

## **Brenda Curtis, Ph.D.**



Dr. Curtis earned both a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in public health from the University of Illinois and subsequently obtained her doctorate in communication from the University of Pennsylvania, where she most recently held the appointment of Assistant Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, Addictions at the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Curtis also completed a fellowship at the Fordham University HIV and Drug Abuse Prevention Research Ethics Training Institute. Before joining NIDA IRP, she was the PI of a NIDA-funded R01 award (DA039457) entitled "Predicting AOD Relapse and Treatment Completion from Social Media Use" in which she used social media data to predict alcohol and other drug relapse and treatment completion among patients who have recently entered community outpatient treatment programs. At the NIDA Intramural Research

Program, Dr. Curtis leads the Technology and Translational Research Unit (TTRU) where she pairs evidenced-based research with novel methods and emerging technologies to address the societal need for empirically validated drug use interventions. Dr. Curtis also co-Chairs the NIH Stigma Scientific Interest Group. Through clinical research, her work intersects addiction treatment, technology, and long-term recovery. Using natural-language processing, digital phenotyping, and big data methodologies, she focuses on enhancing precision assessment of substance use and behavioral predictors using intensive longitudinal data and integrating passive sensor data from smartphones and wearable devices. Dr. Curtis has authored multiple publications in the field of addiction medicine and machine learning.