

Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions (CASAA)

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Director

2017 Annual Review of Category 3 Research Centers/Institutes

Mission

- CASAA exists to conduct high quality scientific research to advance knowledge necessary to improve prevention and treatment, and to reduce suffering related to substance use and other addictive behaviors.
- Research at CASAA focuses on problems of social importance.
- CASAA investigators maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity and are committed to integrating issues of human diversity into their research.
- CASAA values transdisciplinary approaches to research problems, and sharing of research products with the larger scientific community.
- CASAA also works to facilitate the translation of empirical knowledge into real world applications that will improve the quality of life, not only in the State of New Mexico, but also in other states and nations.

2017 Goals And Status

- **Goal:** Maintain a high profile as a world-class research center in the national/international scientific community, in the greater NM community, and within UNM
 - *Status:* Sponsored two scientific conferences, faculty served as members of grant review committees, continued CASAA lecture series, faculty published in high quality scientific journals
- **Goal:** Serve as a center for scientific and applied training in the addictions field
 - *Status:* Maintained NIH Institutional Research Training grant supporting 7 pre- and post-doctoral trainees, provided training opportunities to ~90 students at all levels
- **Goal:** Have a cadre of investigators pursuing their own individual lines of research
 - *Status:* Continued conducting externally funded research in the areas of: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Clinical Trials of new interventions, Mechanisms of behavior change, Behavioral economics, and Targeted prevention
- **Goal:** Develop and pursue new interdisciplinary research in cutting edge areas
 - *Status:* Expanded research in: Neuroscience of behavior change, e-Health, Health disparities
- **Goal:** Have at least 10-12 investigators at different career levels
 - *Status:* One new principal investigator obtained career award, maintained a group of principal investigators that included 11 faculty (4 Assistant, 2 Associate, 3 Full/Distinguished Professors) and three staff principal investigators
- **Goal:** Have an effective administrative organization to support the mission and goals of CASAA
 - *Status:* Maintained fiscal solvency, continuously monitored budget and expenditures, prepared accurate grant proposals for submission through pre-award, had regular coordination of staff responsibilities, developed tools to support successful grant writing

Membership of Advisory Committee

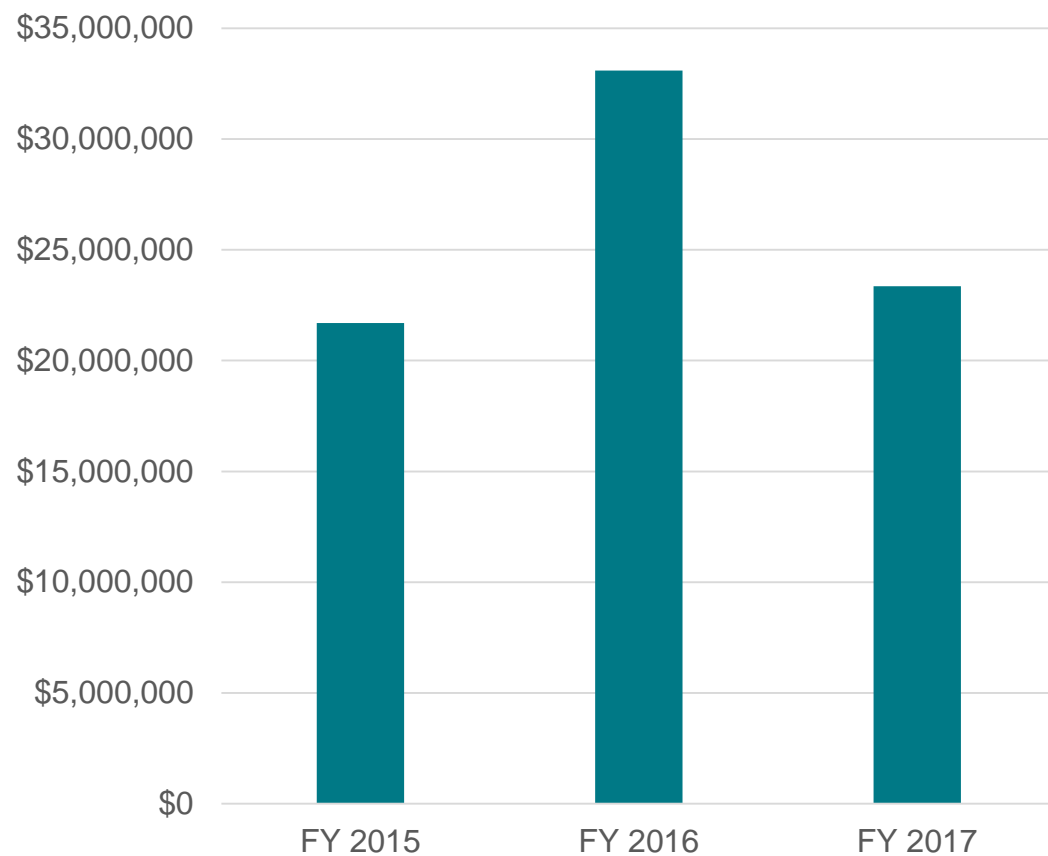
- Vince Calhoun
- Mark Peceny
- Daniel Savage
- Jane Ellen Smith
- Mauricio Tohen

2017 Highlights

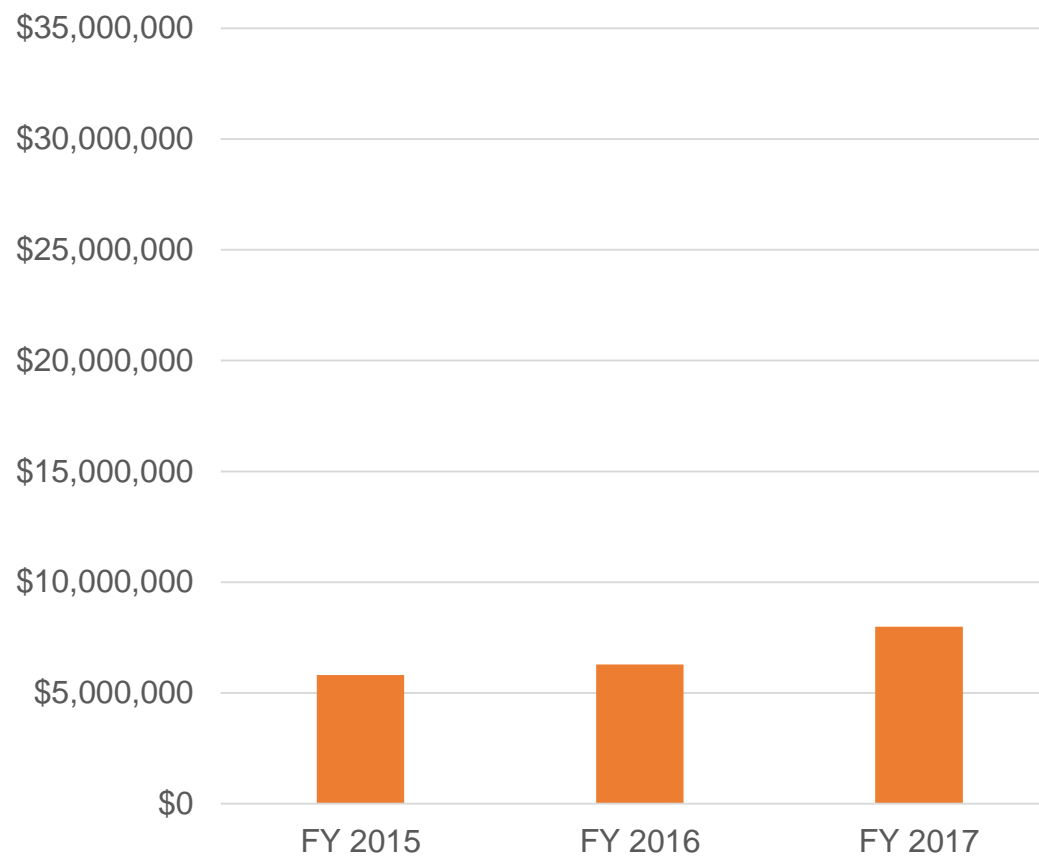
- Increased grant and contract dollars by more than 20%
 - Includes three new major grants from NIH
- Initiated process to recruit and hire a new Director to be fully supported by an I&G faculty line
- Major awards:
 - Research Society on Alcoholism Seixas Award for Distinguished Service (Dr. McCrady)
 - Outstanding Leadership in Addiction Psychology (Dr. Witkiewitz)
 - Learning for Early Careers in Addiction and Diversity Scholar award (Dr. Sanjuan)
- Faculty accolades:
 - Several faculty invited to give keynote addresses at national and international conferences
- Staff and student accolades:
 - Staff council award
 - 15- and 25- year service awards
 - Graduate student travel and research grant awards
- Major conferences
 - Grant-sponsored conference on Mechanisms of Behavior Change in Alcohol Use Disorder
 - Initiated First Annual Conference of the Research Society on Marijuana

Proposals & Awards

Proposals

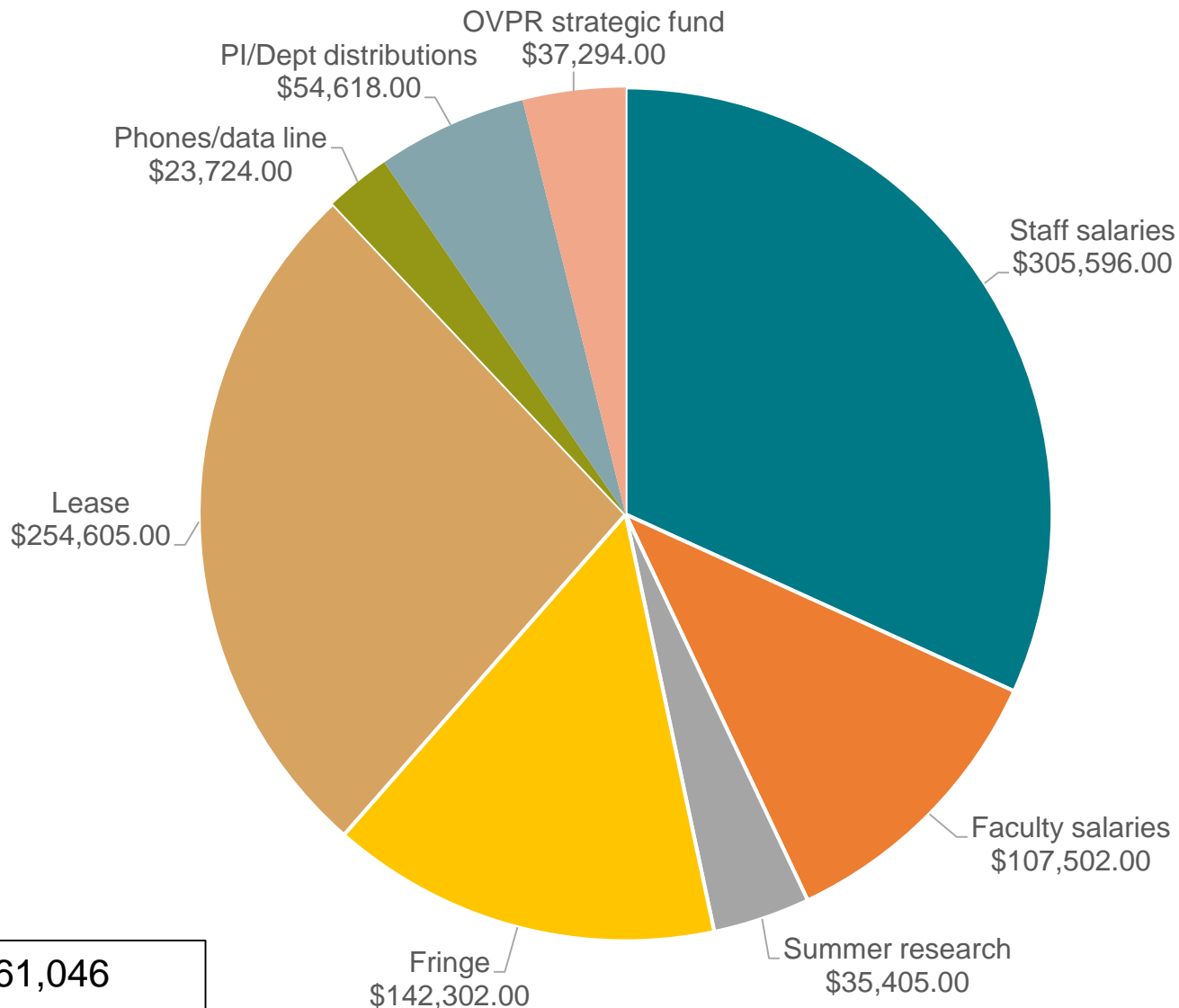


Awards



FY 2017 Expenditures

- Personnel
 - Staff salaries
 - Faculty salaries
 - Summer research
 - Fringe benefits
- Building
 - Lease
 - Telephones & data line
- Other expenses
 - PI/Departmental return
 - OVPR strategic plan



TOTAL = \$961,046

Research Center Impacts

- Resources for the campus
 - Alcohol, tobacco, and other information through the Campus of Office Substance Abuse Prevention
 - Faculty participation in Institute for American Indian Research and Native American Faculty Advisory group to President Abdallah
 - Mentorship for PREF Scholar
 - Service on the Main Campus Institutional Review Board
 - Service on CARC and IT research advisory boards
 - Participation in OVPR strategic planning committees
 - Faculty leadership and participation in Psychology Department alcohol treatment clinic
- Outreach efforts
 - Work with Native American tribes to build capacity in evaluation and data skills (with the WK Kellogg Foundation), and to increase skills to work with families affected by alcohol use disorder (through funded research)
 - Initiatives to improve transition from incarceration to community for individuals with opioid use disorders (with NM Association of Counties and through funded research)
 - Membership on the Coordinating Committee of the Bernalillo Opioid Accountability Task Force
 - Work with several community groups to enhance resources for pregnant addicted women
 - Commercialization of on-line alcohol server training program, making training available to thousands of servers across several states
- Contributions to education & intellectual environment through courses and seminars
 - Community, national, and international trainings in empirically-supported treatments for alcohol and other substance use disorders
 - 10-week NIH grant-writing seminar, offered free of charge, to the UNM campus community; additional trainings for OVPR staff
 - On-going Addiction seminar open to predoctoral students in Psychology and post-doctoral fellows
- Contribution to translational research
 - Several community-based research studies to test the efficacy of alcohol treatments in community settings
 - Testing integration of brain stimulation techniques with efficacious substance abuse treatments to enhance outcomes
 - Testing efficacy of medication-assisted treatment with opioid dependent inmates in the Metropolitan Detention Center
- Extent to which the Center serves as a resource for the state/region (see also outreach efforts, above)
 - Research on problems of importance to NM – drinking and driving, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), how to provide better treatments for alcohol problems among American Indian/Alaska Native populations
 - Research to develop better ways to implement state laws related to drinking and driving (e.g. on-line server training programs)
 - Direct work with community treatment providers to develop better methods to treat persons with alcohol/drug problems
 - Work with other higher education institutions across NM to better address drinking among college students
 - Website with freely available research tools, including assessment instruments and coding manuals

Return On Investment

In 2017:

- Students:
 - 41 undergraduate students conducted research with CASAA investigators
 - 39 graduate students conducted research, provided clinical work, or did trainings with CASAA investigators
 - 10 post-doctoral fellows conducted research with CASAA investigators
- Publications:
 - CASAA investigators published 122 peer-reviewed scientific papers
 - Top journals: *Addiction; Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research; Clinical Psychology Review; Drug and Alcohol Dependence; Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology; Journal of the American Medical Association; NeuroImage*
- Grants and contracts:
 - CASAA had 35 grants and contracts (FY 17), totaling \$7,990,935

Nationally and internationally recognized Center for dissemination, training, and research on addiction prevention and treatment

Broad network of collaborations within UNM, nationally, and internationally

Outstanding faculty and highly experienced staff

Excellent training program with graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who are successful in addiction research and dissemination

Provides resources for the broader addiction community via free measures and tools on our website

Dissemination and promotion of evidence-based prevention and treatment via research, trainings, and conferences

STRENGTHS

Lack of University funded faculty line for Director

Lack of funding for long-term career paths for research faculty

Burden of having to pay full costs for building, security, and telephones

Limited funds for pilot studies

Insufficient reputation as *the* resource for addictions information within New Mexico

WEAKNESSES

Leverage center expertise to become the leader in New Mexico for addiction resources

Develop revenue-generating training opportunities

Enhance collaborations with Health Sciences to advance common research interests

Expand collaborations with the Mind Research Network

Apply expertise to emerging health and social problems within the addictions field

OPPORTUNITIES

Potential loss of research faculty if they cannot obtain sufficient grant funding to support their salaries

Potential loss of key senior staff members

Unproductive competition within UNM for recognition and resources related to addictions research and services

Potential decreases in Federal and CASAA funding, combined with high fixed expenses (e.g., lease) could threaten fiscal stability

THREATS



Looking Ahead To 2018

- *Goal:* Maintain a high profile as a world-class research center in the national/international scientific community, in the greater NM community, and within UNM
 - *Plans:* Sponsor three scientific meetings, begin planning for next International Conference on the Treatment of Addictive Behaviors, faculty continue to serve as members of grant review committees, continue CASAA lecture series, faculty continue to publish in high quality scientific journals
- *Goal:* Serve as a center for scientific and applied training in the addictions field
 - *Plans:* Begin planning for renewal of NIH Institutional Research Training Grant, examine opportunities to enhance undergraduate research training experience, continue NIH grant-writing series, explore revenue-generating training models
- *Goal:* Have a cadre of investigators pursuing their own individual lines of research
 - *Plans:* Continue to provide administrative and logistical support for on-going projects
- *Goal:* Develop and pursue new interdisciplinary research in cutting edge areas
 - *Plans:* Continue current studies in Neuroscience of behavior change, e-Health, Health disparities; initiate clinical trial examining neuroscience of behavior change, explore funding opportunities related to opioid use disorders, explore additional collaborations with HSC investigators in the areas of health and addiction
- *Goal:* Have at least 10-12 investigators at different career levels
 - *Plans:* Hire new Director, evaluate salary needs for early career investigators transitioning off of early career awards, mentor post-doctoral trainees to career paths at UNM
- *Goal:* Have an effective administrative organization to support the mission and goals of CASAA
 - *Plans:* Successfully complete search for a new Director; facilitate orientation of new Director, evaluate CASAA organizational structure and consider means to enhance efficiency and effectiveness; maintain fiscal solvency, continue to monitor budget and expenditures, prepare accurate grant proposals for submission through pre-award, evaluate other means to support PI grant writing efforts, continue to pursue alternative space

Summary

- CASAA is a critical resource for UNM, NM, and the nation, given the harm that alcohol and drug use can create for individuals, their families, and the community
- CASAA has been highly successful in fulfilling its mission
 - The high quality and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students are key to that success
 - Success in obtaining external funding for CASAA's work also has been key
- CASAA accomplishes its mission to conduct meaningful research, disseminate findings, and educate students