

Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research

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Feature



Andrew Saxon, MD

Andrew J. Saxon, MD, is Director of the Addiction Treatment Center at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS). At the University of Washington (UW), Dr. Saxon is the Director of the Addiction Psychiatry Residency Program and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Saxon also serves as an IRB Co-Chair at VAPSHCS. He has co-authored over 80 peer reviewed publications and currently receives research funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Titan Pharmaceuticals, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute at the UW.

Dr. Saxon's research focuses on finding treatments for alcohol, opioid, nicotine, cocaine, and methamphetamine dependence, as well as on co-occurrence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and addiction and co-occurrence of pain and addiction. Some of his past research projects have included studying the effectiveness of integrating smoking cessation treatment with mental health care, comparing models of primary care for substance abusing patients, and assessing the efficacy of different dosage schedules of buprenorphine in inpatient opioid detoxification.

In 2009, Dr. Saxon and his VAPSHCS colleagues received a P20 ARRA grant from NIAAA, administered by SIBCR. The grant provides funding for a developmental alcohol research center called the Center for Neuroregulation in Alcohol Dependence (CeNiAD). The purpose of this center is to bring together pre-clinical and clinical researchers to do translational work in developing biological treatments for alcohol dependence. The initial focus is on prazosin, a centrally active noradrenergic α_1 receptor antagonist, which, in early studies decreased alcohol consumption in rodent models of alcohol dependence and in men with alcohol dependence. The ultimate aim is to move a variety of compounds which show promise in animal models into clinical trials and human laboratory paradigms.

As director of the CeNiAD, Dr. Saxon is responsible for the overall organization, scientific direction, and training mission of the Center. His collaborators and project leaders on the CeNiAD include Tracy Simpson, PhD; Dennis Rasmussen, PhD; Elaine Peskind, MD; and Murray Raskind, MD.

Grant News

- ★ SIBCR Fringe and IDC Rate Change: The negotiated indirect cost rate between SIBCR and DHHS is 36.6%. Please use this rate for new grant submissions and grant resubmissions after 6/10/10. The current negotiated fringe benefit rate is 31.3%.
Effective 10/1/2010 the negotiated fringe benefit rate is 30.3%.
- ★ For upcoming grant submissions, please remember to notify SIBCR at least four weeks prior to the sponsor due date of your plans to submit. You may reach Danielle Belisle at danielle.belisle@sibcr.org (6-3971); Kenji Schwarz at kenji.schwarz@sibcr.org (6-2731); or Alka Goyal at alka.goyal@sibcr.org (6-6588).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ★ SIBCR's annual open enrollment meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2010 in BB108 at 10 am. Come learn more about upcoming changes to your benefits. Have your questions answered by insurance representatives.

Welcome to New Employees!

Wesley Chinn, Drew Christie, Rebecca Courington, David Culpepper, Lucy Dillman, Angela Garza, Susan Gill, David Lew, Kristin Lynch, Vanessa Penski, Sandra Perry, Paige Peterson, Lauren Strand, and Diane Wheeler

SIBCR is pleased to announce that we are now supporting the position of Robin Boland, Research Intake Coordinator, Research & Development. Robin's role is pivotal in assisting our researchers with the R&D approval process and her work is greatly appreciated.

A special welcome to the newest member of SIBCR's Grants Management team, Renee Parisio, Grants and Contracts Coordinator. Renee has a background in grants administration, IT, and project management, and we expect she will be a great addition to the group. Please join us in welcoming her!