Wayne Edward Kepner, PhD, MPH

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(08/26/26)

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine 2024 - 2026
T-32 Post-doctoral Fellowship in Pain and Substance Use
Advisors: Dr. Keith Humphreys, Dr. Mark McGovern

University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine (UCSD) 2024
San Diego State University (SDSU)
Joint Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Research on Substance Use
Advisors: Dr. Alison Moore, Dr. Benjamin Han

San Diego State University, School of Public Health (SDSU) 2020
Master of Public Health (MPH)
Advisors: Dr. Guadalupe Ayala, Dr. James Lange, Dr. John Elder

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) 2017
Bachelor of Arts

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University, School of Medicine **2026 - Present**
Instructor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Principal Investigator, NIDA Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01DA067040)

Stanford University, School of Medicine 2024 - 2026
Postdoctoral Fellow, NIDA T-32 in Pain and Substance Use, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Stanford University, School of Medicine **2024 - Present**
Principal Investigators: Dr. Keith Humphreys, Dr. Mark McGovern

- Conducting research on implementation of medications for opioid use disorder in primary care settings, examining trajectories of MOUD adoption and retention across diverse healthcare systems

- Leading systematic reviews on mutual health groups and their effectiveness for substance use disorders
- Analyzing substance use patterns and treatment utilization among working-age populations during and after the COVID-19 pandemic

University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine 2022 - 2024
Principal Investigators: Dr. Alison Moore, Dr. Benjamin Han
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Geriatrics

- Conducted qualitative interviews and thematic analysis with 40 middle-aged and older adults on cannabis use, methamphetamine use among people living with HIV, and health services utilization in primary care settings
- Managed and trained a team of 5 graduate research assistants (MD and PhD students) in qualitative analysis methods using NVivo
- Co-wrote and secured funding for two grants: NIH R21 study on loneliness in older adults who use opioids, and a developmental grant for HIV and harm reduction services among older adults
- Conducted trend analysis of stimulant-related emergency department visits using data from California's Department of Healthcare Access and Information (2016-2021)

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Carla Marienfeld* 3/2021– 3/2022
Graduate Research Assistant, School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

- Analyzed electronic health records from 350,000+ patients using multivariate regression to examine health services utilization and conducted psychometric analyses to develop measurement instruments for assessing adverse childhood experiences among people with opioid use disorder

SDSU- Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age 2018 - 2020
San Diego State University, Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age
Principal Investigator: Dr. Ming-Tsiang Tsou
Graduate Research Assistant

- Conducted geospatial analysis, social media data mining, and natural language processing for public health surveillance projects including COVID-19 tweet analysis and spatial epidemiology of cancer and substance use.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kepner, W. A stable floor beneath the overdose decline? (2026) Addiction. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.70552

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Nguyen, A. L., Bejarano-Romero, R., Satybaldiyeva, N., Moore, A. A., & Bazzi, A. R. (2026). Integrating harm reduction interventions for older adults in opioid treatment programs: a qualitative study of patient and provider perspectives. Harm Reduction Journal. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-026-01503-0

Yang KH, Rasmussen M, Bhatt K, Satybaldiyeva N, **Kepner W**, Moore AA, Bergstrom J. Association between Lifetime Hallucinogen Use and Valvular Heart Disease: Findings from the All of Us Research Program. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs. 2026. doi:10.1080/02791072.2026.2673845.

Yang, K. H., Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.,** Friedman, J., Ping, S., & Leas, E. C. (2026). Prevalence and Reasons for Microdosing Cannabis, Psilocybin, LSD, and MDMA Among US Adults. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2026.108381

Han, B. H., **Kepner, W. E.,** Nguyen, A. L., Colaneri, N., Collins, A., Coveney, M., & Karris, M. Y. (2026). Methamphetamine Use Among Older Adults Living With HIV: A Qualitative Study. Journal of Addiction Medicine.

Han, B.H., Chen, S., **Kepner, W.E.** et al. Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Eligibility and Awareness Among Older Adults with Opioid use Disorder. J GEN INTERN MED (2026). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-026-10246-4

Yang KH, **Kepner W.,** Satybaldiyeva N, Bergstrom J, Moore AA, Lee EE. Associations between loneliness severity and depression and suicidal ideation among older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Aging & Mental Health.* 2026.doi:10.1080/13607863.2026.2612734.

Kepner, W., Cheng, H., Franz, B. et al. Implementation Outcomes of Low Threshold Care for Persons with Opioid Use Disorders. Journal of General Internal Medicine (2026). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-025-10112-9

Nguyen, N., Cruz Rivera, P. N., Abu Baker, D., Narasimhan, R., Tibiriçá, L., **Kepner, W.,** O'Malley, P., Zhao, L., Nguyen, A. L., & Moore, A. A. (2026). *Behaviors Related to Medical Cannabis Use in Older Adults: A Qualitative Study.* Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 1-9. https://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2026.2644852

Kepner, W., & Humphreys, K. (2026). *Substance use and treatment utilization patterns of working-age American men who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) during the COVID-19 pandemic.* Substance Abuse: Treatment, Prevention, and Policy. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13011-026-00733-6

Satybaldiyeva, N., Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W.,** Ferran, K., & Leas, E. C. (2025). Prevalence and reasons for using cannabidiol, delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabinol, cannabigerol, and hexahydrocannabinol among US adults. Journal of Cannabis Research, 7(1), 100.

Yang, K. H., Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.,** Friedman, J., & Leas, E. C. (2025, November). Internet Searches for Lorazepam Following the Release of The White Lotus. In JAMA Health Forum (Vol. 6, No. 11, pp. e254931-e254931). American Medical Association.

O'Neil, M. M., **Kepner, W.,** Gerber, G., Wojciekowski, T., & Pinals, D. (2025). Differences in opioid use and overdose among younger and older justice-impacted adults. Health & Justice, 13(1), 63.

Kepner, W., Vest, N., Risner, E., Cheng, H., Hurley, B., Snyder, H., & McGovern, M. (2025). Three trajectories of implementation of medications for opioid use disorder in primary care. Addiction Science & Clinical Practice, 20(1), 69.

Satybaldiyeva, N., Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W. E.,** & Leas, E. C. (2025). US State Marijuana and Delta-8-Tetrahydrocannabinol Laws and Delta-8-Tetrahydrocannabinol Use. American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 108026.

Satybaldiyeva, N., Ferran, K., Saleh, F., **Kepner, W**., & Hollenbach, K. (2025). Correlates of Suicidal Ideation Among Elementary School–Aged Pediatric Patients. Pediatric Emergency Care, 41(8), e73-e78.

Han, B. H., Brennan, J. J., **Kepner, W. E.,** Chen, S., Lin, S., Carley, J. A., ... & Castillo, E. M. (2025). Trends in stimulant-related emergency department visits among adults in California, 2017–2021. The American Journal of Emergency Medicine.

Kepner, W., & Humphreys, K. (2025). Effectiveness of Mutual Health Groups for Illicit Drug Use Disorders: A Review of the Current Literature. Current Addiction Reports, 12(1), 1-10.

Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W.,** Cleland, C. M., & Palamar, J. J. (2025). Trends and characteristics in ketamine use among US adults with and without depression, 2015–2022. Journal of Affective Disorders, 373, 345-352.

Kepner, W., Yang, K. H., Dionicio, P., Bailey, K., Satybaldiyeva, N., Moore, A., ... & Palamar, J. J. (2025). Prevalence and Correlates of Lifetime Ecstasy/MDMA Use Among Asian American and Pacific Islander Adult Populations in the United States, 2015–2020. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 1-9.

Kepner, W., Courchesne-Krak, N. S., Satybaldiyeva, N., Narasimhan, R., & Marienfeld, C. B. (2024). Emergency care utilization in persons with substance related diagnoses. *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, 20, 100573.

Abu Baker, D., Cruz Rivera, P. N., Narasimhan, R., Nguyen, N., Tibiriçá, L., **Kepner, W.**, O'Malley, P., Nguyen, A. L., & Moore, A. A. (2024). Older adults' use of cannabis and attitudes around disclosing medical cannabis use to their healthcare providers in California-A mixed methods study. *Drugs - Real World Outcomes.*

Cioffi, C. C., Flinn, R. E., Pasman, E., Gannon, K., **Kepner, W.**, McCabe, S. E., ... & Lofaro, R. J. (2024). Beyond the 5-year recovery mark: Perspectives of researchers with lived and living experience on public engagement and discourse. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 133, 104599.

Leas, E., Satybaldiyeva, N., **Kepner, W.,** Yang, K. H., Harati, R. M., Corroon, J., & Rouffet, M. (2024). Need for a public health response to the unregulated sales of Amanita muscaria mushrooms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine.*

Courchesne-Krak, N. S., Marienfeld, C. B., & **Kepner, W.** (2023). Focus: Big Data: What Brings You in Today? Sex, Race, Substance Type, and Other Sociodemographic and Health-Related Characteristics Predict if Substance Use is the Main Reason for a Clinical Encounter. *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, 96(3), 277.

Yang KH, Tam R, Satybaldiyeva N, **Kepner W**, Han BH, Moore AA, Palamar JJ. Trends in past-month cannabis use among US adults across a range of disabilities and health conditions, 2015–2019. *Preventive Medicine*. 2023;177:107768. doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107768.

Yang, K. H., **Kepner, W.**, Nijum, A., Han, B. H., & Palamar, J. J. (2023). Prevalence and Correlates of Past Year Ecstasy/MDMA Use in the United States. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*

Asheh, A. M., Courchesne-Krak, N., **Kepner, W**., & Marienfeld, C. (2023). Adverse Childhood Experiences Are Associated with History of Overdose Among Patients Presenting for Outpatient Addiction Care. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, 10-1097.

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Nguyen, D., Han, S. S., Lopez, F. A., & Palamar, J. J. (2022). Past-month binge drinking and cannabis use among middle-aged and older adults in the United States, 2015-2019. *Alcohol.*

Kepner, W., Meacham, M. C., & Nobles, A. L. (2022). Types and Sources of Stigma on Opioid Use Treatment and Recovery Communities on Reddit. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 57(10), 1511-1522.

Courchesne-Krak, N., **Kepner, W**., Rubano, A., & Marienfeld, C. (2022). Differences in outpatient, emergency, and inpatient use among pregnant women with a substance-related diagnosis. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*, 100559.

Fernandez, G., Maione, C., Zaballa, K., Bonnici, N., Spitzberg, B. H., Carter, J., Yang, H., McKew, J., Bonora, F., Ghodke, S. S., Jin, C., De Ocampo, R., **Kepner, W.**, & Tsou, M. H. (2021). The Geography of Covid-19 Spread in Italy Using Social Media and Geospatial Data Analytics. *The International Journal of Intelligence, Security, and Public Affairs*, 1–31.

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

White, W. L., Galanter, M., Kolodner, G., **Kepner, W. E.,** Sarapas, C. & Mouton, C. L. (2025). Medications for opioid use disorder: Enhancing retention to achieve long-term remission and recovery. Chestnut Health Systems, Lighthouse Institute.

Fernandez, G., Maione, C., Zaballa, K., Bonnici, N., Spitzberg, B. H., Carter, J., **Kepner, W.,** ... & Tsou, M. H. (2021). Sentiment analysis of social media response and spatial distribution patterns on

the COVID-19 outbreak: The case study of Italy. In *Empowering Human Dynamics Research with Social Media and Geospatial Data Analytics* (pp. 167-184). Springer, Cham.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Chaple, M., Niecko, S., & **Kepner, W**. (2025). Collaborating for change: ATTC's role in strengthening integrated behavioral health. Addiction Messenger, September 2025. Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Kepner, W. (2026, August). Supporting Long-Term Recovery: Sustainable Models of Recovery Support, Scale-Up and Scale-Out [Session Chair and Facilitator]. Pushing the Boundaries: A Dynamic View of Addiction Recovery Science, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Neuroscience Center, North Bethesda, MD.

Kepner, W., & Korthuis, P.T. (2026, June). The Oregon Model: Peer-Based Research and Interventions for People who Use Drugs [Co-Chair and Presenter, "The Oregon Model"]. Special Track Session, 88th Annual Scientific Meeting, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Portland, OR.

Kepner, W. (2025, November 20). Bridging Medications for Opioid Use Disorder and Mutual Help Groups: Lessons from a K01 Implementation Science Award. Grand Rounds, Center for Dissemination and Implementation at Stanford (CDIAS), Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA.

Kepner, W. (2023, November). Trends in emergency department visits associated with stimulant use among adults in California, 2016–2021. Oral presentation at the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Kepner, W. (2022, April). Young People in Recovery Annual Conference Keynote. San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W., Wiss, D., & Vest, N. (2022, April). Expert panel on recovery science. San Diego State University Colloquium on Recovery Science Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W., & Satybaldiyeva, N. (2020, July). Collegiate Recovery Impact Project. Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE) Annual Meeting (Virtual Conference), San Diego, CA.

Ashford, R., Horvath, T., Zuniga, M., Lange, J., Webb, N., & **Kepner, W**. (2019, May). Colloquium on Recovery Science. San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W. (2019, May). Panel on Alcohol and Other Drugs. San Diego State University Mental Health Awareness Week, San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W. (2019, March). Substance Abuse Prevention and Fraternity Risk Management. Presentation to San Diego State University's FrattManners Organization, San Diego, CA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Kepner, W., & Humphreys, K. (2026, June). Substance use and treatment utilization patterns of working-age American men who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Poster presented at the 88th Annual Scientific Meeting, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Portland, OR.

Satybaldiyeva, N., Yang, K., **Kepner, W.**, Friedman, J., Ping, S., & Leas, E. (2026, June). Prevalence and reasons for microdosing cannabis, psilocybin, LSD, and MDMA among US adults. Poster presented at the 88th Annual Scientific Meeting, College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), Portland, OR.

Kepner, W., Navarro, M., Jaros, S., Satybaldiyeva, N., & Humphreys, K. (2026). Developing a Statewide Secret Shopper Framework to Evaluate Compliance with California's MOUD Mandate (SB 184). Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Annual Meeting, April 2026. Bethesda, MD (NIH).

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Bergstrom, J., Moore, A. A., & Bazzi, A. (2026). *Naloxone ownership and overdose knowledge in older adults in opioid treatment programs.* California Academic Geriatrics Institutions (CAGI) Annual Conference. (Palo Alto, CA)

Chen S, **Kepner W**, Bergstrom J, Bazzi A, Han B. HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) awareness and eligibility among older adults with opioid use disorder. Accepted for the American Geriatrics Society National Meeting, May 2025.

Kepner, W., Nguyen, A., Moore, A. A., Bazzi, A., & Han, B. (2024). *Naloxone ownership and opioid overdose knowledge among older adults in opioid treatment programs.* College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Conference. (Montreal, Canada)

Kepner, W., Nguyen, A., Moore, A. A., Bazzi, A., & Han, B. (2024). *Naloxone ownership and opioid overdose knowledge among older adults in opioid treatment programs.* California Academic Geriatrics Institutions Inaugural Conference. (Irvine, CA)

Abu Baker, D., Nguyen, A., Narasimhan, R., Nguyen, N., Cruz Rivera, P. N., **Kepner, W.,** Doland, H., & Moore, A. A. (2024). "Because it is legal now I don't have a problem talking about it": Exploring attitudes around disclosing medical cannabis use among older adults in California. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Expo, San Diego, CA.

Kepner, W., Courchesne, N., Han, B., & Marienfeld, C. (2023). *Sociodemographic correlates of a substance-related diagnosis and associations with the number of emergency department visits using electronic health record data from 2012-2019*. College of Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. (Denver, CO)

Nguyen, N., Cruz Rivera, P., **Kepner, W**., Doland, H., Narasimham, R., Durai, S., Nguyen, A., & Moore, A. (Year). *Older Adults' Cannabis Discussions with Healthcare Providers (HCP): Preliminary Qualitative Findings*. American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2023 Annual Conference. (Long Beach, CA)

Cruz Rivera, P., Ngyuen, N., Doland, H., **Kepner, W**., Narasimhan, R., Durai, S., Nguyen, A., & Moore, A. (Year). *Motivations and Behaviors of Medical Cannabis Use in Older Adults: Preliminary Qualitative Findings*. American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2023 Annual Conference. (Long Beach, CA)

Kepner, W., Han, B. H., Nguyen, D., Han, S. S., Lopez, F. A., & Palamar, J. J. (2022). *Past-month binge drinking and cannabis use among middle-aged and older adults in the United States, 2015-2019*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2022 Annual Conference. (Boston, MA)

Asheh, A., Courchesne-Krak, N., Marienfeld, C., **Kepner, W**. (2022) *Adverse childhood experiences are associated with a history of overdose among patients in outpatient addiction care.* American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 2022 Annual Conference. (Hollywood, FL)

Courchesne, N., Marienfeld, C., **Kepner, W.** (2021) *A substance-related diagnosis impacts healthcare service utilization among pregnant women*. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 2021 *Annual Conference* (Virtual)

Kepner, W., & Nobles, A. (2021). *Characterizing experiences of stigma shared in online opioid treatment and recovery communities on Reddit*. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2021 *Annual Meeting and Expo* (Virtual / Denver, CO)

Kepner, W., Satybaldiyeva, N., Oren, E., Tsou, M. (2020) *Vape shop locations and proximity to schools in San Diego County.* American Public Health Association (APHA) 2020 Annual Meeting (San Diego, CA)

De Ocampo, R., **Kepner, W.** (2020) *Geospatial Analysis of Breast Cancer Rates in California Food Deserts*. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting-Illustrated Poster Competition (Denver, CO)

De Ocampo, R. **Kepner, W.** (2020) *Geospatial Analysis of Breast Cancer Rates in California Food Deserts*. Student Research Symposium at San Diego State University (San Diego, CA)

Kepner, W. Satybaldiyeva, N., Lange, J.E. (2020) *Correlates of Electronic Cigarette Use Among College Students In A Hispanic Serving Institution: Gender, Race/Ethnicity, Smoking, Marijuana Use and Alcohol Consumption*. Annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (New Orleans, LA)

MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Expert Interviews

- Ovalle, D. (2025, October 13). “Scientists identify key reason people may use or get addicted to cannabis.” *The Washington Post.* https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/10/13/cannabis-marijuana-addiction-genes-study.
    - Featured expert interview on addiction mechanisms and cannabis use research.
- Loeppky, J. (2024, August 6). “An unregulated ingredient in these mushroom chocolates may have made people sick.” *Verywell Health*. https://www.verywellhealth.com/mushroom-chocolates-recall-7972555.
    - Featured expert interview on emerging psychoactive substance regulation.

Research Featured in National Media

Sternfield, M. (2026, May 4). Think microdosing is just about mushrooms and LSD? New research says otherwise. KTLA News. https://ktla.com/news/microdosing-cannabis-more-common-lsd-shrooms/

- Herrington, A. J. *(2025, September 8).* States Without Legal Weed See More Delta-8 THC Usage, Study Finds. *Forbes.* https://www.forbes.com/sites/ajherrington/2025/09/08/states-without-legal-weed-see-more-delta-8-thc-usage-study-finds/
- Blakemore, E. (2025, January 19). “Research indicates recreational ketamine use is on the rise.” *The Washington Post.* https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2025/01/19/ketamine-use-depression —
- Wapner, J. (2024, July 3). 'Magic mushrooms' are legal in many states, but that doesn't mean they're safe. *The Washington Post.* https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/07/03/mushrooms-psychedelic-edible-harmful/
- Thompson, D. (2024, June 12). There's another 'magic mushroom' being sold in gummies, but it can kill. *U.S. News & World Report.* https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-06-12/theres-another-magic-mushroom-being-sold-in-gummies-but-it-can-kill
- LaMotte, S. (2023, November 6). Marijuana use raises risk of heart attack, heart failure and stroke, studies say. *CNN.* https://kvia.com/health/cnn-health/2023/11/06/marijuana-use-raises-risk-of-heart-attack-heart-failure-and-stroke-studies-say

Media Appearances

Television

- “Telemedicine for Veterinary Visits in the Time of COVID-19,” *NBCLA,* 19 June 2020.
    - Featured as expert commentator on telehealth implementation and accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- "UC San Diego Scientists Warn About Emerging 'Magic Mushroom' Market," *KPBS,* 12 February 2024.
    - Interviewed as addiction researcher discussing regulatory and public-health implications of the unregulated Amanita muscaria market.

Invited Webinars

- **Kepner, W.** (2025, November 16). The Role of Researchers with Lived/Living Experience in Shaping Research Agendas. College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Communications Committee Webinar.
  Co-panelists: Emily Pasman, PhD (University of Michigan); Martha Tilson, PhD (University of Kentucky); Noel Vest, PhD (Boston University).

Policy Citations

- Urban Institute (2023). "Examining Oregon's Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act (Measure 110): An Evidence-Based Analysis." Cites research by Kepner et al., 2022 on stigma and harm-reduction approaches in substance-use disorder treatment.
  https://www.urban.org/research/publication/examining-oregons-drug-addiction-treatment-and-recovery-act
    - Evidence used in national policy analysis on the health-based framing of drug decriminalization.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Advocates for Human Potential 2019 - 2020
Field Interviewer
Supervisor: Dr. David Centerbar
Project: Massachusetts State Opioid Response Evaluation Project

- Contacting individuals with a history of opiate use disorder (OUD), gaining respondent consent, and administering SAMHSA directed GRPA interviews for a state-wide opioid response program (CAPI/CATI)

SAFE Project Leadership Academy and Fellowship 2019 - 2020
Advisors: *Mary Fleming, MS*

- Working with assigned mentors from SAMHSA to create and implement an impact project related to substance use and collegiate recovery at San Diego State University

City of Hope- California Teacher Study 2018 - 2019
PI(s): *Dr. James Lacey Jr., Dr. Ming-Tsiang Tsou*
Health Analytics Research Assistant

- Working within a remote desktop environment with data from a large longitudinal cohort (n=130,000) to examine geospatial risk factors for cancer

- Creating novel applications of geographic information system (GIS) software for application to a large repository of stored health data (Data Warehouse)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stanford University, School of Medicine 2026 - 2027
Team Science Fellow: CARE Scholars Program (Stanford CARE Team Science Fellowship)
Teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander health disparities to undergraduate and graduate CARE Scholars; mentoring 3–4 scholar teams in population health research using national inpatient and survey databases

San Diego State University School of Social Work Spring 2023
Instructor of Record: Social Work 610- Computer Applications in Social Work Practice

Grant Funding (Peer-Reviewed)

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health **2026 - 2031**
K01DA067040 (Kepner, PI). $934,907 total costs. 08/2026 - 07/2031.
Mentored Research Scientist Development Award: Investigating the Integration of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder and Mutual Help Groups in Addiction Treatment: Barriers, Facilitators, and a User-Centered Approach to Intervention Development.
Primary Mentor: Dr. Keith Humphreys. Co-Mentor: Dr. Mark McGovern.

Project	Role	Amount	Period	Agency/Mechanism
CPDD Special Grants Fund	Co-PI	$20,000	6/25 - 6/27	The College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Delivering HIV Prevention and Harm Reduction Interventions for Middle-aged and Older Adults within Opioid Treatment Programs in San Diego County	Co-PI	$100,000	6/23 - 6/24	San Diego Center for AIDS Research
A Secret-Shopper Pilot of California SB 184 MOUD Compliance	PI	$24,770	2025-2026	Wu Tsai NeuroChoice Initiative, Stanford University
K01DA067040 (Mentored Research Scientist Development Award). “Investigating the Integration of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder and Mutual Help Groups in Addiction	PI	$934,907	2026-2031	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Treatment: Barriers, Facilitators and a User-Centered Approach to Intervention Development."				

Grant Funding (Non Peer-Reviewed)

Aztec Parents Fund 2021
$10,000: Aztecs for Recovery Collegiate Recovery Program– Funding for a collegiate recovery program and accompanying recovery support services such as mutual help meetings (e.g., SMART, 12 Step), pro-social events, and digital recovery support services. Funds were also allocated for an annual academic conference on Recovery Science titled "Colloquium on Recovery Science."

Aztec Parents Fund 2020
$13,780: Aztecs for Recovery – Aztecs for Recovery Collegiate Recovery Program– Funding for a collegiate recovery program and accompanying recovery support services such as mutual help meetings (e.g., SMART, 12 Step), pro-social events, and digital recovery support services. Funds were also allocated for an annual academic conference on Recovery Science titled "Colloquium on Recovery Science."

Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force 2019
$1,000: Aztecs For Recovery - Colloquium on Recovery Science.

San Diego State University
Instructionally Related Activities 2019
$2,000: Aztecs For Recovery - Colloquium on Recovery Science

ADVISORY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) 2025 - Present
Board Member

- Advising implementation of $20 million BCHIP (Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program) grant to expand treatment facilities and enhance behavioral health services for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities

SMART Recovery USA 2025 - Present
Research Advisor, USA Research Advisory Committee

Narcotics Anonymous World Services 2026 – Present
Research Advisor

HONORS AND AWARDS

2026	NIDA Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01DA067040), $934,907, Stanford University School of Medicine
2025	ATTC POWER Team Member - Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network. Selected to collaborate with researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experience to develop innovative workforce strategies aligned with SAMHSA's CSAT priority areas
2024	T-32 Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pain and Substance Use Disorders, Stanford University School of Medicine
2024	CPDD Travel Award for Early Career Investigators
2023	AMERSA Growing a Diverse Workforce Award
2021	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Health Policy Research Scholar Semi-Finalist
2020	SAMHSA - Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) Building and Sustaining a Thriving Collegiate Recovery Program
2020	Frontiers in Addiction Research and Pregnancy (FrARP) Advanced Training Program
2020	SDSU Graduate Student Travel Award
2020	Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) Mentoring Pilot Program
2019	Una Davis Scholarship
2019	Stop the Addiction Fatality Epidemic (SAFE) Project Leadership Academy and Fellowship
2019	Walter Koppelman Memorial Scholarship for Social Justice
2019	UCSD SCAIFE Summer Clinical Institute in Addiction Studies

SERVICE

A New PATH Recovery Community Organization

- Youth opioid overdose task force
- Partnered with UCSD, SDSU and A New Path RCO to spread awareness of the uses of naloxone to students and youth in San Diego

Triton Campus Recovery Group

- Founding member of a collegiate recovery program at UC San Diego

Aztecs For Recovery 2019 – Present

Advisors: *Dr. James Lange, Dr. Jennifer Rikard, Dr. Maria Zuniga* *Co-President and Co-Founder*

- Founding member of a collegiate recovery program at SDSU which is focused on fighting the stigma of behavioral, drug and alcohol addiction and creating a safe, sober environment in which SDSU students can flourish.
- Coordinating, planning, and directing an annual Colloquium on Recovery Science with a registration list of approximately 60 attendees and a budget of $5,000.

MENTORSHIP

Garland Gerber, PhD student
Giovanni Appolon, PhD Student
Sardor Abdumanapov, UCSD undergraduate student
Alise Colins, SDSU MPH student
Leticia Camacho, UCLA undergraduate student.
Dan Agheze, MD. Addiction medicine trained fellow.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATES

06.2024	Innovations for Substance Use Disorders (I4SUD) Certificate, Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, Baltimore, MD
12.2019	Protecting Human Research Participants (PHRP) Online Training
10.2019	National Conflict Resolution Center – The Art of Inclusive Communication
01.2019	Getting Started with GIS. ESRI Academy
10.2018	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Human Research – Social & Behavioral Researchers & Staff

MEMBERSHIPS

2023	Association of Multidisciplinary Research on Substance Use and Addiction (AMERSA)
2019	Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)
2019	International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)

SKILLS

- Dissemination and Implementation
- Coding Languages: SAS, R, Python
- Spatial Analysis: ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, QGIS, SatScan
- Statistical Analysis: Qualtrics, REDCap, SPSS, SAS
- Qualitative Analysis: Nvivo
- Data Visualization: Tableau
- Complete PC configuration including motherboard, CPU, GPU, RAM, SSD/HD, PCIE,
- Stage acting
- Conversational Korean