

# Adolescent Brain Development: Understanding the Impact of Substance Use

*A Congressional Briefing Sponsored by*  
**The Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**  
**And**

**The Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse**

*In cooperation with*  
The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus

**Monday, October 20, 2014**

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

(lunch will be available)

**Capitol Visitors Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Room 217**

Scientific advances have shown that adolescent exposure to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other substances may interfere with brain development, with potentially harmful long-term consequences. In the past two decades, we have learned that the brain continues to develop into a person's twenties, making the widespread use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other substances among young people of serious concern. A robust portfolio of research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) focuses on the development of the adolescent brain – its vulnerability, plasticity and resiliency in the context of substance use. The goal of this work is to further our understanding of the impact of substance use and addiction on the developing adolescent brain to improve prevention and treatment strategies. As the nation continues to debate aspects of and approaches to alcohol and other substance use policy, more and more policymakers, physicians, parents, and teens are asking for definitive answers to decades-old questions about the risks and long-term effects of adolescent alcohol and substance use on health and well-being. The proposed Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study of 10,000 adolescents will recruit participants prior to the initiation of any substance use and follow them over 10 years, enabling us to definitively answer these pressing questions.

## Speakers

**George F. Koob, Ph.D.**, Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/NIH, will provide an overview of developmental research on alcohol use.

**Nora D. Volkow, M.D.**, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse/NIH, will provide an overview of developmental research on illicit substance use.

**Sandra A. Brown, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology and Psychiatry and Vice Chancellor for Research, University of California, San Diego will discuss adolescent treatment and outcomes from the National Consortium on Alcohol and Neurodevelopment in Adolescence study.

## Sponsoring Organizations

Alkermes - American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - American Academy of Pediatrics - American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases - American College of Neuropsychopharmacology - American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - American Psychiatric Association - American Psychological Association - American Society of Addiction Medicine - American Sociological Association - Association of Recovery Schools - College on Problems of Drug Dependence - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America - Community of Concern- Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences - Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility - Friends Research Institute, Inc. - IC&RC - National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors - National Council for Behavioral Health - National Foundation for Prevention of Chemical Dependency Disease - National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. - National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome - Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation - Phoenix House - Research Society on Alcoholism - Society for Prevention Research - Society for Research in Child Development - State Associations of Addiction Services - University of Florida, Department of Psychiatry

**Positive RSVPs only to Will Starck at (202) 336-6182 or [wstarck@apa.org](mailto:wstarck@apa.org)**