

DoD Alcohol and Substance Abuse Disorders Research Program (ASADRP)

Each year, the Department of Defense's office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) assesses scientific opportunities to advance research in specific areas. The investigators supported by individual programs are making significant progress against targeted diseases, conditions, and injuries. This list is not intended to be a full representation of accomplishments, but rather a sampling of the broad portfolio of research and advances resulting from congressional appropriations.

Year	ASADRP Research Contributions	Additional Information and Hyperlinks
2010	The ASADRP established the Institute for Translational Neuroscience (ITN), a consortium comprised of 18 institutions that seeks to identify new medications for substance use disorders (SUDs) through a standardized approach. Specifically, their objectives are to conduct proof-of-principle pilot scale clinical experiments or trials and rapidly translate findings into full-scale clinical experiments/trials. By attracting interest from outside sources to support follow-on clinical trials to promising ITN projects, the ITN hopes to facilitate the transition from bench to bedside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASADRP Research Highlight
2012	For a Clinical Proof-of-Principle Project, "Glial Regulators for Treating Comorbid Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (Injury) and Substance Abuse Disorders," Dr. Peter Kalivas from the Medical University of South Carolina sought to determine the efficacy and safety of N-acetylcysteine (NAC) in preventing relapse and reducing drug craving and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms among veterans with comorbid PTSD and SUDs. The investigation of the role of glial pharmacology in PTSD/SUD is of very high importance as this is a novel approach to an important problem that does not yet have a solution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASADRP Research Highlight
2012	Dr. Andrew Kayser from the University of California, San Francisco studied the relationship between tolcapone, a COMT (catechol-O-methyltransferase) inhibitor, and reducing impulsivity in a Clinical Proof of Principle Project. These studies have the potential to enhance our understanding of the relationship between impulsivity and substance use disorders (SUDs), and to identify drugs that could treat SUDs through reducing impulsivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASADRP Research Highlight
2012	The ITN awarded a Preclinical Proof-of-Principle study to Dr. Jacqueline McGinty, Medical University of South Carolina, entitled "Endogenous Modulators Suppress Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) Associated with Chronic Stress." This study directly addresses the core goal of ITN to identify candidates to treat SUDs by investigating whether oxytocin and carbetocin can ameliorate reinstatement of methamphetamine abuse in rats after being subjected to repeated traumatic stress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASADRP Research Highlight
2014	Two Extend and Confirm Projects were awarded based on successful Proof-of-Principle Projects: the "Translational Mouse Models of PTSD and Comorbid Substance Use" project to Dr. Eric R. Kandel from Columbia University, and the "Oxytocin Suppresses Substance Use Disorders Associated with Chronic Stress" project to Dr. Jacqueline F. McGinty from the Medical University of South Carolina.	