



NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING



2016 Annual Report

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

Advancing Research, Education and Awareness

The National Center for Responsible Gaming's (NCRG) mission is to help individuals and families affected by gambling disorder by supporting the finest peer-reviewed, scientific research on the disorder; encouraging the application of new research findings to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies; and advancing public education about gambling disorder and responsible gaming.

NCRG Continues a Tradition of Excellence

In 2016, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) continued its commitment to the highest academic standards in research and education. Our activities included innovative research that will eventually find effective means of prevention and treatment of gambling disorder and stimulating educational programs designed for public health professionals, clinicians, researchers, regulators and the gaming industry.

Cutting-edge research awarded in 2016 ranged from the exploration of decision-making in animal models to an examination of gambling problems among veterans and Asian Americans. A number of these grants were awarded to young investigators—our investment in the next generation of gambling researchers.

The NCRG also advanced the cause of expanded screening through participation in Gambling Disorder Screening Day sponsored by the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, by distributing the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS) to clinicians across the nation. By the end of 2016, the NCRG had sent more than 5,000 BBGS magnets to treatment providers.

In keeping with the tradition of evidence-based programming and policy, the NCRG convened the leading gambling researchers for a State of the Science meeting in 2016. The resulting publication, *Gambling and Public Health: A Guide for Policymakers*, was released in 2017.

Finally, NCRG programs such as the webinar series and the annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction were attended by more than 1,000. Visits to www.ncrg.org climbed to 81,000.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the NCRG donors, our many partner organizations and the scientists who work on NCRG-funded grants and serve on peer review panels and the Scientific Advisory Board.

On behalf of the NCRG Board of Directors, we want to thank all who helped the NCRG maintain a high quality program addressing the needs of individuals and families affected by gambling disorder.

Sincerely,



Alan M. Feldman

Chairman of the National Center for Responsible Gaming



2016

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San Diego State University

Mark Vander Linden

Director of Research and Responsible Gaming

Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Andrew Zarnett

Managing Director

Deutsche Bank

Expanding Support for NCRG

Thank you to all the NCRG friends and supporters for helping me get on board. My first day with NCRG was March 1, 2016, and each day since then has been filled with meeting all the interesting and committed people associated with the NCRG and leaders in the gaming industry along with beginning to learn the details of the challenges we all face.

The NCRG continued to build on its successes in 2016 on all fronts: generating new science; providing educational workshops; garnering financial support; and convening scientific leaders in the field of gambling studies. The new publications and webinar topics are described in this report. In July 2016, the NCRG convened an important “State of the Science” meeting as part of our new Public Health Initiative. This established the framework and the foundation for the publication released in 2017.

In August, we welcomed our new office manager, Ms. Ariana Fox, and initiated her with a fall trip to Las Vegas where she supported the successful production of the 17th Annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

A note of appreciation for the continuing support of the friends of the NCRG. In particular, we are grateful for the financial contributions generated by the AGEM-AGA Golf Classic. We also would like to welcome first time donors Rush Street Gaming, Seneca Gaming Corporation and William Hill.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Sanna, PhD
Executive Director



NCRG STAFF

Russell A. Sanna, PhD
Executive Director

Christine Reilly
Senior Research Director

Shayna Adams, MPH
Program Officer

Ariana Fox
Office Manager

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Beverly, MA 01915
(978.338.6610)

AGEM-AGA

Golf Classic

Presented by JCM Global

The 18th annual AGEM/AGA Golf Classic Presented by JCM Global raised \$140,000 for the NCRG. More than 144 players from across the gaming industry spectrum participated in the tournament on the perfect and legendary greens of Cascata in Boulder, City, Nev.

The 2016 tournament sponsors included AGEM (Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers), JCM Global, Scientific Games, the American Gaming Association, Konami Gaming, CPI, Aristocrat, Global Gaming Expo, National Indian Gaming Association, GLI, Patriot Games & Electronics, Global Gaming Business, Ainsworth Game Technology, Comer Holdings, HIKAM America, Millennium, Waffletechnology and Regulatory Management Counselors, PC.



The presentation of the proceeds — (l-r) JCM President Terry Ozawa; NCRG Executive Director Russell Sanna; AGA President & CEO Geoff Freeman; AGEM President Tom Jingoli; Andrew Ortale of AGA; and JCM VP of Global Marketing Tom Nieman.

2016

NCRG Annual Donors

Since 1996, more than \$27 million has been pledged to the NCRG thanks to the generous support of gaming operators and gaming-related manufacturers and businesses. The following companies were contributors to the NCRG in 2016.



\$300,000+

Las Vegas Sands Corp.*
MGM Resorts International*



\$100,000 - 199,000

JCM Global



\$50,000 - 99,000

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Kathleen Scanlan
Russell Sanna, PhD

Jonathan Halkyard
Katherine Spilde, PhD, MBA

Alan M. Feldman
Mark Vander Linden

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Seneca Gaming (\$5,000)
William Hill USA (\$5,000)

* Denotes multi-year pledge.

Above amounts include pledged gifts and contributions through conference sponsorships.

2016

Conference Sponsors

Special thanks to our host sponsor, Las Vegas Sands Corp.

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



*Thanks also to
Global Gaming Expo
and the
American Gaming Association
for their support of the
NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.*

Ensuring the Integrity of NCRG-Funded Research

Gaming Industry

The NCRG's funders — mostly gaming companies and suppliers — make contributions to the NCRG.

National Center for Responsible Gaming

The NCRG keeps a portion of the funds for education and outreach initiatives, while the bulk of the funds are distributed to research projects as directed by the independent Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and peer-review panels.

SAB and Peer-Review Panels

Researchers interested in obtaining funding submit proposals through the NCRG's competitive grant-making process. This process is overseen by the SAB, an independent committee of some of the field's leading experts. A peer-review panel is assembled to evaluate the proposals, based on criteria used by the National Institutes of Health. The Scientific Advisory Board makes final funding decisions.

NCRG Centers of Excellence

Using substantial research grants awarded by the NCRG, the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research conduct seminal, long-range research on gambling disorder.

NCRG Project Grants

The NCRG also awards grants to researchers from around the world for individual research projects on gambling disorder.

Peer-reviewed Scientific Journals

After the research has been completed, the investigator submits a report on the project and its findings to independent, peer-reviewed journals. NCRG-funded studies have resulted in the publication of more than 350 articles in such journals. The NCRG board and its funders learn about the research findings after they have been published.

Building the Knowledge Base on Gambling Disorder: NCRG Research

2016 NCRG RESEARCH AWARDS

In 2016, the NCRG awarded the following grants in support of research designed to understand gambling disorder and test new strategies for the identification and treatment of disordered gambling behavior.

The Effects of Sensory Reward Cues on Decision Making under Risk in Healthy Volunteers and Problem Gamblers

Mariya Cherkasova, PhD, University of British Columbia, was awarded \$34,500 for a project focused on the effects that sensory reward cues have on risky decision making in both healthy volunteers and disordered gamblers through a laboratory tasks; for example, measuring the impact of cues using eye tracking. The hypothesis is that disordered gamblers will be more susceptible than healthy participants to the risk-inducing effects of sensory cues, and that sensitivity to reward cues will predict cue-induced choice bias.

Gambling and Traumatic Stress: Analyses in Veteran and Community Samples

Joshua B. Grubbs, PhD, Bowling Green State University, was awarded \$34,500 for a project that aims to deepen the knowledge of the co-occurrence of gambling disorder and post-traumatic stress. Using two samples of veterans in a residential treatment program and an online, community sample of gambling adults, the project seeks to examine how symptoms of post-traumatic stress may be related to a tendency toward negative emotion (i.e., trait neuroticism), gambling-related cognitions (i.e., positive expectancies about gambling) and motivation to use gambling to cope with or escape from negative emotion.

Cortical and Subcortical Contributions to Risky Decision-Making Associated with Gambling

Mike Robinson, PhD, Wesleyan University, was awarded \$34,500 to examine the contribution of two cortical regions (the orbitofrontal cortex and the anterior insula cortex) and one subcortical limbic region (the nucleus accumbens) to the process of choosing between safe and risky options. The research is also focused on how priming decisions with cues paired with wins and losses affects decision-making through these brain regions and investigated individual and gender differences that may exist in the propensity toward risk taking.

Diurnal cortisol dynamics and gambling disorder

Tony Buchanan, PhD, Saint Louis University, was awarded \$34,500 for a study characterizing the relation between stress physiology and reward/punishment sensitivity through assessment of the daily pattern of cortisol secretion as well as monetary reward/punishment decisions in 25 persons with gambling disorder and a 25-person comparison group. The study hypothesized that it will show an empirical link between the diurnal pattern of cortisol release and the primary behavioral disturbance of gambling disorders: insensitivity to reward and punishment.

Problem Gambling among Asian/Asian-American College Students

Dipali Venkataraman Rinker, PhD, University of Houston, was awarded \$34,500 for a study investigating gambling beliefs, patterns, family history and attitudes among Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese, Filipino and Pakistani students. The specific aims of this research include: 1) identifying specific distinctions in gambling behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, family history, and perceived norms between Asian/Asian-American and non-Hispanic Caucasian college students; 2) examining differences in gambling attitudes, beliefs, family history, and perceived norms across five Asian nationalities; 3) examining acculturation as a moderator of associations between gambling attitudes and perceived norms and problem gambling; and 4) comparing the social network structures of Asians/Asian-American and non-Hispanic Caucasian college gamblers.

Neurochemistry of Cognitive Control in Gambling Vulnerability

Simon Dymond, PhD, Swansea University, was awarded \$34,457 to investigate whether individual differences in γ -Aminobutyric acid (GABA), the main inhibitory neurotransmitter, predict the extent to which someone is likely to be able to control their gambling and other forms of risk taking through a study of gamblers and non-gamblers. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of the neurochemistry of individual susceptibility to gambling problems, which may help inform the development of novel early intervention approaches for gambling disorder.

Travel Grant: Continuous Associations between Delay Discounting and Addictive Behavior: A Meta-Analysis

Michael Amlung, PhD, McMaster University, was awarded \$1,500 to present at the 2016 meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International on his research finding of strong support for impulsive delay discounting as a core behavioral phenotype of addictive disorders, including gambling disorder. Effect sizes varied across type of addictive behavior, with gambling and tobacco having the largest effect sizes, followed by alcohol and cannabis, and comparatively smaller effect sizes for opiates and stimulants.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The NCRG's Scientific Advisory Board is composed of leading scientists in addiction and related fields. The board's responsibility is to ensure the highest standards in the administration of the NCRG's competitive research grants program. The volunteer Scientific Advisory Board makes all of the final decisions on grants awarded by the NCRG.

CHAIR

Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH

*Associate Dean for Research and Planning
College of Public Health and Health Professions
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*Instructor of Psychology
Columbia University College of Physicians
and Surgeons*

Wendy Slutske, PhD

*Professor of Psychology
University of Missouri, Columbia*

NCRG RESEARCH CONTINUED

Travel Grant: Shared and Unique Neural Structure Features of Substance and Behavioral Addictions

Sarah W. Yip, PhD, Yale School of Medicine, was awarded \$1,500 to present at the 2016 meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry on the findings of a brain imaging study that sought to confirm the hypothesis that there are structural similarities between behavioral and substance addictions.

The study examined MRI data from 114 individuals (38 with gambling disorder; 38 with cocaine-use disorder; and 38 healthy controls).

Travel Grant: Examining Differences Between Asian Americans and Whites for Gambling and Drinking

Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt, PhD, was awarded \$1,500 to present at the 2016 American Psychological Association Convention. The study examined racial differences in risk factors between Asian Americans and White Americans for gambling and drinking at the two levels of involvement: engagement and problems. The objective of this study was to examine 1) if there are racial differences among emerging adults in gambling and drinking involvement, and 2) which impulsivity and psychological distress risk-factors are specific to each of these racial groups.

PEER REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

To ensure the highest possible standards in the grants program, the NCRG recruits distinguished researchers in the addictions field to evaluate grant proposals. The following individuals served on NCRG peer-review panels in 2016.

Danielle Dick, PhD

*Professor, Departments of Psychology and Human & Molecular Genetics
Director, College Behavioral and Emotional Health Institute
Virginia Commonwealth University*

Adam Goodie, PhD

*Professor of Psychology
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Jon E. Grant, MD, JD, MPH

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Andrew Kayser, MD, PhD

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Research Scientist, Integrative Neuroscience
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Sarah Nelson, PhD

*Assistant Professor in Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School*

Caitlin Orsini, PhD

*Postdoctoral Fellow
University of Florida*

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*Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Child Study
Yale University School of Medicine*

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*D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor of Social Work
Columbia University School of Social Work*

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San Diego State University*

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*Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology
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*Associate Professor of Psychology
Saint Louis University*

David Zald, PhD

*Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry
Director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience for Undergraduates
Director of the Affective Neuroscience Laboratory
Vanderbilt University*

NCRG-FUNDED PUBLICATIONS RELEASED IN 2016

Publication in influential, competitive journals is the hallmark of scientific excellence. Since 1996, NCRG-funded research has produced more than 350 articles in peer-reviewed journals. The following publications of NCRG-funded studies were released in 2016.

IMPULSIVITY AND DECISION MAKING

- Brevers, D., Noel, X., Clark, L., Zyuzin, J., Park, J., & Bechara, A. (2016). The impact of precommitment on risk-taking while gambling: A preliminary study. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*, 5(1), 51–58. <http://doi.org/10.1556/2006.5.2016.008>
- Dong, G., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). Risk-taking and risky decision-making in Internet gaming disorder: Implications regarding online gaming in the setting of negative consequences. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 73, 1-8. doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2015.11.011
- Leppink, E. W., Redden, S. A., & Grant, J. E. (2016). Impulsivity and gambling: A complex clinical association across three measures. *The American Journal on Addictions*, 25(2), 138–144. <http://doi.org/10.1111/ajad.12341>

NEUROBIOLOGY AND GENETICS OF GAMBLING DISORDER

- Brand, M., Young, K. S., Laier, C., Wölfling, K., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). Integrating psychological and neurobiological considerations regarding the development and maintenance of specific internet-use disorders: An Interaction of Person-Affect-Cognition-Execution (I-PACE) model. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, 71, 252– 266. doi:10.1016/j.neubiorev.2016.08.033
- Chamberlain, S. R., Derbyshire, K., Daws, R. E., Odlaug, B. L., Leppink, E. W., & Grant, J. E. (2016). White matter tract integrity in treatment-resistant gambling disorder. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*. <http://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.bp.115.165506>
- Fauth-Bühler, M., Mann, K., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). Pathological gambling: a review of the neurobiological evidence relevant for its classification as an addictive disorder. *Addiction Biology*. doi:10.1111/adb.12378
- Grant, J. E., Odlaug, B. L., & Chamberlain, S. R. (2016). Neural and psychological underpinnings of gambling disorder: A review. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*, 65, 188–193. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.pnpbp.2015.10.007>
- Kayser, A. S., Vega, T., Weinstein, D., Peters, J., & Mitchell, J. M. (2017). Right inferior frontal cortex activity correlates with tolcapone responsivity in problem and pathological gamblers. *NeuroImage: Clinical*, 13, 339-348. doi:10.1016/j.nicl.2016.12.022
- Yang, B.-Z., Balodis, I. M., Lacadie, C. M., Xu, J., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). A preliminary study of DBH (encoding dopamine beta-hydroxylase) genetic variation and neural correlates of emotional and motivational processing in individuals with and without pathological gambling. *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*. <http://doi.org/10.1556/2006.5.2016.026>

- Zhang, J., Yao, Y., Potenza, M. N., Xia, C., Lan, J., Liu, L., Fang, X. (2016). Altered resting-state neural activity and changes following a craving behavioral intervention for Internet gaming disorder. **Scientific Reports**, *6*, 28109. doi:10.1038/srep28109
- Zhang, J., Yao, Y., Potenza, M. N., Xia, C., Lan, J., Liu, L., Fang, X. (2016). Effects of craving behavioral intervention on neural substrates of cue-induced craving in Internet gaming disorder. **NeuroImage: Clinical**, *12*, 591-599. doi:10.1016/j.nicl.2016.09.004

POPULATION AND CROSS CULTURAL STUDIES

- Chamberlain, S. R., Leppink, E., Redden, S. A., Odlaug, B. L., & Grant, J. E. (2016). Racial-ethnic related clinical and neurocognitive differences in adults with gambling disorder. **Psychiatry Research**, *242*, 82-87. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2016.05.038>
- Kong, G., Smith, P. H., Pilver, C., Hoff, R., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). Problem-gambling severity and psychiatric disorders among American-Indian/Alaska native adults. **Journal of Psychiatric Research**, *74*, 55-62. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2015.12.004>
- Medeiros, G. C., Leppink, E. W., Redden, S. A., Yaemi, A., Mariani, M., Tavares, H., & Grant, J. E. (2016). A cross-cultural study of gambling disorder: A comparison between women from Brazil and the United States. **Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria**, *38*(1), 53-57. <http://doi.org/10.1590/1516-4446-2015-1718>
- Whiting, S. W., Potenza, M. N., Park, C. L., Mckee, S. A., Mazure, C. M., & Hoff, R. A. (2016). Investigating Veterans' Pre-, Peri-, and Post-Deployment Experiences as Potential Risk Factors for Problem Gambling. **Journal of Behavioral Addictions**, *5*(2), 213-220. doi:10.1556/2006.5.2016.027

ROLE OF CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

- Leppink, E. W., Fridberg, D. J., Redden, S. A., & Grant, J. E. (2016). The intersection of obesity and the longitudinal course of problem gambling. **Psychiatry Research**, *246*, 707-711. doi:10.1016/j.psychres.2016.10.060
- Medeiros, G. C., Sampaio, D. G., Leppink, E. W., Chamberlain, S. R., & Grant, J. E. (2016). Anxiety, gambling activity, and neurocognition: A dimensional approach to a nontreatment-seeking sample. **Journal of Behavioral Addictions**, *5*(2), 261-270. doi:10.1556/2006.5.2016.044
- Rash, C., Weinstock, J., & Van Patten, R. (2016). A review of gambling disorder and substance use disorders. **Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation**, *7*, 3-13. <http://doi.org/10.2147/SAR.S83460>
- Sanacora, R. L., Whiting, S. W., Pilver, C. E., Hoff, R. A., & Potenza, M. N. (2016). Relationships between problem-gambling severity and psychopathology as moderated by income. **Journal of Behavioral Addictions**, *1-10*. doi:10.1556/2006.5.2016.045
- Tackett, J. L., Krieger, H., Neighbors, C., Rinker, D., Rodriguez, L., & Edward, G. (2016). Comorbidity of alcohol and gambling problems in emerging adults: A bifactor model conceptualization. **Journal of Gambling Studies**. doi:10.1007/s10899-016-9618-6

Education & Outreach

NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction

Attendees at the 2016 conference explored a variety of topics on gambling and addiction: the implications of the Affordable Care Act; mindfulness; e-Health technology; and moving addiction treatment into the 21st century. The conference also offered a track for gaming industry professionals and regulators that focused on new forms of gambling; the health risks of poker; and global solutions to responsible gaming.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CONTINUED

We were delighted that many participants found new insights and ideas that will enhance their work:

The opportunity to attend the NRCG conference has provided me with the chance to learn about the most up to date research on gambling disorder. The knowledge I gained from the research that is being conducted in the field will be used in a manuscript I am writing involving gambling problems. Materials and research presented at this conference served as literature review which will be incorporated in the manuscript.

I will immediately apply what I learned about the *DSM-5* definition of Gambling Disorder to my work on updating the DIS (Diagnostic Interview Schedule) from *DSM-IV* to *DSM-5* criteria. I will personally work on the gambling section of the DIS-5 and will tell the team what I have learned about gambling at the conference. I also plan to look up the benchmark plan for Florida to see if gambling disorder is included as an essential health benefit under the ACA. If it is not, I plan to get a group at UF to contact Dr. Tovino and get to work on changing that. I also plan to write up a paper on the findings that I presented during the poster session of the conference and submit to *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

I strongly benefited from just socializing and networking with other people at the conference. This conference was a power house for some of the leading names in addiction, gambling, and psychiatry, so it was exciting to be in their presence. In addition, I benefited greatly from the feedback given by different people at the poster session. I got some great information on ways I can improve my research in order to have the largest effect. In the end, the people who attended made the whole experience worthwhile for me. I got to meet professionals from all over the country who work in different areas. Everybody was so nice and inviting, and really made the conference special.



16TH ANNUAL NCRG CONFERENCE ON GAMBLING AND ADDICTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thanks to the following individuals for committing their time and expertise to the development of the content for the 16th annual NCRG Conference.

Bo Bernhard, PhD

*Executive Director, International Gaming Institute
Professor, William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration
Philip G. Satre Chair in Gaming Studies
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

Bethany Bray, PhD

*Outreach Director
The Methodology Center
Pennsylvania State University*

Peter Cohen

*Director, Regulatory Affairs
The Agenda Group*

Joseph J. Coyne, PhD, LCADC

American Psychological Association

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*Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine*

Raymond F Hanbury, PhD, ABPP

*Chief Psychologist
Hackensack Meridian Health System*

Dean Hestermann

*Corporate Director, Public Affairs
Caesars Entertainment Corporation*

Connie Jones

*Director of Responsible Gaming
Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM)*

Renee Kirnberger

*Public Affairs Manager
Potawatomi Hotel & Casino*

Linda Marx, LMFT

Marriage and Family Therapist

Reece Middleton

*Past Executive Director
Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling*

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*Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neurobiology
Founding Director, Problem Gambling Clinic
Yale University School of Medicine*

Christine Reilly

*Senior Research Director
National Center for Responsible Gaming*

Katherine Spilde, PhD, MBA

*Endowed Chair, Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming
Associate Professor, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
San Diego State University*

Mark Vander Linden, MSW

*Director of Research and Responsible Gaming
Massachusetts Gaming Commission*



NCRG SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Donald Black was the 2016 recipient of the NCRG Scientific Achievement Award

2016 NCRG Scientific Achievement Award Selection Committee

Gloria Miele, PhD

*Instructor of Psychology
Columbia University College of
Physicians and Surgeons*

Lisa Najavits, PhD

*Director
Treatment Innovations*

Katherine Spilde, PhD MBA

*Endowed Chair, Sycuan Institute on
Tribal Gaming
Associate Professor, School of
Hospitality and Tourism Management
San Diego State University*

The NCRG honored Dr. Donald W. Black of the University of Iowa with the 2016 Scientific Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of gambling disorder. Dr. Black has a long and distinguished career as a gambling-focused researcher beginning in the 1990s when he pioneered the clinical aspects of the disorder, the links between disordered gambling behavior and OCD and the pharmacological treatment of gambling addiction. At that time, Dr. Black also began work on the familial aspects of gambling disorder, one of the most labor-intensive and difficult areas of research. His groundbreaking work on the family history of individuals with gambling problems made an immense contribution to our understanding of the disorder and led to a major grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Black was one of the first NCRG-funded investigators to secure funding from the National Institutes of Health to expand a study seeded by NCRG.

POSTER AWARDS

The NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction annually showcases new research on gambling disorder through the poster session. In 2016, the poster session/welcome reception was sponsored by the Las Vegas Sands Corporation.

A committee of researchers examined 26 posters and selected the following for recognition:

Outstanding Poster:

“Repeated exposure to cues for uncertain reward and variable reinforcement schedule contribute differently to dopamine sensitization and risk-taking in a rat model of gambling disorder”; lead author: Victoria Fugariu, University of Toronto and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Honorable Mention: “Gambling and polysubstance use behavior patterns: Using latent class analysis to examine the syndromal model of addiction”; lead author: Bethany Bray, Pennsylvania State University

Honorable Mention: “Neural correlates of proactive motor response inhibition in frequent gamblers”; lead author: Damien Brevers, University of Southern California



Damien Brevers, Bethany Bray and Victoria Fugariu accepting their awards from Alan Feldman, NCRG Chairman.

NCRG STATE OF THE SCIENCE MEETING

In July 2016, the NCRG convened a meeting of the leading gambling researchers to discuss the state of the science on gambling disorder. The meeting deliberations are reflected in the publication, *Gambling and Public Health: A Guide for Policymakers*, released in 2017. The participants were as follows:

Donald Black, MD

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Iowa College of Medicine

Adam Goodie, PhD

Professor of Psychology
University of Georgia

Gloria Miele, PhD

Instructor of Psychology
Columbia University College of
Physicians and Surgeons

T. Celeste Napier, PhD

Professor of Pharmacology
Rush University Medical College

Lisa Najavits, PhD

Director
Treatment Innovations

Marc Potenza, MD, PhD

Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study
and Neurobiology
Yale University School of Medicine

Christine Reilly, MA

Senior Research Director
National Center for Responsible
Gaming

Russell A. Sanna, PhD

Executive Director
National Center for Responsible
Gaming

Wendy Slutske, PhD

Frederick A. Middlebush Professor of
Psychology
University of Missouri, Columbia

Nathan Smith, ALM

Program Officer
National Center for Responsible
Gaming

Katherine Spilde PhD, MBA

Endowed Chair of the Sycuan Institute
on Tribal Gaming
Associate Professor
San Diego State University

Jeremiah Weinstock, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychology
Saint Louis University

YEAR-ROUND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to the instructors and cosponsors that made the following programs possible.

2016 NCRG WEBINAR SERIES

More than 600 people participated in the following webinars:

- March 8, 2016, **Screening for Gambling** — Debi LaPlante, PhD, Harvard Medical School
- April 7, 2016, **Rethinking Teenage Behavior: New Research on Adolescents' Risky Choices** — Scott Huettel, PhD, Duke University
- May 5, 2016, **Waiting is the Hardest Part: Impulsivity, Addiction and the Brain** — Andrew Kayser, MD, PhD, University of California at San Francisco

Special thanks to Reed Exhibitions for hosting the NCRG Webinar Series!

SCREENING FOR GAMBLING DISORDER - MARCH 2016

The NCRG participated in the National Gambling Disorder Screening Day, led by the Division on Addiction at Cambridge Health Alliance, by distributing magnets imprinted with the 3-question Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen. By the end of 2016, the NCRG had distributed more than 5,000 magnets to treatment providers.

THE NCRG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2016, the NCRG's website traffic increased from 45,000 visits to 81,440 and from 94,000 page views to 148,646.



Financial Statements

The following Summary of Financial Position and Statements of Activities are from the 2016 audit, conducted by Tate & Tryon.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| DECEMBER 31 | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 2,491,504 | \$ 2,196,060 |
| Investments | 132,457 | 680,033 |
| Accounts receivable | 86,701 | 68,114 |
| Grants receivable | 886,174 | 372,000 |
| Other assets | 21,080 | 11,672 |
| Total assets | \$ 3,617,916 | \$ 3,327,879 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 33,615 | \$ 16,957 |
| Grants payable | 1,123,897 | 1,205,193 |
| Total liabilities | 1,157,512 | 1,222,150 |
| Net assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 1,574,230 | 1,733,729 |
| Temporarily restricted | 886,174 | 372,000 |
| Total net assets | 2,460,404 | 2,105,729 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 3,617,916 | \$ 3,327,879 |

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

| YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|------------------|-----------|
| UNRESTRICTED ACTIVITIES | | |
| Revenue and Support | | |
| Contributions | \$162,000 | \$56,100 |
| Conference | 140,898 | 141,414 |
| Golf tournament | 140,000 | 140,000 |
| Other income | 4,065 | 3,625 |
| Investment income | 1,726 | 41,009 |
| | 448,689 | 382,148 |
| Net assets released from restriction | 757,000 | 757,000 |
| Total unrestricted revenue and support | 1,205,689 | 1,39,148 |
| Expense | | |
| Program services | | |
| Research grants program | 794,565 | 709,693 |
| Conference | 120,658 | 130,356 |
| Education and outreach | 43,362 | 27,594 |
| Communications | 10,530 | 17,896 |
| Total program services | 969,115 | 885,539 |
| Supporting services | | |
| Administrative | 373,295 | 303,456 |
| Fund raising | 93,678 | - |
| Total supporting services | 466,973 | 303,456 |
| Total operating expense | 1,436,088 | 1,188,995 |
| Change in unrestricted net assets from operations | (230,399) | (49,847) |
| Cancelled grants | 37,347 | 46,187 |
| Net (loss) gain on investments | 33,553 | (53,733) |
| Bad debt expense | - | (8,000) |
| Change in unrestricted net assets | (159,499) | (65,393) |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES | | |
| Contributions | 1,305,000 | - |
| Change in discount | (33,826) | 14,476 |
| Net assets released from restriction | (757,000) | (757,000) |
| Change in temporarily restricted net assets | 514,174 | (742,524) |
| CHANGE IN NET ASSETS | 354,675 | (807,917) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 2,105,729 | 2,913,646 |
| Net assets, end of year | 2,460,404 | 2,105,729 |





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