

2025 NIDA-NIAAA Mini-Convention: Frontiers in Addiction Research
NOVEMBER 14, 2025
ALL TIMES PACIFIC

- 9:00 – 9:10 am **Introduction to the Mini-Convention**
[Erin Calipari, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University](#)
- 9:10 – 10:15 am **Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award Lecture**
Chair: Erin Calipari, Ph.D.
Speaker: [Marco Venniro, Ph.D., University of Maryland, School of Medicine](#)
From Isolation to Connection: A Journey Through Addiction Neuroscience
- 10:15 am – 11:45 am **Scientific Session I. Human iPSC-Derived Organoids and Assembloids for Brain Development, Disorders, and Diseases**
Chair: [Gabriel G. Haddad, M.D., University of California, San Diego](#)
- Speakers:**
[Gabriel G. Haddad, M.D., University of California, San Diego](#)
Effect Of Methadone on the Developmental Properties of Human Brain Organoids
- [Joel Blanchard, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#)
Discovering Therapeutic Target of Genetic and Environmental Vulnerabilities for AD And PD In Brain Organoids
- [Lorenz Studer, M.D., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center](#)
Capturing Features of Neuropsychiatric Disease in Human PSC-based Models
- 11:45 am – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break (on your own)**
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Scientific Session II. Interrogation of Large Single-Cell Data Sets to Identify New Addiction Targets**
Chair: [Brian R. Herb, Ph.D., University of Maryland](#)
- Speakers:**
[Lauren Wills, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#)
Three-Dimensional Spatial Analysis of the Nucleus Accumbens
- [Brian R. Herb, Ph.D., University of Maryland](#)
Cross-Species Insights into Opioid and Stimulant Effects in the Nucleus Accumbens
- [Veronica Alvarez, Ph.D., National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\) Intramural Research Program \(IRP\)](#) (Tentative pending government shutdown)
Emergence of Resilience Genes Among Transcriptomic Analysis of Compulsive-Like Drinking in Mice
Presentation will be given by [Daniel da Silva, Ph.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#)

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Joint NIDAA-NIAAA Early Career Investigator Showcase

Chair: Marco Venniro, Ph.D.

Speakers:

[Brenda Cabrera-Mendoza, M.D., Ph.D.](#)

Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University

PRS-Guided Drug Repositioning for Alcohol Use Disorder and Comorbidities in Veterans

[Tanzila Mukhtar, Ph.D.](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Francisco

Decoding the Cellular and Molecular Consequences of Prenatal Cannabis Exposure in Human Cortex

[Yasmin Zakiniaieiz, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor, Yale University

Imaging Markers of Neurodegeneration in People with Alcohol Use Disorder Using Positron Emission Tomography

[Katherine Savell, Ph.D.](#) (Tentative pending government shutdown)

Research Fellow, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Intramural Research Program

Transcriptomic Signatures of Cocaine Relapse Ensembles: Toward Drug Repurposing for Relapse Prevention

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Break

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Scientific Session III. Cutting-Edge Multiomic Approaches for Enhanced Drug Repurposing Strategies in Substance Use Disorders.

Chair: [Richard Weinshilboum, M.D., Mayo Clinic](#)

Speakers:

[Julie White, Ph.D., RTI International](#)

Integrating Multi-Omics and Drug Repurposing Tools to Identify Novel Candidate Therapies for AUD

[Richard Weinshilboum, M.D., Mayo Clinic](#)

Alcohol Use Disorder, Multiple Omics and FND4

[Falk Lohoff, M.D., National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#)

(Tentative pending government shutdown)

Multi-Omics Approaches for Novel Target Discoveries in Alcohol Use Disorder

4:45 pm

Closing Remarks

Richard Weinshilboum (tentative)