



The University of Georgia Center for Gambling Research

By Adam S. Goodie, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology - University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Gambling has an impact on society that is significant, increasing, and rapidly changing. The impact of gambling is felt in individual and family mental health and economics; social and public health; and has legal, policy and political implications. This is true within the state of Georgia, and also at national and global levels. It has been true in modern times

for at least the past 20 years (and arguably for thousands of years prior to that) and is likely to remain so for at least the next 20 years. Because of the multifaceted nature of gambling as a topic of study, gambling-related research can have maximal impact only if it is nimble, responding quickly to rapid changes in the field. Research in the field must also be abidingly interdisciplinary and able to integrate new scholarship from additional disciplines as developments warrant. At the University of Georgia (UGA), faculty from diverse disciplines have discovered a shared need for ongoing educational opportunities and venues for collaboration across traditional disciplinary boundaries on topics related to gambling and problem gambling. The challenges to conducting effective interdisciplinary research, with the necessary degree of nimbleness, are seldom addressed as an element in the design of any particular research program or within any particular department.

for Gambling Research (CGR), which will begin operations in August 2012. The CGR will begin its life as the most active research center devoted to gambling in the Southeastern United States. It begins with 25 Faculty Fellows, from ten departments, in six different schools and colleges within UGA. As it grows and develops, the CGR will add more fellows from within UGA, work with graduate students to enhance their training in gambling-related issues, and reach out to researchers and students beyond UGA's walls as fellows and collaborators. The CGR is housed within the William A. and Barbara R. Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, which has a long history of supporting and nurturing interdisciplinary efforts. I will be serving as Director of the CGR, with additional governance from an Executive Committee comprised of selected UGA faculty, and an External Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the Owens Institute and the Executive Committee, I am extremely pleased and proud that Dr. Jeffrey Der-evensky, Co-Director of the

With these considerations in mind, the University of Georgia has established a Center

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International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University, has agreed to serve on the External Advisory Committee amongst other prominent researchers. Dr. Derevensky has amassed a remarkable record of achievement in research, prevention, treatment, education and administration within a center that serves as a model for the CGR, making him an ideal individual to include on this important committee.

Approaches to pathological gambling are changing rapidly. The two most prominent demonstrations of this lie in the reorganizations of the National Institute of Health (NIH), an agency of the United States federal government, and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association. In the forthcoming fifth edition of the DSM, pathological gambling is set to be re-classified from an impulse control disorder to an addictive disorder. This simple shift is profound in its implications. For example, it sets pathological gambling in a far more prominent context. It also changes conceptions of addiction in general, as this is the first time a disorder has been classified as “addictive” that did not involve the ingestion of a specific chemical (such as is the case with alcohol, stimulants like cocaine, opiates like heroin and other previously acknowledged addictive processes). At the same time that DSM

is reclassifying pathological gambling, NIH is merging two of its institutes, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) into a single institute. Previously, NIDA and NIAAA routinely dismissed gambling studies as not within their purview, while the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) focused on other classes of mental illness. There is a long history of all three institutes encouraging gambling researchers to pursue support from the other two. The forthcoming institute with its portfolio of addictive disorders generally, in the context of the forthcoming DSM placing pathological gambling as an addictive disorder, promises to bring new focus and funding opportunities related to gambling.

In order to maximize research opportunities in the current environment, the fellows of the CGR needed a mechanism for more constructive engagement between the branches of UGA, including the Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, College of Family & Consumer Sciences, School of Social Work, Terry College of Business, School of Public & International Affairs, and College of Public Health. Facilitating engagement between those working in disparate disciplines promotes the interaction of interdisciplinary groups of scholars with a long-term goal of developing new paradigms and new knowledge for the benefit of the in-

tellectual environment of the University of Georgia, as well as providing applied benefits for the people of Georgia, the United States and the world.

The primary goals of the CGR are (1) to foster constructive, collaborative engagement between faculty of different departments, colleges and universities; (2) to enhance the availability of intellectual and material resources to graduate students from around UGA who are interested in studying gambling; (3) to create increased opportunities for faculty continuing education on relevant topics; and (4) to promote the development of grant proposals, research reports and other scholarly works dealing with gambling. Initially, the CGR will serve as a bridge between faculty and students from different disciplines and units on campus by creating a speaker series and regular forums for interaction. It will maintain a comprehensive collection of publications, reports and other materials that will be available to UGA faculty, graduate students and other interested researchers. In turn, it is expected that these activities will increase the ability of UGA researchers to compete for extramural funding, increase UGA’s research reputation and national prestige in this rapidly developing area, and allow UGA to more effectively attract and retain researchers at various stages of their careers who are interested in pursuing research relating to gambling.

Some of the specific ways in which the CGR will encourage interaction among diverse faculty and students around a shared interest in gambling-related issues include:

1. sponsoring meetings for affiliated faculty and students to present their research and germinate new collaborative ideas;
2. hosting an invited speaker series, drawing on both UGA researchers and outside speakers;
3. serving as a resource center for UGA faculty and students interested in gambling research;
4. supporting efforts of faculty affiliates to develop collaborative interdisciplinary projects that will attract external funding; and
5. highlighting online the gambling research that is done at UGA.

The CGR is proud to take its place among other gambling-related research centers, as the most active such center in the Southeastern United States. The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors was a source of inspiration as we worked through the process of bringing the CGR to fruition, as the International Centre is recognized as being among the top centers in the world for research on gambling and related topics. Now that the CGR will

be a reality, it is illuminating to compare the two. In short, the CGR will be smaller in scope and scale than the International Centre. The CGR does not have faculty, staff or students of its own, but rather serves as a resource to individuals with institutional homes in the various departments and other units of UGA. The CGR will be devoted to enhancing research and graduate training at UGA, whereas the International Centre's portfolio is dedicated to services, treatment, prevention and consultation, in addition to research and training. And whereas the International Centre is by definition international in scope, the CGR, as part of the flagship university of the state of Georgia, will place an emphasis on gambling issues that affect Georgia in particular, with its unique laws, customs and history regarding gambling. Of course,

there is much overlap between jurisdictions in the content of gambling research, including the etiology, treatment and prevention of gambling problems, and principles of sound research and training.

Over the years, the CGR may sometimes compete with the International Centre for resources such as grant funding. We look forward to this, as competing with the best tends to enhance one's own abilities. Much more frequently, however, we look forward to fostering a cooperative relationship with the International Centre, as we pursue many of the same goals: understanding gambling-related processes, making contributions toward effective prevention and treatment programs for gambling problems, and fostering outstanding research and training in the field of gambling studies. (There is one issue we may not be able to resolve, however: whether we work in "Centers" or "Centres.") The International Centre has been an inspiration in the formation of the Center for Gambling Research at the University of Georgia, and we are pleased to join it as a "younger brother" in the world of institutions devoted to gambling studies.

For more information about the Center for Gambling Research, please contact Dr. Adam Goodie, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA, email goodie@uga.edu; phone 706-542-6624; fax 706-542-3275. ◆



Drunkorexia - A New Trend Among Youth

By Lynette Gilbeau, B.Ed. - International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

With college kids around North America heading back to campuses and dorms in the upcoming weeks, a new semester of learning and studying will begin. Along with the academic pursuits comes a plethora of social activities and college-age antics that are for many students a significant part of their college experience. The majority of these activities are harmless fun but others bear risks with potentially wide-reaching ramifications. Among the newest trends on North American campuses is the practice known as "drunkorexia". Drunkorexia is described as a condition whereby an individual reduces caloric intake from food and instead consumes alcohol and sometimes excessive amounts of alcohol. They are effectively "saving" the calories from food consumption and replacing those calories with alcoholic beverage calories. The reasons propelling young people into this behaviour appear numerous including: a desire to consume alcohol but not gain weight, an effort to save money either by using funds for food to purchase alcohol or by more rapidly achieving intoxication thereby reducing the cost of alcohol, and peer pressure.

In 2011, Victoria Osborne and her fellow researchers at the University of Missouri released the findings of a study conducted among 1000 of their university students. The study

examined many facets of caloric reduction with relation to alcohol consumption. Approximately 14% of students in the study indicated they restricted calories prior to alcohol consumption. Of the 14% restricting caloric intake from food, the majority (64%) did so to avoid weight gain, about one quarter (25%) to reduce the time required for inebriation, and 2% restricted calories prior to alcohol consumption in response to peer pressure. Gender differences were found in that women were more likely to engage in this behaviour than men.

The implications and consequences of drunkorexia can be serious and disastrous. Rapid inebriation impairs an individual's decision-making abilities and may result in inappropriate/dangerous behaviour including risky sexual conduct and drunk driving. The combination of caloric reduction and excessive alcohol consumption can have many long-term health implications including cognitive disabilities, cardiac problems, coma, seizures, and alcohol poisoning. For women, the risks are even greater as females metabolize alcohol more rapidly than men thereby increasing the speed of intoxication and the possibility of organ damage or acute alcohol poisoning. Young women are also more at risk for assault or sexual assault while being inebriated.

While the issue of Drunkorexia has been documented and studied at American universities, the problem appears to be becoming a global concern. In July 2012, a British teenager, Nakhara Jacques, 18 year of age, appeared on the British daytime television program "This Morning" to discuss her two year habit of starving herself throughout the week so that she can binge drink with friends. According to the online Daily Mail, "on Tuesdays she might eat a few cubes of melon and some strawberries, two crackers with a very thin layer of butter and a few cups of tea with very little milk. On Wednesday, feeling that she is getting bigger, she eats less only consuming two cubes of melon for the day before going out drinking." Nakhara "admits to daily drinking pints of cider and vodka shots on an empty stomach." Experts have warned her that this destructive practice may eventually be fatal. At present, her weight has plummeted, she is losing hair and is no longer menstruating.

Although alcohol does not contain fat, it is calorie laden. Young people, women in particular, feel pressured to remain slim but still want to consume alcohol. In North America, alcohol consumption is widely accepted, promoted and often glamorized. Most advertising encourages women to equate beauty with being slim. Addi-

tionally, in the North American culture, celebrities are revered and they are largely young, thin and participate in glamorous lifestyles often involving alcohol or substance abuse. It is not difficult to understand how young women can fall into the “Drunkorexia” trap.

Colleges, and universities need to be more proactive in disseminating prevention material about Drunkorexia and providing mental health resources and counselling services to affected students. Health care professionals, parents and the general public need to become more aware of the warning signs associated with this disorder.

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<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111017171506.htm> ◆

Italy Europe’s Biggest Gambling Market

Since the 1990’s, gambling has been on the rise in Italy. In the beginning, gambling deregulation was a means to generate tax revenues. Recent statistics indicate that spending on gambling rose by 60 billion Euros between 2001 to 2011. Concerns have been raised that the already depressed Italian economy will further cause people to gamble in hopes of relieving their financial pressures. Research by Italy’s Institute of Clinical Physiology indicates that over 17 million Italians are active gamblers and around 500,000 are estimated to have serious problems with more and more young people engaging in this behaviour. The government, recognizing the potential social problems, has recently considered legislation to regulate gambling advertisements and promotion. ◆

PokerStars Settle for \$731 Million

In July 2012, PokerStars and Full Tilt Poker, two online gambling companies, came to a financial settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2011, these companies along with Absolute Poker were served with money laundering and other charges. Under the newly-minted agreement, PokerStars will pay \$547 million to the U.S. government and \$184 million to directly reimburse non-U.S. customers of Full Tilt Poker for their outstanding balances. Additionally, under this agreement, PokerStars can acquire Full Tilt Poker allowing them to be in a pivotal position should/when Internet gambling be legalized in the United States. ◆

Current Research Projects

Mental Health Professional Study

Data has been collected from roughly 1400 mental health professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, psycho-educators, and school psychologists) across Canada. The objective of the study is to ascertain the perceptions of gambling and other issues of concern for young people today. The study consisted of two online surveys. One survey targeted mental health professionals who work primarily with children/adolescents and the other was for mental health professionals who deal primarily with adults/couples. Mental health professionals could choose to complete one or the other or both depending on their client experiences. These two surveys complement our other recent national parent and teacher studies which assessed their attitudes toward issues facing young people today. The data is currently being analyzed and our findings will be reported shortly.

Mental Health Professional Study – Collaboration in Israel

In partnership with Dr. Belle Gavriel Fried of the Bob Shapell School of Social Work at the Tel Aviv University, we are in the process of launching the Mental Health Professional study amongst social workers in Israel. The study has received ethics approval from Tel Aviv University and the questionnaires have been translated into Hebrew. Shortly, social workers from across Israel will be invited to participate in this online study.

Teacher Perception Study – Romania

The Centre has recently partnered with psychologist Izabela Ramona Todirita and Associate Professor Viorel Lupu of the Romanian Association for the Study of Gambling (RASG) to launch a study assessing Romanian teachers' perceptions of adolescent risk-taking behaviours including gambling-related issues. This online study mirrors one our Centre conducted in 2010-11 involving Canadian teachers in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. By replicating the study in Romania, we hope to acquire comparative data enabling us to better understand some international trends in teacher perceptions regarding adolescent risk-taking behaviours.

McGill/Carleton Study – Social Media and its Role in Gambling

Dr. Michael Wohl of Carleton University and the Centre's Drs. Rina Gupta and Jeffrey Der-evensky are collaborating on research looking at the role of social media in the initiation of gambling. As a preliminary research strategy, focus groups have been conducted and will continue in the coming months. ◆

A Profound Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our corporate sponsors Austrian Lotteries, Betfair and Spielo International. Their generous financial support of our Centre's initiatives is invaluable.

TEEN GAMBLING: UNDERSTANDING A GROWING EPIDEMIC

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors and Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky are pleased to announce his latest book, "Teen Gambling: Understanding a Growing Epidemic." The book is available on Amazon or directly from the publisher.

Book Description

Today's children and teens are the first generation of youth to grow up in a society where a multiplicity of gambling activities exists and where gambling venues are not only generally accessible but also heavily advertised and promoted. Gambling, once considered to be a harmless form of adult entertainment and recreation has become mainstream. While most forms of regulated gambling are prohibited for underage youth, the age varying depending upon the type of gambling activity and jurisdiction, a growing number of young people are gambling in spite of such restrictions. With increased exposure to different types of gambling, including Internet gambling, more youth are yielding to the temptation and social pressures to engage in these activities. The thrill, excitement, the adrenaline rush, and the potential for 'easy money' makes gambling an alluring activity. Yet, problematic gambling among adolescents has been associated with a number

of negative individual mental health outcomes, interpersonal problems, school-related academic difficulties, financial difficulties, and legal problems. Equally disturbing is the fact that while parents are well aware of the risks associated with other adolescent risky behaviors (e.g., tobacco, alcohol, and drug use), recent research suggests that teen gambling is not viewed as a risky behavior. Here, Dr. Derevensky offers an overview of the problems associated with underage gambling, and provides a roadmap for parents and educators, and anyone who works with youth, to help underage problem gamblers address their addictions and get the help they need.



Here's what people are saying about this newly-released resource:

"This is a must read book for anyone interested in the field of adolescent gambling. It synthesizes the empirical evidence from all around the world and serves as a 'one-stop shop' for anyone who wants to know anything about youth gambling." (Mark Griffiths, Ph.D., professor of Gambling Studies, Nottingham Trent University, UK)

"Dr. Derevensky has issued a clarion call for a better understanding and prevention of teen gambling. Derived from his decades of research and treatment experience, this book provides a valuable perspective on the problem of youth gambling and what to do about it. Dr. Derevensky provides a unique and comprehensive review of youth gambling and its impact on our young people as only he can do. This book is for anyone interested in our collective future, and our children." (Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D., C.A.S., associate professor, Harvard Medical School, and director, Division on Addiction, The Cambridge Health Alliance)

"In this book, Dr. Jeffrey Derevensky, the world's leading authority on youth gambling, provides an up-to-date and ac-

cessible volume on the current status of teen gambling. As most teens gamble and early life gambling is associated with current problems as well as ones later in life, the book addresses an important public health concern. The book is a must-read for people who share interests in promoting youth health, including parents, teachers, school administrators, clinicians, and policy makers.” (Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD, director, Yale Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, and professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neurobiology, Yale University School of Medicine)

“An excellent resource for everyone involved in gambling issues and an important wake up call for youth advocates, clinicians and researchers. The profound clinical and policy implications of teen gambling are explored in depth by the leading expert in the field.” (Keith Whyte, Executive Director, National Council on Problem Gambling)

“Jeffrey Derevensky explains the significance of the growing availability and acceptability of gambling. While in the past an underage person may have needed to circumvent casino security, a gambling op-

portunity can now be as close as his or her smartphone. This excellent book covers what is known about youth gambling, and points the way for future advances. It should be read by everyone concerned about the problem.” (John W. Welte, Senior Research Scientist, Research Institute on Addictions)

Teen Gambling: Understanding a Growing Epidemic

Hardcover: 264 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publisher

ISBN-10: 1442202262

ISBN-13: 978-1442202269 ◆

Genting Scales Back Destination Resort Plans in Miami

Malaysian casino giant Genting has announced scaled-back plans for the development of the Miami Herald site in Miami, Florida. Genting had originally intended to develop a 5000+ room resort and casino center on this location. This news follows the February 2010 withdrawal of a bill before the Florida legislature that would have allowed gambling expansion and casino development in Florida. As a result of this withdrawal, Genting has proposed that the Miami Herald site will now be developed with a 500 room luxury hotel complex and 2 condo towers. Time will tell if the promise of hundreds of new jobs and multi-billion dollar investments will be enough to sway support for gambling and casino expansion in Florida. ◆

Zynga Announces Real-Money Gambling

Zynga President Mark Pincus announced in July 2012 that Zynga has real-money gambling products in development for release in the first half of 2013. The intention is to release the products into markets that are regulated. Zynga poker, which is the most popular poker game on Facebook, is the world’s largest online poker game with 7 million people playing daily. People play for virtual currency and observers wonder what the market potential for play will be like when real money is wagered. Stay tuned for more developments in the coming months. ◆

Ardeshir Rahman

Wins the 2011 Durand Jacobs Award



The recipient of the 2011 Durand Jacobs Award is Ardeshir Rahman for his paper entitled "The Relationship Between Age of Gambling Onset and Adolescent Problematic Gambling Severity". The Durand Jacobs Award recognizes outstanding work related to the psychology of addictive behaviors, and is dedicated to Dr. Durand Jacobs' lifelong efforts to help mentor students.

Ardeshir Rahman, MSc attended University of California, Irvine and received his BS in Biological Sciences. During his freshman year at UCI, he was accepted into Dr. Jorge Busciglio's research group and began working on various projects involving neurodegeneration. It was through his research

endeavors that he cultivated an interest in neurobiology and developmental biology. By his senior year, Ardeshir had completed a research project in which he devised a novel cryopreservation method for normal and Down's syndrome brain samples. Due to the time sensitive nature of human cortical tissue, this cryopreservative method helped facilitate research involving these types of samples making research more efficient and economical. He

received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research from UCI for this project and went on to publish this method in the *Journal of Visualized Experiments*.

After graduating UCI in 2009, Ardeshir pursued his MSc in Psychodynamic Developmental Neuroscience from the University College London in conjunction with the Child Study Center at Yale University. During the second year of his MSc, he began a fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine under the mentorship of Dr. Marc Potenza. He and Dr. Potenza's first project examined the gambling behaviors of a large

sample of Connecticut high school students stratified by age of gambling onset. Results from this study indicated there were significant differences in the preferred gambling activity between earlier and later onset adolescent gamblers. Based on these findings, prevention strategies and potential treatments were proposed to better address the issue. These results became the topic of Ardeshir's graduate thesis and were eventually published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. After completing his MSc in late 2011, Ardeshir continued to work with Dr. Potenza on a number of projects in the field of addiction psychiatry, particularly pathological gambling. Ardeshir is currently finishing a manuscript examining the effects of drinking frequency on gambling behavior in an adolescent sample. Also, he is currently working on an imaging study looking at volumetric differences between healthy individuals and pathological gamblers in specific regions of interest not extensively described. In addition to gambling research, Ardeshir has also collaborated with Dr. Jian-song Xu on a novel therapy for smoking cessation using transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). Results from this study are currently organized into a manuscript and have already been presented at various conferences.

In July 2012, Ardeshir joined Dr. Timothy Fong's research group in the Department of Psychiatry at University of California, Los Angeles as a graduate researcher. He will continue his research in the field of behavioral addictions with a particular focus on pathological gambling. Ardeshir will be applying to medical schools in Fall 2012 and hopes to pursue a specialization in addiction psychiatry in the future. He anticipates continuing clinical research throughout his career and is interested in translating research findings into positive clinical outcomes.

Congratulations Ardeshir!

Abstract

The aim of this study was to characterize the association between problem gambling severity and multiple health, functioning and gambling variables

in adolescents aged 13-18 stratified by age of gambling onset. Survey data in 1624 Connecticut high school students stratified by age of gambling onset (<11 years vs. > 12 years) were analyzed in descriptive analyses and in logistic regression models. Earlier age of onset was associated with problem gambling severity as indexed by a higher frequency of at-risk/problem gambling (ARPG). Most health, functioning and gambling measures were similarly associated with problem gambling severity in the earlier- and later-age-of-gambling-onset groups with the exception of participation in non-strategic forms of gambling, which was more strongly associated with ARPG in the earlier-onset (OR=1.74, 95%CI=[1.26, 2.39]) as compared to later-onset (OR=0.94, 95%CI=[0.60, 1.48]) group (In-

teraction OR=1.91, 95%CI=[1.18, 3.26]). Post-hoc analysis revealed that earlier-onset ARPG was more strongly associated with multiple forms of non-strategic gambling including lottery (instant, traditional) and slot-machine gambling. The finding that problem gambling severity is more closely associated with multiple non-strategic forms of gambling amongst youth with earlier onset of gambling highlights the relevance of these types of youth gambling. The extent to which non-strategic forms of gambling may serve as a gateway to other forms of gambling or risk behaviors warrants additional study, and efforts targeting youth gambling should consider how best to address non-strategic gambling through education, prevention, treatment and policy efforts. ♦

Centre Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing

Due to restricted government infrastructure funding, the Centre has initiated a fundraising campaign to help us maintain our ability to develop and deploy empirically-based prevention and harm-minimization programs. The Centre is housed on McGill University's main campus in the heart of Montreal, Canada. McGill University is a public university and recognized charitable organization.

Donations are welcome and can be made to:

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors
McGill University
3724 McTavish Street
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y2

Official letters of contributions and tax receipts will be forwarded

Recent publications and presentations

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Gupta, R., Nower, L., Derevensky, J., Blaszczynski, A & Faregh, N. (in press). Problem gambling in adolescents: An examination of the Pathways Model. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

Shead, N.W., Derevensky, J., & Paskus, T. (in press). Trends in gambling behavior among college student-athletes: A comparison of 2004 and 2008 NCAA survey data. *Journal of Gambling Issues*.

King, D., Delfabbro, P., Derevensky, J., & Griffiths, M. (2012). Australian classification of video games featuring gambling content: Risks of simulated gambling for youth. *International Gambling Studies*, 12, 231-242.

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BOOK

Derevensky, J. (2012). *Teen gambling: Understanding a growing epidemic*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing.

BOOK CHAPTER

Griffiths, M., Derevensky, J. & Parke, J. (2012). Online gambling among youth: Cause for concern? In R. Williams, R. Wood & J. Parke (Eds.), *Handbook of Internet gambling*. U.K.: Routledge, 183-199.

RESEARCH REPORT

Griffiths, M., Parke, J. & Derevensky, J. (2012). *Structural Characteristics of Slot Machines*. Reported prepared for the Gauselmann Group, Germany, 75 pp.

PRESENTATIONS

Derevensky, J. (2012). Internet gambling among youth: Our current knowledge. Invited keynote address presented at the National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, Milwaukee, July.

Derevensky, J. (2012). Should we be worried about Internet gambling? Invited presentation to the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA), Milwaukee, July. ♦



News from the Centre...

Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) - Smart Choices Program

In June, Drs. Gupta and Derevensky were in Pennsylvania conducting workshops for facilitators involved in the Smart Choices Program. Smart Choices is a pilot program using Centre-developed prevention materials targeting middle to high school aged youth and it focuses on the inherent risks of gambling and emphasizes positive decision making skills. During the June visit, Dr. Gupta provided training to gambling treatment providers and Dr. Derevensky conducted a session on the risks and consequences of youth Internet gambling.

Problem Gambling Webinar- Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice

In June, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) - Office of Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention sponsored a webinar titled "Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice" presented by Dr. Rina Gupta. This comprehensive 90 minute session examined gambling research from the last decade as well as the most recent trends and findings. Additionally, Dr. Gupta also presented the strategies for youth gambling prevention and discussed different treatment models and approaches. The webinar was extremely well received by all participants.

NCPG's 26th National Conference on Problem Gambling - Moving Forward in a Challenging Economy

In July, Dr. Derevensky addressed delegates at the NCPG's 26th National Conference in Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Derevensky's presentation addressed youth Internet gambling and highlighted the trends and concerns associated with this new and widely popular form of gambling. While in Milwaukee, Dr. Derevensky also met with the Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) to discuss legislative issues related to Internet wagering. ♦

Upcoming Events

- **World Lottery Summit**
September 9-12, 2012
Montreal, Quebec
- **European Association of Gambling Issues Pre-Conference Workshops**
September 18, 2012
Loutraki, Greece
- **9th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues**
September 18-21, 2012
Loutraki, Greece
- **54th International Conference on Alcohol and Addictions**
November 12-15, 2012
Montreal, Canada
- **NAGS 22nd Annual Conference 2012**
November 21-23, 2012
Launceston, Tasmania

YGI Newsletter

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