

# GREATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NODE QUARTERLY DIGEST: SPRING 2021

## Updates from the Greater Southern California Node of the Clinical Trials Network

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### New Study Launch

**Congratulations to Tarzana Treatment Centers (TTC), a multi-site service organization in Los Angeles and a GSCN partner.** TTC was selected to participate in CTN-0100: Optimizing Retention, Duration and Discontinuation Strategies for Opioid Use Disorder Pharmacotherapy (RDD). This is an exciting and timely study. Learn more about the [study](#).

### Recent Publications

Is Telemedicine the Answer to Rural Expansion of Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder? Early Experiences in the Feasibility Study Phase of a National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network Trial. [Read more.](#)

Social Determinants of Mortality of COVID-19 and Opioid Overdose in American Rural and Urban Counties. [Read more.](#)

- [See recent publications co-authored by GSCN investigators on our website.](#)

### Webinars and Trainings

Check out our [website](#) for webinars and trainings on substance use disorder treatment.

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## Ask an Expert: Stimulant Use Disorder



**Rick Rawson, Ph.D.,** Emeritus Professor

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
University of California, Los Angeles

### Research Professor

Vermont Center for Behavior and Health  
Department of Psychiatry, University of Vermont

### RELATED ARTICLES

1. Responding to Global Stimulant Use: Challenges and Opportunities. [Read more.](#)
2. The Impact of Exercise on Depression and Anxiety Symptoms Among Methamphetamine-Dependent Individuals in a Residential Treatment Setting. [Read more.](#)

**Question:** You've been providing treatment services to patients with stimulant use disorder since the 1980s, what makes this reemerging trend in stimulant use different this time around?

**Response:** *From 1983-2005, I worked on a wide variety of issues related to stimulants (cocaine/methamphetamine). One issue I did not work on was stimulant-related overdose deaths. Then, rates of overdose deaths from stimulant overdose were not a major concern. [...] In 2021, two things are different: 1) fentanyl, 2) more potent/deadly methamphetamine.*

**Question:** Generally, we have had the same set of behavioral/psychosocial tools in our toolbox for the past two decades. Where is the research/science in terms of determining what works best?

**Response:** *Evidence-based behavioral treatments are currently the foundation of treatment for people with stimulant use disorder. There have been numerous, excellent recent reviews of the literature on this topic. All of the meta-analyses and systematic reviews uniformly agree that contingency management (CM) has by far the best evidence of helping people reduce their use of cocaine and methamphetamine and improve their functioning. [...]*

Read the entire [Ask an Expert Session](#).

### Co-Occurring Disorders: Community of Practice

Friday, June 25 | 12pm-1pm PST

[Learn more](#)

## Webinars

### Meth 2.0 and Opioid Use Disorder: A Collision of Epidemics

May 2021

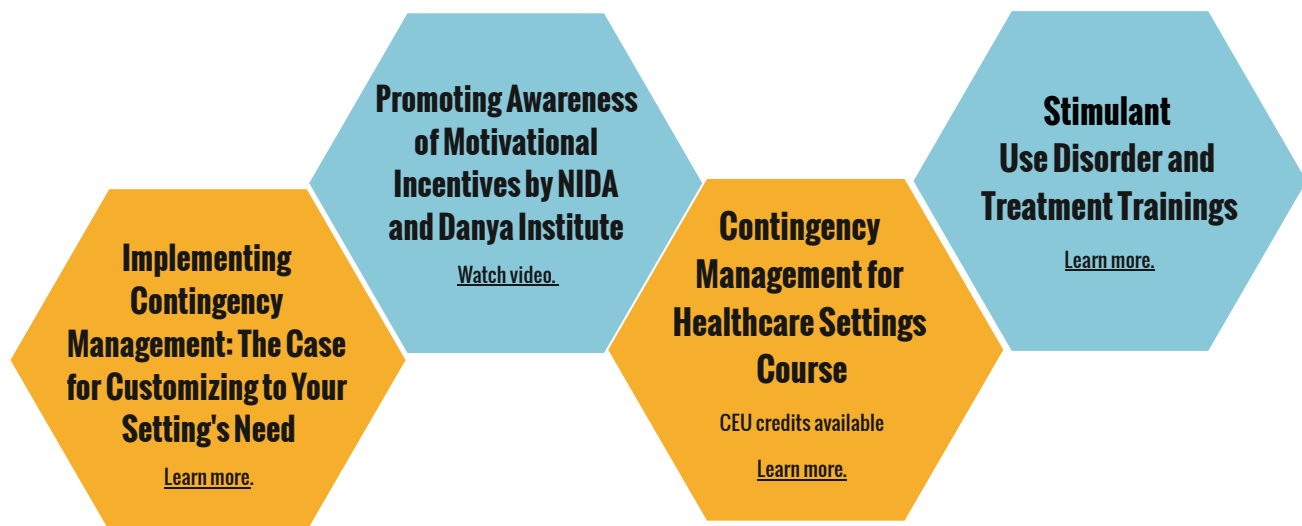
[Learn more](#)

## Comparison of Treatments for Cocaine Use Disorder

Cocaine is currently the second leading cause of overdose deaths in the United States. For cocaine use disorder (CUD) treatment, psychosocial treatments are the first option since no pharmacotherapy has been approved by the FDA. Below, is a summary of a [meta-analysis evaluating treatments for CUD](#).

- It is important to determine which treatments for CUD are associated with a reduction in cocaine use.
- 157 studies were determined eligible.
- **11 treatments for CUD were categorized:** psychotherapy, contingency management programs, placebo, opioids, psychostimulants, anticonvulsants, dopamine agonists, antidepressants, antipsychotics, miscellaneous medications, and other therapies.
- Results indicated that **contingency management programs** were associated with cocaine use reduction.

## Stimulant Use Disorder and Contingency Management Resources



## Site Opportunities to Participate in Research

CTN-0102: Rural Expansion of Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (Rural MOUD)

- Looking for primary care clinics who serve rural populations and have a need to expand MOUD using telemedicine.

GM-200: A Multi-Center Safety Study Examining the use of the O'Neill Long Active Naltrexone Implant (OLANI) in opioid dependent persons receiving repeat dosing

- Looking for clinics who have experience providing naltrexone-based treatment for OUD and participating in clinical trials of OUD treatment.

If you are interested in learning more, contact [scalhoun@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:scalhoun@mednet.ucla.edu) or visit our [website](#).

## WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

If you have clinical questions, topics for Ask an Expert, or want to share ideas for future research and clinical collaboration, contact us at [scalhoun@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:scalhoun@mednet.ucla.edu).