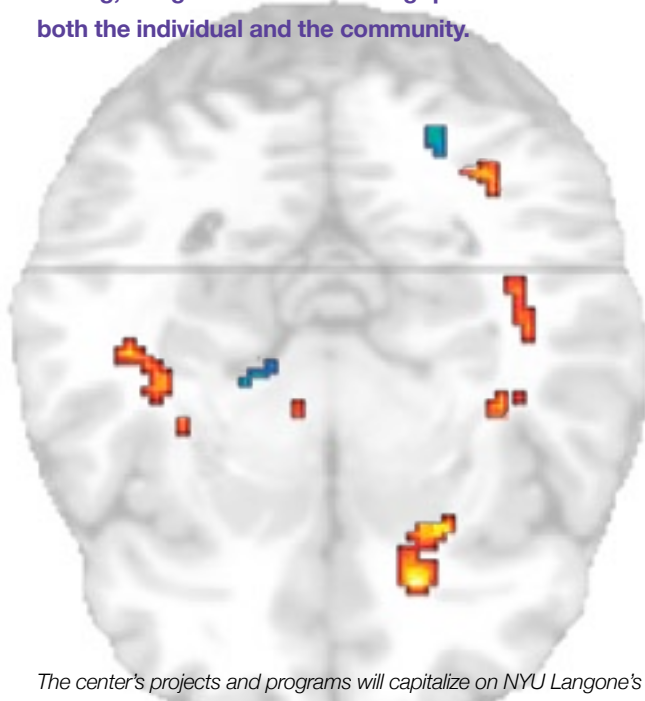


Loosening the Grip of Addictive Disorders

Center of Excellence on Addiction

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Addiction to illicit and prescription drugs, to alcohol and tobacco, and to behaviors such as gambling, eating disorders and sexual risk-taking, lead to more death and disability than any other preventable health condition. Addictive behaviors also contribute to the spread of HIV, hepatitis C, and other infections, and exacerbate many chronic illnesses. NYU Langone's ranking as one of the country's top 10 sites for clinical training in addiction medicine is due in part to exceptional research and clinical programs that serve as a training platform. As a private institution in the public service in an urban setting, our goal is to loosen the grip of addiction on both the individual and the community.



The center's projects and programs will capitalize on NYU Langone's rich basic and clinical resources, with translational projects focused on 1) impulsivity, cognitive control and addictive behaviors, 2) physical exercise as a potential preventive or intervention strategy, 3) medication strategies, including gamma-vinyl GABA (GVG) and GABAergic mechanisms in addiction, 4) adoption of new medications and behavioral and systemic interventions in traditional and novel healthcare settings, and (5) prevention and early intervention in children and adolescents. Cutting across the full spectrum of our projects will be a genetics component focused on vulnerability and response to treatment. We see a huge gap in high-quality addiction care for patients in the New York metropolitan area, and will explore establishing a new clinical initiative through Faculty Group Practice to provide cutting-edge, evidence-based care to NYU Langone's patient population. We will work closely with representatives from organizations in the NYU-served community, advocacy groups, city, state and federal agencies, schools, the criminal justice system, clergy, providers, philanthropy and media, to ensure meaningful translational efforts and to get innovative treatment to the community.

NYU Langone Medical Center and other schools at NYU have a strong and impressive commitment to the study and treatment of addiction. Our programs and affiliates—the Nathan Kline Institute (NKI), the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the New York Academy of Medicine—have breadth and expertise ranging from basic neuroscience, molecular biology and genetics to community outreach. The exceptional clinical programs at Bellevue Hospital Center and the Manhattan VA Medical Center have long strengthened our addiction medicine and clinical research.

A leader in substance abuse research, NYU has made significant discoveries in the etiology of addiction—notably, the original identification and characterization of the opioid receptor and elucidation of the central nervous system mechanisms that co-regulate ingestive behavior and rewarding properties of abused drugs. We have contributed to the development of new therapeutic agents and dosage delivery systems for opiate and alcohol dependence, and we have led the nation in developing the field of addiction in medicine and moving treatment advances into the community.

The Center of Excellence on Addiction will focus on both prescription and illicit drugs, as well as addictive behaviors. By establishing a University-wide, multi-disciplinary consortium of programs, researchers and clinicians; facilitating collaboration on program development; and bringing together healthcare professionals, faculty, basic and clinical research and training programs, the center will span the full range of addiction research, teaching, and care. To ensure that the translational “arrow” truly goes both ways, the center will have research informed treatment, and treatment-informed research with the goal of maximizing clinical and public health benefits.