

Alexandra Venegas, B.S.

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EDUCATION

- 2017 – present **University of California, Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology
Advisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.
- 2010 – 2014 **Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, PA
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Minor: Biomedical Engineering

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Glasner, S., Kay-Lambkin, F., Budney, A., Gitlin, M., Kagan, B., Garneau, H. C., & **Venegas, A.** (in press). Preliminary outcomes of a computerized CBT/MET intervention for depressed cannabis users in psychiatric care. *Cannabis*.
2. Garneau, H. C., **Venegas, A.**, Rawson, R. A., Ray, L. A., & Glasner, S. (2017). Barriers to initiation of extended-release naltrexone among HIV-infected adults with alcohol use disorders. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.
3. Glasner-Edwards, S., Patrick, K., Ybarra, M. L., Reback, C. J., Rawson, R. A., Garneau, H. C., Chavez, K. & **Venegas, A.** (2016). A cognitive behavioral therapy-based text messaging intervention versus medical management for HIV-infected substance users: Study protocol for a pilot randomized trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 5(2).

SUBMITTED PUBLICATIONS

1. Green, R., Bujarski, S., Lim, A. C., **Venegas, A.**, & Ray, L. A. (under review). Effects of naltrexone and alcohol on craving for cigarettes in heavy drinking smokers. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.
2. Ray, L. A., Green, R., Grodin, E., Lim, A. C., **Venegas, A.**, & Bujarski, S. (under review). The interplay between subjective response to alcohol, craving, and alcohol self-administration in the human laboratory. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.
3. Ray, L. A., Bujarski, S., Hartwell, E., Green, R., **Venegas, A.**, Grodin, E., Lim, A. C., Gillis, A., & Miotto, K. (under review). State-of-the-art treatment of alcohol use disorder. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.

PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

1. **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (in preparation). Marijuana use among regular drinkers: Characterizing poly-substance users.
2. **Venegas, A.** & Ray, L. A. (in preparation). Comparing alcohol cue-reactivity in treatment seekers vs. non-treatment seekers with alcohol use disorder.

BOOK CHAPTERS

1. Ray, L. A., Hartwell, E., Green, R., & **Venegas, A.** (2018). State-of-the-art treatment of alcohol use disorder. In: I. Danovich & L. Mooney (Eds.). *The Assessment and Treatment of Addiction: Best Practices and New Frontiers*. Elsevier – Health Science.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1. **Venegas, A.**, Bujarski, S., Lim, A. C., Roche, D. J. O., & Ray, L. A. (2018). Examining subjective response to and craving for alcohol among cannabis and non-cannabis users in human laboratory paradigms. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
2. **Venegas, A.**, Glasner, S., Kay-Lambkin, F., Budney, A. J., Chokron Garneau, H. C., & Lee, A. B. (2017). The association of changes in cannabis use with functional outcomes among cannabis users with major depression. Poster presented at the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs CALDAR Summer Institute and International Conference on Global Health annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
3. Glasner, S., **Venegas, A.**, Garneau, H. C., Ray, L. A., & Rawson, R. (2017). Development of a cognitive behavioral therapy-based text messaging intervention for HIV-infected alcohol users. Poster presented at the Research Society on Alcoholism annual meeting, Denver, CO.

GRANT FUNDING

Completed Research Support

T32 DA007272-25

Grella, C. (PI)

08/2017 – 08/2018

UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP); NIDA

Role: Predoctoral Research Fellow

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 – present

Project Coordinator, UCLA Addictions Laboratory

Comparing Alcohol Cue-Reactivity in Treatment Seekers vs. Non-treatment Seekers with Alcohol Use Disorder

Duties: Create and organize study materials; hire and train three undergraduate research assistants; locate and recruit over 100 prospective research participants to date from the greater Los Angeles community; screen potential participants and schedule and conduct study visits; perform quality assurance on all data collected, perform data entry, monitor data security and integrity, and assist with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols change; act as the primary clinician for the research project, which includes diagnostic interviews and counseling sessions for those currently seeking alcohol treatment.

2016 – 2017

Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

Development of CONNECT: A Social Media Intervention for Depressed Cannabis Users

Duties: Located and recruited approximately 30 prospective research participants from UCLA outpatient psychiatry clinics, Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, and UCLA CAPS; organized and facilitated focus groups; developed posts for use in

social media component of intervention; screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and weekly interviews; acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited; performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry, monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed.

Principal Investigator: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D.

2014 – 2017

Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
SBIRT for Substance Abuse in Mental Health Treatment Settings

Duties: Located and recruited approximately 400 prospective research participants from UCLA outpatient psychiatry clinics, Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, and UCLA Psychiatry Partial Hospitalization Program; screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and follow-up interviews; acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited, and coordinated with outside agencies to access confidential patient treatment records; prepared weekly status reports to be delivered to the study's Principal Investigators; performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry, monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed; assisted in poster and manuscript preparation.

Co-Principal Investigators: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D. and Mitchell Karno, Ph.D.

2014 – 2017

Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
Cell Phone Technology Targeting ART Adherence and Alcohol Use

Duties: Located and recruited approximately 50 prospective research participants from AIDS Project Los Angeles Food Bank, OASIS Clinic, and Tarzana Treatment Center; screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and monthly interviews; collected qualitative data weekly via telephone; acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited, and coordinated with outside agencies to access confidential patient treatment records; performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry, monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed; assisted in poster and manuscript preparation.

Principal Investigator: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D.

2014 – 2016

Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
Cell Phone Technology Targeting ART Adherence and Opiate Drug Use

Duties: Located and recruited approximately 50 prospective research participants from AIDS Project Los Angeles Food Bank, OASIS Clinic, and Tarzana Treatment Center; screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and monthly interviews; collected qualitative data weekly via telephone; acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited, and coordinated with outside agencies to access confidential patient treatment records; performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry,

monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed; assisted in poster and manuscript preparation.

Principal Investigator: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D.

2014 – 2016

Staff Research Associate II, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
Cost-Effectiveness & Efficacy of Computerized Therapy for Depression and Drug Use

Duties: Located and recruited approximately 50 research participants from UCLA outpatient psychiatry clinics and UCLA CAPS; screened potential participants and scheduled and conducted baseline and weekly interviews; acted as the primary liaison to the clinics where participants were recruited; performed quality assurance on teleform data scans, performed data entry, monitored data security and integrity, and assisted with IRB submissions annually and as needed when study protocols changed; assisted in poster and manuscript preparation.

Principal Investigator: Suzette Glasner, Ph.D.

2013 – 2014

Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University Relationships Lab
Aging and Health Study, Transition to Retirement Study

Duties: Coded videotaped behavioral interactions between participating couples; edited psychophysiological data using MindWare; performed data entry.

Principal Investigator: Brooke Feeney, Ph.D.

2013 – 2014

Research Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University Relationships Lab
Couples' Everyday Activities Study

Duties: Coded videotaped behavioral interactions between participating couples; acted as a study experimenter and scheduled and conducted study visits for participating couples.

Principal Investigator: Meredith Van Vleet, Ph.D.

2012

Research Assistant, UCLA Anxiety and Depression Research Center
Neural Mediators of Behavior Therapy for Social Anxiety Disorder

Duties: Screened potential research participants over the phone to determine study eligibility; performed data entry from participant questionnaires and interviews, including transcribing ACT and CBT sessions conducted by study therapists; entered and manipulated data in SPSS to create specific data sets for use by various graduate students and faculty.

Principal Investigator: Michelle Craske, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017

Teaching Assistant, UCLA Department of Psychology
Introductory Psychology

Duties: Held office hours to field students' questions and concerns; monitored and assisted students in the development of their final term projects, which included the design and execution of individual research experiments, followed by a scientific manuscript; proctored exams and the final exam.

Supervisor: Courtney Clark, Ph.D.

2013 – 2014

Teaching Assistant, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Psychology
Social Psychology, Research Methods in Social Psychology

Duties: Prepared class material for use by professors, including homework assignments, quizzes, and review session materials; held office hours and pre-exam review sessions to field students' questions and concerns; graded homework assignments, papers, quizzes, and exams; proctored quizzes, exams, and final exams; monitored and assisted students in the development of their final term projects, which included the design and execution of individual research experiments, followed by a scientific manuscript and poster presentation.

Supervisors: Chante Cox-Boyd, Ph.D. and Meredith Van Vleet, Ph.D.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2017 – present

Research Interviewer, UCLA Addictions Research Laboratory

Combining Varenicline and Naltrexone for Smoking Cessation and Drinking Reduction; Comparing Alcohol Cue-Reactivity in Treatment Seekers vs. Non-Treatment Seekers with Alcohol Use Disorder; A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial of the Neuroimmune Modulator Ibudilast for the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder: A Pilot Study Examining Withdrawal-Related Dysphoria

Duties: Conduct clinical diagnostic interviews using the Structured Clinical Interview for *DSM-5* (SCID-5) assessing for mood disorders, psychotic disorders, and substance use disorders to determine eligibility for participation in one research study examining medication efficacy in a sample of heavy drinking smokers, and another study examining differential alcohol cue-reactivity between treatment seekers and non-treatment seekers for alcohol use disorder. Act as a study clinician for the alcohol cue-reactivity study and perform counseling sessions which include a treatment planning session for those currently seeking alcohol treatment.

Licensed supervisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.

2017 – present

Clinical Assessor, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Duties: Conduct comprehensive psychoeducational and neuropsychological assessments for adult and pediatric patients. Compile comprehensive neuropsychological reports including history, assessment results, and clinical recommendations.

Licensed supervisors: Philip Sayegh, Ph.D. and Deborah Anderson, Ph.D.

2018 – present

Intake Interviewer, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Duties: Conduct intake interviews with adults and write corresponding clinical reports including clients' presenting concerns and diagnostic information.

Licensed supervisor: Nikki Rubin, Psy.D.

2018 – present

Graduate Student Therapist, UCLA Psychology Clinic

Provide individual psychotherapy to adults and children. Currently receiving extensive training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Conduct intake interviews for adults.

Licensed supervisors: Nikki Rubin, Psy.D. and Michelle Feng, Ph.D.

2018 – present **Graduate Student Therapist**, UCLA Psychology Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Alcohol Use Disorder Clinic
 Duties: Conduct intake interviews for a diverse range of patients presenting with Alcohol Use Disorder.
 Licensed supervisor: Lara A. Ray, Ph.D.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2017 UCLA *Competitive Edge* Graduate Summer Research Program
 2011 – 2014 Carnegie Mellon University Dietrich School of Humanities and Social Sciences
 Dean's List with High Honors
 2018 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship
 2018 Student Merit Award, Research Society on Alcoholism

CERTIFICATIONS

2012 – 20178 Collaborative Institute Training Initiative (CITI) – Human Research, Social and Behavioral Researchers and Staff, Biomedical Researchers and Staff, UCLA and Carnegie Mellon University HIPAA, FDA Regulated Research, Biomedical Responsible Conduct of Research, Good Clinical Practice

SKILLS

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
 Statistical Analysis Software (SAS)
 MediaLab Research Software
 MindWare
 MATLAB
 Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint (PC and Mac)