



center for behavioral &
addiction medicine

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025

A Message from Our New Director



Jesse Clark, MD, MSc

"One small year.
It's been an eternity,
it's taken all of me
to get here.
Through this one small year."
-Shawn Colvin

Reflecting back to our last report from November, 2024, I keep asking myself, "What just happened?" In 2025, we experienced a number of changes to both our local organization and to the national and international contexts in which we work, and the CBAM team has risen to the challenge. One of the most important changes has been the semi-retirement of Dr. Steven Shoptaw, CBAM's founding Director and a guiding force for everything that we do. Over more than 30 years, we have benefitted from Steve's contributions as a mentor, advisor, researcher, teacher, administrator, advocate, and role model for how to do socially engaged science that has a direct and positive impact on people's lives. We are genuinely happy that he will be able to continue his work on a more limited scale while also enjoying the pleasures of life outside the walls of academia and reveling in the proud joy of grandparenthood. But we also wrestle with how to continue the mission that Steve initiated, of how to address the problems of HIV and Addiction in our local communities.

As a research center, Vine Street Clinic has continued to play a central role in pioneering the science of HIV prevention and addiction medicine. Through studies in the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) and the National Institute for Drug Abuse's Clinical Trials Network (CTN), we guided development of new systems to deliver HIV prevention and treatment services, and explored new medical therapies to control methamphetamine and cocaine use. In collaboration with Gilead Sciences, we made major contributions to multiple trials of Lenacapavir, ensuring that our community has access to this new long-acting agent for HIV prophylaxis that has the potential to transform the field of HIV prevention. At the same time, our faculty have developed new studies of the social, behavioral, and biomedical complications of HIV and stimulant use, and mentored young investigators in developing their own research on these topics. Our team has explored the intersection of methamphetamine use, access to HIV prevention and treatment resources as well as to primary healthcare services, and new strategies to integrate substance use harm reduction with HIV and STI prevention.

Most important, we have done this work while maintaining our commitment to the participants, patients, and communities that define us. Recently, Study Coordinator Chris Blades shared this interaction he had with a participant during their final visit for the PURPOSE-2 trial of Lenacapavir for HIV prevention: "He's been struggling emotionally and financially but still felt the need to share how much his experience here has meant to him. He said he feels truly seen and safe when he's at the clinic, and that this is the only place where he feels comfortable and not judged. He wanted to thank the team for being so accepting, kind, and welcoming."

So that is what happened, and that is why we will continue to do what we do. These transitions in our lives have been challenging, but they also reinforce the fact that we are needed—now, more than ever—as our communities face uncertainties in how to meet their needs for healthcare, for work, and for safe, affordable places to live. The best is yet to come. I hope you will join us on the journey.

Celebrating Steve Shoptaw

Our fearless leader, Dr. Steven Shoptaw, retired from full time employment at UCLA in June. He leaves behind an incredible legacy with over 30 years of service to science and to those impacted by addiction, HIV, and mental illness. We are fortunate that, after some well-deserved time off, Steve returns as part time Emeritus faculty, working on special projects and continuing to provide guidance and encouragement to the next generation of scientists.

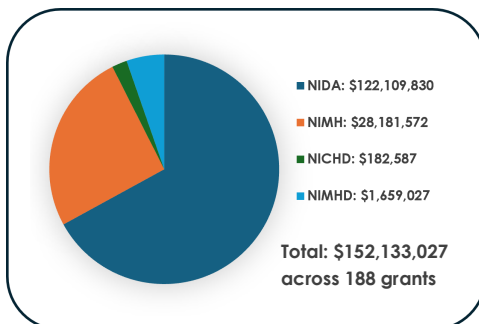


We've put together some data below showing just how prolific his career has been. However, what cannot be quantified is his impact on those of us who have had the privilege to work with him. Upon his retirement colleagues from across the globe, as well as current and former staff and mentees, sent messages that spoke of his warmth, his wisdom, and his generosity. They spoke of his profound commitment to helping others and his ability to see the human in every being. One mentee summed it up perfectly, "You taught me and so many others that science can be used to pursue a mission and live our values, not just to test hypotheses."

BY THE NUMBERS



NIH Funding



Source: NIH Reporter



Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal
Articles Published

431

Number of Journals

164

Top Journals

The Lancet
JAMA
The New England Journal of Medicine

Google Scholar
Citations

1,687



Teaching/ Mentorship

Lectures &
Presentations

384

Post-doctoral
Scholars Mentored

50

Pre-doctoral
Scholars Mentored

19

Research Highlights



In pursuit of our mission, CBAM conducts research on medical, behavioral, and combination approaches to the prevention and treatment of chronic illnesses, with a particular focus on addiction and HIV. We stress the values of integrity and scientific rigor in the conduct of our research and work closely with the communities we serve to ensure that the best of care is given. The following pages highlight some of our research activities over the past year.





UCLA

it begins with U

Celebrating 20 Years at the UCLA Vine Street Clinic!

The UCLA Vine Street Clinic marked a significant milestone in 2025 reaching it's 20th year in service of our mission. Since our humble beginnings in 2005, we've conducted 42 research studies and completed more than 33,000 visits.

That work includes clinical trials of new medications to treat stimulant dependence and trials of medications to prevent acquisition of HIV. We were also a site for a COVID-19 trial in 2020, enrolling nearly 200 participants in just seven weeks and helping to get life-saving vaccines to our vulnerable community members. Since those early days we've tripled in size taking over the majority of our building and we've added clinical services that compliment our research activities.



CLINIC FACULTY, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS





THEN

L O B B Y



NOW



F R O N T
D E S K



O F F I C E



L A B



Vine Street Clinic Programs 2005-2025

<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>Full Title</u>	<u>Inception Date</u>
Behavioral Research	HIV/STD Risk Behaviors in Methamphetamine User Networks (SATH CAP)	2005
Behavioral Research	Network for AIDS Research in Los Angeles	2007
Behavioral Research	Pilot study of Pain, Substance Use and HIV Risk Behaviors	2007
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Randomized, Dbl-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Eval of Bupropion v Placebo for the Tx of MA Dependence	2007
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Randomized, Dbl-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Eval of Modafinil v Placebo for the Tx of MA Dependence	2007
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Randomized, Dbl-blind Trial of Varenicline v Placebo, in Conjunction w/CBT for MA Dependence	2009
Behavioral Research	Feasibility Study of a Community-Level Multi-Component Intervention for Black MSM	2009
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Pilot Trial of Bupropion versus Placebo for Methamphetamine Abuse in Adolescents (Co-Located)	2009
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Pharmacogenomics and Medication Development for Methamphetamine Dependence	2009
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Varenicline for Methamphetamine Dependence (included inpatient phase at Harbor UCLA)	2012
Phase 1 Clinical Trial	Phase I Safety Interaction Trial of Ibudilast with Methamphetamine (outpt at VSC/inpt at Harbor)	2012
Behavioral Research	Perceptions of & Intentions to Adopt HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Among Black MSM in Los Angeles	2012
Clinical Service	Behavioral Medicine Program for Addiction	2012
Phase 2 Clinical Trial	Randomized Trial of Ibudilast for Methamphetamine Dependence	2013
Clinical Research	HPTN 073: PrEP Initiation and Adherence among Black Men who have Sex with Men	2013
Clinical Research	Men Who Have Sex with Men & Substance Use Cohort at UCLA Linking Infections, Noting Effects	2013
Behavioral Research	Positive Deviance: Adaptive Strategies among Young, Black, HIV-Negative MSM	2014
Behavioral Research	Acceptability & Feasibility of CBT4CBT in Pts Receiving Outpatient Pharmacotherapy for OUS and/or AUD	2015
Clinical Trial	Phase 2b study to evaluate the safety & efficacy of VRC01 broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody in reducing acquisition of HIV-1 infection among men and transgender persons who have sex with men	2016
Behavioral Research	Enhancing Enrollment and Retention in the US Phase II clinical Trial: AMP (HPTN 085) Substudy	2016
Clinical Trial	Phase 2b/3 Double Blind Safety and Efficacy Study of Injectable Cabotegravir Compared to Daily Oral TDF/FTC for PrEP in HIV-Uninfected Cisgender Men and Transgender Women who have Sex with Men	2017
Behavioral Research	The Influence of PrEP Stigma among Black and Latino MSM PrEP Adopters	2017
Clinical Research	PAREDES: A Partner/Network-Based Approach to HIV and STI Case-Detection for Latino MSM	2017
Clinical Service	STI Treatment for participants who don't receive treatment through the study they are enrolled in	2017
Clinical Trial	CTN-0068: Accelerated Development of Additive Pharmacotherapy Treatment (ADAPT-2) for MA Use Disorder	2017

Vine Street Clinic Programs continued

Type of Program	Full Title	Inception Date
Clinical Research	SNS-based Data Mining to Predict MSM Substance use and HIV Risk Behavior	2018
Behavioral Research	Exploring HIV Treatment Adherence Strategies Among Virally Suppressed Black Men Who Have Sex with Men	2019
Clinical Service	CA Dept. of Public Health free Flu Vaccine Program	2019
Behavioral Research	Technology Improving Success of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Primary Care	2020
Clinical Service	Infectious Disease/Men's Health Clinic	2021
Clinical Research	Contingency Management, Methamphetamine Use, and Antiretroviral Adherence for MSM	2021
Clinical Trial	A Phase 3, Randomized, Stratified, Observer-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy, Safety, and Immunogenicity of mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine in Adults Aged 18 Years and Older	2020
Clinical Trial	INTEGRA: A Vanguard Study of Integrated Strategies for Linking Persons with Opioid Use Disorder to Care and Prevention for Addiction, HIV, HCV and Primary Care	2021
Clinical Trial	Phase 1 safety-interaction study of mirtazapine for the treatment of methamphetamine use disorder	2021
Clinical Trial	Phase 1, randomized, open-label clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of BG505 MD39.3, BG505 MD39.3 gp151, and BG505 MD39.3 gp151 CD4KO HIV trimer mRNA vaccines in healthy, HIV-uninfected adult participants	2022
Clinical Trial	A Phase 3, Double-Blind, Multicenter, Randomized Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Subcutaneous Twice Yearly Long-Acting Lenacapavir for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Cisgender Men, Transgender Women, Transgender Men, and Gender Non-binary People ≥ 16 Years of Age who Have Sex with Male Partners and are at Risk for HIV Infection.	2022
Clinical Research	Inflammation in Methamphetamine and STIs	2022
Clinical Research	Expression of stress markers in MSM living with HIV receiving contingency management for MA use disorder	2023
Clinical Trial	CTN 110 (MURB) Methamphetamine/Opioid users with Injectable Buprenorphine	2023
Clinical Trial	CTN 109 (CURB2) Cocaine users with Injectable Buprenorphine and Vivitro	2023
Clinical Research	Phenotyping Substance Use Disorder	2023
Clinical Research	A randomized crossover study to evaluate the efficacy of antibacterial mouthwash in preventing pharyngeal gonorrhea among a high risk population	2023
Clinical Trial	Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Multi-Site Trial of Extended-Release Naltrexone Injection/Bupropion XL Tablets in the Treatment of Methamphetamine Use Disorder	2024
Clinical Trial	HPTN 113: Double Prevention: A Vanguard Study of an Integrated Strategy of HIV PrEP and STI PEP for Young Latino Gay, Bisexual, and other Cisgender Men who have Sex with Men in the Americas	2024
Clinical Trial	A Phase 2, Open-Label, Multicenter, Randomized Study to Evaluate the Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Twice Yearly Long-Acting Subcutaneous Lenacapavir for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in People Who Inject Drugs	2025
Clinical Trial	A Phase 2, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Study Evaluating the Efficacy and Safety of Study Drug in the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) in Subjects with Obesity or Overweight	2025

New Studies

RECLAIM

Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) is a chronic and relapsing condition with serious health consequences, including liver disease, cardiovascular complications, mental health comorbidities, and increased mortality. The burden of AUD is particularly pronounced among individuals who are overweight or obese as they may face compounded health risks and unique treatment challenges. Despite the significant public health impact, current pharmacologic options for AUD remain limited in both efficacy and tolerability. The RECLAIM study is a Phase 2, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial designed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Pemvidutide, a novel GLP-1/glucagon receptor dual agonist, in adults with AUD who are also overweight or obese. Pemvidutide was originally developed to support weight management and metabolic health. Due to its mechanism of action—impacting appetite regulation, energy metabolism, and potentially reward pathways—Pemvidutide is now being studied for its potential to reduce alcohol consumption as well. This study is being conducted at the UCLA Vine Street Clinic under the leadership of Drs. Steve Shoptaw and Cherie Blair.

Purpose 4

People who inject drugs remain at high risk for HIV due to a range of structural and social barriers, including stigma, limited healthcare access, and challenges with daily medication adherence. Traditional PrEP options may not meet the needs of this population, underscoring the importance of exploring new approaches to HIV prevention that are more accessible, discreet, and flexible. Purpose 4 is a research study testing Lenacapavir, an injectable PrEP option given twice a year, to see if it can help prevent HIV in people who inject drugs. The goal is to understand whether this long-acting approach can reduce HIV risk by removing some of the daily barriers associated with oral PrEP. Lenacapavir was approved by the FDA in June 2025 as the first and only PrEP option offering protection for 6 months. This study is part of the larger Purpose PrEP program and is being conducted at the UCLA Vine Street Clinic under the leadership of Dr. Jesse Clark.

Training

Discovery Year Students

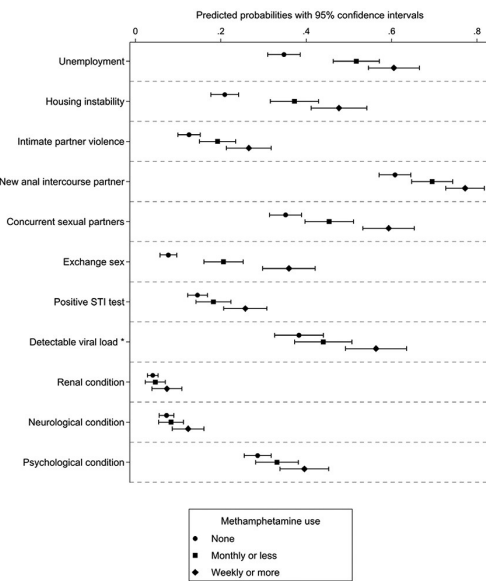
CBAM again hosted a UCLA medical student in their Discovery year. The goal of this School of Medicine program is to provide third-year medical students with protected time for a deep and substantive creative and scholarly experience in an area of their interest. This year's student, Aarushi Saharan, worked with our staff and faculty to conduct qualitative interviews as part of an evaluation project looking at the use of contingency management to impact behaviors that lead residents to be evicted from housing. She also lead her own independent research looking at perceptions of primary care in people using stimulants.

Study Results



For more than a decade, the mSTUDY collected data from a cohort of over 500 individuals with the goal of understanding how drug use affects the immune system. This longitudinal study focused on racially and ethnically diverse men who have sex with men. It closed this year, but it leaves behind dozens of papers covering a diverse range of topics.

One of the most impactful of those papers was published in 2022, entitled “Frequency of reported methamphetamine use linked to prevalence of clinical conditions, sexual risk behaviors, and social adversity in diverse men who have sex with men in Los Angeles”. Led by Dr. Steve Shoptaw, the authors tested the hypothesis that reported frequency of methamphetamine use is significantly associated with measures of social adversity, sexual risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, bacterial STIs, and HIV-related factors among diverse men who have sex with men (MSM). They looked at multiple study visits attended by 515 unique mSTUDY participants, including 261 people living with HIV and 254 who were HIV-negative. Findings showed links between reported methamphetamine use frequency and adverse social and health outcomes. A strong pattern of findings confirmed that as reported frequency of MA use increased, the odds of social adversity, sexual risk behaviors and STIs, and chronic clinical conditions also increased. This was even true among young study participants (ages 18-45) who typically have a low prevalence of chronic disease. These findings provide some of the first consistent evidence that reported frequency of MA use coincides with escalating risk of social, behavioral and clinically confirmed health conditions.



The figure to the right details some of the specific factors reviewed for this paper. The full article can be found on [PubMed Central](#). That site also contains a larger list of [papers](#) resulting from the mSTUDY.

2025 HIV Next Generation Conference



This annual conference provides opportunities for early-stage investigators to share their research findings. This year, Dr. Steve Shoptaw set the stage for a meaningful and engaging conference during a difficult time for research. "Today is to talk about science and solutions that helps our communities, we also have to link and work together." Jerry Ouner, PhD, RN, MS, provided an impactful opening plenary. His work finds that water insecurity and exposure to extreme weather events may influence ART adherence, viral load suppression and opportunistic infections among people living with HIV.

Poster presentations covered a wide range of topics including, but not limited to

- HIV and aging
- Community participation in the design, implementation and conduct of studies
- Addressing mental health as part of HIV prevention and care strategies
- STI Testing

For a more comprehensive overview, visit our [CHIPTS](#) website.



Media



CBAM's Dr. Timothy Hall was quoted in the March 21, Los Angeles Times article "FDA crackdown on poppers prompts rush on popular gay party drug". The article by Sonja Sharp focuses on the FDA's increased attention on alkyl nitrite, the active ingredient in poppers. FDA raids on stores selling poppers prompted a buying frenzy across the country. Dr. Hall noted that this disruption in supply "is more likely to push people to seek more dangerous alternatives." For more, see the full [article](#) in the Times.

Dr. Shoptaw spoke with *The Conversation France*

In this interview, Dr. Shoptaw discussed how science has been weakened by budget cuts, political decisions, and targeted pressure on researchers serving certain populations. He drew strong parallels to history in order to emphasize the importance of speaking up during difficult times. The full interview can be seen on the [The Conversation's](#) social media page.

Scientific Publications



As scientists, our biggest impact comes from the knowledge we generate and share. It's that knowledge of what works, what doesn't and why that leads to better policy, better medicine and better lives for those we serve. We published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers this past year. Highlights include:

- Kelley CF, Acevedo-Quiñones M, Agwu AL, Avihingsanon A, Benson P, Blumenthal J, Brinson C, Brites C, Cahn P, Cantos VD, **Clark J**, Clement M, Creticos C, Crofoot G, Diaz RS, Doblecki-Lewis S, Gallardo-Cartagena JA, Gaur A, Grinsztejn B, Hassler S, Hinojosa JC, Hodge T, Kaplan R, Lacerda M, LaMarca A, Losso MH, Valdez Madruga J, Mayer KH, Mills A, Mounzer K, Ndlovu N, Novak RM, Perez Rios A, Phanuphak N, Ramgopal M, Ruane PJ, Sánchez J, Santos B, Schine P, Schreibman T, Spencer LY, Van Gerwen OT, Vasconcelos R, Vasquez JG, Zwane Z, Cox S, Deaton C, Ebrahimi R, Wong P, Singh R, Brown LB, Carter CC, Das M, Baeten JM, Ogbuagu O; **PURPOSE 2 Study Team**. Twice-Yearly Lenacapavir for HIV Prevention in Men and Gender-Diverse Persons. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2024 PMID: 39602624.
- Perez-Brumer A, Schmidt R, Kennedy R, Lake JE, Villarreal YR, Bornstein S, Kuo I, **Nieto O**, Franks J, Denis C, El-Bassel N, **Shoptaw S**, Davidson P, Smith LR. Centering autonomy and choice to support oral PrEP utilization among people who inject drugs: qualitative lessons from HPTN 094 INTEGRA. *Addict Sci Clin Pract*. 2024 Dec 18;19(1):92. PMID: 39696609; PMCID: PMC11653907.
- **Blair CS, Shoptaw SJ**. Managing Stimulant Use Among People With HIV: Harm-Reduction Strategies From Behavior to Medication. *Top Antivir Med*. 2024 Dec 23;32(5):571-578. PMID: 39765236.
- Simons JD, Kudrnáč A, Kepic M, Smetáčková I, **Hall TM**. Beyond tolerance toward inclusion: Response to homo- and trans-negative language. *Sex Gend Divers Soc Serv*. 2025;37(1):94-115.. Epub 2024 Nov 21. PMID: 40114717; PMCID: PMC11922336.
- **Yi G**, Javanbakht M, **Rosen AD**, Gorbach P, **Clark J, Shoptaw S**. Speed and smoking kill: A time-varying survival analysis linking methamphetamine use, cigarette smoking, and mortality in sexual minority men. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2025 Jun 11;143:104874. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40505184.
- **Li MJ**, Hassan A, Javanbakht M, Gorbach PM, **Shoptaw SJ**. Decision-making task performance and patterns of methamphetamine use in people assigned male at birth who have sex with men. *Exp Clin Psychopharmacol*. 2024 Jun;32(3):350-357. Epub 2023 Nov 2. PMID: 37917508; PMCID: PMC11063125.
- Freese J, Segura ER, Gutierrez J, Lake JE, Cabello R, **Clark JL, Blair C**. Sexual network characteristics and partnership types among men who have sex with men diagnosed with syphilis, gonorrhoea and/or chlamydia in Lima, Peru. *Sex Transm Infect*. 2024 Feb 19;100(2):84-90. PMID: 38124224; PMCID: PMC10922481.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more and to read additional articles published by our faculty.

About CBAM

CBAM is a multidisciplinary center that seeks to advance the prevention and treatment of chronic illness, especially in communities with health disparities.

CBAM works at the intersection of academia and community with a focus on treating addiction and preventing the spread of HIV. We are housed in the UCLA Department of Family Medicine. Our faculty include:



Jesse Clark, MD, MSc

Executive Director, UCLA Center for Behavioral & Addiction Medicine
Associate Professor in Residence, UCLA Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease
Associate Professor in Residence, UCLA Department of Family Medicine
Director, South American Program in HIV Prevention Research (SAPHIR)



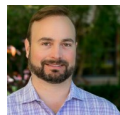
Steven Shoptaw, PhD

Professor Emeritus and Vice Chair of Research, UCLA Department of Family Medicine
Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
Honorary Professor, University of Cape Town Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health



Cherie Blair, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease



Timothy Hall, MD, PhD, FAPA FASAM

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Department of Family Medicine



Ron Brooks, PhD

Assistant Professor, UCLA Department of Family Medicine



Michael Li, PhD

Assistant Professor, UCLA Department of Family Medicine

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Email: cbam@mednet.ucla.edu

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