

CoNECTR NEWSLETTER

Colorado Nicotine E-Cigarettes and Tobacco Research Alliance

Issue: June 2026

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Greetings from CoNECTR Director

I hope you are all finding some time for rest and recreation as this summer flies by. In this newsletter we highlight the latest epidemiology on youth tobacco and nicotine use, changes in FDA's approach to flavored e-cigarettes, and new research on e-cigarette long-term health effects. First, the National Youth Tobacco Survey shows use of nicotine and tobacco products among US youth has held steady with about 2 million American youth reporting past 30-day use. On the regulatory front, new approaches are being supported to better control youth access to flavored products, whether this helps control youth access or only helps keep these fruit flavored products on the market remains to be seen. Finally, this cohort from South Korea found that lung cancer screening eligible adults who switched to e-cigarettes had a higher risk of lung cancer than those who quit tobacco completely. While there is room for confounding in this observational study it generated a lot of opinion pieces and editorials and represents one of the first studies to demonstrate associations between e-cigarettes and chronic disease. E-cigarette science is finally reaching its long-term consequences era.

Let us help disseminate your tobacco and nicotine science. Do you have tobacco or nicotine research that you'd like us to feature? Email it to us at gina.kruse@cuanschutz.edu

Gina Kruse, MD, MS, MPH
Director of [CoNECTR](#)

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ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Refine Your Research Idea with Feedback from CoNECTR Steering Committee

To support our research affiliates, we offer Research-In-Progress (RIP) sessions with the [CoNECTR Steering Committee](#). These sessions provide feedback on research proposals at any stage of development. Our Steering Committee brings together a multidisciplinary team that includes faculty, cessation practitioners, and community advisors from grassroots organizations and local health departments.

Interested in presenting your research idea? Contact gina.kruse@cuanschutz.edu to schedule a session.

CoNECTR Quarterly Tobacco and Nicotine Interest Group

Join us for **Quarterly Brown Bag Tobacco and Nicotine Interest Group**. Meetings will provide a welcoming, informal space to learn, connect, and collaborate across the tobacco and nicotine research and practice community. Sessions will spotlight emerging topics, encourage sharing of ideas and work in progress, and spark connections among researchers, practitioners, and community partners. Bring your lunch, curiosity, and questions—and leave with new insights and potential collaborators.

Meetings are scheduled for the last Thursday of April, July, October, and January, with occasional scheduling adjustments.

Upcoming meetings (12:00–1:00 PM):

- **August 13, 2026** (*July meeting adjusted; in-person*)
- **October 29, 2026** (Zoom)
- **January 28, 2027** (in-person)

Additional details and future dates will be shared via CoNECTR communications.

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NEWS AND POLICY

Results from the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

June 23, 2026

In June 2026, FDA published its analysis of data from the 2025 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) on youth tobacco use. In 2025, about 2 million middle and high school students reported current use (defined as use on one or more days during the past 30 days) of any tobacco product. During 2022–2025, current use of tobacco overall, e-cigarettes, and cigarettes declined among U.S. high school and middle school students. Current use of nicotine pouches remained low and stable during 2024–2025.

[Read the results web summary](#)

[Read the analysis from Park-Lee et al.](#)

FDA Authorization of Age-Gated, Flavored E-Cigarette Products is Key Test Case in Balancing Availability for Adult Smokers While Protecting Youth.

Truth Initiative | By: Kathy Crosby, CEO and President
May 05, 2026

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's [authorization](#) of flavored (non-tobacco and non-menthol) e-cigarette products with technological features intended to prevent underage use will be a key test case in whether availability of such products coupled with marketing restrictions can limit youth use. This is particularly important in a marketplace where illegal, youth-appealing flavored products remain widely available.

[Read More](#)

Republic of Palau — Notification on the international review of nicotine.

Nicotine Review, An Initiative of the Republic of Palau
June 10 2026

The Republic of Palau formally notified the United Nations Secretary-General under Article 2 of the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, initiating a WHO critical review of nicotine.

Palau's notification requests that the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) conduct a scientific review of nicotine and assess whether it meets the criteria for scheduling under the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. A process is expected to begin in late 2026. The Committee is expected to issue a recommendation by October 2027, ahead of a UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs vote targeted for March 2028.

[Read More](#)

Nicotine pouches are skyrocketing in popularity. Are they bad for you? What experts say about addiction, cancer risk and brain claims.

UCHealth Today | By: Todd Neff
May 22, 2026

Sales of nicotine pouches have jumped nearly 300% in the U.S. in recent years. They're especially popular among young people, including underage kids.

[Read More](#)

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CLINICAL CORNER

UCHealth Tobacco Treatment Program Expanding Support for Oncology Clinics

The UCHealth Tobacco Treatment Program is exploring opportunities to expand services to better support Commission on Cancer (CoC) requirements across oncology clinics throughout UCHealth regions. The team is currently in the early stages of collecting data to inform and guide this potential expansion.

This effort reflects a growing commitment to integrating tobacco treatment into oncology care and strengthening support for patients across the cancer care continuum.

To learn more email yesenia.trevizo@uchealth.org

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING TRAININGS

The [Behavioral Health and Wellness Program](#) from the CU Anschutz Department of Psychiatry offers evidence-based trainings for administrators, a broad spectrum of healthcare providers, and peer specialists on a variety of wellness topics. Below are some of the trainings that might be of interest for folks working in tobacco and nicotine.

[Motivational Interviewing for Behavior Change – Level I \(Introductory\)](#)

In this two-day intensive training, participants will learn the fundamentals of Motivational Interviewing (MI), a collaborative conversational style that strengthens a person's own motivation and commitment to change.

- Spring 2027 Virtual Training: February 3-4, 2027

[DIMENSIONS: Tobacco Free Advance Techniques](#)

The DIMENSIONS: Tobacco Free Program is an evidence-based tobacco treatment program designed to teach providers and peers the necessary information and skills to promote successful tobacco cessation within their organizations.

- Fall 2026 Virtual Training: September 9-10, 2026
- Spring 2027 Virtual Training: March 10-11, 2027

[Rocky Mountain Tobacco Treatment Specialist \(RMTTS\) Training Program](#)

The Rocky Mountain Tobacco Treatment Specialist (RMTTS) Training Program was developed to train interdisciplinary healthcare providers and community and public health professionals to act as champions for tobacco and nicotine treatment in their organizations and communities.

- Fall 2026 Virtual Training Dates: October 5-8, 2026
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DIMENSIONS: Well Body Program

The DIMENSIONS: Well Body Program covers topics that include coping with stress, healthy sleep, healthy eating, physical activity, motivation for behavior change, and the DIMENSIONS: Well Body Motivational Intervention. The training is approved for continuing education by The Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs (CTTTP) to provide contact hours for tobacco treatment specialists (TTS)

- Fall 2026 Virtual Training: November 4-5, 2026

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Review past lectures and newsletters

[Visit CoNECTR Website](#)

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

SAVE THE DATE

Meiklejohn Annual Lecture featuring Dr. Nancy Rigotti

Division of General Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Tuesday October 6th, 2026, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM



Nancy Rigotti, MD, is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Associate Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), founder and director of MGH's Tobacco Research and Treatment Center, as well as Past President of the Society for Research in Nicotine and Tobacco and Past President of the Society of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Rigotti is known for her leadership incorporate the delivery of tobacco use treatment into routine health care delivery settings. Her research includes evaluations of tobacco control public policies, clinical trials of behavioral and pharmacologic smoking cessation treatments, and evaluation of system-level interventions for various inpatient and outpatient health care settings in the U.S. and globally. Dr. Rigotti was a member of the committee that produced the 2018 U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Report, Public Health Consequences of Electronic Cigarettes.

To request a meeting with Dr. Rigotti, email gina.kruse@cuanschutz.edu. Meeting times are limited and will be assigned based on availability.

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Upcoming Conferences

[Public Health in the Rockies](#) (September 22 – 24, 2026, Keystone, CO)

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#) (November 1 - 4, 2026, San Antonio, TX)

[World Conference on Lung Health \(International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease\)](#) (November 17-20, 2026, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

[Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health](#) (December 13-16, 2026, Oxon Hill, MD)

[Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco](#) (March 3 - 6, 2027, San Francisco, CA)

[American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) (April 7 - 11, 2027, Minneapolis, MN)

[American Society of Preventive Oncology](#) (April 11 - 13, 2027, Atlanta, GA)

[Society of Behavioral Medicine](#) (April 14 – 17, 2027, Atlanta, GA)
[Society for General Internal Medicine](#) (May 5 - 8, 2027, Seattle, WA)
[American Thoracic Society](#) (May 14 - 19, 2027, New Orleans, LA)
[Society for Prevention Research](#) (June 1 - 4, 2027, Washington, DC)
[Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference](#) (June 8 –11, 2027, Aspen, CO)
[National Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) (June 29 – July 01, 2027, San Diego, CA)
[Behavior Genetics Association](#) (2027, Minneapolis, MN; *Date TBA*)
[The European Conference on Tobacco or Health \(ECToH\)](#) (2029, Brussels, Belgium; *Date TBA*)
[The Nicotine Summit](#) (*Next dates TBA*)

Are you attending Public Health in the Rockies 2026?

Let us know so we can highlight your work.

Email gina.kruse@cuanschutz.edu

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

To share the great work around campus we have created a search to identify the new tobacco and nicotine research published by University of Colorado researchers. Please send us additional papers to highlight, it will help us to refine our search.

Lee SC, Chadwick G, **Kruse GR**, Stover M, Haqq LI, Lee B, Levy DE. “*Barriers and facilitators to enforcing E-cigarette regulations for online sales.*” *Nicotine Tob Res.* 2026 Jun 23;28(7):1228-1237. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntag027. PMID: 41674163; PMCID: PMC12958444.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12958444/>

Kumar PS, Beverly ML, Galindo-Fernandez P, Thompson W, Verma M, **Shick E**. “*To Vape or Not to Vape: Oral Health in the Age of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Electronic Non-Nicotine Delivery Systems.*” *Int Dent J.* 2026 Jun;76(3):109523. doi: 10.1016/j.identj.2026.109523. Epub 2026 Apr 3. PMID: 41932095; PMCID: PMC13085071. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC13085071/>

Leone FT, Barrosse-Antle M, Bars M, Crotty-Alexander LE, Dresler C, Iaccarino J, Ibrahim M, Kathuria H, Lang AE, Rich ZC, Sheikh M, **Stepp EL**, Stover-Pepe D, Studdard JE; CHEST Tobacco and Vaping Workgroup. “*Critical Gaps in the Scientific Basis for Electronic Cigarette Regulation: An American College of Chest Physicians Research Statement.*” *Chest.* 2026 May;169(5):1415-1426. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2025.11.010. PMID: 41242422; PMCID: PMC13197972.
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC13197972/>

Steege CM, Combs KM, Racz SJ, Brooks-Russell A, Lain MA, Drewelow K, Zaugg S, Denker HK, Hill KG. “*Effectiveness of the Botvin High School LifeSkills Training Intervention on Adolescent Substance Use: A Cluster Randomized Trial.*” *J Adolesc Health.* 2026 Jul;79(1):144-153. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2026.02.024. Epub 2026 May 15. PMID: 42138674.
[https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(26\)00102-3/fulltext](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(26)00102-3/fulltext)

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Other Publications Worth Noticing

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Europe debate: mandated reduction of nicotine in tobacco products is not the logical next step

Katherine East, PhD, Kenneth E Warner, PhD

May 7, 2026 | DOI: 10.1093/ntr/ntag099 | Oxford Academic

The 2025 Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) Europe debate proposed that “Mandated reduction of nicotine in tobacco products is the logical next step.” To argue against this motion, we divided it into 3 parts: (1) mandated reduction of nicotine; (2) in tobacco products; (3) is the logical next step.

[Read More](#) (or see PDF attached to this email)

Electronic cigarette use after smoking cessation and lung cancer risk

Kim, Y.W., Park, E.J., Kwak, K.I. et al.

15 May 2026 | DOI: 10.1038/s41591-026-04469-5

A study published in Nature Medicine examined the association between electronic cigarette use after smoking cessation and lung cancer risk. Researchers found that former smokers who continued using e-cigarettes had a higher incidence of lung cancer than former smokers who did not use e-cigarettes. The authors note “although causality cannot be established, these findings suggest that e-cigarette use after smoking cessation may attenuate the benefits of complete cessation for lung cancer prevention.”

[Read the article online](#) (or see PDF attached to this email)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Use Pivot-RP to Find Funding Opportunities Relevant to You

Pivot-RP is a comprehensive funding database available to all CU Anschutz faculty and staff.

- Register for a new account at <https://pivot.proquest.com/register>
- Already have an account? Sign in at <https://pivot.proquest.com/session/login>



Other ways to learn about funding opportunities

- [Funding Focus Newsletter | CU Anschutz](#)
 - [Research Grant Process | American Cancer Society](#)
 - [Tobacco Regulatory Science Program | NIH](#)
 - [Smoking and Tobacco Use | CDC](#)
 - [Tobacco education, prevention, and cessation grant program | CDPHE](#)
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We want to hear your feedback. Let us know where you present your tobacco/nicotine research, suggest content for future newsletter or activities using the link below.

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