



The University at Buffalo Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The University at Buffalo (UB) is committed to combatting the opioid crisis by pushing the frontiers of addiction science through collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts and partnerships. UB's Clinical and Research Institute on Addictions (CRIA) leads university-wide efforts to confront the opioid crisis with more than 150 faculty working to advance research, education, and clinical care in addiction. Important research on opioids and other addictive substances spans the spectrum from basic science to clinical and translational studies, and health services research.

Our clinical faculty see firsthand the damaged patients who present to our emergency rooms, clinics and private offices – and our morgues. The Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences hosts one of the nation's first fellowships in addiction medicine as well as a fellowship in pain medicine, training future clinical leaders and researchers in the field of addiction. We are incorporating "Medication for Addiction Treatment" and "Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment" training in all its primary care and emergency medicine residencies. Continuing medical education has also been a major emphasis. Working with faculty in Family Medicine and the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, CRIA has coordinated MAT training in high need counties throughout the state. In addition, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has developed an online continuing educational program focusing on pain management, palliative care, and addiction which is mandated for New York State physicians who prescribe controlled substances.

UB is firmly committed to interprofessional education and has used problems posed by the opioid epidemic to spearhead novel educational programs that have trained several thousand health professional students. Interdisciplinary programs involving our five health science schools (Nursing, Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Public Health and Health Professions), as well as the Schools of Social Work, Law, Business and Management, Graduate Education, and Athletics are providing training in addiction treatment for future behavioral health providers to work with people with addictions. UB's commitment to education in addiction extends beyond the medical school. Continuing education programs about the opioid epidemic have provided an important source of expert information for the community.

UB is an important partner in Erie County's Opioid Epidemic Task Force which has worked tirelessly on prevention and care excellence for those suffering from opioid substance use disorder. Faculty in UB's Department of Emergency Medicine designed an innovative system which initiates buprenorphine in emergency rooms for those presenting with opioid use disorder, and immediately connects them with regional service agencies for next-day appointments and continuing care. This program is being replicated across the state and has gained national attention.

We commit to the goals of the Opioid Action Collaborative of the NAM, and look forward to collaborating with our partners in the Action Collaborative to generate groundbreaking evidence on safe prescribing practices and the causes, prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders.

Learn more at <http://www.buffalo.edu/addictions>