- Ladouceur, R., & Shaffer, H.J. (2005). Treating problem gamblers: Working towards empirically supported treatment. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21(1), 1-4.
- Odegaard, S.S., Peller, A., & Shaffer, H.J. (2005). Addiction as syndrome. *Paradigm*, 9, 12-13, 22.
- Potenza, M.N. (2005). Advancing treatment strategies for pathological gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21(1), 91-98.
- Ranganath, C., & Blumenfeld, R.S. (2005). Doubts about double dissociations between short- and long-term memory. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 9(8), 374-80.

Research continued

- Ranganath, C., Cohen, M.X., & Brozinsky, C.J. (2005). Working memory maintenance contributes to long-term memory formation: Neural and behavioral evidence. *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, 17(7), 994-1010.
- Shaffer, H.J. (2005). From disabling to enabling the public interest: Natural transitions from gambling exposure to adaptation and self-regulation. *Addiction*, 100(9), 1227-35; discussion 1235.
- Shaffer, H.J., Donato, A.N., LaBrie, R.A., Kidman, R.C., & LaPlante, D.A. (2005). The epidemiology of college alcohol and gambling policies. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 2(1), 1.
- Shaffer, H.J., & Freed, C.R. (2005). The assessment of gambling related disorders. In D. Donovan & G.A. Marlatt (Eds.), *Assessment of Addictive Behaviors*. New York: Guilford.
- Shaffer, H.J., LaBrie, R.A., LaPlante, D., Kidman, R., & Donato, A. (2005). The Iowa Gambling Treatment Program: Treatment outcomes for a follow-up sample. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21, 59-71.
- Shaffer, H.J., & LaPlante, D. (2005). The treatment of gambling related disorders. In G.A. Marlatt & D.M. Donovan (Eds.), *Relapse prevention* (second ed.). New York: Guilford.
- Shah, K.R., Eisen, S.A., Xian, H., & Potenza, M.N. (2005). Genetic studies of pathological gambling: A review of methodology and analyses of data from the Vietnam Era Twin (VET) Registry. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 21(2), 179-203.
- Stinchfield, R., Govoni, R., & Frisch, G.R. (2005). DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling: Reliability, validity, and classification accuracy. *American Journal of Addiction*, 14, 73-82.
- Winters, K.C., Stinchfield, R.D., Botzet, A., & Slutske, W. (2005). Pathways of youth gambling problem severity. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 19, 104-107.



Division on Addictions faculty and staff pictured with NCRG conference keynote speaker George McGovern (fourth from left). From left to right: Christine Reilly, M.A.; Kathryn Allegrini; Gabriel Caro; Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S.; Christine Thurmond; Siri Odegaard; Sarah Nelson, Ph.D.; Debi LaPlante, Ph.D.; and Richard A. LaBrie, Ed.D.

Intramural Research

The NCRG in 2000 embarked on an historic collaboration with Harvard Medical School, resulting in the transfer to Harvard of responsibilities for the evaluation and distribution of gambling research grants. The collaboration consisted of the NCRG awarding a multimillion-dollar contract to the Division on Addictions to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, which carries out the academic and scientific functions previously performed by the NCRG. Intramural research supported by the Institute is conducted by the Harvard faculty at the Division on Addictions, based at the Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. The next few pages outline the research projects on disordered gambling conducted in 2005 by Dr. Howard Shaffer, director of the Division on Addictions, and his research team.

Meta-analytic Global Prevalence Estimates of Disordered Gambling Behavior

In 2005, the Division on Addictions faculty continued to update the meta-analysis of prevalence estimates first reported in the *American Journal of Public Health* (1999) and the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* (2001) by incorporating studies released since the last update and studies from outside the U.S. and Canada. This project represents the first effort to provide estimates of a worldwide rate of disordered gambling behavior.

Comparing Public Support: Disordered Gambling vs. Other Mental Health Disorders

The Institute in 2005 embarked on a study to compare public support for resources to deal with gambling disorders — for example, treatment and prevention — with that for other psychiatric and addictive disorders that have a similar prevalence rate, such as schizophrenia and cocaine dependence. The study also will develop an inventory of funds distributed to states from various sectors of the gaming industry and, in contrast, will examine the percentage of state funds being used to address gambling addiction. *This study is funded in part by the Massachusetts Family Institute.*

College Policies on Gambling

The Institute analyzed college policies on alcohol and gambling at 119 scientifically selected colleges included in the fourth (2001) Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study. The findings were published in *Harm Reduction Journal* in 2005. Although all of the

schools included in the study had a student alcohol use policy, only 26 schools (22 percent) had a gambling policy. The research team concluded that the relative lack of college recovery-oriented policies suggests that schools might be overlooking the value of rehabilitative measures in reducing addictive behaviors among students. Since there are few college gambling-related policies, schools might be missing an opportunity to inform students about the risks of excessive gambling.

Missouri Voluntary Self-exclusion Project

Allowing individuals to exclude themselves voluntarily from gambling venues is an intervention strategy that has drawn increasing interest from public policy-makers and gaming regulators. However, there is no empirical evidence that such a program is an effective strategy for people struggling with gambling addiction.

During 2005, the research team prepared for Phase Two of the Missouri Gaming Commission's two-part self-exclusion study. Phase One, completed in 2004, revealed that self-exclusion data can be used to provide estimates of the prevalence of disordered gambling on a state- and county-wide basis. The analysis of self-exclusion patterns also found a lower prevalence rate of gambling disorders in regions with the longest exposure to gambling and a higher rate in communities new to gambling, suggesting a process of adaptation by the population.

Phase Two will involve telephone interviews with a sample of enrollees in the self-exclusion database. The study aims to determine the helpfulness of self-exclusion for individuals struggling with gambling addiction.

Gender and Patterns of Play

Historically, gambling has been a predominantly male pastime; however, as legalized gambling has expanded, female participation has increased. Nevertheless, some research suggests that a divide remains between the play patterns of men and women. For example, men appear to prefer casino table games and track betting while women seem to play more bingo and slot machines. Researchers have hypothesized that these different play patterns are rooted in inherent gender differences.

Because understanding these differences has profound implications for understanding and treating gambling disorders, the research team analyzed data from 2,256 (1,309 male) problem gambling treatment participants from the Iowa Gambling Treatment Program to examine the influence of gender on play patterns. Results suggested that, for understanding gambling patterns, gender is less informative than other descriptive gambler profiles. These findings are reported in the paper, “Men and women playing games: Gender and the gambling preferences of Iowa Gambling Treatment Program participants,” co-authored by Debi LaPlante, Sarah Nelson, Richard LaBrie and Howard Shaffer, and now in press at the *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

The research team also examined this data to look at the different trajectories of men and women in treatment; in other words, their progression from gambling to problems to treatment. The results indicated that gender was a factor only in relation to the age at which people started gambling. Men’s and women’s problem progression did not differ meaningfully once the age of initiation was taken into account. The findings are reported in a paper co-authored by Sarah Nelson, Debi LaPlante, Richard LaBrie and Howard Shaffer, “The proxy effect: Gender and gambling problem trajectories of Iowa Gambling

Treatment Program participants,” currently in press at the *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

EMERGE: Executive, Management and Employee Responsible Gaming Education

Throughout 2005, the Institute focused on translating its core curriculum on gambling disorders and responsible gaming into an interactive, Web-based training program appropriate for employees of casinos and other gaming companies. EMERGE, a ground-breaking



program developed by Harvard Medical School faculty, will change the face of the gaming industry by offering customized training at every level of casino

employment — from top executives to line staff — and involving hands-on training sessions reinforced with online learning opportunities. EMERGE also is unique in its ability to provide a multi-layered educational experience grounded in the latest scientific research on gambling addiction and other addictions. The program exceeds the requirements of all current state regulations regarding the training of casino employees on problem gambling. Additionally, the program is approved by the American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders, an international credentialing body devoted to establishing and upholding the highest standards for continuing education.

Jeanne Blake, a medical reporter, author and affiliated faculty member of the Division on Addictions, joined the project in 2005 as the producer and host of the online version of EMERGE. A demonstration of EMERGE was presented at the NCRG conference held in December 2005, and the program is set to officially launch in 2006.

2005 Grant Awards to Other Institutions

The Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders supports research at other institutions in addition to investigations conducted by the Division on Addictions faculty. Through this extramural research program, the NCRG and the Institute continue to cultivate the growing field of gambling studies. In a process modeled after the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Institute during 2005 convened an independent peer-review panel to review applications submitted in response to the request for applications for social and behavioral science research on gambling disorders.

The panel selected three studies to support:

- The effectiveness of treating college students who both drink and gamble to excess remains unknown. The Institute awarded \$57,384

to the University of Memphis in support of *Guided Self-change for Treating Problematic Co-morbid Gambling and Alcohol Problems among College Students*. Dr. James Whelan, the principal investigator for the project, will conduct a randomized clinical trial of a treatment approach based on the guided self-change intervention, one of the most well-supported brief treatments for alcohol and other substance abuse problems.

- A growing body of research has demonstrated the effectiveness of spousal involvement in the treatment of alcoholism and other addictive behaviors. However, no such interventions have been developed or evaluated for pathological gambling. To fill this void, the Institute awarded \$57,500 in support of *Behavioral Couples Therapy for Pathological Gambling*, developed by the Research Addiction Foundation at the State University of New York on behalf of the

2005 Peer Review Panel

The Institute annually recruits a panel of distinguished researchers in the field of addictions to review proposals and make the final selection of Institute extramural research awards. The following individuals served on the 2005 panel:

Michael Bozarth, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
State University of New York-Buffalo

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D.

Professor of Epidemiology in Psychiatry
Washington University School of
Medicine

Rani Desai, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Yale University School of Medicine

William Eadington, Ph.D.

Professor of Economics
Director, Institute for the Study of
Gambling and Commercial Gaming
University of Nevada, Reno

Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota

David Hodgins, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Calgary

Richard LaBrie, Ed.D.

Associate Director of Research and
Data Analysis
Division on Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance

Debi A. LaPlante, Ph.D.

Instructor in Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

James Langenbucher, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
Center for Alcohol Studies
Rutgers University

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D.

University of Iowa Foundation
Distinguished Professor of
Psychology
University of Iowa

Timothy J. O'Farrell, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School
Harvard Families and Addiction
Program
Brockton/West Roxbury VAMC

Wendy Slutske, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Missouri, Columbia

University of Buffalo and the Research Institute on Addictions. Led by Robert G. Rychtarik, Ph.D., this team will develop a manualized Behavioral Couples Therapy (BCT) protocol for pathological gamblers and conduct a pilot evaluation of the efficacy of the BCT protocol with pathological gamblers.

- Impulsivity is considered to be one of the most prominent features of pathological gambling. However, few studies have examined the measurement of impulsivity among gamblers in ways other than self-report, and no studies have systematically examined the effect of impulsivity on treatment outcome. The University of Connecticut Health Center received \$56,383 in support of *Laboratory-based Assessment of Impulsivity in Pathological Gamblers Entering Treatment*. Principal Investigator David Ledgerwood, Ph.D., will compare problem gamblers with control participants on self-report and laboratory-based measures of impulsivity; compare problem gamblers with and without substance abuse histories on impulsivity scores; and study whether impulsivity is associated with treatment outcomes in problem gamblers.

2005 Program Advisory Board

Since its inception in 2001, the Program Advisory Board has played a vital role in the development of the Institute by ensuring the most rigorous standards for the conduct of intramural and extramural research. The following individuals served on the program advisory board in 2005:

Mark Appelbaum, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Chancellor
Professor of Psychology
University of California, San Diego

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D.

Professor of Epidemiology in Psychiatry
Washington University School of Medicine

Joseph T. Coyle, M.D.

Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Jeff Derevensky, Ph.D.

Professor of Applied/Child Psychology
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Youth Gambling Research
and Treatment Clinic
McGill University

William Eadington, Ph.D.

Professor of Economics
Director, Institute for the Study of Gambling
and Commercial Gaming
University of Nevada, Reno

Richard I. Evans, Ph.D.

Distinguished University Professor of Psychology
University of Houston

Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, J.D., M.P.A.

Associate Professor of American Indian Studies
University of Arizona

Herbert D. Kleber, M.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
Columbia University College of Physicians and
Surgeons

Barry Kosofsky, M.D., Ph.D., chair

Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology
New York Weill Cornell Medical Center

Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
Université Laval

David C. Lewis, M.D.

Donald G. Millar Professor of Alcohol and
Addiction Studies
Brown University

Richard McGowan, S.J., D.B.A.

Associate Professor of Economics
Boston College

Brian McKay, J.D.

Former Attorney General of Nevada

Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School
Director, Trauma Research Program
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
McLean Hospital

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D.

University of Iowa Foundation Distinguished
Professor of Psychology
University of Iowa

Charles Wellford, Ph.D.

Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of Maryland

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.

President
Wynne Resources, Ltd.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Annual Conference

Finding Common Ground on Prevention, Treatment and Policy

The sixth annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction once again offered a unique opportunity for representatives from the gaming industry and government to engage in dialogue with the world's leading experts on addictions from the scientific and clinical communities. Held December 7-8 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, the conference attracted nearly 400 registered participants from a broad

range of sectors, including government regulators, clinicians, elected officials, scientific researchers, and gaming operators and manufacturers.

Guided by the blueprint offered in "A Scientific Framework for Responsible Gambling: The Reno Model," this year's conference encouraged key stakeholders in the industry to move beyond disparate viewpoints to find common ground in efforts to prevent and treat gambling disorders and develop enlightened public health policy. Presented at the opening plenary session by its authors, Drs. Alex Blaszczynski, Robert Ladouceur and Howard Shaffer, the Reno Model



Education continued

set the framework for the conference, encouraging ongoing dialogue among all relevant parties to continue to develop more effective responsible gaming programs, improve addiction treatment and stimulate further research.

The conference continued its comprehensive agenda in 2005 with two distinct tracks aimed at examining advances in research and treatment as well as practical applications for members of the gaming industry, gaming regulators, attorneys and elected officials. The Scientific and Clinical track presented new research findings on a variety of topics including new empirical research and evidence for the value of self-help groups, and recent research from a multi-site study of drug

treatments for disordered gamblers. The Government and Industry track included a discussion of myths about gambling disorders that prevent the development of effective responsible gaming education programs and provided concrete examples of how research can inform responsible gaming initiatives such as self-exclusion programs, employee education and the evaluation of state-supported gambling treatment programs.

Conference participants also were treated to a preview demonstration of a new science-based gaming employee education program called EMERGE (Executive Management & Employee Responsible Gaming Education). EMERGE was created by Harvard Medical School faculty,



and most of the funding for the development of program came from the NCRG. The program offers customized training for every level of employee — from leading executives to line staff — and involves hands-on training sessions reinforced with on-line learning opportunities. EMERGE is set to officially launch in 2006.

Another conference highlight was the keynote address, *Freedom of Choice and Addiction*, given by former U.S. senator and presidential candidate George McGovern. The address explored the delicate balance between the rights of the individual and the responsibilities of government and industry in a society that values freedom and personal responsibility. McGovern not only drew on his experience as a leader in

public policy, but as a parent whose own life was impacted by addiction through his daughter Terry's struggle and subsequent death from alcohol addiction.

As in previous years, this year's conference saw significant crossover between audiences for the two tracks. According to post-conference evaluation reports, attendees were overwhelmingly positive about the format of the sessions, which will be continued in 2006.

Select conference sessions were covered in a daily Web log (blog), sponsored by MGM MIRAGE, which provided synopses posted at the end of each day on the NCRG's Web site. The blog allowed those who were unable to attend the conference, as well as members of the media, to gain access to conference sessions and activities. To view the blog, visit the conference section of the NCRG Web site at www.ncrg.org.

NCRG conference sponsors in 2005 included Ameristar Casinos, Inc., Aristocrat Technologies, Inc., Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM), Bally Gaming and Systems, Foxwoods Resort Casino, Global Gaming Expo (G2E), Harmony Healthcare, Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., International Game Technology (IGT), Konami Gaming, Inc., MGM MIRAGE, Shuffle Master, Inc., Station Casinos Inc., WMS Gaming, Inc., and Wynn Resorts.



Scenes from the sixth annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, held Dec. 7-8, 2005 in Las Vegas.

Scientific Achievement Awards

Recognizing outstanding contributions to the study of gambling disorders, the Scientific Achievement Awards have proven to be a highlight of the NCRG conference since their creation in 2002.

At the sixth annual conference, Dr. Ken Winters, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at the University of Minnesota, received the 2005 Senior Investigator Award for his distinguished career in the

field of adolescent high-risk behaviors. Winters was nominated by his peers for his commitment and dedication to addressing youth drug and alcohol abuse and disordered gambling through academic, clinical and research channels.

Winters was selected by an independent committee of distinguished leaders in the field of addictions and gambling research chaired by Joseph Coyle, Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.



2005 Senior Investigator Award winner, Ken C. Winters, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota

The fourth annual NCRG Scientific Achievement Awards luncheon was sponsored by International Game Technology.

Educational Resources

Now in its fifth year of publication, *Responsible Gaming Quarterly (RGQ)* has maintained its role as one of the leading international resources for news and analysis of disordered gambling issues, counting more than 1,400 gaming industry representatives, treatment providers, academics, regulators, members of the media and government officials among its subscribers. *RGQ*, a free publication jointly produced by the NCRG and the American Gaming Association, provides a broad range of coverage on recent research results, regulatory initiatives, studies and developments in the treatment field, and model industry programs.

The NCRG Web site (www.ncrg.org) also continues to be a valuable source of information on various NCRG activities and programs. The site includes information on past and present research initiatives, as well as educational programs and upcoming events such as the NCRG's annual conference. The site features resources for treatment providers, gaming industry professionals and problem gamblers, as well as NCRG publications and video clips from leading experts. In 2005, the site received 1,506,904 total hits for an average of 4,129 hits per day.



Additionally, the NCRG provides financial support for the *Worldwide Addiction Gambling Education Report (The WAGER)* and the *Brief Addiction Science Information Source (BASIS)*, two online resources that provide important information about gambling and addiction research. Published continuously by the Division on Addictions (DOA) since 1995, *The WAGER* provides brief, critical reports on recent gambling research for a weekly readership of more than 8,000. *The WAGER* reaches nearly 20 countries around the world, and its success inspired the DOA to develop the *BASIS* to strengthen worldwide understanding of addiction and minimize its harmful effects. The *BASIS* (www.basionline.org) was launched in early 2005 and offers free access to reports on alcohol, gambling and tobacco use, as well as self-help tools for people struggling with addictive disorders.

Fundraising Events

2005 JCM-AGA Golf Classic

Organized each year by JCM American Corporation (JCM) in conjunction with the AGA, the JCM-AGA Golf Classic is an important fundraising event for the NCRG. In 2005, the event raised \$75,000 for the organization, nearly matching the record amount of \$77,000 raised in 2004.



Held at the Revere Golf Club in Henderson, Nev., the tournament attracted 140 participants — including gaming industry suppliers, manufacturers, operators and members of the media. The foursome representing the Bellagio Hotel and Casino, including Bill Bingham, Pat Laman, Alan Pulintini and Tyler Shook, took home first place honors.

Since it debuted in 1998, the tournament has raised nearly \$425,000 for the NCRG.

The following companies generously supported the event:

Sponsors

Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers	Klett, Rooney, Lieber & Schorling
Argosy Gaming Company	Konami Gaming, Inc.
Aristocrat Technologies	Land Baron
Ascend Media Gaming Group	Reel Games, Inc.
Bally Gaming and Systems	ShuffleMaster
CoreStaff Services	Southwest Print Source
G2E/Reed Exhibitions	Ten Compass North
Gaming Laboratories International	TCS/John Huxley
Hikam America, Inc.	Venetian Resort Casino
International Game Technology	VTS Investments
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Donors

Callaway Golf Center
Circus Circus Hotel & Casino
Excalibur Hotel and Casino
Flower Peddler
Hamada of Japan
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.
Lee Wayne
Luxor Resort & Casino
Red Rock Country Club
Revere Golf Club
Scenic Airlines
Southern Wine & Spirits
of Nevada
Trovis Monitors
Wine Country Gift Baskets

2005 Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony

Each year the AGA's Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony recognizes the importance of funding gambling-related research and the promotion of responsible gaming through the donation of the event's proceeds to the NCRG. This year's event, held at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in conjunction with Global Gaming Expo, drew 470 guests and raised a total of \$150,000 for the organization — adding to the more than \$1 million the event has raised for the organization since 1996.

Four individuals were inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame, the industry's highest honor. Industry leaders Craig H. Neilsen, president and CEO of Ameristar Casinos, and Larry Ruvo, senior managing director of Southern Wines & Spirits of Nevada, were honored for their lifetime achievements as gaming industry visionaries. Actress Debbie Reynolds and celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck also were recognized for their unique contributions to the industry.

In addition to the induction ceremony, guests were treated to a performance by internationally renowned tenor, Michael Amante.



Above: 2005 Hall of Fame inductees clockwise from left: Debbie Reynolds, Larry Ruvo, Wolfgang Puck and Craig H. Neilsen.
Right and below: Tenor Michael Amante entertains dinner guests.



The following companies and individuals generously supported the event:

Major Underwriters

Cashman Photos
DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Irwin Productions
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada

Dinner Sponsors

\$17,000

Ameristar Casinos, Inc.

\$12,000

Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

\$8,000

Bergman, Walls & Associates
International Game Technology
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
MGM MIRAGE
Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada

\$7,000

Station Casinos, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank
Wynn Resorts Ltd.

\$6,000

Bank of America
Boyd Gaming Corporation
DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Ernst & Young
ShuffleMaster
Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group

\$4,000

Aristocrat Technologies Inc.
Bally Gaming and Systems
Colony Resorts/Las Vegas Hilton
Foxwoods Casino & Resort
Global Gaming Expo (G2E)
Global Intelligence Network/Gaming Today
Harmony Healthcare
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Riviera Hotel and Casino
Tropicana Resort and Casino

\$2,000-\$3,499

Penn National Gaming, Inc.

\$1,000-\$1,999

Dreher, Simpson & Jensen, PC
Potomac Counsel LLC
Southern Wine & Spirits of Miami
Top Rank
Claudine Williams

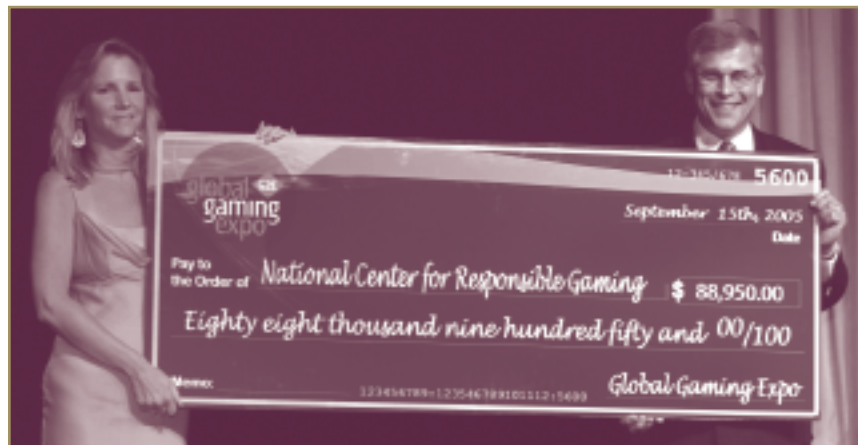
Under \$1,000

Bob Dancer Products
Burton Cohen
Iowa Gaming Association
Lionel Sawyer and Collins
Joel Lubritz
Frank Luntz
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Navegante Search
TheWadeGroup, Inc.
Total Vegas TV

Programs

G2E Annual Commitment

Reed Exhibitions, the American Gaming Association's (AGA) trade show partner for Global Gaming Expo (G2E), presented a check for nearly \$90,000 to chairman Dennis Eckart and the NCRG at the AGA's Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony. Courtney Muller, show manager and industry vice president of G2E at Reed Exhibitions, also announced that the contribution marked the inauguration of a new program by which G2E each year will contribute a percentage of exhibitor sales and attendee registration fees to the NCRG. The NCRG plans to use this donation to support science-based responsible gaming programs.



NCRG chairman Dennis Eckart accepts a donation from Courtney Muller, show manager and industry vice president of G2E at Reed Exhibitions, at the AGA Hall of Fame Dinner.

Banding Together to “Keep it Fun”

As part of its eighth annual Responsible Gaming Education Week in August 2005, the AGA launched a national responsible gaming awareness campaign featuring bright orange wristbands displaying the message “Keep it Fun.” Sold for \$1 each, proceeds from the bands are being donated to the NCRG.

In 2005, more than 120,000 bands were sold, and the NCRG received more than \$50,000 from the program.

The AGA plans to continue to sell the bands in 2006 and beyond, with all proceeds being donated to the NCRG.



G2E participants “Keep It Fun” by purchasing awareness wristbands at the welcome reception.

A Look to the Future

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) continued to be an important contributor to the field of disordered gambling research and responsible gaming awareness in 2005 by providing much-needed funding, educating a variety of stakeholders through its Web site and free publications, and more. In 2006, the NCRG will celebrate its 10th anniversary, and in addition to its ongoing commitment to funding critical, ground-breaking research into disordered gambling, the organization is renewing and expanding its public education mission.

To best serve this enhanced mission, the NCRG has restructured its leadership model, creating two separate boards, each with its own unique but complementary role. The Board of Directors is made up of three industry executives and four community leaders, and is the practical, hands-on management group for the organization, focused on the creation and implementation of education and outreach programs, as well as maintaining the current positive relationship with the Institute.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of CEOs of NCRG donor companies and is focused entirely on fundraising activities, both to support the new education and outreach efforts and continue to fund grants for peer-reviewed scientific research.

Additionally, the NCRG now will more formally partner with American Gaming Association (AGA) member companies and their properties, both at the national and local levels, to create, facilitate and coordinate practical, science-based responsible gaming efforts. The NCRG will provide the seed money, expertise and coordinating capabilities needed to make industry initiatives as effective as possible.

In the coming year, the organization will continue its support of the Institute by providing funding for scientific research in the field of disordered gambling, as well as fostering the discussion of that research between the clinical community and the gaming industry. And as part of its renewed public education mission and partnership with members of the AGA, the NCRG will focus on providing the industry with tools, such as the EMERGE program mentioned earlier in this report, to use in the casino setting and throughout the communities where it operates. Already tested and reviewed by employees at the Bellagio Hotel Resort and Casino in the spring of 2006, EMERGE will publicly launch at select casino establishments later in the year.

Additional changes also are in store this year. The NCRG's seventh annual Conference on Gambling and Addiction will be held in November, a shift that allows it to coincide with Global Gaming Expo (G2E), the world's premiere gaming event and the industry's largest source of news, product ideas and information about what's driving the future of gaming. Aligning the annual conference with G2E will increase exposure within the industry for the NCRG and the latest gambling research. It also will attract an even broader international audience to the event, helping to generate a more lively exchange of ideas than ever before. Scheduled for Nov. 12-14 at the Rio All-Suite Casino Resort in Las Vegas, the conference will focus on the myriad issues involved in translating good research into best practices, one of the key goals of the NCRG in the coming years.

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As the NCRG enters its next decade, the goal of the organization will be to expand the positive impact of disordered gambling research within casino communities nationwide. To meet this goal, the NCRG remains committed to striving for the highest standard of excellence as it continues to support and work with the Institute to fund the latest and

best research on disordered gambling and use that research to create important public education, training and programming for the gaming industry and the public. With a renewed focus and structure tailored to achieve these goals, the NCRG will be well equipped to enjoy an even greater level of success in the coming decade than it enjoyed in its last.

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