The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) remains a leading source of science-based research and information on gambling and health, and seeks to advance education, prevention, treatment and public policy.

In its ninth year the NCRG continued to support only the highest-quality scientific research on disordered gambling through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, a program at the Division on Addictions at Cambridge Health Alliance, a research and teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. In addition to funding external research, in 2004 the Institute was active with gambling research projects of its own, including studies focused on the addiction as syndrome model and the impact of Missouri’s self-exclusion program. Findings from several existing NCRG-funded studies were also unveiled in 2004 and published in a number of peer-reviewed academic journals.

In its education outreach, the NCRG continued efforts to approach disordered gambling as a public health issue and to promote dialogue among all those concerned with working toward the continued advancement of research and understanding of disordered gambling. At the fifth annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, the impact of these efforts was seen in increased attendance and continued support for the expanded dual-track program aimed at examining advances in addictions research and treatment, as well as practical applications for members of the gaming industry, gaming regulators, attorneys and elected officials. The conference also saw the debut of a Web log summarizing key sessions for those unable to attend and the creation of a conference proceedings CD-ROM.

In addition to continued financial support from the industry, this past year brought in new donors including individuals, a health care company and additional tribal casinos, further highlighting the strong support behind the NCRG mission.

This annual report gives you a closer look at our many accomplishments in the research and education arenas, as well as an update of our funding status and a glimpse at our goals for the future.

Since the creation of the NCRG in 1996, we have made significant progress toward the understanding of gambling disorders, and this field of research is more robust and respected than ever. The generous support of some of the world’s leading gaming companies has made these past accomplishments possible, and recent contributions, from both new and old supporters of the NCRG, will lead us into the future. I look forward to leveraging these new resources to meet the many new challenges that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Eckart
# NCRG Structure and Programs

## NCRG Board of Directors
**Role:** Set policy and raise funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composition</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaming Industry</td>
<td>Academic-Health-Civic Sector</td>
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</table>

**Mission**

Founded in 1996, 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’s mission is to be the leading source of science-based research and information on gambling and health, advancing education, prevention, treatment and public policy.

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## Research
**Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders**
Division on Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

## Education

### Annual Conference

### Publications, Programs and Presentations on Disordered Gambling

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## NCRG Annual Report 2004

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The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to address pathological and youth gambling through research and public education. The board of directors’ membership is balanced between leaders of the gaming industry and from the civic, charitable, educational, community and public service sectors.

The following individuals served the organization in 2004:

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **G. Thomas Baker**
  Chairman
  International Game Technology
- **Robert Boswell**
  Senior Vice President
  Pioneer Behavioral Health
- **William Boyd**
  Chairman and CEO
  Boyd Gaming Corporation
- **Thomas J. Brosig**
  Faculty Fellow
  University College at Tulane University
- **Roland W. Burris**
  Of Counsel
  Burris, Wright, Slaughter & Tom, LLP
- **Glenn Christenson**
  Executive Vice President, CFO and CAO
  Station Casinos, Inc.
- **Sue Cox**
  Founding Executive Director
  Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling
- **Dennis E. Eckart**
  Partner
  Baker & Hostetler LLP
- **Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.**
  President and CEO
  American Gaming Association
- **Alan Feldman**
  Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
  MGM MIRAGE
- **Richard J. Glasier**
  President and CEO
  Argosy Gaming Company
- **Maj. Gen. Paul A. Harvey (Ret.)**
  President/Owner
  PDH Associates, Inc.
- **Timothy M. Hinkley**
  President and COO
  Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
- **David A. Korn, M.D.**
  Assistant Professor
  Department of Public Health Sciences
  University of Toronto
- **Brian McKay**
  Of Counsel
  Lionel Sawyer & Collins
- **Kevin P. Mullally**
  Executive Director
  Missouri Gaming Commission
- **Carol O’Hare**
  Executive Director
  Nevada Council on Problem Gambling
- **Philip G. Satre**
  Chairman
  Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.
- **Glenn Schaeffer**
  President, CFO and Treasurer
  Mandalay Resort Group
- **Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S.**
  Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
  Director, Division on Addictions
  Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School
- **Robert W. Stewart**
  Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications
  Caesars Entertainment, Inc.

**OFFICERS**

- **Chairman**
  **Dennis E. Eckart**
  Partner
  Baker & Hostetler LLP

- **President**
  **William Boyd**
  Chairman and CEO
  Boyd Gaming Corporation

- **Secretary and Treasurer**
  **Judy L. Patterson**
  Senior Vice President and Executive Director
  American Gaming Association

- **Counsel**
  **Howard S. Silver**
  Partner
  Hogan & Hartson LLP
ENHANCED LEADERSHIP

ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2004, the Board of Directors established an advisory council comprised of leading experts who study or work in different aspects of the gaming industry.

This new advisory council will provide strategic counsel and ongoing tactical and financial support to the NCRG with the goal of broadening the organization’s base of support and serving as an additional educational outreach resource for the NCRG. The council also provides a way for potential and retired board members to be more involved in the organization.

Inaugural members of the advisory board are Greg Avioli, executive vice president of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association; Bo Bernhard, director of gambling research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Thomas Brosig, faculty fellow at the University College at Tulane University, co-founder of Grand Casinos and a retiring NCRG board member; Marc Falcone, managing director of gaming, lodging and leisure equity research at Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc.; and Penelope Kyle, executive director of the Virginia Lottery.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At its December meeting, the NCRG broadened its board of directors. New members for 2005 include Jan Jones, senior vice president of communications and government relations at Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc. and former mayor of Las Vegas; Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, associate professor of American Indian studies at the University of Arizona and a member of the Choctaw/Cherokee tribe; and Eric M. Turner, former executive director of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission and treasurer and secretary of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries.

Each new member has demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible gaming issues and will help expand NCRG’s responsible gaming education efforts beyond commercial casinos. The addition of such a diverse group provides the insight and expertise to keep pace with the rapidly expanding gaming marketplace and ensures that NCRG programs will have an impact in every segment of the industry.
2004 CONTRIBUTORS

Since Boyd Gaming Corporation provided the start-up funds in 1996, the NCRG has received generous support from various financial donors, including gaming companies, suppliers and vendors, NCRG board members, events, gaming employees and individuals. The nearly $15 million raised supports NCRG’s efforts to advance the research and understanding of disordered gambling.

$200,000
Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.*
International Game Technology*
MGM MIRAGE*
Mandalay Resort Group*
Caesars Entertainment, Inc.*

$100,000
Argosy Gaming Company*
Boyd Gaming Corporation*
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.*

$77,000
JCM American Corporation*

$50,000
Alliance Gaming Corporation*
Aztar Corporation*
Station Casinos, Inc.*
WMS Industries, Inc.*

$15,000
The Riviera Hotel & Casino*

$10,000
Pioneer Behavioral Health*
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada*

$7,500
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas*

$5,000
Bank of America
William Boyd

$2,500 and under
Roland Burris
Andre Carrier
Glenn Christenson
Community Foundation of
Western Nevada
David Korn
Mikohn Gaming Corporation
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Mohegan Sun
Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.
Stan Roth
Tim Wilmott

*Indicates that the company’s contribution is part of a multi-year pledge to the NCRG.

Attendees at the 2004 NCRG Annual Conference on Gambling and Addiction learn about the latest research findings.

Many thanks to all of our generous contributors.
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Two major fundraising events, the American Gaming Association’s (AGA) Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony and the JCM-AGA Golf Classic tournament, helped raise $262,000 for the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) in 2004. Proceeds from the events directly benefit NCRG research and education activities.

2004 GAMING HALL OF FAME CHARITY DINNER AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

The following companies and individuals generously supported the event:

**Major Underwriters**
- Farrington Productions
- Sandy Peltyn
- Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada
- Station Casinos, Inc.

**Dinner Sponsors**

- **$23,000**
  - Horseshoe Gaming Holding Corporation
- **$9,600**
  - Boyd Gaming Corporation
- **$8,000**
  - MGM MIRAGE
- **$7,000**
  - Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman LLP

**$5,500**
- Bank of America
- Friedmutter Group

**$4,500**
- Argosy Gaming Company
- Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.
- International Game Technology
- Marshall USA, Inc.
- The Venetian

**$4,000**
- Smoot Construction

**$3,500**
- Alliance Gaming Corporation
- Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.
- Atronic Americas LLC
- Caesars Entertainment, Inc.
- The Duberstein Group
- Ernst & Young LLP
- Global Gaming Expo/Reed Exhibitions
- JCM American Corporation
- Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- Mandalay Resort Group
- Marshall Retail Group, Inc.
- MGM, Inc.
- Mikohn Gaming Corporation
- Palms Casino Resort
- Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Riviera Hotel and Casino
- Tropicana Resort & Casino
- Claudine Williams (Harrah’s Las Vegas)
- WMS Gaming Inc.
- Young Electric Sign Company, Inc.

**$2,000 - $3,499**
- Bourbon Street Hotel and Casino
- Ice Miller
- RPM Advertising

**$1,000 - $1,999**
- Barrick Gaming Corporation
- Casino World
- Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Las Vegas
- Deloitte & Touche LLP
- Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
- Penn National Gaming, Inc.
- Shuffle Master Gaming, Inc.

**Under $1,000**
- Ascend Media Gaming Group
- Burton M. Cohen
- Sue Cox
- Dennis Eckart
- Gregory Glaser
- Global Cash Access LLC
- Goldman, Sachs & Co.
- Hogan & Hartson LLP
- HR Solutions, Inc.
- Jones Vargas
- Konami Gaming, Inc.
- Lionel Sawyer & Collins, Ltd.
- Potomac Counsel LLC
- Primm Valley Casino Resorts
- Quirk & Tratos
- Red Publix Group LLC
- Sprint Corporation
- The Wade Group, Inc.
- White Construction Company

The 16th annual Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony raised $185,000 for the NCRG to help fund research and education on disordered gambling. Station Casinos, Inc. hosted the event at the premiere Green Valley Ranch Resort on June 11.

Nearly 500 people attended the Hall of Fame dinner, where noted casino executive and developer Fred Benninger, chairman and CEO of Horseshoe Gaming Holding Corporation Jack Binion and comedian Don Rickles were honored for their lifetime contributions to gaming by being inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame. Fred Benninger passed away in early 2004 and was inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame posthumously.

The dinner featured international recording star and virtuoso violinist Olga Breeskin, accompanied by the Third Dimension Orchestra.

Phil Satre congratulates Hall of Fame inductees Jack Binion and Don Rickles on their accomplishments.
The sixth annual JCM-AGA Golf Classic, organized by JCM American Corporation (JCM) in conjunction with the American Gaming Association (AGA), raised a record-setting $77,000 for the NCRG in 2004.

Held at the Revere Golf Club in Henderson, Nevada, on April 26, the Golf Classic drew 148 players. The winning foursome was from Station Casinos.

The Golf Classic also included a raffle with over 20 prizes including tickets to shows, gift certificates to leading restaurants, airplane tickets, a tour of the Grand Canyon and a deluxe two-day tourist package.

Since the event’s conception in 1998, the golf tournament has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars for the NCRG.

The following companies generously supported the event:

**Sponsors**
- Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers
- Alliance Gaming Corporation
- Argosy Gaming Company
- Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.
- Ascend Media Gaming Group
- Bally Gaming and Systems
- CORESTAFF Services
- Global Gaming Expo
- Gaming Laboratories International
- Gaming Standards Association
- Happ Controls
- HIKAM America, Inc.
- Hi-Tech Gaming
- International Game Technology
- Konami Gaming, Inc.
- Patriot Gaming & Electronics, Inc.
- Reel Games
- TCS/John Huxley
- WMS Gaming Las Vegas

**Donations**
- Calloway Golf
- Casa Blanca
- Chicago Brewing Company
- David Saxe Productions
- Destiny’s Oasis Las Vegas
- Eagle Promotions
- Flower Peddler
- Harrah’s Las Vegas Casino & Hotel
- Henderson Convention & Visitor Bureau
- Lee Wayne
- Monte Carlo Resort & Casino
- Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino
- Scenic Airlines
- Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada
- Station Casinos
- Tahoe Biltmore Lodge & Casino
- Trovis Monitors
- Trophy Golf
- Uniglobe Dazey Travel

The winning foursome from Station Casinos – (from left to right) were Mike Trejo, Bob Swonick, Tyron Bynum and Ernie McNeil.
RESEARCH REPORT

The NCRG’s insistence on the highest standards of scientific merit has reaped insights into disordered gambling behavior, its connection with other psychiatric and addictive disorders, and the most effective forms of treatment. The NCRG has supported ground-breaking research at Harvard Medical School's Division on Addictions through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, and at leading research institutions including Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Minnesota, McGill University and Massachusetts General Hospital. The more than $11 million in NCRG grant awards have made a substantial contribution to the field since 1996. One-third of all gambling-related scholarly citations ever published were released in academic journals between 1999 and 2003, and much of what is known about gambling behavior has been learned only in the last few years. The NCRG is proud to have played a role in this dramatic increase in knowledge about the potential health consequences of gambling.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2004, findings from NCRG-supported research were published in a variety of peer-reviewed, well-respected scientific journals.


Shaffer, H. J., LaBrie, R. & LaPlante D. (2004). Laying the foundation for quantifying regional exposure to social phenomena: Considering the case
of legalized gambling as a public health toxin. Psychology of Addictive
Behaviors, 18, 40-48.

Shaffer, H.J., LaBrie, R., LaPlante D., Nelson, S. E., & Stanton, M. (2004). The
road less travelled: Moving from distribution to determinants in the study

Toward a syndrome model of addiction: Multiple expressions, common

pathological gambling. In J.E. Grant & M.N. Potenza, (Eds.)
Pathological gambling: A clinical guide to treatment. Washington,

Stinchfield, R. (2004). Demographic, psychosocial, and behavioral
factors associated with youth gambling and problem gambling.
In J. Derevensky & R. Gupta (Eds.), Gambling problems in youth:
Theoretical and applied perspectives (pp. 27-39). New York:

and young adult gambling. In J. E. Grant & M. N. Potenza
(Eds.), Pathological gambling: A clinical guide to treatment,

Vander Bilt, J., Dodge, H., Pandav, R., Shaffer, H. J., & Ganguli, M.
(2004). Gambling participation and social support among
older adults: A longitudinal community study. Journal of

to gamble and gambling-related semantic networks in problem

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON
PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING AND RELATED DISORDERS RESEARCH REPORT

In 2000, the NCRG established the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Harvard Medical School’s Division on Addictions to support the pioneering work of Dr. Howard Shaffer and to operate a competitive research grants program for non-Harvard institutions.
The Addiction as Syndrome Model

In 2004, Dr. Shaffer’s team continued to offer fresh approaches to understanding pathological gambling through the publication of seminal research in several leading scientific journals. In “Toward a syndrome model of addiction: Multiple expressions, common etiology,” published by The Harvard Review of Psychiatry, the authors cited new research in neurobiology and argued that the objects of addiction — the slot machine, the martini or cocaine — play a less central role in the development of addiction than previously thought (Shaffer, LaPlante, LaBrie, Kidman, Donato, & Stanton, 2004). According to the study, recent discoveries are challenging the conventional wisdom, suggesting that substance use and behavioral disorders, including pathological gambling, are distinctive expressions of the same underlying addiction “syndrome.” The paper served as the framework for the 2004 NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

In addition, Dr. Shaffer, with Dr. Mark Albanese, medical director for addictions at Cambridge Health Alliance and assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, explored similar themes in the chapter, “Addiction’s Defining Characteristics,” for Addiction Counseling Review: Preparing for Comprehensive Certification and Licensing Exams, a textbook for addictions counselors edited by R.H. Coombs (Shaffer & Albanese, 2004). These activities reflect the Institute’s commitment to conducting professional and public education grounded in the most up-to-date scientific research.

Prevalence Studies

In an article published in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, the Harvard research team encouraged the gambling field to take the road less traveled by shifting the direction of prevalence studies to focus on vulnerable populations such as the elderly, youth and minorities, instead of the general population (Shaffer, LaBrie, LaPlante, Nelson, & Stanton, 2004). Reflecting this concern, the Institute’s 2004 grants competition called for proposals from young investigators focused on special populations. The Institute awarded an Incentive Grant of $23,000 to Dr. Silvia Martins at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in support of “Prevalence of gambling disorders: Association with drug use and psychiatric comorbidity in adolescents living in Baltimore.” This study will examine gambling habits and gambling disorders in a sample of predominantly African American youth, a population rarely studied in gambling research.

Also in 2004, the Institute continued its efforts to frame gambling as a public health issue, focusing on the need for conceptual strategies and new research tools (Shaffer & Kidman, 2004). In an article published in the Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, authors described a new public health regional exposure model designed to gather empirical evidence in response to the frequently asked question, “Does the availability of gambling increase gambling disorders in a community?” (Shaffer, LaBrie, & LaPlante, 2004).

This model has been applied to an ongoing study of the Missouri Gaming Commission’s Voluntary Exclusion Program, a research project funded by the Port Authority Problem Gambling Fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Missouri Gaming Commission and the NCRG. In 2004, the Institute faculty completed phase one of the study of the individuals who choose to ban themselves from the riverboat casinos in the state (Shaffer, LaBrie, LaPlante, & Nelson, 2004). The analysis of the self-exclusion patterns across the state found a lower prevalence rate of pathological gambling in regions with the longest exposure to gambling and a higher rate in communities new to gambling.
The Missouri project demonstrated how such research not only advances our understanding of gambling disorders, but also provides public health planners with practical tools and information. According to researchers, the study provides a model that will enable Missouri public health workers to identify risk factors for developing problem gambling and protective factors that prevent or reduce gambling harms. This knowledge will allow the development of prevention and intervention programs based on empirical evidence rather than anecdotes and good intentions.

The Reno Model

Finally, in 2004, long-time discussions between Howard Shaffer and fellow researchers Alex Blaszczynski (University of Sydney & Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia) and Robert Ladouceur (University of Laval, Quebec, Canada) culminated in the publication in the Journal of Gambling Studies, “A science-based framework for responsible gambling: The Reno model” (Blaszczynski, Ladouceur, & Shaffer, 2004). The authors maintained that the key stakeholders should join forces to reduce both the incidence and prevalence of gambling-related harm in the community. The position paper outlines a strategic framework to guide industry operators, health service and other welfare providers, interested community groups, consumers and governments and their related agencies in the adoption and implementation of responsible gambling and harm minimization initiatives. The Reno Model will serve as the focus of the 2005 annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

REFERENCES


The Program Advisory Board collaborates with the faculty and staff of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders in developing research priorities and procedures for the external competitive research grants program. Composed of leading academic researchers representing the relevant research domains, as well as experts on gambling, the Program Advisory Board performs a peer-review quality assurance function to evaluate whether the Institute’s research standards have been met, using the methods of the National Institutes of Health as a reference standard.

Mark Appelbaum, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor
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

Jeff Derevensky, Ph.D.
Professor of Applied/Child Psychology
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Youth Gambling Research and Treatment Clinic
McGill University

William Eadington, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics
Director, Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming
University of Nevada, Reno

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

Herbert D. Kleber, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Barry Kosofsky, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology
Professor of Pediatrics
Weill Cornell Medical School
New York Presbyterian Hospital

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

David C. Lewis, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Brown University
Project Director
Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy

Eileen Luna-Firebaugh, J.D., M.P.A.
Associate Professor of American Indian Studies
University of Arizona, Tucson

Brian McKay, J.D.
Of Counsel
Lionel Sawyer & Collins

Associate Professor of Economics
Boston College

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

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

Charles F. Wellford, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
University of Maryland

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

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.
President
Wynne Resources, Ltd.
Adjunct Professor
McGill University
University of Alberta

Principal Investigator
Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
Director, Division on Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School

Administrative Staff
Christine Reilly
Executive Director
Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders
EDUCATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Common Causes, Managing Consequences

The fifth annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction once again served as a focal point for NCRG’s education initiatives. Posting a record 430 attendees, the conference was held December 5-7 at the MGM Grand Conference Center in Las Vegas, and drew international participants from a broad range of sectors involved in gambling issues, including government regulators, elected officials, scientific researchers, clinicians and gaming operators and manufacturers.

“Common Causes, Managing Consequences” showcased leaders in the field in a series of 17 sessions on topics as diverse as the use of brain imaging and genetics to determine vulnerability to addiction, the impact of living in the age of terrorism on addictive behaviors, regulating gaming in a global economy and the history of luck in America.

Howard Shaffer, director of the Division on Addictions and associate professor of psychology in the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, opened the conference with a plenary session outlining his recent research suggesting all addictions may be part of the same underlying syndrome and the implications this model may have for treatment programs. The results of the study were published in the December 2004 issue of the *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*.

Shaffer’s session set the framework for the entire conference, creating a dialogue on the issue that culminated in a spirited town hall meeting led by Dennis Eckart, chairman of the NCRG. The town hall panel featured Peter Dean, chairman of the Gaming Board for Great Britain; Timothy Hinkley, president and chief operating officer of Isle of Capri Casinos; The Honorable Lana Oleen, Kansas Senate Majority Leader; and Dr. Shaffer. Senator Oleen summarized the impact of the syndrome model, noting this type of science will lead to increased understanding of addictions, more effective programs and ultimately increased public support. Panelists and audience members used the opportunity to commend the gaming industry for its proactive approach to responsible gaming, but also challenged it to continue to increase financial support for this vital research.

Participants’ evaluations of the conference revealed an extremely positive response to the event. One attendee mirrored many responses in remarking that the conference “had an excellent mix of industry representatives and clinicians, [relied] on good science rather than misinterpreted data, [and] featured [properly] conference sessions [that] remained focused on solutions to problems without a lot of finger pointing.” Other attendees highlighted the high level of networking opportunities provided at the event.

Dr. Howard Shaffer gives government and industry track participants a primer in pathological gambling and related research.
In an effort to expand the public outreach of the NCRG, this year’s conference unveiled a daily Web log summarizing key sessions for media and others unable to attend the event. The log generated well over 200 hits to the site during the week of and week following the conference.

In addition, the fifth annual conference marked the debut of a post-conference CD-ROM, generously sponsored by CooperLevenson, that featured complete session summaries, press clips, audio recordings and PowerPoint presentations as available. This conference CD-ROM was sent to all registered attendees.

NCRG conference sponsors included: the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers; Ameristar Casinos, Inc.; Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.; Bally Gaming and Systems; Caesars Entertainment, Inc.; Foxwoods Resort Casino; Global Gaming Expo; Harmony Healthcare; Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.; International Game Technology; Konami Gaming, Inc.; Shuffle Master, Inc.; Station Casinos, Inc.; and WMS Gaming Inc.

**SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

The annual NCRG Scientific Achievement Awards were presented during the 2004 NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction. Established in 2002, the awards formally honor those individuals who have made exceptional scientific contributions to the field of gambling research.

Alex Blaszczynski, Ph.D., chair in psychology and director of the Gambling Research Unit at the University of Sydney in Australia, received the 2004 Senior Investigator Award. Blaszczynski is a pioneer in gambling research, treatment and policy development whose body of work encompasses studies of diagnostic and treatment issues, forensics, risk factors and the neurological pathways of pathological gambling. His work includes seminal investigations of the relationship of disordered gambling behavior to anxiety, depression, substance use and suicide.

Jon E. Grant, M.D., J.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University Medical School, received the 2004 Young Investigator Award for his significant contributions to clinical research in pathological gambling and other impulse control disorders. Grant’s research has proved instrumental in the development of pharmacological treatments for pathological gambling and related disorders. In 2004, he received a career award from the National Institutes of Health to examine cognitive behavioral and motivational therapeutic approaches to the treatment of pathological gambling.
Recipients of the 2004 Scientific Achievement Awards were selected by an independent committee of distinguished leaders in the field of addictions and gambling research chaired by Joseph Coyle, M.D., Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Now in its fourth year of publication, Responsible Gaming Quarterly (RGQ) has maintained its role as one of the leading international resources for news and analysis of disordered gambling issues, counting 1,400 gaming industry representatives, treatment providers, academics, regulators and government officials among its subscribers. RGQ is a free publication that aims to promote public education and awareness about responsible gaming. Jointly published by the NCRG and the American Gaming Association, RGQ provides a broad range of coverage with articles on recent research results, regulatory initiatives, studies and developments in the treatment field, and model industry programs.

The Worldwide Addiction Gambling Education Report (The WAGER), published continuously by the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School (DOA) since 1995, remains an important source of information on gambling research. For ten years, The WAGER has provided brief, critical reports on recent gambling research for a weekly circulation of 5,000, reaching almost 20 countries around the world. The success of The WAGER inspired the DOA to develop The BASIS (Brief Addiction Science Information Source) to strengthen worldwide understanding of addiction and minimize its harmful effects. Launched in early 2005, The BASIS (www.thebasisonline.org) offers free access to reports on alcohol, gambling and tobacco use as well as self-help tools for people struggling with addictive disorders. The NCRG provides financial support for both The WAGER and The BASIS.

The fifth annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction featured the debut of a post-conference CD-ROM including complete session summaries, press clips, audio recordings and PowerPoint presentations as available. In addition to being mailed to all registered conference attendees, the post-conference CD-ROM will be used throughout the year as an outreach tool.

The NCRG Web site (www.ncrg.org) continues to be an invaluable source of information on various NCRG activities and programs. The site, which recorded 1,400 unique visitors per month in 2004, includes information on past and present research initiatives on disordered gambling, educational programs and upcoming events such as NCRG’s annual conference. The site also features resources for treatment providers, gaming industry professionals and problem gamblers as well as NCRG publications and video clips from leading responsible gaming experts.

EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

In addition to sharing an information booth at Global Gaming Expo 2004 in October, the NCRG and the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders jointly organized a session highlighting the Institute’s research into the Missouri self-exclusion program and the impact of the findings for improving public health programming not only in Missouri, but across the nation.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

While the National Center for Responsible Gaming has become a strong, credible force in the field of disordered gambling research since it was created in 1996, the year 2004 marked the start of the NCRG’s effort to build on the description and investigation of disordered gambling to place increased emphasis on the development of treatment and prevention programs, as well as enhanced education activities. With the annual conference as a core element, NCRG brought expanded outreach to the regulatory, legislative and corporate communities to move the advances of research into proactive, practical applications. This effort continues to grow.

In the coming months, the NCRG and the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders will unveil a curriculum on the potential health consequences of gambling designed for employees of gaming companies. Developed by Harvard Medical School faculty, the program will provide a multilayered educational program and a vehicle for certifying the participation of both employees and companies.

From December 7-8, 2005 at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, the NCRG will host the 6th Annual Conference on Gambling and Addiction. The theme of the conference is “Finding Common Ground on Prevention, Treatment and Policy;” and the conference will build on the previous years’ discussion to attract government and industry attendees by providing new, highly-practical sessions designed to give interested parties the information needed to implement responsible gaming programs in their communities.

Underlying these exciting outreach initiatives is NCRG’s unwavering commitment to sound, credible research. The organization was proud to continue its financial commitment to Harvard Medical School to fund the Institute in 2004, and numerous gaming interests renewed and expanded their financial commitments to the NCRG. The coming year will bring the fifth anniversary of the Institute, and the NCRG and its supporters will undoubtedly play an important role in this celebration.

Through all these projects, the NCRG’s mission remains clear: to support the finest peer-reviewed basic and applied research on gambling disorders; to encourage the application of new research findings to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies; and to enhance public awareness of pathological gambling and youth gambling.