

[Udi Ghitza](#), Ph.D., is a Health Scientist Administrator and Scientific Officer at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Center for the Clinical Trials Network (CCTN). Dr. Ghitza oversees scientific aspects of clinical trials testing the effectiveness of pharmacological and behavioral treatments for substance use disorders in multi-site nationwide studies which enroll large samples of diverse participants in general medical settings and community-based treatment programs. In addition, some studies examine approaches and strategies for how to best implement treatment with medications for opioid use disorder in various medical settings. Dr. Ghitza is also CCTN's leader in its stimulant use disorder treatment research program, to identify and test the efficacy and safety of medications and their combinations as repurposed candidate pharmacotherapies to treat stimulant use disorders, including methamphetamine, cocaine and other stimulant use disorders. Dr. Ghitza helps to develop cohesive strategic plans prioritizing objectives and directions to be accomplished in these research programs. He also led development of NIDA Clinical Trials Network (CTN) common data elements (CDEs) for harmonized data collection in clinical research on substance use disorders, which also serves as a resource for electronic health records (EHR) vendors towards systems interoperability: URL: <https://cde.nida.nih.gov/>; see following commentary to learn more about this initiative: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2015.00033/full>. Dr. Ghitza has a doctoral degree in psychology, behavioral neuroscience from Rutgers University.