

Faculty Symposium

02.07.13

Thursday,
February 7, 2013
4:30–6:00 p.m.
Faculty Shark Club
(Rosenthal Building)

RSVP to
specialevents@nova.edu
or 954-262-2105 by Friday,
February 1, 2013.

Save the date:
Future symposia

March 7, 2013



Prescription Drug Abuse and Diversion

Florida has been at the center of the nation's prescription drug epidemic for the past decade, experiencing tremendous increases in prescription drug-related overdoses and mortality. NSU's Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) is a national leader in confronting this burgeoning public health problem through its investigations of prescription drug abuse and diversion. Codirectors Steven P. Kurtz, Ph.D., and Hilary L. Surratt, Ph.D., currently lead four large research projects that focus on epidemiologic surveillance, as well as intervention initiatives to stem this crisis.

The speakers from the Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) at Nova Southeastern University will address

- ◆ sources of diverted prescription opioids in South Florida
- ◆ prescription drug abuse among young adults in Miami's club scene
- ◆ prescription drug abuse among the elderly in South Florida
- ◆ a national perspective on the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs

Hilary Surratt, Ph.D., is a professor and director of ARSH. Her work has included the development and evaluation of HIV interventions for vulnerable populations, funded under the auspices of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). She has published widely in the areas of substance abuse, drug diversion, HIV/AIDS, and violence.

Steven Kurtz, Ph.D., is a professor and director of ARSH. He is the principal investigator of two NIDA-funded clinical trials to test the efficacy of novel substance use and HIV risk reduction interventions for gay and bisexual men and for young adult polydrug users. His research is centered on illicit and prescription drug abuse, HIV risk behaviors, and related health and social problems.

Mance Buttram serves as a co-investigator and project director of two NIDA-funded clinical trials conducted at ARSH. He is a trained medical anthropologist whose work includes qualitative, quantitative, and geographic analysis, as well as study and intervention design. He has published several papers describing social and cultural risk factors related to HIV transmission risk and resilience.

Maria Levi-Minzi serves as project manager of two NIDA-funded studies conducted at ARSH. Her clinical experience as a mental health counselor has provided a foundation for research in the areas of substance use and HIV risk among marginalized populations. Her publications and presentations have focused on the diversion and abuse of prescription medications among different types of substance users.