

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

Advancing Research, Education and Awareness



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) marked its 10th anniversary in 2006. In that decade, significant progress was made toward understanding gambling disorders. And, largely due to the efforts of the NCRG, this area of research is now more robust and respected than ever before. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of some of the world's leading gaming companies.

As we celebrated the NCRG's 10th year, we remained committed to funding, through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, the best research on disordered gambling. In addition, new emphasis was placed on helping researchers find innovative ways to translate their findings into practical applications to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies; and advance public education about responsible gaming.

In 2006, the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, on behalf of the NCRG, awarded more than \$1 million in research grants to institutions including the University of Iowa, University of Washington and others, bringing the organization's total dollar amount awarded since its inception to more than \$10 million.

During the year, the NCRG board also approved a multi-year effort to raise the profile of the NCRG and increase public awareness of the research funded by the gaming industry. Sample initiatives include the development of a new graphic identity and tagline for the organization, the launch of a newly enhanced Web site, the establishment of a speakers' bureau and news bureau and the launch of the NCRG's first-ever research monograph series. These efforts are designed to increase support for the NCRG so that we will be able to more effectively develop education campaigns and responsible gaming programming for the gaming industry and the public.

In another development, the NCRG's annual conference shifted its dates to coincide with Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in 2006. This change was made to heighten interaction among operators and clinicians and to generate a more lively exchange of ideas within the field of gambling research. The Conference saw more international participation than ever before, and the NCRG has announced plans to once again hold the event in conjunction with G2E in 2007.

These are just some of the many accomplishments from the past year that this annual report will highlight. You also will find updates on fundraising activities and projected goals for 2007.

I am confident that these accomplishments and ambitious goals, combined with the NCRG's dedication to breaking new ground in critical research areas, will lead us into an exciting future. I look forward to another eventful year and many more milestones to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip G. Satre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Philip G. Satre
Chairman

National Center for Responsible Gaming

NCRG STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Role: Set Policy and Program Direction

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Role: Raise Funds

MISSION

Founded in 1996 as a 501(c)3 charitable organization, the NCRG's 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 responsible gaming.

RESEARCH

Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders¹
Division on Addictions
Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

Internal Research

Competitive Research Grants to Universities

Annual Conference

EDUCATION

Publications, Programs and Presentations on Disordered Gambling

For more information about the NCRG:

National Center for Responsible Gaming
1299 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 1175
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202-552-2689
Fax: 202-552-2676
E-mail: contact@ncrg.org
www.ncrg.org

For more information on gambling research:

Christine Reilly, Executive Director
Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders
Division on Addictions
101 Station Landing, Suite 2100
Medford, MA 02155
Tel: 781-306-8604
Fax: 781-306-8629
E-mail: cjreilly@challiance.org
www.divisiononaddictions.org/institute

¹Independent entity supported by a contract from the NCRG

NCRG LEADERSHIP

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is the American Gaming Association's (AGA) affiliated charity. Founded in 1996 as a separate 501(c)3 charitable organization, the NCRG has raised more than \$15 million to help support peer-reviewed, scientific research into pathological and youth gambling and provide scientifically-based responsible gaming education and outreach programs to casino communities nationwide. It is the only national organization exclusively devoted to public education and funding of peer-reviewed research on disordered gambling.

When the NCRG expanded its mission to include a more intensive public outreach and education effort in 2005, it also restructured its leadership to ensure that these new goals could be met more effectively. Today, the NCRG is overseen by a board of directors and a board of trustees. Each of these boards has its own unique but complimentary role within the organization. The board of directors serves as the practical, hands-on management group for the organization, focused on education and outreach program creation and implementation, as well as maintaining the current positive relationship with the Institute. The board of trustees consists of CEOs of NCRG donor companies and is focused entirely on fundraising activities, both to support new education and outreach efforts and to continue to support peer-reviewed scientific research grants.

The following individuals served the NCRG in 2006:

Officers

CHAIRMAN

Philip G. Satre

Former Chairman and CEO
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

PRESIDENT

William S. Boyd

Chairman and CEO
Boyd Gaming Corporation

SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Judy Patterson

Senior Vice President
and Executive Director
American Gaming Association

Board of Directors

Robert Boswell

Senior Vice President
Pioneer Behavioral Health

Glenn Christenson

Executive Vice President and CFO
Station Casinos, Inc.

Sue Cox

Founding Executive Director
Texas Council on Problem and
Compulsive Gambling

Alan Feldman

Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
MGM MIRAGE

Kevin Mullally

General Counsel and Director of
Government Affairs
Gaming Laboratories International

Jennifer Shatley

Director, Code of Commitment
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

Board of Trustees

Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.

President and CEO
American Gaming Association

Lorenzo Fertitta

President
Station Casinos, Inc.

Robert Haddock

President and CFO
Azar Corporation

Tim Hinkley

President and COO
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

Aki Isoi

President
JCM American Corporation

J. Terrence Lanni

Chairman and CEO
MGM MIRAGE

Gary Loveman

Chairman, CEO and President
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

T.J. Matthews

Chairman, President and COO
International Game Technology

Larry Ruvo

Senior Managing Director
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada

10 YEARS AT-A-GLANCE

In 2006, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) celebrated its 10th anniversary, and in addition to its ongoing commitment to funding critical, groundbreaking research into disordered gambling, the organization renewed and expanded its public education mission. The timeline below offers a look at some of the NCRG's major accomplishments throughout its 10-year history.

1996: Members of the gaming industry establish the NCRG, the first organization devoted exclusively to funding independent peer-reviewed research on pathological and youth gambling and educating the public about problem gambling.



1999: The NCRG holds its first annual conference on gambling and addiction in Las Vegas. Today, the conference brings together clinicians, industry leaders, policy officials and treatment providers from around the globe to discuss the latest advancements in addictions research surrounding problem gambling.

JCM American Corporation and the American Gaming Association co-sponsor the inaugural JCM-AGA Golf Classic benefiting the NCRG. Since 1999, the tournament has raised nearly half a million dollars for the organization.

1997: The NCRG awards its first grant to Howard Shaffer, Ph.D., at Harvard University, whose resulting meta-analysis provides the first reliable statistics on the rate of gambling disorders in the United States and Canada. The report indicates between 1.14 and 1.60 percent of the adult population are pathological gamblers, a figure still widely published today.



1998: Representatives from the NCRG testify at hearings conducted by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC), and 10 investigators working on NCRG-funded research projects are invited to present their findings to a National Research Council panel formed by the NGISC. The testimony leads the NGISC to note in its final report that “perhaps surprising to some, the largest source of funding for research on problem and pathological gambling is the commercial casino industry.”



2000: The NCRG shifts evaluation and funding of gambling research grants to the Division on Addictions at Harvard Medical School by awarding a \$2.4 million contract to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders.

2006

2001: *Responsible Gaming Quarterly*, a joint publication of the NCRG and the American Gaming Association, debuts. The publication highlights initiatives throughout the industry, government, academia and the treatment community to address disordered gambling.



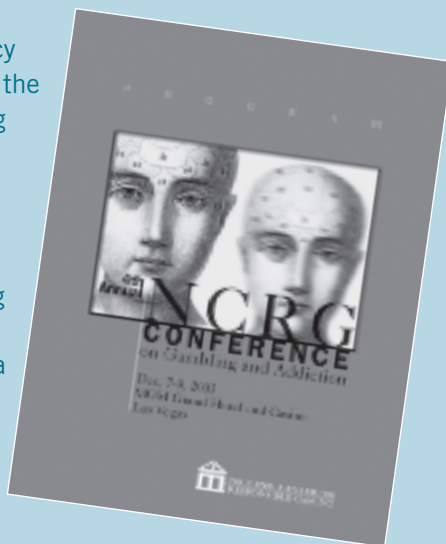
2004: Drs. Howard Shaffer, Alex Blaszczynski and Robert Ladouceur publish “A Science-Based Framework for Responsible Gaming: The Reno Model,” in the *Journal of Gambling Studies*. This NCRG-funded paper outlines a strategic framework to help communities minimize the negative impacts of gambling addiction.



2002: The NCRG launches the annual “Scientific Achievement Awards” program to formally honor those individuals who have made exceptional scientific contributions to the field of gambling research. The late Robert Custer, M.D., and Nancy Petry, Ph.D., are honored with the Career Achievement and Young

Investigator Awards, respectively, at the inaugural ceremony.

2003: The NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction is expanded to offer a separate track providing a practical agenda for a government and industry audience in addition to its ongoing program for the academic and treatment community.



2005: As part of its expanded public education mission, the NCRG officially becomes the American Gaming Association’s affiliated charity. While remaining committed to funding scientific research in the field of pathological gaming, the new structure allows the organization to expand the positive impact of this vital research within casino communities nationwide.

2006: The Institute begins to translate its core curriculum on gambling disorders and responsible gaming into an interactive Web-based training program, customizable for every level of casino employee, called *EMERGE – Executive, Management & Employee Responsible Gaming Education*.

The NCRG moves its annual conference to coincide with Global Gaming Expo (G2E) to heighten interaction between industry leaders and clinicians and generate a more lively exchange of ideas within the field of gambling research.

CONTRIBUTORS

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) has received generous support from various financial donors since its founding in 1996, including gaming companies, suppliers and vendors, NCRG board members, gaming employees and individuals. The more than \$15 million raised to date has aided the organization's mission to work together toward the advancement of research, understanding of disordered gambling and public education on gaming-related issues.

The following is a list of contributors that supported the NCRG in 2006:

\$400,000

Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.*
MGM MIRAGE*

\$200,000

International Game Technology*

\$100,000

Argosy Gaming Company/Penn National Gaming, Inc.*
Boyd Gaming Corporation*
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.*

\$75,000

JCM American Corporation*

\$50,000

Aztar Corporation*
Station Casinos, Inc.*
WMS Industries, Inc.*

\$15,000

The Riviera Hotel and Casino*

\$10,000

The Palms Las Vegas*
Pioneer Behavioral Health*
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada*

\$7,500

Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Las Vegas*

\$5,000 and under

Camel Rock Casino

\$3,000 and under

Canterbury Park
Glenn Christenson
Harrah's Cherokee Indian Casino & Hotel
Phil and Jennifer Satre Family Charitable Fund
at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada

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

RESEARCH REPORT

Since its inception in 1996, the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) has received contributions at unprecedented levels for research into gambling problems. All totaled, the gaming industry, equipment manufacturers, vendors, related organizations and individuals have committed more than \$15 million to the NCRG. These contributions make the NCRG the leading private source of funding for science-based research and information on gambling and health, focused on promoting evidence-based education, prevention, treatment and public policy. As a result, the best researchers, at the best organizations and institutions, have been drawn to what was previously an uncharted field. Advanced research funded by the NCRG through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at the Division on Addictions, Cambridge Health Alliance, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School, has been conducted by research institutions such as Yale University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Minnesota, McGill University and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Most of what is known about disordered gambling has been learned since 1999. In fact, fully one-third of all disordered gambling research was done between 1999 and 2003.¹ It is no coincidence that the NCRG was playing a major funding role during those years. The NCRG is proud to have played a role in this dramatic increase in knowledge about the potential health consequences of gambling.

¹Shaffer, H.J., Stanton, M.V., & Nelson, S.E. (2006). Trends in gambling studies research: Quantifying, categorizing, and describing citations. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 22(4): 427-442.

2006 Publications by NCRG-funded Investigators

Publishing research findings in a peer-reviewed scientific journal is how researchers share their work with their colleagues and the public and subject their conclusions to the judgment of the scientific community. NCRG-supported research has been published consistently in the highest-impact journals with the most rigorous standards. The following NCRG-funded research studies were published in 2006:

- Black, D.W., Monahan, P.O., M'Hamed, T., & Shaw, M. (2006). A family study of pathological gambling. *Psychiatry Research*, 141(3), 295-303.
- LaBrie, R.A., Nelson, S.E., LaPlante, D.A., Peller, A.J., Caro, G., & Shaffer, H.J. (2006). Missouri Casino Self-Excluders: Distributions Across Time and Space [Electronic Version]. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.
- LaPlante, D.A., Nelson, S.E., LaBrie, R.A., & Shaffer, H.J. (2006). Men and women playing games: Gender and the gambling preferences of Iowa Gambling Treatment Program participants. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 22(1), 65-80.
- Nelson, S.E., LaPlante, D.A., LaBrie, R.A., & Shaffer, H.J. (2006). The proxy effect: Gender and gambling problem trajectories of Iowa Gambling Treatment Program participants. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 22(2), 221-240.
- Ranganath C. (2006). Working memory for visual objects: Complementary roles of inferior temporal, medial temporal, and prefrontal cortex. *Neuroscience*, 139(1), 277-289.
- Shaffer, H.J., Stanton, M.V., & Nelson, S.E. (2006). Trends in gambling studies research: Quantifying, categorizing, and describing citations. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 22(4): 427-442.
- Zack, M., & Poulos, C.X. (2006). Implicit cognition in problem gambling. In R.W. Wiers & A.W. Stacy (Eds.), *Handbook of Implicit Cognition and Addiction* (pp. 379-391). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Intramural Research

The NCRG in 2000 embarked on an historic collaboration with Harvard Medical School, resulting in the transfer to Harvard of responsibilities for the evaluation and distribution of disordered gambling research grants. The collaboration consisted of the NCRG awarding a multimillion-dollar contract to the Division on Addictions to establish the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders, which carries out the academic and scientific functions previously performed by the NCRG. In 2006, the research team at the Division on Addictions, led by Dr. Howard Shaffer, worked on the following intramural studies and projects related to disordered gambling behavior.

Missouri Voluntary Self-Exclusion Project

Allowing individuals to self-exclude from gambling venues is an intervention strategy that has drawn increasing interest from public policy-makers and gaming regulators. However, there is no empirical evidence that such a program is an effective strategy for people struggling with gambling addiction. In 2006, the research team released the findings from Phase I of the Missouri Voluntary Self-Exclusion study in the paper, “Missouri Casino Self-Excluders: Distributions Across Time and Space,” published by the *Journal of Gambling Studies*. The analysis revealed that self-exclusion data can be used to provide estimates of the prevalence of disordered gambling on a state- and county-wide basis. The self-exclusion patterns indicated a lower prevalence rate of gambling disorders in regions with the longest exposure to gambling and a higher rate in communities new to gambling, suggesting a process of adaptation by the population. Phase II will involve telephone interviews with a sample of enrollees in the self-exclusion database. Funding for the project was provided by the Port Authority Problem Gambling Fund of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Trajectories of Disordered Gambling: A Meta-Analysis

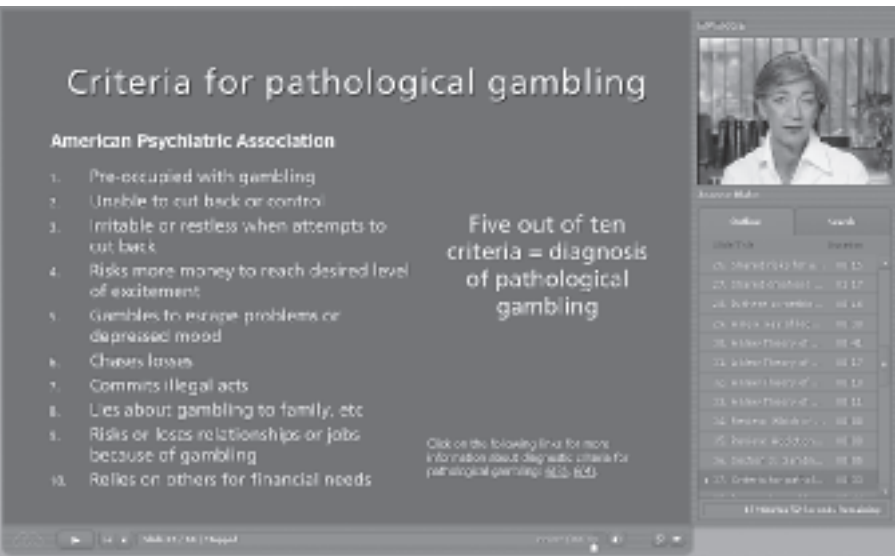
This benchmark study aims to demonstrate that, contrary to conventional wisdom, gambling symptoms and disorders are volatile and that individuals move between different levels of gambling and gambling disorders. The evidence suggests that the general course of disordered gambling behavior is in the direction of improved gambling behavior. Although it might be tempting to use the reliability of static prevalence rates as evidence for the stability of disordered gambling on an individual level, individual trajectory patterns do not support this conclusion. Consequently, there is a continuing need for prospective longitudinal research that can inform diagnostic systems by providing evidence about individual courses of gambling-related problems and disorders.

Comparing Public Support for Disordered Gambling with Other Health Disorders

This study is co-funded by the Massachusetts Family Institute and compares public support for resources to deal with pathological gambling with that for the mental disorders that have a similar prevalence rate such as schizophrenia.

EMERGE: Executive, Management and Employee Responsible Gaming Education

Led by Dr. Howard Shaffer, Harvard Medical School faculty first developed *EMERGE* in 2004 and began testing the program with gaming employees in 2006. At its core, *EMERGE* is an interactive training program for all employees that is grounded in the latest scientific research on addiction and gambling addiction. The program offers a curriculum on gambling disorders and responsible gaming that can be customized for any level of gaming industry employee — from executives to line staff. *EMERGE* also exceeds the requirements of all



Slide from Web-based version of the EMERGE training program.

current state regulations regarding training of casino employees on problem gambling.

The Web-based version of the program was tested with employees of the Bellagio Hotel & Casino and member companies of the Iowa Gaming Association (IGA). Their evaluations helped the EMERGE team refine the curriculum. On November 16, at Global Gaming Expo (G2E), Christine Reilly, executive director of the Institute, and Gabriel Caro, Web and technology manager for the Division on Addictions, also met with representatives from several of the NCRG’s donor companies to preview EMERGE. Training staff from Boyd Gaming, Station Casinos, Isle of Capri, The Mirage, Excalibur, Circus Circus and International Game Technology viewed the latest version and discussed the possibility of participating in a pilot phase that will be open in 2007 to NCRG donors.

2006 Grant Awards to Other Institutions

The Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders supports research at other institutions in addition to investigations conducted by the Division on Addictions faculty. Modeled after the National Institutes of Health (NIH) the NCRG’s grant making program through the Institute continued to cultivate the growing field of gambling studies. The Institute convened independent peer-review panels to review applications submitted in response to requests for funding throughout the year. The panels awarded a total of more than \$1 million in funding to the following studies:

Neuroscience Research on Gambling Disorders

- Donald W. Black, M.D., from the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa received a \$172,500 grant to study how disordered gamblers differ from non-problem gamblers in executive function, attention and impulsivity and how these deficits influence poor decision-making and the development of gambling disorders.
- Brett A. Clementz, Ph.D., from the University of Georgia was awarded \$167,088 to compare the brain activity of healthy gamblers and disordered gamblers while engaging in behavioral tasks of decision-making.
- Jacob Linnet, Ph.D., from the Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark was awarded \$149,185 to investigate the role of the neurotransmitter dopamine in pathological gambling and its relationship with the distorted thinking characteristic of gamblers who continue to place wagers despite mounting losses and adverse consequences to their personal lives.

Grants for Translational Research on Gambling and Gambling Disorders

- Edward Gottheil, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Washington was awarded \$172,500 to explore whether the cues and motivations of disordered gamblers are always the same or if they vary between different types of gambling. The study also will consider the relationship between gambling and alcohol use.
- Anne Helene Skinstad, Ph.D., from the University of Iowa and the Prairieland's Addiction Technology Transfer Center was awarded \$168,941 to conduct a national survey of gambling treatment professionals and develop a strategy for creating an evidence-based curriculum for delivery to gambling treatment professionals.

Incentive Grants for New Investigators

- Catharine A. Winstanley, Ph.D., from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center was awarded \$57,500 to investigate the viability of an animal model of gambling behavior that will provide insights into the neural and neurochemical basis of gambling disorders.



Dr. Richard LaBrie presents Dr. Anna E. Goudriaan with the award for outstanding poster at the 2006 NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

- Shelly B. Flagel, Ph.D., from the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute at the University of Michigan received \$56,197 to experiment with an animal model for pathological gambling that addresses both the impulsivity and risk-taking dimensions of the disorder by studying rats selectively bred on the basis of a novelty-seeking trait.
- Anna E. Goudriaan, Ph.D., from the University of Missouri was awarded \$57,436 to examine changes over time in gambling patterns, as well as the incidence of at-risk gambling and gambling problems, in a four-year longitudinal study of 2,400 college students.

Landmark Study of Gambling Disorders

In March 2006, the Institute awarded a directed contract of \$115,000 to Harvard Medical School, in support of *An Analysis of Pathological Gambling in the National Comorbidity Replication Survey*. The year-long contract will yield the first study of the gambling data collected for the first time in the 2001-2003 version of the NCS.

The NCS-R is considered a landmark study of mental health in the United States. The survey, conducted by the University of Michigan, included 9,282 households selected at random in 34 states. Nearly 300 trained interviewers traveled about 8 million miles over a year and a half. The study's 10-year follow-up went further by measuring, for the first time, the severity and persistence of people's mental illness and the quality of their treatment. Dr. Ron Kessler, principal investigator of the study, will present the findings of the research at the 2007 NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

Ongoing Projects

Your First Step to Change

The NCRG-funded self-help toolkit, “Your First Step to Change,” will be evaluated in 2007 as a brief intervention for gambling disorders with new grants from the National Institutes of Health (“An Assessment of a Problem Gambling Self-Change Toolkit”) and the State of Nevada, through an award to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with the Division on Addictions as a co-sponsor. The following are summaries of these projects.

Nevada Study

Nevada is unique in its demographic and population trends as well as its exposure to gambling, providing an ideal setting for empirical research in this field. Recent studies suggest that a lack of access to professional treatment (as may be found in areas outside of the greater Reno and Las Vegas areas) does not preclude recovery from harmful gambling behaviors. This appears to be particularly true with those in the early stages of the disorder, indicating that this population may benefit from prevention efforts. To examine these phenomena, this project aims to adapt, implement and assess “Your First Step To Change.”

This project will be implemented in three phases. First, the existing materials will be adapted to the Nevada context. Next, participants will be enrolled and separated into three groups, allowing for the research

team to compare types of interventions. Finally, outcomes will be analyzed and evaluated by the research team, and the final report will provide a comprehensive assessment of this new approach.

The study will focus on two important but oft-neglected groups of problem gamblers in Nevada: those in areas that lack access to professional treatment (such as those outside of the major urban areas in the state), and those who are in the earlier stages of the disorder’s development and hence may benefit from prevention measures.

The final report will provide a comprehensive analysis of the prevention toolkit’s efficacy and will provide important clues about the ways in which gambling problems develop over time.

NIH-funded Study

This study will empirically evaluate “Your First Step to Change.” It will target individuals in Massachusetts who gamble and are not necessarily seeking change, but are concerned about their gambling and open to exploring the possibility of change (e.g., gamblers who have won in the past but are now experiencing adverse consequences associated with the extent of their gambling). Few researchers have examined brief treatment for problem gambling; however, research on other expressions of addiction suggests that brief treatment is likely to be useful. The research will compare two randomly assigned experimental groups with a randomly assigned control group: toolkit intervention, guided toolkit intervention and delayed intervention.

2006 Peer Review Panels

The Institute annually recruits panels of distinguished researchers in the addictions field to review proposals and make the final selection of the Institute's extramural research awards. The following individuals served on the 2006 panels:

Neuroscience Research Grants Review

Michael Bozarth, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
State University of New York — Buffalo

Gregory Gasic, Ph.D.

Director, Laboratory of Neurogenetics in the
Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Imaging,
Department of Radiology
Co-Director, Motivation Emotion Neuroscience
Collaboration (MENC)
Massachusetts General Hospital

Barry Kosofsky, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division on Pediatric Neurology
New York Weill Cornell Medical Center

Richard A. LaBrie, Ed.D.

Associate Director of Research and Data Analysis
Division on Addictions, Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

Roy Perlis, M.D.

Director of Pharmacogenomics Research,
Depression Clinical Research Program
and Bipolar Research Program
Massachusetts General Hospital

Charan Ranganath, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Center for Neuroscience & Department of Psychology
University of California, Davis

John Renner, M.D.

Associate Chief of Psychiatry
Boston VA Healthcare System

Incentive Grants for New Investigators Review

Michael Bozarth, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
State University of New York — Buffalo

Edward Federman, Ph.D.

Instructor in Psychiatry
Boston University School of Medicine

Richard A. LaBrie, Ed.D.

Associate Director of Research and Data Analysis
Division on Addictions, Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D.

University of Iowa Foundation
Distinguished Professor of Psychology
University of Iowa

Randy Stinchfield, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School

Translational Research Grants Review

David Hodgins, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
University of Calgary

Richard A. LaBrie, Ed.D.

Associate Director of Research and Data Analysis
Division on Addictions, Cambridge Health Alliance
Harvard Medical School

Debi A. LaPlante, Ph.D.

Instructor in Psychiatry
Harvard Medical School

Randy Stinchfield, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School

James Whelan, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychology
University of Memphis

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor
McGill University and University of Alberta
President, Wynne Resources, Ltd.

2006 Program Advisory Board

Since its inception in 2001, the Program Advisory Board has played a vital role in the development of the Institute by ensuring the most rigorous standards for the conduct of intramural and extramural research. The following individuals served on the program advisory board in 2006:

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

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

Associate Professor
American Indian Studies
University of Arizona

Jan Jones

Senior Vice President, Communications
& Government Relations
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

Barry Kosofsky, M.D., Ph.D., Chair

Professor of Pediatrics
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology
New York Weill Cornell Medical Center

Robert Ladouceur, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology
Université Laval

Richard McGowan, S.J., D.B.A.

Associate Professor of Economics
Boston College

Brian McKay, J.D.

Former Attorney General of Nevada

Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
Boston University School of Medicine

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D.

University of Iowa Foundation
Distinguished Professor of Psychology
University of Iowa

Eric Turner

Consultant
Former Executive Director
Massachusetts State Lottery Commission

Charles Wellford, Ph.D.

Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of Maryland

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota Medical School

Harold Wynne, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor
McGill University and University of Alberta
President, Wynne Resources, Ltd.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Annual Conference

Lost in Translation? The Challenge of Turning Good Research into Best Practices

To heighten interaction between operators and clinicians and generate a more lively exchange of ideas within the field of gambling research, the annual NCRG conference for the first time shifted its dates to coincide with Global Gaming Expo (G2E), the world's largest and premier gaming tradeshow and conference where gaming professionals meet each year in Las Vegas. As a result, attendees from nearly 20 different countries attended the seventh annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, held from Nov. 12 – 14, at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino.

The conference theme, *Lost in Translation? The Challenge of Turning Good Research into Best Practices*, brought together members of the healthcare community, academia, the gaming industry and the public sector to focus on the myriad issues involved in translating research into practical applications for the casino setting and best practices for screening, treatment, regulations and public health policy. Conference sessions addressed topics such as global approaches to responsible gaming; responsible gaming in cyberspace and Internet accountability; new research on genetic links of disordered gambling; defining the boundaries between well-intentioned responsible gaming programs and intrusion; and new research on natural recovery among disordered gamblers.



Dr. Donald Black discusses the genetic links of disordered gambling (left). Panelists Vicki Flannery, Scott Ross and Ivan Yui discuss global issues related to disordered gambling (right).

Each year the conference features a “Government and Industry” track, a “Scientific and Clinical” track and plenary sessions focused on broader issues. Participants are encouraged to choose sessions from these tracks that are most appropriate to their needs.

One of the most popular sessions offered at the 2006 event, “The Real Costs: How to Effectively Measure Social and Economic Impacts,” explored how gaining a broader understanding of the social and economic impacts of gambling has been hampered by biased research and faulty methodology. Presenters, Drs. Kate Spilde Contreras, William Eadington and Douglas Walker, addressed the shortcomings of current research surrounding these issues, the complexities of developing a sound economic model and how public policy makers and the industry can benefit from better research and methodology. The session gained national recognition when it was aired by C-SPAN Radio and its affiliates, XM Satellite Radio, and Sirius Satellite Radio, in early December.

Another highlight of the conference was a keynote address given by Christopher Kennedy Lawford, member of the Kennedy family and the critically-acclaimed author of *Symptoms of Withdrawal: A Memoir of Snapshots and Redemption*. Lawford spoke about his own personal battle with drugs and alcohol addiction and how his experiences as a member of the Kennedy family and son of Hollywood actor Peter Lawford affected his life and recovery.

Select conference sessions also were covered in a new daily NCRG Conference Web log posted on blogspot.com. The blog offered conference previews in the weeks leading up to the event and to-the-minute, on-site reports during the event that featured the conference's most provocative sessions and special events. The blog gained significant attention from the media and academic groups this year,

capturing more than 250 visitors. The blog also allowed those who were unable to attend the conference to access information on conference sessions and activities. To view the blog, visit <http://ncrgconference.blogspot.com>

NCRG conference sponsors in 2006 included Harrah's Entertainment, Inc. (host sponsor); International Game Technology (IGT); American Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM); Wynn Las Vegas; Ameristar Casinos, Inc.; Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.; Bally Technologies, Inc.; MGM MIRAGE; Station Casinos, Inc.; Harmony Healthcare; Konami Gaming, Inc.; Shuffle Master, Inc.; and WMS Gaming Inc.

Programs

Scientific Achievement Awards

Dr. Suck Won Kim, a pioneer in pharmacological treatment of gambling disorders, and Dr. Rina Gupta, an accomplished scientist who has advanced understanding of gambling disorders among children, adolescents and college-age populations, were named recipients of the fifth annual NCRG Scientific Achievement Awards.

Kim, professor of psychiatry and director of the Impulse Control Disorders Clinic at the University of Minnesota Medical School, was the recipient of the 2006 Senior Investigator Award, which honors an investigator whose body of work has advanced the field of gambling-related research. Gupta, co-director of the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High Risk Behaviors and assistant professor of school/applied child psychology at McGill University, was the recipient of the 2006 Young Investigator Award. The Young Investigator Award recognizes excellence in scientific contributions to the field of gambling studies by a researcher whose advanced

academic or professional degree (Ph.D., M.D., or other terminal degree) was received no earlier than 1996. Both recipients were selected by an independent committee of distinguished leaders in the field of addictions and gambling research chaired by Joseph Coyle, the Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Recognizing outstanding contributions to the study of gambling disorders, the Scientific Achievement Awards have proven to be a highlight of the NCRG conference since their creation in 2002. Winners are honored at the conference's Scientific Achievement Awards luncheon, sponsored in 2006 by International Game Technology.



Dr. Howard Shaffer congratulates Dr. Suck Won Kim on his Scientific Achievement Award.

Educational Resources

Responsible Gaming Quarterly (RGQ) has maintained its role as one of the leading international resources for news and analysis of disordered gambling issues, counting more than 1,400 gaming industry representatives, treatment providers, academics, regulators, members of the media and government officials among its subscribers.

RGQ is a free publication jointly produced by the NCRG and the American Gaming Association and provides a broad range of coverage on recent research results, regulatory initiatives, studies and developments in the treatment field and model industry programs.

The NCRG Web site (www.ncrg.org) also continues to be a valuable source of information on various NCRG activities and programs. In 2006, the site had approximately 23,000 visitors for an average of 63 visits per day. Look for the launch of the NCRG's new Web site in spring 2007.

Additionally, the NCRG provides financial support for the *Brief Addiction Science Information Source (BASIS)* and the *Worldwide Addiction Gambling Education Report (The WAGER)*, one of several science reviews published by the *BASIS*. Both online resources provide important information about gambling and addiction research. Published by the Division on Addictions since 1995, *The WAGER* provides brief, critical reports on recent gambling research for a monthly readership of more than 8,000, and distribution in more than 40 countries.

Its success inspired the Division on Addictions to develop the *BASIS* (www.basionline.org) to strengthen worldwide understanding of addiction and minimize its harmful effects. The *BASIS* was launched in early 2005 and offers free access to reports on alcohol, gambling and tobacco use, as well as self-help tools for people struggling with addictive disorders.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Several major fundraising programs and events, including The American Gaming Association's (AGA) Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony, Responsible Gaming Education Week (RGEW), the JCM-AGA Golf Classic tournament and Global Gaming Expo's (G2E) annual gift to the NCRG, helped raised more than \$290,000 for the NCRG in 2006. Thanks to these generous contributions, the NCRG continues to break new ground in research and public education about pathological gambling and related disorders.

Fundraising Events

2006 JCM-AGA Golf Classic

Organized each year by JCM American Corporation (JCM) in conjunction with the AGA, the JCM-AGA Golf Classic is an important fundraising event for the NCRG. In 2006, the event raised \$75,000 for the organization. Since its debut eight years ago, the event has raised more than \$500,000 for the NCRG.

More than 140 golfers, including operators, manufacturers, suppliers and members of the media, participated in the tournament. The winning foursome represented Shuffle Master, Inc., and included Brooke Dunn, Chris Costello, Scott Hager and Mark Kelley.

The tournament was held in April at Anthem Country Club in Henderson, Nevada.

The following companies generously supported the event:

SPONSORS

Aristocrat Technologies
Ascend Media Gaming Group
Association of Gaming Equipment
Manufacturers
Bally Gaming International, Inc.
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Gaming Laboratories International
Global Gaming Expo (G2E)
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.
Henderson Convention Center and Visitors
Bureau

Hikam America, Inc.
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Flower Peddler
Hamada of Japan
Henderson Convention Center and Visitors
Bureau
Lee Wayne
McMullan's Irish Pub
Ocotillo Golf Club
Revere Golf Club
Scenic Airlines
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada
Wine Country Gift Baskets





G2E's annual contribution to the NCRG totaled more than \$105,000 in 2006 (above). Frank Fahrenkopf poses with Hall of Fame inductees Alex Stratta, Franco Dragone and Steve Wynn (right).

2006 Gaming Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony

Each year the AGA's Hall of Fame Charity Dinner and Induction Ceremony recognizes the importance of funding gambling-related research and the promotion of responsible gambling through the donation of the event's proceeds to the NCRG. This year's event, held at the Wynn Las Vegas in conjunction with Global Gaming Expo, drew nearly 400 guests and raised a total of nearly \$125,000 for the organization — adding to the more than \$1 million the event has raised for the organization since 1996.

Three individuals were inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame, the industry's highest honor. Steve Wynn, chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts; Franco Dragone, founder and artistic director of the DRAGONE Group; and Alex Stratta, executive chef of Alex at Wynn Las Vegas, were honored for their achievements.



FUNDRAISING *continued*

The following companies and individuals generously supported the event:

MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Southern Wine & Spirits of Nevada
Wynn Resorts, Ltd.

SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

More than \$15,000

Bank of America

\$10,000 - \$11,000

Bergman, Walls & Associates
Boyd Gaming Corporation
Friedmutter Group
Las Vegas Convention and
Visitors Authority
Legends Gaming
Resorts International

\$8,000

DeSimone Consulting Engineers
Station Casinos, Inc.
Wynn Resorts, Ltd.

\$6,000 - \$7,000

Culinary Workers Union
Local 226
Ernst & Young LLP
Foxwoods Resort Casino
Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.
Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.
Morongo Band of Mission
Indians
Penn National Gaming, Inc.
SOSH Architects
Claudine Williams and Kitty
Rodman

\$4,000

Ameristar Casinos, Inc.
Bally Gaming International, Inc.
Coca-Cola North America
The Duberstein Group, Inc.
Fierce, Isakowitz & Blalock
Global Gaming Expo (G2E)
International Game Technology
JCM American Corporation
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP
Rogich Communications Group
Paul Steelman Design Group
Thomas & Mack Co.
WMS Gaming Inc.

\$1,000 - \$3,000

ALEX
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Young Electric Sign Company

PROGRAMS

Banding Together to "Keep it Fun"

The continued sale of the AGA's "Keep it Fun" responsible gaming awareness wristbands also has provided significant support for the NCRG. More than 150,000 wristbands were sold in 2006, equating to a net donation to the NCRG of more than \$60,000.

Since it was launched in August 2005 during Responsible Gaming Education Week, the wristband program has raised more than \$115,000 for the NCRG.



A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is focused on developing science-based education programs that benefit the public good and will work in the coming year to generate increased awareness about pathological gambling among new audiences. In the fall of 2006, the NCRG board began implementing a new communications plan that will make significant strides in meeting these goals. Programs from the plan include the development of a graphic identity and tagline — reflected in these pages — that more accurately reflects the organization's vision for the future, the launch of a newly enhanced Web site and the establishment of a speakers' bureau and news bureau.

The NCRG also will publish in 2007 the first of a series of monographs featuring easy-to-read summaries of peer-reviewed research studies in the various areas of addiction research. Many of the studies funded through NCRG grants will be summarized in this series. The inaugural installment will focus on youth gambling, highlighting the most significant contributions in the field to date.

These initiatives, among others included in the plan, will officially be unveiled throughout 2007. The new branding will be translated over the course of the year into the NCRG's educational materials, which also are being rewritten to reflect the organization's enhanced mission. The NCRG's new Web site will go live this spring and will feature new tools, such as a comprehensive research library, public outreach and education section and press room. It also will feature a more user-friendly format which will be useful to researchers, industry leaders and the public alike.

In November, the NCRG's annual conference once again will be held in concert with Global Gaming Expo (G2E). Celebrating its eighth year, the conference will take place November 11-13 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. On November 13, the NCRG also will hold a seminar series at G2E.

In addition to these programs, the NCRG remains committed to providing unparalleled support to investigators who continue to uncover the most cutting-edge advancements in the field. Researchers are just now beginning to find ways to translate findings into practical, real-world applications for use in the commercial casino industry and the treatment and healthcare setting. The NCRG recognizes that it plays a critical role in this process and will continue to support new research endeavors through the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders.

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