NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

**Maj. Gen. Paul A. Harvey (Ret.)** has served as chairman of the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) board of directors since 1996.

**William S. Boyd** is chairman and CEO of Boyd Gaming Corporation, the NCRG’s founding donor, and president of the NCRG board of directors.

**Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S.**, director of the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School (HMS), is a member of the NCRG board of directors and principal investigator of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at HMS.

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) was the first national organization exclusively devoted to funding scientific research on pathological and youth gambling. The NCRG was founded in 1996 to help individuals and families affected by gambling disorders by:

- Supporting the finest peer-reviewed basic and applied research on gambling disorders.
- Encouraging the application of new research findings to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies.
- Enhancing public awareness of pathological gambling and youth gambling.
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Just as the year 2000 marked the beginning of a new century, it also represented a landmark year for the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG). Founded in 1996, the NCRG has made great strides over the past five years toward the goal of helping individuals affected by gambling disorders through high quality research and public education efforts. To this end, 2000 was indeed a pivotal year.

Most noteworthy, perhaps, was the NCRG’s awarding of a contract to Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders. Modeled after the National Institutes of Health, the new institute will support both internal core gambling research — the pioneering work of Dr. Howard Shaffer — and competitively funded external research at non-Harvard research institutions. We are very proud that the research program established by the NCRG will be carried on by the world’s preeminent medical research institution. Because the NCRG has provided support to the institute to perform some of the academic and scientific functions previously performed by the center, the NCRG is now free to focus more resources on expanding public education and awareness programs, especially in the area of youth gambling.

In the year 2000, the NCRG also awarded more than $500,000 in support of projects investigating the neurobiology of pathological gambling. Since its founding, the NCRG has awarded $3.7 million to leading research institutions in the United States and Canada. During this year, many of the NCRG-funded investigators published their findings in the most prestigious academic journals. Dissemination of research also was achieved through the NCRG’s second annual conference, titled “The Comorbidity of Pathological Gambling: A Current Research Synthesis.” The conference featured nationally recognized scientists in the field of addictions in dialogue with researchers, counselors, gaming industry employees and government officials. The program addressed one of the most challenging issues in the study of gambling disorders: why so many pathological gamblers also suffer from other mental health problems such as substance abuse and depression. The enthusiastic response of the 175 conference registrants encouraged us to continue sponsoring an annual conference.

As the NCRG enters its sixth year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the center's contributors — new and old. Without their generosity and commitment to being responsible corporate citizens, the essential research and education programs of the NCRG would not be possible. We look forward to your continued involvement in the coming years.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2001. The opportunity to work with the Harvard institute and to expand our education and public awareness efforts holds the promise of genuine progress toward understanding and combating pathological gambling.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Harvey (Ret.)
Chairman
MILESTONES

1996-2000 NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

1996
• The American Gaming Association (AGA) establishes the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG), the first organization devoted exclusively to funding independent, peer-reviewed research on pathological and youth gambling.
• The commercial casino industry and related manufacturers and vendors pledge $4.5 million to the NCRG — an unprecedented level of support for gambling research.
• NCRG awards its first grant to Harvard Medical School for “Estimating the Prevalence of Disordered Gambling in the U.S. and Canada: A Meta-analysis.”

1997
• The NCRG opens its offices at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
• The NCRG awards $1.3 million in grants for research on problem gambling.
• Harvard Medical School releases the results of the NCRG-funded meta-analysis providing the first reliable statistics on the rate of gambling disorders in the United States and Canada.

1998
• Representatives from the NCRG testify at hearings conducted by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.
• JCM American Corporation and the AGA cosponsor the inaugural golf tournament for the benefit of the NCRG.
• Dr. Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S., of Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions conducts the first of many workshops on problem gambling for gaming industry personnel.
• Suck Won Kim, M.D., University of Minnesota, receives one of NCRG’s first neuroscience grants for a clinical trial of naltrexone.

1996: The American Gaming Association announced the establishment of the NCRG at a press conference in Kansas City, Mo.

1997: Suck Won Kim, M.D., University of Minnesota, received one of NCRG’s first neuroscience grants for a clinical trial of naltrexone.


1998: Akiyoshi Isoi, president of JCM American Corporation, entertainer Wayne Newton and Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., president of the American Gaming Association and member of the NCRG board, at the 1998 golf tournament.
1999
- Alan Leshner, Ph.D., director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, delivers the keynote address, “Addiction is a Brain Disease—and It Matters,” at NCRG’s first annual conference, “New Directions in Gambling Addiction Research,” cosponsored by The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- NCRG awards more than $1 million in research grants for a variety of investigations, including several focused on youth gambling.
- Donors renew support for NCRG, bringing total commitments to $7 million.
- The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences publishes its report praising Harvard’s estimates of the rate of problem gambling as the most reliable to date.

2000
- The NCRG awards a contract to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions.
- Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc., a major NCRG donor, is honored for its commitment to responsible gaming with a special achievement award at the Gaming Hall of Fame Dinner.
NCRG ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS

NCRG Board of Directors
50 percent Gaming Industry
50 percent Academic-Health-Civic Sector
Role: Set policy and raise funds

Mission

Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders
Division on Addictions
Harvard Medical School

Internal Research
Competitive Research Grants to Universities
Annual Conference

Youth Gambling Prevention Initiatives
Conferences and Workshops on Gambling Disorders

For more information on gambling research and the annual conference, contact:
Christine Reilly, Executive Director
Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, Division on Addictions, Harvard Medical School
180 Longwood Avenue, Suite 330
Boston, MA 02115
Tel: 617-432-0297
Fax: 617-432-0057
Email: Christine_Reilly@hms.harvard.edu
www.hms.harvard.edu/doa

For more information on the NCRG’s educational programs, contact:
Aleasha Herdina, Acting Executive Director
National Center for Responsible Gaming
P.O. Box 25366
Kansas City, MO 64119-0666
Tel: 816-453-9964
Fax: 816-452-1849
Email: contact@ncrg.org
www.ncrg.org

= Independent Entity Supported by a contract from NCRG
NCRG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Center for Responsible Gaming is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to address problem gambling and youth gambling through research and public education. According to the NCRG's bylaws, at least 50 percent of the governing board must represent sectors other than the gaming industry. The following served on the board of directors in the year 2000:

Officers:
- Maj. Gen. Paul A. Harvey (Ret.), Chairman
- President
- PDH Associates
- William Boyd, President
- Chairman and CEO
- Boyd Gaming Corporation
- Judy L. Patterson, Secretary and Treasurer
- Senior Vice President and Executive Director
- American Gaming Association

Board of Directors:
- Robert Boswell
  Senior Vice President
  Pioneer Behavioral Health
- Thomas J. Brosig
  Senior Vice President of Administration
  Park Place Entertainment Corporation
- Roland W. Burris
  Of Counsel
  Buford & Peters, LLC
- Sue Cox
  Executive Director
  Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling
- Joyce Elaine Conseen Dugan
  Former Principal Chief
  Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation
- Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.
  President and CEO
  American Gaming Association
- Alan Feldman
  Vice President of Public Affairs
  MGM MIRAGE™
- Frank Fertitta III
  President and CEO
  Station Casinos, Inc.
- John M. Gallaway
  President and COO
  Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
- David A. Korn, M.D.
  Assistant Professor of Public Health
  University of Toronto
- Alfred C. Lomax
  Airport Police Chief
  Kansas City International Airport
- Phillip Martin
  Tribal Chief
  Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Brian McKay
  Of Counsel
  Lionel Sawyer & Collins
- Carol O’Hare
  Executive Director
  Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
- James Perry
  President and CEO
  Argosy Gaming Company
- Philip G. Satre
  Chairman and CEO
  Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.
- Glenn Schaeffer
  President, CFO and Treasurer
  Mandalay Resort Group
- Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S.
  Director, Division on Addictions
  Harvard Medical School
- Pauline Yoshihashi
  Senior Vice President
  Abernathy, MacGregor & Frank

Staff:
- Aleasha T. Herdina
  Acting Executive Director
The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) has received pledges or grants totaling more than $7 million from 1997 through 2006. In 2000, the NCRG welcomed new contributors Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc., the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Argosy Gaming Company and Sandia Casino.

**Founding Contributor**

Boyd Gaming Corporation provided the start-up costs for the NCRG in 1996 and made a 10-year pledge of $875,000.

**Contributors 1997-2002**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,350,000*</td>
<td>Park Place Entertainment Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>International Game Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Lincy Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandalay Resort Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MGM MIRAGE™</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$560,000**</td>
<td>Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Aztar Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100,000-$299,000</td>
<td>Hollywood Casino Corporation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pinnacle Entertainment and Restaurant Employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Park Place Entertainment, Corporation was formed when Hilton Hotels Corporation acquired Grand Casinos, Inc., and Caesars World, Inc. The contribution listed above reflects previous grants and commitments made by these companies.

**The amount reflects donations by Rio Suite Hotel and Casino and Showboat, Inc., which were acquired by Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., in 1998.**

**$50,000-$99,000**

- Argosy Gaming Company
- Casino Data Systems
- Empress Riverboat Casinos, Inc.
- Horseshoe Gaming Holding Corporation
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Shuffle Master Gaming, Inc.
- Station Casinos, Inc.

**$10,000-$49,000**

- Foxwoods Resort Casino
- Harveys Casino Resorts
- JCM American Corporation
- Mission Industries
- Mohegan Sun
- Sandia Casino
- Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada

**Sponsors**

- American Gaming and Electronics
- Anchor Gaming
- Bally Gaming Systems
- Bally's Las Vegas
- Boyd Gaming Corporation
- Citibank
- Coca-Cola Bottling Corporation
- Cole Industries
- Dolphin Court Salon and Day Spa
- Eagle Promotions
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Gold Augusta Pro Shops
- Hamada of Japan
- Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.
- Hi Tech Gaming
- Ho Ho Ho Chinese Gourmet
- I.C. Group
- International Game Technology
- Japanese Seafood Gourmet
- Ocean Forest
- Martin-Harris Construction
- MGM Grand, Inc.
- Mirage Resorts, Inc.
- Nevada Bob's
- Osaka Japanese Restaurant
- Palace Station
- Quest Partners
- Regent Las Vegas
- Ruth's Chris Steak House
- Sankyo USA Corp
- Shuffle Master Gaming, Inc.
- Sigma Game, Inc.
- Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada
- Station Casinos, Inc.
- Staz's Nevada Indian Food
- Texas Station Casino
- The Regent Las Vegas
- The Whole Bean
- TPC at the Canyons
- Vegas Cabinets
- Viejas Business Enterprises
- Whole Grain Natural Bread Company
- Williams Gaming, Inc.

**2000 JCM/AGA Gaming Golf Classic**

The JCM American Corporation and the American Gaming Association sponsored a charity golf tournament on May 5, 2000, to benefit the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG). Held at the TPC at the Canyons in Las Vegas, the tournament and auction, conducted by entertainer Clint Holmes, raised more than $30,000 for the NCRG.
2000 Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony

In October 2000, the American Gaming Association (AGA) and International Gaming and Waging Business sponsored a fund-raising dinner at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas benefiting the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) and SafeNest, a Las Vegas-based organization that provides temporary assistance to victims of domestic violence. Attended by 700 guests, the dinner honored the 2000 inductees into the Gaming Hall of Fame, J. Terrence Lanni, chairman of MGM MIRAGE™, and entertainer Wayne Newton. This year's dinner was also the first time the Gaming Hall of Fame has bestowed special achievement awards. Industry trailblazer Del Webb was honored posthumously with a special achievement award for innovation, and Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., was recognized for its pioneering programs in responsible gaming. In accepting the award, Phil Satre, chairman and CEO of Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., and a founding board member of the NCRG, announced the Harrah's Code of Commitment, a pledge to not only codify the company's existing responsible gaming policies and practices but also “our pledge to be publicly accountable for our actions — to accept the reality that our reputation is on the line if we don't fulfill the promises we make.”

The following companies and individuals generously supported the 2000 dinner.

$25,500
MGM MIRAGE™

$7,000
Boyd Gaming Corporation
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

$6,000
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

$4,000 - $4,500
Bank of America
The Friedmutter Group
Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union
Park Place Entertainment Corporation
Claudine Williams Willis

$3,000
Action Online
Argosy Gaming Company
Café Milano
CIBC World Markets
Cost Hotels and Casinos
Coca-Cola Fountain
Cohn & Wolfe

Cooper Perskie April Niedelman Wagenheim & Levenson, P.A.
Culinary Workers Union
Del Webb Corporation
Foxwoods Resort Casino
GEM Communications
Harveys Casino Resorts
Horseshoe Gaming Holding Corporation
Houssels Family Foundation
Hyatt Gaming Services
International Game Technology
JCM American Corporation
Jefferies & Company, Inc.
Konami Gaming
Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
The Lincy Foundation
Lionel Sawyer & Collins
Mandalay Resort Group
The Marnell Foundation
Mikohn Gaming
Mission Industries
Next Generation Entertainment

Reed Exhibition Companies
Silverton Hotel & Casino
Southwest Gas Corporation
Spintek Gaming Technologies, Inc.
Station Casinos, Inc.
Sunrise Hospital
Tropicana Resort & Casino
Wells Fargo
Williams Gaming, Inc.
Young Electric Sign Company (YESCO)

$1,000+
Arthur Andersen
Fertitta Enterprises, Inc.
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Home Gambling Network
Keffer, O'Reilly & Ferrario
Marshall Management
Nevada Title Company
Paradise Homes
Pro Serve Training Sprint
Wayne Newton

In-kind Sponsors
American Gaming Association
Aureole
Michael Berk Boyd Gaming Corporation
China Grill
Cirque du Soleil
GEM Communications
Lupo
Mandalay Resort Group
MGM MIRAGE™
"Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (lower left) and “Hoops” from Cirque du Soleil (lower right) entertained the guests at the awards dinner.
In the year 2000, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) embarked upon a historic collaboration with Harvard Medical School (HMS) when it awarded a $2.6 million contract to the HMS Division on Addictions to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders. By launching the Institute at one of the world’s preeminent institutions in medical research and education, the NCRG is one step closer to its goal of understanding pathological gambling so that effective prevention and treatment programs can be developed.

Organizationally modeled on the National Institutes of Health, the Institute will support both internal core gambling research and competitively funded external research at educational, medical and research institutions worldwide. The intramural research program will carry on the pioneering work of Dr. Howard Shaffer, director of the HMS Division on Addictions. In 1997, Shaffer and his colleagues released the first comprehensive meta-analysis of disordered gambling prevalence rates in the United States and Canada. Published in the American Journal of Public Health in 1999, this analysis yielded the most reliable estimates, to date, of the rate of problem gambling in the general adult population and special populations such as youth. Praised by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, this frequently cited study has had a profound impact on the field.

Since then, Harvard has continued to exert a leadership role in the gambling field by integrating current and emerging prevalence studies into the database created for the meta-analysis. As the largest such compilation, this dynamic database has proven to be an invaluable resource for researchers. The Harvard team has produced numerous technical reports on prevalence and other aspects of gambling research that have

“The best current estimates of pathological and problem gambling among the general adult U.S. population and selected subpopulations can be found in the studies included in the meta-analysis conducted by the research team at Harvard Medical School, Division on Addictions.”


Encouraging a fresh perspective on gambling is a hallmark of this research. For example, in the monograph “Gambling and the Health of the Public: Adopting a Public Health Perspective,” David Korn and Howard Shaffer advocated the adoption of a public health framework for understanding gambling. “By understanding gambling and its potential impacts on the public’s health, policy-makers and health practitioners can minimize gambling’s negative impacts and appreciate its potential benefits.” Harvey A. Skinner, Ph.D., chair of the department of public health sciences at the University of Toronto, praised this monograph as “a landmark in the gambling field.”

The Institute's current intramural research program will expand Shaffer's innovative research on the health risks faced by gaming employees. Shaffer's research provides a portal to understanding how people adapt to gambling exposure on a daily basis. In addition, it provides the opportunity to understand how people might transition in and out of gambling disorders, develop “immunity” and move toward healthier states.

Because gambling research is an emerging field, it is vital to develop a cadre of scientists focused on gambling disorders. That is precisely why the NCRG has provided support to the Institute to conduct an independent competitive research grants program open to investigators from non-Harvard institutions. Continuing NCRG’s commitment to the highest scientific merit, the Institute will employ scientific peer-review panels to evaluate research proposals according to criteria reflecting the stringent standards of the National Institutes of Health.

Disseminating gambling research is also a top priority for the Institute. In addition to cosponsoring an annual scientific conference with the NCRG, the Institute helps support The WAGER, a weekly research bulletin, now available on the Internet at www.thewager.org. Although advances in information technology have greatly increased the quantity and accessibility of gambling-related resources, the majority of research materials remain cloistered in university libraries and laboratories. Since its inception, the mission of The WAGER has been to gather, distill and share these resources, providing readers with a direct pipeline to the latest information on pathological gambling. Now in its sixth year of continuous operation, The WAGER, which has a worldwide weekly circulation of more than 12,000, has become the premiere Internet site for information on gambling-related research.
PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP*

The Program Advisory Board is composed of distinguished academic researchers whose role is to counsel the staff of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School's Division on Addictions on funding priorities for the extramural grants program and ensure a rigorous peer review of proposals.

*Preliminary membership as of March 19, 2001

Barry Kosofsky, M.D., Ph.D., Chair
Associate Neurologist
Massachusetts General Hospital
Associate Professor of Neurology
Harvard Medical School

Mark Appelbaum, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
University of California, San Diego

Linda B. Cottler, Ph.D.
Professor of Epidemiology in Psychiatry
Washington University School of Medicine

Joseph T. Coyle, M.D.
Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Jeffrey L. Derevensky, Ph.D.
Professor of Applied and Child Psychology
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
McGill University

Richard I. Evans, Ph.D.
Distinguished University Professor of Psychology
University of Houston

Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Université Laval

Associate Professor of Economics
Boston College
Visiting Associate Professor Division on Addictions
Harvard Medical School

Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D.
Director, Trauma Research Program
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program
McLean Hospital
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D.
University of Iowa Foundation
Professor of Psychology
University of Iowa

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research
University of Minnesota

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.
Wynne Resources, Ltd.

Visit www.hms.harvard.edu/doa/ for updates on the work of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions.
GRANT AWARDS

NCRG FUNDS NEW RESEARCH IN 2000

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) was created in 1996 to support and promote new and rigorous scientific research on pathological gambling and youth gambling. The NCRG has established a highly competitive and widely respected grants program that, over the past five years, has awarded $3.7 million to leading research institutions in the United States and Canada.

NCRG-funded research has spanned all of the critical domains for investigating gambling disorders: epidemiology, behavioral and social science and neuroscience. The request for applications in 2000 focused on investigations of the neurobiology of pathological gambling. The NCRG awarded more than $500,000 in support of the following cutting-edge research projects in 2000.

A Family-Genetic Study of Pathological Gambling

Principal Investigator: Donald W. Black, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
University of Iowa
Award: $169,929
Completion Date: August 31, 2002

The goal of this project is to explore the familial nature of pathological gambling through a blind and controlled family study involving interviews with 30 subjects who fulfill diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling, according to the DSM-IV™ and their first-degree relatives. Because pathological gambling is often considered a variant of mood disorders, substance use disorders, impulse control disorders as well as part of an obsessive-compulsive spectrum, the investigators will be particularly interested in assessing relatives for these conditions. These findings should add to the understanding of the etiology, pathophysiology and classification of pathological gambling. Future studies will include collecting blood samples for DNA from genetically informative families for study in linkage and association studies.

Functional MRI of Prefrontal Cortex Function in Pathological Gamblers

Principal Investigator: Vincent P. Clark, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Connecticut Health Center
Award: $172,056
Completion Date: August 31, 2002

The primary objective of this study is to compare brain function between healthy non-gamblers and heavy gamblers using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fM RI). The principal investigator will examine brain activity during a risk-taking task to determine if altered brain function is observed in heavy gamblers. Brain activity evoked by a risk-taking task will be compared with activity evoked by the three-stimulus oddball task to examine specificity of differences in brain function of heavy gamblers to risk-taking. The project will use recently developed methods for enhancing fMRI signal from orbitfrontal cortex and VM PFC to provide uniform spatial sensitivity, resulting in increased activation detectability in these regions.

Naltrexone and Citalopram Treatment of Pathological Gambling and Co-morbid Alcohol Abuse or Dependence

Principal Investigator: Marc N. Potenza, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Yale School of Medicine
Award: $172,500
Completion Date: August 31, 2002

The purpose of this project is to perform a pilot study of the short-term tolerability and efficacy of citalopram, naltrexone and a citalopram/naltrexone combination pharmacotherapy in the treatment of dually diagnosed patients with pathological gambling and alcohol abuse or dependence. Naltrexone, an opioid antagonist, has been found to significantly reduce the amount of alcohol consumed and increase abstinence rates in alcohol-dependent patients. Citalopram, an SSRI recently approved in the United States, has been reported to have the potential for fewer drug-drug interactions, a feature beneficial in a population with substance use disorders and viable for combination pharmacotherapy. The goal of this trial is to provide the foundation for a large-scale pharmacotherapy study of similar design.
The brain has emerged as the central focus for studies of mental health and mental illness. New scientific disciplines, technologies, and insights have begun to weave a seamless picture of the way in which the brain mediates the influence of biological, psychological, and social factors on human thought, behavior, and emotion in health and in illness.

The education dimension of the mission of the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is fulfilled through a variety of programs and media, from conferences to academic journals. The goals of these activities are to foster public awareness of problem gambling, provide meaningful research-based education for clinicians, health providers and the gaming industry, and promote a lively exchange of ideas within the field of gambling research.


The NCRG’s annual conference was held Dec. 3-5, 2000, at the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas. The conference expanded on the dialogue initiated by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences on the challenges facing gambling researchers. The National Research Council’s 1999 report observed that “the co-occurrence of other disorders with pathological gambling may be one of the most important and influential indicators of the pathways into and out of pathological gambling.”

The NCRG brought together the leading scientists in the addictions field to share the latest research on comorbidity and to exchange ideas with an unusually diverse audience for an academic meeting: academics, clinicians, gaming regulators, state health department officials and gaming industry executives. Praised by the participants as an “illuminating review,” the conference program offered a variety of perspectives from which to examine the comorbidity issue—neuroscience, epidemiology, treatment, public policy and prevention. One participant noted that, “Unlike some other conferences, there were no ‘forbidden’ topics or sacred cows.”

“The conference confirmed and solidified the direction of my current research on gambling. In this context this was the best conference this year—nice work!”

Evaluation of conference by participant.

Public Presentations

Board members, staff and investigators representing the NCRG participated in the following programs and hearings in 2000:

- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
- American Psychological Association
- Illinois Gaming Board
- Indiana Gambling Awareness Week
- International Conference on Gambling and Risk-taking
- Missouri Gaming Commission
- National Conference on Problem Gambling
- National Think Tank on State-Funded Gambling Treatment Programs: A Massachusetts Initiative
- “Responsible Gaming: Keeping It Fun” broadcast during Responsible Gaming Week, sponsored by the American Gaming Association
- Symposium on Problem and Pathological Gambling: A Look at the Issues of Mental Health, Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA
- U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
NCRG Research in the Scientific Literature

Results of NCRG-funded research are disseminated widely throughout the scientific community by publication in leading peer-reviewed academic journals.


ON THE HORIZON...
2001 AND BEYOND

YOUTH INITIATIVES

2nd International Think Tank on Youth Gambling as a Social and Public Health Issue
May 4-6, 2001

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is a proud sponsor of the 2nd International Think Tank on Youth Gambling as a Social and Public Issue to be held May 4-6, 2001. The Think Tank, which will build on the recommendations of the North American Think Tank on Youth Gambling Issues held at Harvard Medical School in 1995, will develop an international public health agenda focused on minimizing the negative impact of gambling on youth. Participants will include key researchers, practitioners, educators, industry representatives, youth workers and policymakers from around the world. The Think Tank will be hosted by the International Centre for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Youth Gambling Problems at McGill University and the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions.

Facing the Odds: The Mathematics of Gambling and Other Risks

The NCRG and the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School have teamed up to disseminate the groundbreaking curriculum, Facing the Odds: The Mathematics of Gambling and Other Risks. Designed for use at the middle school level, Facing the Odds presents statistics and probability in an integrated, engaging style. It aims at improving students’ critical thinking ability, number sense and knowledge of the mathematics of gambling so they can develop rational views about gambling and make informed choices. The curriculum will be available to educators free of charge on the NCRG Web site, www.ncrg.org.

RESEARCH

The Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, which will administer all future grants and research programs through a contract with the NCRG, will release a request for applications for behavioral and social science investigations of gambling disorders in the spring of 2001. For more information, visit www.hms.harvard.edu/doa.

EDUCATION

Annual Conference
Dec. 2-4, 2001


FUND-RAISING EVENTS

JCM/AGA Golf Classic 2001
May 21, 2001

JCM American Corporation and the American Gaming Association (AGA) will sponsor the 3rd annual golf tournament and auction to benefit the NCRG. The tournament will be held May 21, 2001, at the TPC at Summerlin in Las Vegas.

American Gaming Association Charity Dinner
October 2001

The AGA will sponsor a dinner benefiting the NCRG during the week of the Global Gaming Expo, Oct. 1-3, 2001, in Las Vegas.
ASSETS
Current Assets
Checking/Savings $1,598,002.78
Accounts Receivable 73,061.53
Total Current Assets 1,671,064.31

Other Assets
Grants Receivable*
2000 45,000.00
2001 1,093,000.00
2002 1,005,000.00
Beyond 2002 575,000.00
Unamortized Discount (104,917.00)
Uncollectible Estimate (600,000.00)
Total Pledges Receivable 2,013,083.00
Total Other Assets 2,013,083.00

TOTAL ASSETS $3,684,147.31

*Grants pledged to NCRG. Receivables are to be collected over the next seven years.
**Research grants are payable over multiple years based upon the research program term.