

## ISSDP 2010 Conference

### **Developments in Longitudinal Modeling of Drug Use and Associated Outcomes: Methodological Issues and Applications to Social Policy Organized by UCLA Center on Advancing Longitudinal Drug Abuse Research**

**Aims:** This workshop will present findings from several studies that use longitudinal models to examine the trajectories of substance use and related behaviors and outcomes in relationship to treatment and other interventions over time. Although it has been widely accepted that drug and alcohol dependence are chronic disorders, research in this field is often cross-sectional or of limited duration. Moreover, application of longitudinal modeling presents several challenges with regard to type of application, appropriate model specification, and longitudinal measurement of constructs. This workshop will address the methodological and analytical challenges of developing longitudinal models of substance use trajectories in relation to various types of substance use, populations, and social interventions, including prevention, treatment, and criminal justice.

**Format:** Researchers will present findings from 4 – 6 longitudinal studies across several types of substances that illustrate different longitudinal modeling approaches. Presentations will highlight the challenges of developing longitudinal models, their interpretation and potential applications. Audience questions and interaction will be encouraged.

**Methods:** The following topics will be covered (subject to revision):

- latent transition analysis to model transitions in substance use
- structural modeling approaches to examine cumulative treatment effects
- growth mixture models
- group-based trajectory modeling
- applications and implications of longitudinal research to policy development, particularly as related to optimal organization and delivery of treatment services and other social interventions

### **Registration**

Participation in the workshop is reserved for people who participate in the ISSDP 2010 annual conference. Workshop size will be limited to approximately 30 – 40 participants and preference will be given to early registrants. Individuals who wish to participate in this workshop should indicate this desire when they register for the ISSDP annual conference at <http://www.rand.org/multi/dprc/issdp2010/>. A cost of \$20 US will be added to your registration total.

### **Further information**

Please direct any enquiries to either of the co-chairs of this workshop. They are:

- Mary-Lynn Brecht, UCLA ([lbrecht@ucla.edu](mailto:lbrecht@ucla.edu))
- Christine Grella, UCLA ([grella@ucla.edu](mailto:grella@ucla.edu))