



NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

2011

A decorative horizontal bar composed of a series of small, vertical rectangular segments in various shades of blue, teal, and grey, with a few segments in red and white.

Annual
Report

Message from the Chairman



I am pleased that 2011 proved to be an exceptional year in our drive to advance the NCRG's mission. It marked the NCRG's 15th anniversary as the only national organization exclusively devoted to public education and funding research that will help increase our understanding of pathological and youth gambling and find effective methods of treatment for the disorder.

We continued to build on the productive changes made to our grants program in 2010. In addition to supporting the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research, the NCRG awarded \$545,298 in grants relating to key research issues surrounding our mission in 2011. From a brief intervention for college students to a social network analysis of pathological gamblers, the NCRG-funded research projects show promise in helping us understand more about the disorder.

A key focus for 2011 was on college and youth initiatives. In March, the NCRG proudly launched CollegeGambling.org, a first-of-its-kind website that helps universities and their students address issues surrounding gambling. We also partnered with Young Minds Inspired to create a new educational program titled "Know the Odds" as a back-to-school initiative.

The NCRG enjoyed continued success with its ongoing outreach initiatives. We held our fifth annual NCRG Road Tour in Boston to convene those with a vested interest in pathological and youth gambling, as well as explain the NCRG's work and resources. The 12th annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction was held Oct. 2-4 and brought together more than 325 stakeholders to learn how technological developments provide new ways to understand, identify and treat addictions. The NCRG continued its successful webinar series and held treatment provider workshops in several cities across the U.S., helping to educate and assist more mental health care providers than ever before.

In addition to expanding its offerings in 2011, the NCRG has also grown its staff. Amy Martin joined the NCRG in March as its communications and outreach manager, and has helped the NCRG increase its traditional and social media presence, build relationships with key partners and reach out to new audiences and stakeholders.

From offering a greater amount of educational programs to funding new innovative research, it is easy to see that 2011 was a productive year for the NCRG. While my tenure as the NCRG's chairman comes to a close, I am extremely proud of the organization's 15 years of unprecedented progress and look forward to remaining involved as an NCRG board member.

Lastly, I'm pleased to introduce Alan Feldman, a man I greatly respect, as the NCRG's new chairman. I have full confidence that Alan will lead the NCRG into its next phase of growth, and I look forward to working with him and my fellow board members to ensure the NCRG's continued success in achieving its mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn C. Christenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Glenn C. Christenson
Chairman
National Center for Responsible Gaming

NCRG Leadership

The National Center for Responsible Gaming's (NCRG) mission is to help individuals and families affected by gambling disorders by supporting the finest peer-reviewed, scientific research into pathological and youth gambling; encouraging the application of new research findings to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies; and advancing public education about gambling disorders and responsible gaming. Founded in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the NCRG is the American Gaming Association's (AGA) affiliated charity.

The NCRG is overseen by a board of directors that serves as the practical, hands-on management group for the organization, focusing on education and outreach program creation and implementation. The 2011 NCRG board members include:

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Managing Director
Velstand Investments, LLC

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William S. Boyd

Executive Chairman
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SECRETARY AND TREASURER

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Executive Vice Chairman
Acadia Healthcare/Pioneer Behavioral Health

Contributors

Since its inception, more than \$22 million has been committed to the NCRG thanks to generous support from various financial donors, including gaming companies, suppliers and vendors, NCRG board members, gaming employees, related organizations and individuals. These contributions allow the NCRG to further its mission to support the finest peer-reviewed research on gambling disorders and develop science-based education and outreach programs.

The following list of contributors supported the NCRG in 2011:

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Caesars Entertainment Corporation
Gary Loveman
President, CEO and Chairman

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SPECIAL DONATIONS

\$100,000
JCM Global

\$63,000
Global Gaming Expo (G2E)

(For a list of contributors prior to 2011, visit www.ncrg.org.)



Revolutionizing Research

When the NCRG was founded in 1996, it revolutionized the field of research on gambling disorders by providing the first significant private source of funding for research in this field. It is now the leading private source of funding for science-based research and information on gambling and health in the United States. Since its inception, the NCRG has supported the highest-quality research projects in the field and has fueled the most dramatic increase in scientific investigations of gambling over the past century. In 2011, NCRG-funded research hit a milestone of producing more than 200 publications, many of which are in top-tier academic journals.

The NCRG's research portfolio includes the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research and the competitive project grants program. The NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research demonstrate that substantive, multi-year research grants that employ a long-term approach add significant value to the body of research on gambling disorders and other addictive disorders. The competitive project grants program allows the NCRG to offer more funding opportunities, increase the number of researchers working in the field, encourage new investigators to explore gambling disorders and foster multidisciplinary collaboration.

2011 NCRG Scientific Advisory Board

Composed of leading scientists with expertise in addiction and related topics, the Scientific Advisory Board plays a vital role by ensuring that the NCRG follows rigorous standards in awarding grants for only the highest-quality research proposals. The board's main responsibilities are to monitor the progress of the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research and to evaluate the conduct of the project grants program, including the peer-review process. Members also advise on the development of funding initiatives and educational activities.

CHAIRWOMAN

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D., M.P.H.

*Chair and Dean's Professor of Epidemiology
Department of Epidemiology
College of Public Health & Health Professions
College of Medicine
University of Florida*

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Harold Wynne, Ph.D.

*President
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NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research

In 2009, the University of Minnesota and Yale University were selected as the first NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research. Both Centers of Excellence are instituting groundbreaking work and mentoring the next generation of researchers to study gambling disorders and other addictions.

University of Minnesota: Susceptibility Model for Pathological Gambling

Principal Investigator: Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., professor of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota and co-director of the Impulse Control Disorders Clinic at the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

The goal of the NCRG Center of Excellence at the University of Minnesota is to develop and validate a model that potentially detects and treats youth who are susceptible to impulse control problems and other risky behaviors such as pathological gambling. If effective, this model could prove that progression to pathological gambling can be prevented with early diagnosis and intervention.

This Center of Excellence has made significant strides to recruit and analyze results from the 391 young adults who were given impulsivity and emotional measurement tests. To investigate the predictive power of the model in tracking impulse control problems over time, a sample of participants are seen by researchers on an annual basis. Researchers are analyzing the data from 232 participants to compare impulsive and problem gambling behavior patterns at the beginning and one-year checkpoints. To fully develop and validate the interventions, participants that score highest on the impulsivity scales are selected to receive a brief intervention. Researchers are analyzing the data for participants who have completed the initial and one-month intervention visits.

Dr. Grant and his colleagues presented papers on this research in five keynote sessions and published five manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals in 2011 (see list on page 10 for publications from both Centers of Excellence).

Yale University: The Yale CORE (Center of Research Excellence)

Principal Investigator: Marc Potenza, M.D., Ph.D., professor of psychiatry, child study and neurobiology at Yale University School of Medicine.

The two main research components of the NCRG Center of Excellence at Yale are (1) a focus on understanding the relationship between clinically relevant aspects of pathological gambling and biological mechanisms; and (2) an investigation of adolescent gambling and risk-taking.

The Center of Excellence continued to recruit volunteers for a clinical trial that is testing the effectiveness of naltrexone as a treatment strategy for pathological gambling. This drug is commonly used to blunt cravings for alcohol and has shown to be useful in helping individuals with gambling cravings. The study will also include brain imaging and genetic data on these volunteers. Researchers have also gathered data from 2,484 Connecticut high school students to study risky behavior among this age group. Approximately 10 percent were found to have either problem or pathological gambling.

Dr. Potenza and colleagues have presented their research at seven U.S. and international conferences and published nine manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. The Center of Excellence's work also involves mentoring young investigators. Hedy Kober, Ph.D., mentored by Dr. Potenza, received a National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Travel Award to present on gambling and drug addiction research at the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence.

2011 Peer Review Panel Members

The NCRG recruits distinguished researchers in the addictions field to evaluate proposals. The following individuals served on peer-review panels in 2011.

Carlos Blanco, Ph.D.

Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Columbia University

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Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies
Brown University

Brett Clementz, Ph.D.

Professor, Behavioral and
Brain Sciences Program
University of Georgia

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Chair and Dean's Professor
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University of Florida

Natalie Denburg, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department
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University of Iowa

Jeff Derevensky, Ph.D.

Professor of Applied/Child Psychology
Professor of Psychiatry
McGill University

Rani A. Desai, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and
of Epidemiology
Yale University School of Medicine

Mark R. Dixon, Ph.D.

Professor and Coordinator of the
Behavior Analysis and Therapy
Program
Southern Illinois University

Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota

David C. Hodgins, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
University of Calgary

Scott Huettel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor in Psychology
and Neuroscience
Duke University

Debi LaPlante, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Steven LaRowe, Ph.D.

Research Associate, Department
of Psychiatry
Medical University of South Carolina

Robert Leeman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Yale University

Michael Lynskey, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department
of Psychiatry
Washington University

Sherry McKee, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Yale University

Gregory Madden, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
Utah State University

Matthew Martens, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department
of Educational, School and
Counseling Psychology
University of Missouri – Columbia

Gloria M. Miele, Ph.D.

Instructor of Clinical Psychiatry
Columbia University

T. Celeste Napier, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pharmacology
Rush Medical Center

Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
Boston University School of Medicine

Clayton Neighbors, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
University of Houston

M. Foster Olive, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychology
Arizona State University

Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study
and Neurobiology
Yale University School of Medicine

Ty A. Ridenour, Ph.D.

Research Associate Professor,
Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

Steven Schinke, Ph.D.

D'Elbert and Selma Keenan Professor
of Social Work
Columbia University

Wendy S. Slutske, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
University of Missouri – Columbia

David Takeuchi, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research and
Professor of Sociology
University of Washington, Seattle

Stuart Usdan, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies,
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College of Human Environmental
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University of Alabama

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Ziming Xuan, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor
Department of Community Health
Sciences
Boston University School of
Public Health

David Zald, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
and Psychiatry
Vanderbilt University

Project Grants Program

Through its highly competitive project grants program, the NCRG awarded \$545,298 in 2011 to support five new research projects. These grants encourage high-quality scientific research on gambling disorders and help to increase understanding of the drivers behind not only gambling disorders but all addictive disorders. Project grant funding from the NCRG also helps to encourage new investigators to explore gambling disorders and foster multidisciplinary collaboration.

In 2011, grants were awarded for the following projects:

SEED GRANTS

Mirtazapine as a Pharmacological Intervention for Reducing Risk-Taking Behavior

Principal Investigator: T. Celeste Napier, Ph.D.
Rush University Medical Center
Award: \$28,750

Dr. Napier will work to identify the potential for repurposing the atypical antidepressant, mirtazapine, as a pharmacological intervention for reducing risk-behavior and/or relapse prevention of gambling disorders. The proposed experiments should also indicate if this drug may be useful for relatively brief interventions for persons with subclinical gambling disorders.

Evaluating and Treating the Near-Miss Magnitude Effect in Underage Pathological Gambling

Principal Investigator: Mark R. Dixon, Ph.D.
Southern Illinois University
Award: \$34,500

Using a computerized slot-machine task and functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), the project will attempt to demonstrate that brain activity in underage pathological gamblers who experience near-misses with larger wins will produce greater activity in the dopamine reward system than near-misses with smaller wins. Dr. Dixon and his colleagues will also examine brain activity in relation to winning, near-miss and losing outcomes combined with a therapeutic intervention.

LARGE GRANTS

Social Network Analysis of Pathological Gambling

Principal Investigator: Adam Goodie, Ph.D.
University of Georgia
Award: \$172,487

Dr. Goodie will study the role of a gamblers' social networks in their gambling-related pathology by analyzing how gambling behavior, personality measures and substance use patterns of one's social network impact their gambling severity.

Assessing the Contribution of Reinforcement-learning Deficits in Pathological Gamblers

Principal Investigator: John O'Doherty, Ph.D.
California Institute of Technology
Award: \$172,500

Dr. O'Doherty will investigate the brain circuitry's involvement in response to rewarding and punishing events in patients diagnosed with pathological gambling. The researchers will compare patterns of neural activity between pathological and recreational gamblers as they perform simple decision-making tasks to obtain monetary gains and avoid losses.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

A Randomized Controlled Trial of Personalized Normative Feedback for Problem Gambling College Students

Principal Investigator: Clayton Neighbors, Ph.D.
University of Houston
Award: \$171,561

Dr. Neighbors will develop and test an online screening and brief intervention (SBI) aimed at reducing gambling-related problems among college students by modifying a Personalized Normative Feedback (PNF) intervention. Once created, the online SBI will be used on CollegeGambling.org.

Ensuring the Integrity of NCRG-Funded Research

Since the first round of NCRG-funding for research, the NCRG has mandated stringent firewalls in a multistep process to separate the gaming industry's contributions from the research it funds. This process, detailed in the diagram below, ensures that the NCRG and its funders have no influence over which research projects receive funding or over the results of the research that is funded. In this way, the NCRG serves as a model for other industries and institutions interested in learning how to safeguard the integrity of the research they fund.

Gaming Industry

The NCRG's funders – mostly gaming companies and suppliers – make contributions to the NCRG.



National Center for Responsible Gaming

The NCRG keeps a portion of the funds to use for education and outreach initiatives, while the bulk of the funds are distributed to research projects as directed by the independent Scientific Advisory Board and peer-review panels.



Scientific Advisory Board and Peer-Review Panels

Researchers interested in obtaining funding submit proposals through the NCRG's competitive grant-making process. This process is overseen by the Scientific Advisory Board, an independent committee of some of the field's leading experts. A peer-review panel is assembled to evaluate the proposals, based on criteria modeled after those used by the National Institutes of Health. The Scientific Advisory Board makes final funding decisions.



NCRG Centers of Excellence

Using substantial research grants awarded by the NCRG, the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research conduct dynamic, ongoing research programs on gambling disorders.

Individual Research Projects

The NCRG also awards grants to researchers from around the world for individual research projects on gambling disorders.



Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journals

After the research has been completed, the researcher usually submits a report on the project and its findings to an independent, peer-reviewed journal. NCRG-funded studies have resulted in the publication of more than 200 articles in such journals. The NCRG board and its funders learn about the research findings after they have been published.

2011 Publications of NCRG-Funded Research

Publishing research findings in a peer-reviewed scientific journal is how researchers share their work with colleagues and the public, as well as subject their methodology and analysis to the judgment of the scientific community. NCRG-funded research has consistently been published in the highest-impact journals with the most rigorous standards. Since 1996, NCRG-funded research has resulted in more than 200 publications and has been cited 10,000 times in the scientific literature.

The following NCRG-funded research studies were published in 2011:

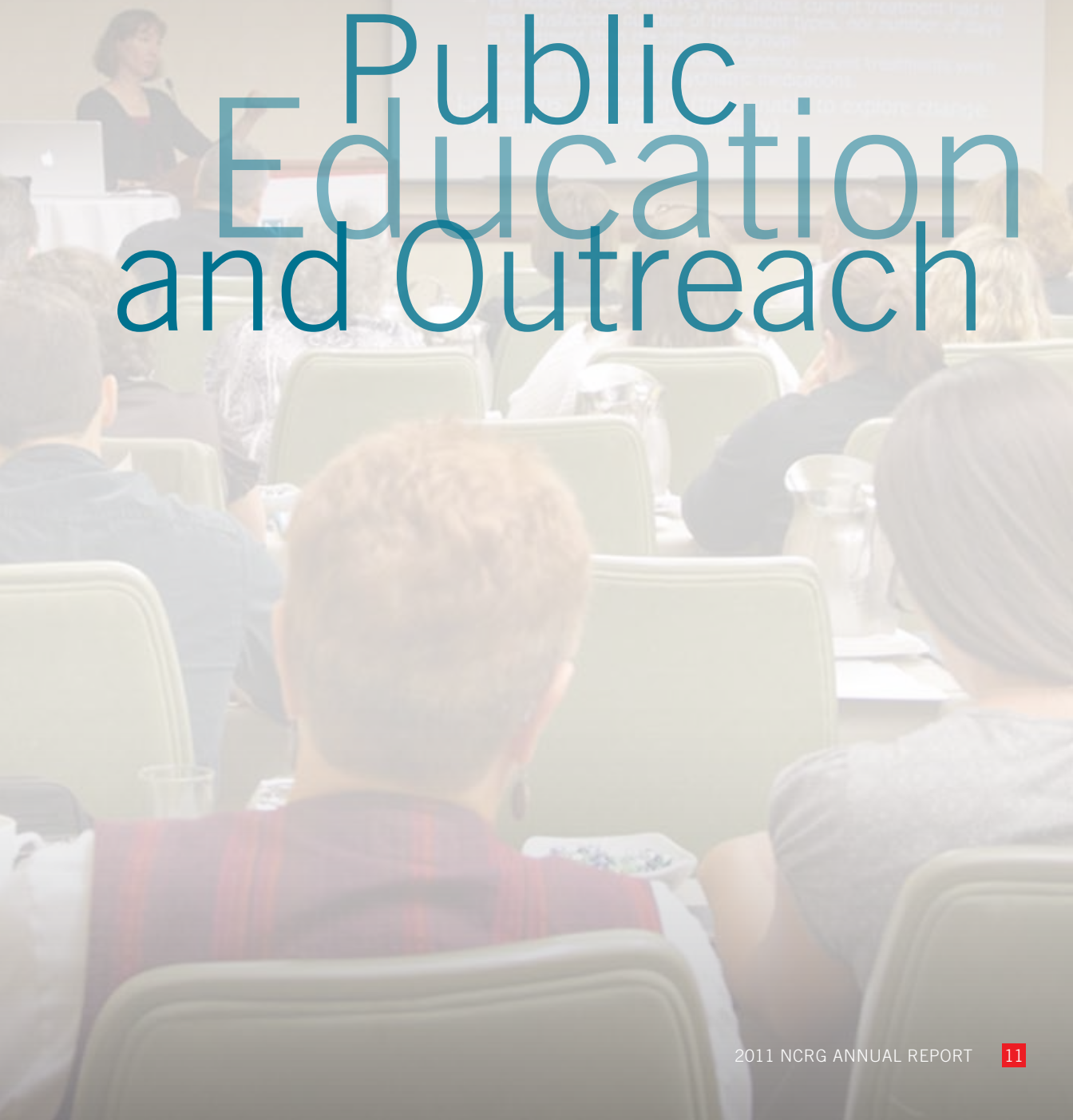
- Balodis, I. M., Lacadie, C. M., & Potenza, M. N. (2011). A Preliminary Study of the Neural Correlates of the Intensities of Self-Reported Gambling Urges and Emotions in Men with Pathological Gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 1-21. doi:10.1007/s10899-011-9259-8
- Berlin, H. A., Braun, A., Simeon, D., Koran, L. M., Potenza, M. N., McElroy, S. L., Fong, T., et al. (2011). A double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of topiramate for pathological gambling. *The World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*. doi:10.3109/15622975.2011.560964
- Blanco, C., Myers, J., & Kendler, K. S. (2011). Gambling, disordered gambling and their association with major depression and substance use: a web-based cohort and twin-sibling study. *Psychological Medicine*, 1-12. doi:10.1017/S0033291711001401
- Fortune, E. E., & Goodie, A. S. (2011). Cognitive distortions as a component and treatment focus of pathological gambling: A review. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. doi:10.1037/a0026422
- Franco, C. A., Maciejewski, P. K., & Potenza, M. N. (2011). Past-year recreational gambling in a nationally representative sample: Correlates of casino, non-casino, and both casino/non-casino gambling. *Psychiatry Research*, 188(2), 269-275. doi:10.1016/j.psychres.2011.04.008
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- Grant, J. E., Chamberlain, S. R., Schreiber, L. R. N., Odlaug, B. L., & Kim, S. W. (2011). Selective decision-making deficits in at-risk gamblers. *Psychiatry Research*, 189(1), 115-120. doi:10.1016/j.psychres.2011.05.034
- Linnet, J., Møller, A., Peterson, E., Gjedde, A., & Doudet, D. (2011). Dopamine release in ventral striatum during Iowa Gambling Task performance is associated with increased excitement levels in pathological gambling. *Addiction*, 106(2), 383-390. doi:10.1111/j.1360-0443.2010.03126.x
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- Mooney, M. E., Odlaug, B. L., Kim, S. W., & Grant, J. E. (2011). Cigarette smoking status in pathological gamblers: Association with impulsivity and cognitive flexibility. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 117(1), 74-77. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2010.12.017
- Odlaug, B. L., Chamberlain, S. R., Kim, S. W., Schreiber, L. R. N., & Grant, J. E. (2011). A neurocognitive comparison of cognitive flexibility and response inhibition in gamblers with varying degrees of clinical severity. *Psychological Medicine*, 41(10), 2111-2119. doi:10.1017/S0033291711000316
- Potenza, M. N., Walderhaug, E., Henry, S., Gallezot, J.-D., Planeta-Wilson, B., Ropchan, J., & Neumeister, A. (2011). Serotonin 1B receptor imaging in pathological gambling. *The World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*. doi:10.3109/15622975.2011.598559
- Schreiber, L., Odlaug, B. L., & Grant, J. E. (2011). Impulse control disorders: Updated review of clinical characteristics and pharmacological management. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 2. doi:10.3389/fpsy.2011.00001
- Stinchfield, R. (2011). Gambling among Minnesota public school students from 1992 to 2007: Declines in youth gambling. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 25(1), 108-117. doi:10.1037/a0021266
- Yip, S. W., Desai, R. A., Steinberg, M. A., Rugle, L., Cavallo, D. A., Krishnan-Sarin, S., & Potenza, M. N. (2011). Health/functioning characteristics, gambling behaviors, and gambling-related motivations in adolescents stratified by gambling problem severity: Findings from a high school survey. *The American Journal on Addictions*. 20(6), 495-508. doi:10.1111/j.1521-0391.2011.00180.x
- Yip, S. W., Lacadie, C., Xu, J., Worhunsky, P. D., Fulbright, R. K., Constable, R. T., & Potenza, M. N. (2011). Reduced genual corpus callosal white matter integrity in pathological gambling and its relationship to alcohol abuse or dependence. *The World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*. doi:10.3109/15622975.2011.568068
- Yip, S. W., White, M. A., Grilo, C. M., & Potenza, M. N. (2011). An exploratory study of clinical measures associated with subsyndromal pathological gambling in patients with binge eating disorder. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 27(2), 257-270. doi:10.1007/s10899-010-9207-z



Treatment Utilization

- Interview assessment
- Four areas:
 - Current treatment utilization
 - Lifetime treatment utilization
 - Specific treatments utilized
 - Satisfaction with treatments
- Results:
 - PTSD was associated with higher treatment utilization (for current utilization, PTSD was higher than PG) and for lifetime, PTSD and PTSD/PG were both higher than PG).
 - Indeed, only a minority of the PG group had ever attended current or lifetime treatment, whereas the majority of PTSD and PTSD/PG had.
 - Yet notably, those with PG who utilized current treatment had no less satisfaction, number of treatment types, or number of days of treatment (for lifetime) than the PTSD group.
 - PTSD was associated with higher current treatment with more types of treatments and more medications.
 - PTSD was associated with higher current treatment to explore change

Public Education and Outreach



From a first-of-its-kind online resource that addresses college gambling to a new series of workshops for clinicians, the NCRG greatly expanded its public education resources and initiatives in 2011.



CollegeGambling.org

In March, the NCRG launched CollegeGambling.org, a comprehensive online resource for students, campus administrators, campus health professionals and parents that brings together the latest research and best practices in responsible gaming and the field of addiction awareness and prevention. This resource can be customized and used on college campuses to address these issues. Going online in the thick of the NCAA basketball tournament, the NCRG also created a March Madness-themed interactive quiz that highlighted the connections between college basketball and college gambling.

To publicize the launch, the NCRG held a telebriefing for reporters to explain the development and functionality of the site. The NCRG sent 4,800 letters and brochures to student health professionals, campus administrators and university deans to explain more about the resource and how to incorporate it into their university's educational activities. An email explaining the resource was also distributed to more than 103,000 people through listservs and direct e-ads to the NCRG and American Gaming Association's databases.

During the back-to-school season, the NCRG held a webinar session that explained the various materials on CollegeGambling.org, as well as the latest research and statistics on college gambling behavior.

To date, CollegeGambling.org has had more than 11,000 visits, and the interactive quiz has had almost 10,500 visits.

Youth Gambling Curriculum

The NCRG partnered with Young Minds Inspired (YMI), an organization that specializes in curriculum development and outreach, to create a new educational program titled "Know the Odds." This resource was used to encourage teachers and parents to help students understand the warning signs of problem gambling and the facts about underage gambling. The program was developed based on the NCRG's brochure "Talking with Children about Gambling," and was distributed to middle and high school students in 418 schools in Las Vegas, Nev., Atlantic City, N.J., and Biloxi, Miss.

YMI estimated that this program reached almost 94,000 students and family members, and 96 percent of teachers rated the curriculum's educational effectiveness as good or excellent.



Left: Gary Small, M.D., gives his keynote address at the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction. Right: NCRG Chairman Glenn Christenson welcomes researchers, industry representatives and clinicians to the 12th annual NCRG Conference.

NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction

Risk or Reward? The Impact of Technology on Treatment, Research and Responsible Gaming

The 12th annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction brought together more than 325 health care providers, researchers, industry members and regulators to learn more about how developments in technology have had an impact on addictive behaviors. The NCRG Conference – hosted in partnership with the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research and in conjunction with Global Gaming Expo (G2E) – was held at the Sands Expo and Convention Center at The Venetian Las Vegas from Oct. 2-4.

Conference sessions highlighted the latest research and best practices that described how technological advances have had an impact on research and treatment on gambling disorders and other addictive disorders. Several sessions explored research that looked at Internet gambling and slot machines to understand if they are more “addictive” than other types of gambling. Researchers also presented the latest web-based interventions and computer-assisted therapies for other types of addictive disorders and how they apply to pathological gambling.

The 12th annual NCRG Conference was the first time that the event co-located with Global Gaming Expo (G2E), which allowed the NCRG to expand “NCRG at G2E” programming that ran in conjunction with G2E’s corporate social responsibility track. These sessions included success stories of how



An NCRG Conference attendee captures a picture of the keynote speaker on his phone.

The 2011 NCRG Conference was generously supported by the following sponsors:

Platinum: Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Gold: International Game Technology (IGT) and San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino

Silver: Ameristar Casinos, Inc., Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc., Potawatomi Bingo Casino and WMS Gaming Inc.

Bronze: Caesars Entertainment Corporation and Penn National Gaming, Inc.

organizations have used the Internet and various web-based programs to promote health and responsible gaming, as well as a panel that explored best practices of responsible gaming programs around the world. 2011 also marked the first time that the NCRG offered registration and travel scholarships for 34 attendees.

Additionally, the NCRG staff live-tweeted many of the sessions, making key conference insights available in real time to a much larger audience. Attendees were encouraged to share what they learned from conference presenters on Twitter with the hashtag #NCRGConference as well. The NCRG staff posted 11 blogs and interviews that recapped various conference sessions.

Scientific Achievement and Poster Awards

A memorable part of the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction is the presentation of the NCRG Scientific Achievement Award, given to researchers and educators who have made outstanding contributions toward understanding gambling disorders. The NCRG also presents a research team with the Outstanding Poster Award to highlight their work that was presented at the NCRG Conference. This year, the awards were presented at a luncheon sponsored by IGT.

NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction Advisory Board

The following individuals generously donated their time and expertise to help develop the program for the 2011 NCRG Conference:

Bethany C. Bray, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Psychology
Virginia Tech*

Peter Cohen

*Director, Regulatory Affairs
The Agenda Group*

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D., M.P.H.+

*Chair and Dean's Professor of Epidemiology
Department of Epidemiology
College of Public Health & Health Professions
College of Medicine
University of Florida*

Jeff Derevensky, Ph.D.+

*Professor of School/Applied Child Psychology
Professor of Psychiatry
Co-Director, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems
and High-Risk Behaviors
McGill University*

Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

*Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota
Co-Director, Impulse Control Disorders Clinic
University of Minnesota Medical Center*

Dean Hestermann

*Corporate Director, Public Affairs
Caesars Entertainment Corporation*

Connie Jones

*Director of Responsible Gaming
International Game Technology (IGT)*

Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, J.D., M.P.A.+

*Associate Professor of American Indian Studies
University of Arizona*

Reece Middleton

*Executive Director
Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling*

Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D.

*Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neurobiology
Founding Director, Problem Gambling Clinic
Yale University School of Medicine*

Christine Reilly

*Senior Research Director
National Center for Responsible Gaming*

Kelly Skindzelewski

*Public Affairs Manager
Potawatomi Bingo Casino*

Katherine Spilde, Ph.D., M.B.A.

*Chair, Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming
Associate Professor, School of Hospitality and Tourism
Management
San Diego State University*

Mark M. Vander Linden

*Executive Officer
Iowa Department of Public Health*

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.+

*President
Wynne Resources, Ltd.*

*Member or Officer, Board of Directors, National Center for Responsible Gaming

+Member, Scientific Advisory Board, National Center for Responsible Gaming

The 2011 NCRG Scientific Achievement Award was given to Wendy S. Slutske, Ph.D., professor in the department of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Dr. Slutske is regarded as one of the world’s leading experts on the behavioral genetics of gambling disorders. Her work on the landmark all-male Vietnam Era Twin Study demonstrated that there are shared susceptibility genes that contribute to the risk for gambling disorders, alcohol use disorders and antisocial behavior. Dr. Slutske’s analysis of large epidemiological studies has also led to the groundbreaking finding that gambling disorders are episodic rather than chronic – a result that has the potential to encourage a new line of research in the field of gambling disorders and addictions.

The NCRG established the Scientific Achievement Awards in 2002 to honor individuals who have made exceptional scientific contributions to the field of research. An independent committee selected the award winner from nominations submitted by the public.

The 2011 Outstanding Poster Award was selected from among the 39 posters presented at the NCRG Conference – the highest number of research posters presented to date. The winning team was led by Iman Parhami, Ph.D., a postdoctoral research fellow in the department of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a member of the UCLA Gambling Studies program. The team’s paper, titled “How transparent is behavioral gambling intervention research? A systematic review,” examined how research on treatment for gambling disorders is reported in academic journals and how to make future research articles more comprehensive and accessible.

2011 NCRG Scientific Achievement Award Selection Committee

Tammy Chung, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Epidemiology
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine*

Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Laval University*

Craig Nagoshi, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of Psychology
Arizona State University*

Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D.

*Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neurobiology
Yale University School of Medicine*

Katherine Spilde, Ph.D., M.B.A.

*Chair, Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming
Associate Professor
San Diego State University*



Left: NCRG Chairman Glenn Christenson (right) presents Iman Parhami, Ph.D., UCLA (left), with the 2011 Outstanding Poster Award. Right: Wendy S. Slutske, Ph.D., University of Missouri – Columbia (left), receives the 2011 NCRG Scientific Achievement Award, presented by Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D., Yale University School of Medicine (right).

Road Tour

The NCRG Road Tour traveled to Boston, Mass., from July 26-27 to meet with media, legislators, regulators, representatives from the gaming industry, treatment providers and other stakeholders. Each year, the NCRG embarks on a road tour to share information about the latest research on gambling disorders and increase awareness of the science-based programs and resources the NCRG has to offer. The fifth annual NCRG



NCRG board member Alan M. Feldman leads a discussion about responsible gaming during the NCRG Road Tour.



Lisa Najavits, Ph.D., Boston University School of Medicine, discusses post-traumatic stress disorder and problem gambling at the treatment provider workshop in Boston, Mass.

Road Tour included expert speakers such as Alan Feldman, NCRG board member and senior vice president of public affairs for MGM Resorts International; Christine Reilly, senior research director for the NCRG; Ken Winters, Ph.D., NCRG Scientific Advisory Board member and director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse and Research at the University of Minnesota; and Lisa Najavits, Ph.D., NCRG Scientific Advisory Board member and professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine.

The NCRG also partnered with the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling and held various events, the first of which was a free workshop for Boston-area clinicians. Dr. Najavits led a training session titled “Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Problem Gambling.” More than 45 people attended, including out-of-state treatment providers. The NCRG also hosted a breakfast for Massachusetts government representatives, state leaders, legislators and gaming industry executives to present the organization’s role in


funding groundbreaking research and advancing public education initiatives about gambling disorders and responsible gaming. Mr. Feldman highlighted the impact the NCRG has made in the field and the resources it offers to promote responsible gaming, and Dr. Winters explained the critical need for the gaming industry to support peer-reviewed research of gambling disorders.

University counselors and college administrators also met with the NCRG and the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling to discuss educational initiatives that focus on gambling on college campuses. The NCRG presented more information on CollegeGambling.org and ways to use this resource on their college campuses. An additional event included a workshop led by Christine Reilly to explain the NCRG’s competitive grants program and encourage researchers to apply for funding.

Webinar Series

The NCRG Webinar Series expanded in 2011 to include three webinars and more than doubled attendance figures from 2010. The NCRG continued its partnership with the G2E Online Education Center to provide this free resource to help clinicians, researchers and industry members better understand gambling disorders.

In March, the NCRG partnered with NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, on its first webinar of the year: “Gambling Disorders: What Addiction Professionals Need to Know.” Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., of the University of Minnesota led this training for 300 attendees, and he gave addiction counselors the tools they needed to screen, diagnose and treat gambling disorders.



After the launch of CollegeGambling.org, the NCRG's second webinar explained the newly minted resource and provided the latest research on brief interventions for college students. CollegeGambling.org Advisory Committee member Ryan Travia, M.Ed., of Harvard University, demonstrated the resources available on CollegeGambling.org. Matthew Martens, Ph.D., of the University of Missouri – Columbia, described his latest research about gambling problems among college students. More than 150 participants attended this June session.

The final NCRG webinar session, titled “Adolescent Brain Development: Implications for Understanding Youth Gambling,” was led by Ken Winters, Ph.D., of the University of Minnesota in August. Dr. Winters described the developing brain during teenage years to help explain why adolescents sometimes engage in risky behaviors, such as gambling. More than 190 participants attended the webinar.

Treatment Provider Workshop Series

The NCRG expanded its public education offerings by hosting its first-ever treatment provider workshop series. The NCRG hosted six free training sessions that allowed mental health and addiction treatment providers to better understand the most up-to-date research on gambling disorders and apply those findings to their clinical practice. Each training session featured leading researchers and clinicians in the field of gambling disorders, and topics ranged from screenings and assessments for pathological gambling to new manuals about effective behavioral treatment strategies.

The NCRG partnered with local organizations to host and promote the free trainings for more than 225 clinicians across the nation. The sessions and regional partners included:

“Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Problem Gambling” (Boston, Mass.)

Speaker: Lisa Najavits, Ph.D., Boston University School of Medicine

Co-sponsor: Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling

“Update on Gambling Disorders: Advanced Training on Predictors, Comorbidity and Course” (Iowa City, Iowa)

Speaker: Donald Black, M.D., University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Co-sponsor: Iowa Gambling Treatment Program, Iowa Department of Public Health

“Screening and Assessment of Pathological Gambling” (San Diego, Calif.)

Speaker: Randy Stinchfield, Ph.D., University of Minnesota

Co-sponsor: NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals – a part of the National Conference on Addictive Disorders

“Overcoming Impulse Control – A Guide for Therapists” (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Speaker: Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., University of Minnesota

Co-sponsor: Nevada Council for Problem Gambling

“Motivational Interviewing for Clients with Gambling Problems” (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Speaker: David C. Hodgins, Ph.D., University of Calgary

“Brief Motivational Interventions for Problem Gambling” (Detroit, Mich.)

Speaker: Matthew Martens, Ph.D., University of Missouri - Columbia

Co-sponsors: Neighborhood Service Organization, Michigan Association for Problem Gambling and the Virtual Center for Excellence, Detroit – Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency

Continuing Education and Partnerships: APA and NAADAC

In June, the American Psychological Association (APA) approved the NCRG to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. This accreditation enhanced the NCRG's ability to offer advanced training, webinars and workshops on gambling disorders to the APA's 154,000 members. NCRG Conference, webinar and treatment provider workshop attendees were able to receive continuing education credits from the APA for their participation.

The NCRG also began a partnership with NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, the largest membership organization serving addiction-focused health care treatment providers. Not only did NAADAC approve continuing education units for all of the NCRG's public education programs, but it also has collaborated with the NCRG on several projects. In March, NAADAC co-sponsored a session of the NCRG Webinar Series. In September, Christine Reilly and Randy Stinchfield, Ph.D., of the University of Minnesota led a treatment provider workshop at the National Conference on Addictive Disorders.

Responsible Gaming Initiatives

EMERGE

Throughout 2011, the NCRG continued to offer and promote its Executive, Management & Employee Responsible Gaming Education (EMERGE) program. It is a science-based training program developed by scientists at Harvard Medical School. More than 400 employees from San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino completed the online EMERGE training. Dooleys Club in Australia also became an EMERGE client, and 230 employees started their training in June.

Responsible Gaming Education Week

With the help of the NCRG, the American Gaming Association helped gaming employees and patrons "Know the Odds" of casino games during the 14th annual Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW). RGEW was held nationwide Aug. 1-5 and encouraged gaming employees and patrons to learn more about the odds of the games as a crucial part of responsible gaming through the brochure "The House Advantage: A Guide to Understanding the Odds." The brochure and educational materials were distributed throughout casinos nationwide and among state problem gambling associations. Gambling Disorders 360°, the NCRG's blog, highlighted various participants' efforts through interviews and blog posts.



An employee at Ameristar Casino Black Hawk enters her completed quiz into a raffle during RGEW 2011.

Social Media and Website Launch

In 2011, the NCRG redesigned its website, www.ncrg.org, with interactive and user-friendly features and robust search capabilities. The new website includes expanded research and programs sections of the site and streamlined content to make it easier to find information about NCRG initiatives, events, research and resources.



The NCRG also expanded its social media presence in 2011. Gambling Disorders 360°, the NCRG’s blog, found its permanent home at <http://blog.ncrg.org>. The NCRG blog team published 81 posts that included podcasts, recaps from the NCRG Conference sessions, interviews with researchers making an impact on the field of gambling disorders and the latest research. Traffic on the blog’s homepage doubled from 2010 to more than 6,100 views and more than 4,000 unique visitors.

The NCRG also added a Twitter account (@theNCRG) to share the latest news and information about gambling disorders and addiction with a wider audience of clinicians, researchers, industry members and media. Many of the treatment provider workshops and NCRG Conference sessions were live-tweeted for those who couldn’t attend in person. The NCRG has more than 320 Twitter followers, and its Facebook page has grown to 210 followers.

Publications

NCRG Monograph Series

The NCRG published the sixth volume of *Increasing the Odds: A Series Dedicated to Understanding Gambling Disorders* in August, titled “Gambling and the Brain: Why Neuroscience Research is Vital to Gambling Research.” The publication coincided with the Aug. 24 webinar led by Ken Winters, Ph.D., of the University of Minnesota, and it includes easy-to-understand summaries of significant advances on brain imaging and the role of genetics in understanding pathological gambling. All six volumes are available as a free download on the NCRG’s website.

Research and Resources Media Guide

The NCRG revised its media guide, *Research and Resources: A Guide to Gambling Disorders and Responsible Gaming*, to accurately reflect the state of research on gambling disorders and incorporate new responsible gaming programs. The guide was distributed in July through a targeted media outreach effort to key reporters. This publication is also available as a free download on the NCRG’s website.



Presentations at Other Conferences

As a part of its ongoing outreach efforts, the NCRG pursued speaking opportunities for the organization's leadership. The NCRG staff presented at the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse in July, the National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference in July and the National Conference of Addictive Disorders in September. NCRG representatives also exhibited at or attended the Responsible Gaming Council's Discovery Conference in Toronto, Ontario, and the American Psychological Association's conference in Washington, D.C.

Media Outreach

All of the NCRG's activities, research funding announcements and public education programs are accompanied by a media outreach component to help increase visibility of the organization and promote the NCRG's many accomplishments.

A large portion of the media outreach activities for 2011 centered on the launch of CollegeGambling.org, pitching both traditional and new media outlets. The media advisory was distributed nationally and covered in nine unique news articles, 40 blog posts and 57 social media mentions.

The NCRG also distributed 13 press releases and media alerts to more than 420 members of the media surrounding several events, including the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, NCRG-funded research announcements and all ongoing public education initiatives.

Glenn Christenson, chairman of the NCRG, was interviewed by CEM Audio Edge about the fundraising initiatives of the NCRG and the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction. This interview was distributed by AGEM Advantage News and archived on its website.

During the NCRG Conference, Nevada Public Radio recorded a 30-minute interview on the prevalence of and treatment options for gambling disorders. The segment featured Alan Feldman, NCRG board member, as well as researchers Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D., of Yale University School of Medicine and Sarah E. Nelson, Ph.D., of the Harvard Medical School.

NCRG board members also wrote and placed opinion-editorials in both the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. In addition, the NCRG has experienced an increase in media requests for science-based information on gambling disorders. Publications who have sought out the NCRG for information include *The Washington Post*, the *Las Vegas Sun*, *The Boston Globe* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Fundraising Efforts

Several major fundraising programs in 2011 netted significant contributions for the NCRG.



AGEM, AGA and JCM present the check for the 2011 AGEM-AGA Golf Classic to the NCRG. Standing (left to right): Aki Isoi (JCM), Tom Jingoli (AGEM), Glenn Christenson (NCRG) and Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr. (AGA).

AGEM-AGA Golf Classic

The AGEM-AGA Golf Classic, co-sponsored by the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM) and the American Gaming Association (AGA) and hosted by JCM Global, was held at Cascata in Boulder City, Nev., on May 10. The tournament raised more than \$100,000 for the NCRG, and has raised nearly \$950,000 overall for the organization during the tournament's 13-year history.

The following companies generously supported the event:

Title Sponsors

AGEM
American Gaming Association

Platinum Sponsors

JCM Global

Major Sponsors

Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.
Casino Enterprise Management
Konami Gaming, Inc.
MEI
Nanoptix, PayCheck 4 Printer
Patriot Gaming & Electronics, Inc.

Prize and Flag Sponsors

Caesars Entertainment Corporation
Global Gaming Expo (G2E)
Gaming Laboratories International
Southwest Print Source
ViewSonic
KicTeam Inc., Waffletechnology

Raffle Sponsors

Corporate Concepts
LG
Outdoor Solutions

2011 Gaming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

On Nov. 1, the AGA inducted four legendary honorees into the Gaming Hall of Fame for their contributions to the industry. The inductees included: Sheldon G. Adelson, chairman of the board and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Corp.; Blue Man Group, one of Las Vegas' best-recognized headliners; and Charlie Palmer, a world-renowned chef with restaurants in gaming properties across Nevada. The final inductee, William Eadington, Ph.D., professor of economics and director of the Institute for the Study



The 2011 Gaming Hall of Fame inductees included (from left to right): Blue Man Group (represented by founding member Philip Stanton), Charlie Palmer, Sheldon G. Adelson and William Eadington, Ph.D.

of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada, Reno, received the Special Achievement Award for Gaming Education. The Hall of Fame dinner was held at the Venetian in Las Vegas, Nev., and raised more than \$126,000 for the NCRG from sponsorships of the event – more than double the amount of sponsorships from 2010.

The following companies and individuals generously supported the 2011 Gaming Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony:

Host Sponsor

Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Major Underwriter

Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada

Platinum Sponsors

Bally Technologies, Inc.
Boyd Gaming Corporation
Caesars Entertainment Corporation

International Game Technology (IGT)
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

Gold Sponsors

Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.
MGM Resorts International
Wynn Resorts, Limited

Silver Sponsors

Ameristar Casinos, Inc.
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Casino del Sol
Cirque du Soleil
Fierce, Isakowitz and Blalock
Holland & Hart, LLP
Navegante Group
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.
Reed Exhibitions
Shuffle Master, Inc.
UNLV William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration

Additional Programs

Global Gaming Expo (G2E) donated \$63,000 to the NCRG through its annual giving campaign. Those funds represented a portion of G2E registration fees, as well as donations from exhibitors.



A Look to the Future

Reflecting on the NCRG's many accomplishments in 2011, the organization is poised to make an even greater impact on the field of gambling research and responsible gaming in the coming year. The NCRG plans to be a leading voice in this field and a primary source for those interested in getting the facts on gambling disorders and responsible gaming.

The NCRG began 2012 by electing a new chairman, Alan M. Feldman, senior vice president of public affairs for MGM Resorts International. Mr. Feldman has served on the NCRG board since 2000 and has been a strong advocate for the NCRG's research and programming.

Additionally, Mark Vander Linden, executive officer of the Office of Gambling Treatment and Prevention at the Iowa Department of Public Health, was elected to join the NCRG board of directors. He brings an experienced public health perspective to the board and will help enhance the NCRG's public education initiatives.

In 2012, the NCRG will continue to support the highest-quality research on gambling disorders. In fact, the NCRG recently announced that it has allocated more than \$1.5 million for grants to award in support of research on the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders - the largest amount of research dollars designated for project grants in the NCRG's history. Additionally, the NCRG issued a call for applications for its Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research.

The NCRG's focus on youth and college gambling will remain strong as it aims to increase awareness of CollegeGambling.org. In February 2012, the NCRG presented the resource to athletic, student life and student health directors at the NCAA Gambling Summit at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Promotion plans will also include an awareness campaign highlighting CollegeGambling.org during the NCAA basketball tournament in March.

To increase awareness among middle and high school students, the NCRG and Young Minds Inspired will expand the distribution of the “Know the Odds” curriculum to more schools across the nation.

As in years past, the NCRG once again will embark on its annual Road Tour. It will be traveling to Florida to meet with key stakeholders and increase awareness for the research program and public education initiatives.

Another priority for the NCRG in the coming year is to continue enhancing and increasing its social media presence. Gambling Disorders 360° will include videos, additional interviews and more interactive features that can be easily shared online. The NCRG will also be more active on Twitter and Facebook, sharing news from events as the staff travels around the country.

In 2012, it is the NCRG's goal to help more treatment providers, academics and researchers through its public education programs. The organization will build new partnerships with local and regional groups to provide needed educational opportunities through its webinar series and treatment provider workshops. The 13th annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction will be held Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2012 at the Sands Expo and Convention Center at The Venetian Las Vegas.

To enhance its commitment to the education of health care providers, the NCRG will focus its seventh volume of *Increasing the Odds*, the NCRG's monograph series, on what clinicians should know about gambling disorders – giving them a curriculum they can use in their everyday clinical practice.

Overall, the NCRG has much to look forward to in 2012, offering more research funding and education programs than ever before. Thanks to the support of our donors, the NCRG has made tremendous strides in fulfilling its mission.

To continue to provide this high caliber of peer-reviewed research and education programs, the NCRG will be undertaking its pledge renewal campaign in 2012. With the continued support of our donors and partners, we hope to make the NCRG a leading organization in this field not only in 2012 but in the years to come.



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