

**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

# ICRG CONFERENCE

## on Gambling and Addiction

OCT. 6-7, 2024 | THE VENETIAN EXPO | LAS VEGAS

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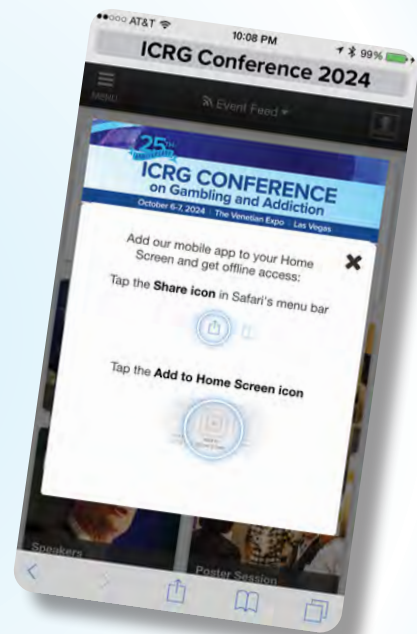
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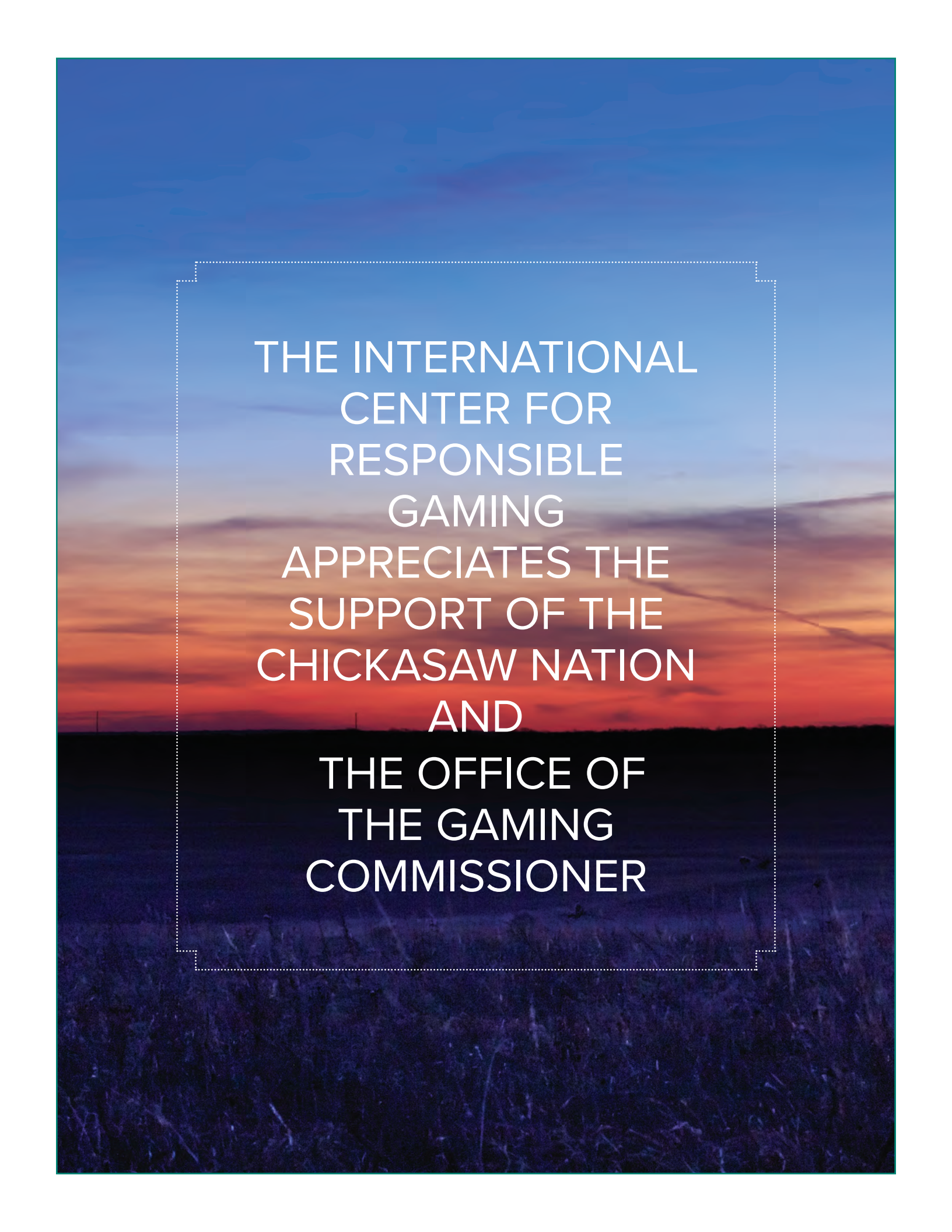
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# ICRG CONFERENCE on Gambling and Addiction



## Welcome to the 25th ICRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction!

We are thrilled to welcome you to this milestone event in Las Vegas. For the past quarter-century, the International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) has been at the forefront of bridging the gap between research and practice in the field of gambling disorder and responsible gaming. This year's conference promises to be a particularly special one as we reflect on our past achievements and look forward to the future impact of our collective efforts.

Our goal remains to deliver the highest quality, research-based programming that engages a diverse group of stakeholders, including clinicians, researchers, responsible gambling specialists, public health professionals, gaming regulators, and industry representatives. This year's program is designed to foster meaningful dialogue on the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in our field.

### Highlights of the 25th Conference include:

- **Clinicians** will explore strategies for engaging and retaining clients, the impact of a changing gambling landscape on treatment, and new approaches like digital CBT and pharmaceutical interventions.
- **Researchers** will delve into cutting-edge topics, including the potential of psychedelics, TMS, and ketamine in treating gambling disorder, and will present their latest findings at the poster session.
- **Responsible gambling professionals and industry stakeholders** will discuss collaborative efforts between scientists and the industry, examine players' perspectives on responsible gambling, and explore the state of responsible gambling today.
- **Public health professionals** will focus on health disparities in minority communities, with sessions addressing the specific needs of military veterans, the Latinx community, and Native Americans.

As we commemorate our 25th anniversary, we are particularly excited to feature a retrospective session on the history of the ICRG and a forward-looking panel discussion on the future of gambling research. This conference is not just a reflection of where we've been, but a celebration of where we're going together.

On behalf of the ICRG Board of Directors, we extend our deepest appreciation to our conference sponsors, annual donors, planning committee, and the outstanding researchers and experts who have contributed to this event. Most importantly, we thank you, our participants, for your dedication to advancing the field of gambling disorder and responsible gambling. Your commitment to enhancing treatment, prevention, and research efforts is what makes this conference truly impactful.

We look forward to your active participation in this milestone event and hope that the knowledge shared here will inspire continued progress in our shared mission.

Warm regards,



**Mark Lipparelli**  
Founder, Gioco Ventures, LLC  
Chair, ICRG



**Arthur Paikowsky**  
President  
ICRG

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

## REGISTRATION HOURS

Galileo and Marco Polo Lobby, Lower Level

**Sunday, Oct. 6 | 8 AM–5 PM**

**Monday, Oct. 7 | 7 AM–5 PM**






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## SUNDAY, OCT. 6

10 AM–Noon	<b>PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP FOR TREATMENT PROVIDERS</b> <i>Treating Gambling Harms: Valuable Strategies for Engaging and Retaining Our Clients</i>	<b>Marco Polo 803</b>
1 PM	<b>CONFERENCE WELCOME</b>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
1:15–2:15 PM	<i>Medical Interventions for Gambling Disorder: The Past, Present, and Future</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
2:30–3:30 PM	<i>Digital CBT: Expanding Treatment Options for Gambling Disorder</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
3:30–4 PM	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b> <i>Sponsored by:</i>  <b>BETMGM</b>  <b>MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>Lobby</b>
4–5 PM	<i>Military Veterans and Gambling Problems: What Does the Research Say?</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
5:15–6:15 PM	<i>What's on the Horizon? Ketamine, Psychedelics and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Gambling Disorder</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
6:30–8 PM	<b>POSTER SESSION &amp; RECEPTION</b> <i>Sponsored by:</i>  <b>SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS</b>  <b>CHICKASAW NATION OFFICE OF THE GAMING COMMISSIONER</b>  <b>KONAMI</b>	<b>Marco Polo 807</b>

# MONDAY, OCT. 7

<b>7–8 AM</b>	<b>OPEN AA/GA MEETING</b>	<b>Marco Polo 807</b>
	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Galileo 902</b>
	<i>Sponsored by:</i> <b>LIGHT &amp; WONDER</b>	
<b>8:15–9:15 AM</b>	<i>Disparities for Gambling Treatment Service Use in the Latinx Community</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
<b>9:30–10:30 AM</b>	<i>Why People with Gambling Disorder Don't Seek Treatment</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
<b>10:30–11 AM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	<b>Lobby</b>
	<i>Sponsored by:</i>  <b>BETMGM</b>  <b>MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL</b>	
<b>11:15 AM–12:15 PM</b>	<i>Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention for the Treatment of Gambling Disorder among U.S. Military Veterans: Case Series and Feasibility</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
<b>12:15–1:15 PM</b>	<b>AWARDS LUNCHEON</b>	<b>Galileo 902</b>
	<i>Presentation of 2024 Scientific Achievement Award and Awards for Outstanding Posters</i>	
	<i>Sponsored by:</i>  <b>SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS</b>  <b>CHICKASAW NATION OFFICE OF THE GAMING COMMISSIONER</b>  <b>KONAMI</b>	

## CONCURRENT SPECIAL INTEREST TRACKS

**Track for Industry Professionals and Regulators** *Sponsored by:*  **IGT**

<b>1:30–2:30 PM</b>	<i>Who's Responsible for Responsible Gambling?</i>	<b>Marco Polo 805</b>
<b>2:45–3:45 PM</b>	<i>Science and Industry: Collaborating on Responsible Gambling Research</i>	<b>Marco Polo 805</b>
<b>Public Health Track</b>		
<b>1:30–2:30 PM</b>	<i>Focus Group on The Changing Landscape of Gambling for Treatment Providers</i>	<b>Marco Polo 803</b>
<b>2:45–3:45 PM</b>	<i>Healing The Spirit of Addiction: Providing Culturally Competent, Trauma Informed Care for Gambling Addiction Treatment for Native Americans</i>	<b>Marco Polo 803</b>
<b>3:45–4 PM</b>	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	
	<i>Sponsored by:</i>  <b>PENN ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
<b>4–5 PM</b>	<i>Responsible Gambling, Finding Goldilocks, and The Nate-Dave Problem: A Dialogue on Responsible Gambling</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>
<b>5–6 PM</b>	<i>Celebrating 25 Years of ICRG: Reflecting on Past Achievements and Envisioning the Future of Gambling Research</i>	<b>Galileo 905</b>

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## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, OCT. 6 | 10 AM – Noon

Marco Polo 803

PRE-CON WORKSHOP FOR  
TREATMENT PROVIDERS (2 CE HOURS)

Treating Gambling Harms: Valuable Strategies  
for Engaging and Retaining Our Clients

Speaker: **James Whelan, PhD**, University of Memphis

The evidence supports that gambling-specific treatment can reduce symptoms, gambling behavior and potentially enhance well-being. At the same time, only 10 to 15 percent of individuals experiencing gambling harm seek treatment and 39 percent of treatment seekers discontinue treatment before a therapeutic dose. This session will review the evidence and strategies for addressing treatment hesitancy and dropout.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Apply evidence-based strategies to reduce gambling symptoms and behaviors.
- Engage clients more effectively to address treatment hesitancy.
- Develop approaches to decrease dropout rates in gambling harm treatment programs.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTER



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

The International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) is a global leader in scientific, peer-reviewed research on gambling disorder and responsible gambling. The ICRG disseminates research findings through evidence-based educational programming such as the annual conference and webinars.

For more information,  
visit [www.icrg.org](http://www.icrg.org).



# CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS



Conference attendees can earn up to 13 continuing education hours approved by healthcare certifying agencies and bar associations

## 2 HOURS

**Pre-Con Workshop:** Treating Gambling Harms: Valuable strategies for engaging and retaining our clients

## 11 HOURS

**Sessions** held Sunday afternoon through Monday afternoon.

**Attendees who require certification of their CE hours must do two things in order to receive a certificate:**

1. Make sure that your badge is scanned as you enter each conference session. The number of CE hours awarded will be based on the information derived from the scanned badges.
2. Complete the online evaluation form available in the ICRG Conference app or via the Survey Monkey link you will receive shortly after the conference.

**Certificates will be sent via email. They will reflect the following approvals:**

- ✓ The International Center for Responsible Gaming is approved by **NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals**, to offer continuing education (Provider # 100793).
- ✓ The International Center for Responsible Gaming has been approved by **NBCC, the National Board of Certified Counselors**, as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No.6474. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. ICRG is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.
- ✓ The International Center for Responsible Gaming is approved by the **American Psychological Association** to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The ICRG maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

## Single Program Approval of the Conference

- ✓ This program is approved by the **National Association of Social Workers** (Approval #886911286-5890) for 13 continuing education contact hours.
- ✓ This program is approved by **IGCCB, International Gambling Counselor Certification Board** (Approval #C-0-117) for 13 continuing education contact hours.
- ✓ This program is approved by the **Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers** (Approval #A-0824-04) for 13 continuing education contact hours, including 4 cultural competency hours.
- ✓ This program is approved by **NCB, The Nevada Certification Board** for 13 continuing education contact hours.
- ✓ This program is approved by the **Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education** (Approval #P\_20241006\_51450) for 8 general continuing education contact credits and 4 AAMH credits.
- ✓ This program is approved by the **Nevada Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors** (Approval #2024-0821) for 13 continuing education contact hours.
- ✓ This program is approved by the **Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors** (Approval #2024-20) for 13 continuing education contact hours.

**Thank you to our generous sponsors supporting onsite attendee amenities:**



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# CONFERENCE SESSIONS | SUNDAY, OCT. 6

## PLENARY SESSIONS | GALILEO 905

1 PM

### WELCOME

Speakers: **Arthur Paikowsky**, ICRG  
**Joseph Maarango**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Council Culture Seat Member

1:15 – 2:15 PM

### KEYNOTE (1 CE HOUR)

#### Medical Interventions for Gambling Disorder: The Past, Present, and Future

Speaker: **Jon E. Grant, JD, MD, MPH**, University of Chicago  
Moderator: **Travis Sztainert, PhD**, ICRG

The field of research on gambling has evolved considerably since gambling disorder was first recognized by the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* in 1980. In the beginning people with gambling problems could access Gamblers Anonymous groups, founded in 1957. But slowly other strategies for recovery were developed, especially behavioral and pharmaceutical approaches that were successful with other addictive disorders. Leading gambling researcher Jon Grant will trace this history and look ahead to see what other promising treatments might be on the horizon for treating gambling disorder.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Evaluate the historical development of medical interventions for gambling disorder.
- Analyze current behavioral and pharmaceutical treatment approaches.
- Predict future trends in medical treatments for gambling disorder and their potential impact on recovery.

2:30 – 3:30 PM

### PLENARY SESSION (1 CE HOUR)

#### Digital CBT: Expanding Treatment Options for Gambling Disorder

Speaker: **Marc Potenza, MD, PhD**, Yale University School of Medicine  
Moderator: **Alan Feldman**, ICRG and University of Nevada, Las Vegas

With support from the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut, Dr. Potenza is developing digital therapeutic tools, such as a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)-based mobile app, to ensure greater access to care for traditionally underserved populations. This initiative will develop state-of-the-art tools specifically designed to address gambling disorder. Dr. Potenza will report on the clinical trials testing for effectiveness and safety.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Understand features of existing apps available to help people with gambling problems
- Appreciate the existing data supporting behavioral as compared to pharmacological and neuromodulatory interventions for people with gambling disorder
- Explore the development and testing of digital CBT tools for gambling disorder.

3:30 – 4 PM

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

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# CONFERENCE SESSIONS | SUNDAY, OCT. 6

## PLENARY SESSIONS | GALILEO 905

4 – 5 PM

### PLENARY SESSION (1 CE HOUR)

#### Military Veterans and Gambling Problems: What Does the Research Say?

Panelists: **Shane Kraus, PhD**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
**Nathan Smith, PhD**, Kindbridge Research Institute  
**Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD**, Yale University School of Medicine

The military veteran community seems to have a higher rate of gambling problems than the general adult population. This panel will provide an update on new research and new outreach to veterans with gambling problems and propose what needs to be done to address this problem.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Examine the prevalence of gambling problems among military veterans compared to the general population.
- Analyze recent research on gambling disorder within the veteran community.
- Develop targeted outreach and intervention strategies for veterans with gambling problems.

5:15 – 6:15 PM

### PLENARY SESSION (1 CE HOUR)

#### What's on the Horizon? Ketamine, Psychedelics and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Gambling Disorder

Panelists: **Jon E. Grant, JD, MD, MPH**, University of Chicago  
**Lucy Lan, MD, MBA**, Chief of Interventional Psychiatry at VA Southern Nevada Healthcare and University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Moderator: **Shane Kraus, PhD**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The media is abuzz with stories about alternative therapies for mental health problems such as ketamine, psychedelics and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS). Do these new (and old!) approaches show promise for treating gambling disorder? The panel of experts will discuss the possibilities.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Review current treatment targets for transcranial magnetic stimulation, ketamine, and psychedelics.
- Evaluate the potential of transcranial magnetic stimulation, ketamine, and psychedelics for treating gambling disorder and analyze the current research on these alternative therapies.
- Discuss ethical considerations and future directions for innovative treatments.



## Rush Street Interactive is proud to support research and advocacy at the 25th ICRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction

October 6-7, 2024



## OPEN GA/AA MEETING MONDAY, OCT. 7 7 – 8 AM MARCO POLO 807

Conference attendees are welcome to attend a joint meeting of Gamblers Anonymous™ (GA) and Alcoholics Anonymous™ (AA) during the breakfast hour on Monday morning.

GA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other so they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem. Founded in 1957, GA is based on the 12-Step Program of AA.

For more information, visit  
[www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org)  
and [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS | MONDAY, OCT. 7

## PLENARY SESSIONS | GALILEO 905

**8:15 – 9:15 AM**

**PLENARY SESSION** (1 CE Hour)

### Disparities for Gambling Treatment Service Use in the Latinx Community

Panelists: **Michael Campos, PhD**, University of California, Los Angeles

**Hugo Ramirez**, Vision y Compromiso

Moderator: **Kevin Winters**, Almond Digital Health

The prevalence of gambling disorder among Latinx individuals in the U.S. is similar to that seen in the non-Latinx Caucasian community. However, there are disparities in the use of State-funded treatment for such problems in California. Dr. Campos and Mr. Ramirez will report on pilot research using community health workers to increase Latinx utilization of services in Los Angeles and San Diego Counties.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Critically evaluate the impacts of the CalGETS community health care worker (CHW) program in the Latinx community based on analyses of data from before and after the start of outreach activities.
- Explain the elements of the CHW model, including where they fit in relation to the health care system and community, as well as how they increase individual and family health.
- Develop strategies to engage Latinx and other under-served communities using the CHW model.

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**PLENARY SESSION** (1 CE Hour)

### Why People with Gambling Disorder Don't Seek Treatment?

Panelists: **Jennifer Grant Weinandy, PhD**, Ohio University

**James Whelan, PhD**, University of Memphis

Moderator: **Deirdre Querney, MSW, CPGC, CCAC**, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, City of Hamilton

A study from the University of Missouri on national surveys of gambling problems in the U.S. found that only 7 – 12 percent of people with gambling disorder seek either formal treatment or informal approaches such as GA. This panel will highlight the latest research on motivations to seek help and strategies for raising the rate of help-seeking among this population.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Explore the psychological and social factors that deter individuals with gambling disorder from seeking treatment.
- Assess the latest research on help-seeking motivations and barriers.
- Design interventions to increase treatment-seeking behavior among people with gambling disorder.

**10:30 – 11 AM**

**REFRESHMENT BREAK**

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**11:15 AM – 12:15 PM**

**PLENARY SESSION** (1 CE Hour)

### Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention for the Treatment of Gambling Disorder Among U.S. Military Veterans: Case Series and Feasibility

Speaker: **Shane Kraus, PhD**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Moderator: **Travis Sztainert, PhD**, ICRG

Mindfulness-Based Relapse Prevention (MBRP) was developed to treat substance use disorders, but its core principles can be readily applied to the treatment of behavioral addictions. Dr. Shirk will present a series of case studies describing the application of a manualized mindfulness treatment used with U.S. veterans seeking outpatient treatment for GD at a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Analyze the application of mindfulness-based relapse prevention for gambling disorder in military veterans.
- Evaluate case series data to understand the feasibility and effectiveness of mindfulness techniques.
- Apply mindfulness-based strategies to prevent relapse in veterans with gambling disorder.

## The AGEM-AGA Golf Classic

*Presented by JCM Global*

*The 2024 golf tournament raised \$200,000 in support of the ICRG! Many thanks to AGEM, AGA, JCM Global, all of the sponsors and players for making this year's event such a success.*

# CONCURRENT SPECIAL INTEREST TRACKS

## MONDAY, OCT. 7

Attendees are welcome to participate in either track.

### PUBLIC HEALTH TRACK

Marco Polo 803

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### INDUSTRY TRACK

Marco Polo 805

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1:30 – 2:30 PM

#### Focus Group on The Changing Landscape of Gambling for Treatment Providers (1 CE Hour)

Leader: **Gloria Miele, PhD**, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

Focus Group: **Deirdre Querney, MSW, CPGC, CCAC**, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, City of Hamilton

**Elizabeth Thielen, LPC, PCGC**, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services

**Lojann Hooee, LADAC**, San Felipe Behavioral Health and Peopleswork-New Mexico

People rarely ask, what do clinicians that see clients with gambling problems think about their practice and the pace of the changing gambling landscape? This focus group, representing treatment providers from three very different regions, will express their concerns about improving treatment for people with gambling problems.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Engage attendees in discussing the evolving landscape of gambling and treatment provision.
- Consider the impact of new gambling trends on treatment approaches and outcomes.
- Develop collaborative strategies to improve treatment for gambling problems.

#### Who's Responsible for Responsible Gambling? What Players Say (1 CE Hour)

Speaker: **Eric Louderback, PhD**, Cambridge Health Alliance and Harvard Medical School

Moderator: **Jade Luchauer**, IGT Senior Manager Global Sustainability

Academics, gambling regulators and the gambling industry increasingly espouse a shared responsibility view of preventing gambling harm. This view considers individual gamblers and external stakeholders, such as casino employees, to be jointly responsible for minimizing gambling harm. But do individual gamblers share this view? Dr. Louderback will present the findings from a three-year study of participants sampled from a casino's customer loyalty program database.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Understand players' perspectives on responsible gambling initiatives and views about responsibility for reducing gambling-related harm.
- Assess the effectiveness of current responsible gambling programs from the players' viewpoint.
- Develop player-centered strategies to enhance responsible gambling efforts.

2:45 – 3:45 PM

#### Healing The Spirit of Addiction: Providing Culturally Competent, Trauma Informed Care for Gambling Addiction Treatment for Native Americans (1 CE Hour)

Panelists: **Tonya Elliott, PhD**, University of Louisiana at Monroe

**Jacob Coin**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Executive Advisor to the Tribal Council

Moderator: **Nicole Scott**, ICRG

In her clinical practice, Dr. Elliott offers a holistic approach to counseling by integrating Native American and Eastern philosophies. She addresses the intergenerational trauma that plagues Native American communities and why treatment of this population must be grounded in Native American spiritual traditions.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Understand the cultural and historical context of gambling addiction among Native Americans.
- Apply trauma-informed care principles to the treatment of gambling addiction.
- Develop culturally competent treatment strategies tailored to Native American communities.

#### Science and Industry: Collaborating on Responsible Gambling Research (1 CE Hour)

Panelists: **Jennifer Shatley, DPP**, Responsible Gaming Online Association

**Eric Louderback, PhD**, Cambridge Health Alliance and Harvard Medical School

**James Whelan, PhD**, University of Memphis

Moderator: **Karen Rice**, Hoosier Lottery Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

A panel of researchers and industry representatives will share their experiences with industry-supported research investigations on responsible gambling. They will offer advice to investigators and industry professionals interested in the study of customer datasets.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Explore the collaborative efforts between science and industry in responsible gambling research.
- Analyze case studies of successful partnerships and their outcomes.
- Develop best practices for future collaborations to advance responsible gambling research.

# CONFERENCE SESSIONS | MONDAY, OCT. 7

## PLENARY SESSIONS | GALILEO 905

3:45 – 4 PM

### REFRESHMENT BREAK

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4 – 5 PM

### PLENARY SESSION (1 CE Hour)

#### Responsible Gambling, Finding Goldilocks, and The Nate-Dave Problem: A Dialogue on Responsible Gambling

Panelists: **Dave Yeager**, ROTC Program Coordinator  
**Nathan Smith, PhD**, Kindbridge Research Institute

Moderator: **Jacob Coin**, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Executive Advisor to the Tribal Council

Public health interventions must be able to answer the following questions: What is the harm to be prevented? Who is the harm affecting? How does the intervention reduce the harm? How will we know if the harm is being reduced? However, responsible gambling interventions often struggle to produce compelling answers to these questions. This session will feature a dialogue between a researcher and a military person in recovery to illuminate the conceptual challenges facing responsible gambling.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Discuss the goals and strategic approaches to responsible gambling initiatives.
- Analyze the "Nate-Dave Problem" and the "Goldilocks" approach to responsible gambling and its practical applications.
- Engage in dialogue to address the challenges and solutions in responsible gambling efforts.

5 – 6 PM

### PLENARY SESSION (1 CE Hour)

#### Celebrating 25 Years of ICRG: Reflecting on Past Achievements and Envisioning the Future of Gambling Research

Panelists: **Travis Sztainert, PhD**, ICRG  
**Gloria M. Miele, PhD**, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)  
**Sarah E. Nelson, PhD**, Cambridge Health Alliance  
**Rep Aaron Kaufer**, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
**Alan Feldman, PhD**, ICRG and University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Moderator: **Kevin Winters**, Almond Digital Health

Join us for a comprehensive retrospective on 25 years of the International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) Conference, exploring its profound impact on the field of addiction and responsible gambling. This session will highlight key milestones and developments in responsible gambling research funded by the ICRG, showcasing the significant advancements made over the past quarter-century. Attendees will gain insights into how the conference has shaped the landscape of gambling research and its contributions to prevention and treatment strategies. Additionally, the session will foster a forward-looking discussion on future directions and priorities for responsible gambling research, emphasizing the ongoing commitment to enhancing prevention, treatment, and responsible gaming practices.

*Learning Objectives – As a result of the program, attendees will be able to:*

- Review the significant milestones and developments in responsible gambling research funded by ICRG over the past 25 years.
- Assess the impact of the ICRG Conference on the field of gambling.
- Discuss future directions and priorities for responsible gambling research, prevention and treatment.

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In 1999, the ICRG launched an event unique in its field, dedicated to bringing critical stakeholders in gambling disorder and responsible gaming together for collaborative education.

25 years later, the ICRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction remains the preeminent science-based forum for discussing the latest research, treatment strategies, public policy and industry efforts in these areas.

**From all of us at The Innovation Group, congratulations on this tremendously important work. Here's to another 25!**



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# ICRG CONFERENCE ON GAMBLING AND ADDICTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thanks to the following individuals for lending their time and expertise to the development of the 25th annual ICRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction.

## **Brett Abarbanel, PhD**

*Associate Professor/Executive Director,  
International Gaming Institute  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

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*Director of Government Relations  
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*Associate Director for Scientific  
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*University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
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*Executive Director  
Problem Gambling Network of Ohio*

## **Jade Luchauer**

*Senior Manager, Global Sustainability  
International Game Technology (IGT)*

## **Gloria Miele, PhD**

*Learning Collaborative Coordinator,  
CA Hub and Spoke MAT Expansion Project  
UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse  
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## **Victor Ortiz, MSW**

*Director, Office of Problem Gambling  
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*Research Assistant Professor  
The University of Memphis*

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*Executive Director  
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(ROGA)*

## **Katherine Spilde, PhD, MBA**

*Endowed Chair, Sycuan Institute  
on Tribal Gaming  
Professor, School of Hospitality  
and Tourism Management  
San Diego State University*

## **Nathan Smith, PhD**

*Executive Director  
Kindbridge Research Institute*

## **Elizabeth Thielen, LPC, PCGC**

*Nicasa Behavioral Health Services*

## **Christine Thurmond**

*Head of Responsible Gaming Relations  
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## **Dave Wohl**

*Executive Director  
The Illinois Council on Problem Gambling*

## ICRG SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

The ICRG's competitive grant-making process is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Board that is composed of leading independent scientists with expertise in addiction and related topics. They monitor the conduct of the research grants and make final grant-making decisions for ICRG-funded research projects.

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#### **Gloria Miele, PhD**

*Learning Collaborative Coordinator,  
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# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

**Michael Campos, PhD:** Dr. Michael Campos is a clinical psychologist with over two decades of experience in addiction treatment. Since 2007, he has been with the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, focusing on the CalGETS program, which provides no-cost treatment for gambling issues in California. Dr. Campos collaborates with Vision y Compromiso to train community health workers on problem gambling, screening, and referrals. He has published extensively and presented nationally on gambling-related issues, emphasizing the importance of culturally informed approaches to treatment and community engagement in addressing gambling problems.

**Jacob Coin:** Jacob Coin is the Executive Advisor to the San Manuel Tribal Council. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his roles on the ICRG Advisory Council, National Council on Problem Gambling's Tribal Advisory Council, and as former Executive Director of the National Indian Gaming Association. A member of the Hopi tribe in Arizona, Jacob offers invaluable insights into the intersection of cultural heritage and addictive behaviors, particularly in tribal communities.

**Tonya Elliott, PhD, LMFT:** Dr. Tonya Elliott is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over 20 years of experience in mental health. Of Cherokee and Pawnee descent, she has been deeply involved in Cherokee cultural practices for over 25 years. Dr. Elliott holds a PhD in Counselor Education and Clinical Supervision and focuses on cultural competency, trauma recovery, and social justice in her work. She is committed to decolonizing therapy and has a passion for teaching, clinical supervision, and advocating for Native American communities through research and program implementation.

**Alan Feldman:** Alan Feldman is a Distinguished Fellow in Responsible Gaming at the International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. With nearly 30 years in the gaming industry, primarily at MGM Resorts International, Feldman has been instrumental in developing responsible gaming programs and policies. He is chair emeritus of the ICRG and continues to influence the field through his work on advancing responsible gaming knowledge and practices. Feldman is recognized for his contributions to the industry and his efforts to promote ethical standards and responsible gaming initiatives worldwide.

**Jon E. Grant, JD, MD, MPH:** Dr. Jon Grant is a Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Chicago, where he leads research on addictive, compulsive, and impulsive disorders. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Gambling Studies* and has authored over 500 publications and 15 books. Dr. Grant's work has earned him significant recognition, including the ICRG Center of

Excellence grant and the Senior Investigator Scientific Achievement Award. His research focuses on understanding the neurobiological and psychological mechanisms underlying addiction, with a particular emphasis on gambling disorders.

**Lojann Hooee, LADAC:** Lojann Hooee is an addictions counselor of Pueblo of Zuni and Dine' (Navajo) descent, working with the Pueblo of San Felipe Behavioral Health Program in New Mexico. She previously spent years in the tribal gaming industry, where she observed the impacts of gambling on individuals and families. Her passion for understanding gambling behaviors led her to develop educational programs and establish relationships with local tribal casinos to promote responsible gaming. Hooee's work focuses on serving tribal communities and utilizing responsible gaming funds to support addiction treatment and prevention efforts.

**Aaron Kaufer:** State Representative Aaron Kaufer serves Pennsylvania's 120th Legislative District, focusing on workforce development, job creation, and combating the opioid epidemic. A native of Wyoming Valley, Kaufer is dedicated to reducing the school property tax burden and promoting a more effective state government. Before his political career, he managed family businesses and worked as a marketing representative for Mohegan Sun Casino. Kaufer also lectures on public policy and related subjects. He holds degrees in Government and Law and International Affairs from Lafayette College and is committed to improving the lives of Pennsylvanians.

**Shane W. Kraus, PhD:** Dr. Shane Kraus is a licensed clinical psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research focuses on psychopathology, substance use disorders, gambling disorders, and compulsive sexual behavior disorder. Dr. Kraus earned his PhD in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System and Yale School of Medicine. He has published over 190 scholarly articles on behavioral addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders, contributing significantly to the understanding of these complex conditions.

**Lucy Lan, MD, MBA:** Dr. Lucy Lan is a board-certified psychiatrist with expertise in neuromodulation, psychedelics, and augmented reality for mental health treatment. She earned her MD from Wake Forest University and an MBA from the University of Cambridge. Dr. Lan completed her psychiatry residency at Boston University and an Interventional Psychiatry Fellowship at Stanford University. In addition to her clinical practice, she has experience in venture banking, social entrepreneurship, and consulting

for healthcare systems. Her diverse background allows her to explore innovative approaches to mental health care, blending technology with traditional treatment methods.

**Eric R. Louderback, PhD:** Dr. Eric Louderback is a Research & Evaluation Scientist at the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance, and an Instructor at Harvard Medical School. He specializes in responsible gambling, data science, and public health research, with his work featured in numerous scientific journals. Dr. Louderback's research includes developing quantitative risk assessment models for online gambling and evaluating responsible gambling programs. He is an advocate for open science approaches and has presented his findings at national and international conferences, engaging with a wide range of audiences including policymakers and the public.

**Jade Luchauer:** Jade Luchauer is the Senior Manager of Global Sustainability at International Game Technology (IGT). In 2021, she received the "Outstanding Individual Contribution to Responsible Gaming" award at the Global Regulatory Awards for her efforts in promoting responsible gambling standards across the industry. Luchauer's work involves developing and implementing responsible gaming programs that prioritize player safety and well-being. She is committed to setting new standards in compliance and responsibility, ensuring that IGT remains at the forefront of ethical practices in the global gaming industry.

**Joseph Maarango:** Joseph Maarango was elected in December 2023 to the San Manuel Tribal Council as the first Culture Seat Member, an officer position created by the Tribe's new Constitution. A key participant in drafting the Constitution adopted in 2021, Joe continues efforts to enhance the Serrano language, culture, traditions, and spirituality. He studied anthropology and geology at Portland State University. He demonstrates his passion for overall wellness and humanity by advocating for community health and well-being, and mentoring tribal youth on health, wellness, and Indian affairs issues.

**Gloria Miele, PhD:** Dr. Gloria Miele is Program Director at UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs and Chair of Continuing Medical Education at the David Geffen School of Medicine. She holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology and has over 20 years of experience in training and technical assistance for substance use disorders. Dr. Miele has co-authored several publications, including *Trauma Services for Women in Substance Abuse Treatment*. She is actively involved in leadership development and self-care for helping professionals, volunteering for various non-profits and serving on the Scientific Advisory Board for the ICRG.

**Sarah E. Nelson, PhD:** Dr. Sarah Nelson is the Director of Research at the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance, and an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. Her research spans various aspects of addiction, with a focus on gambling problems and psychiatric comorbidity. Dr. Nelson has led multiple multi-year studies on online gambling, developing predictive models to identify individuals at risk of gambling problems. Her work aims to understand the etiology of gambling issues and improve recovery environments for youth with substance use disorders, contributing valuable insights to the field of addiction research.

**Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD:** Dr. Marc Potenza is a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University, where he directs multiple research programs, including the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research. He is a board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training in addiction psychiatry and has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field. Dr. Potenza's research focuses on the neurobiology of addiction, with an emphasis on impulse control disorders and gambling. He has served as a consultant to various national and international organizations, and his work is widely recognized for advancing understanding of addictive behaviors.

**Deirdre Querney, MSW, CPGC, CCAC:** Deirdre Querney is a Registered Social Worker with 24 years of experience in addiction treatment at Hamilton's Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services. She specializes in individual counseling, group work, and the integration of spirituality into addiction treatment. Querney co-created Brain Connections, an educational tool on gambling addiction, and teaches at McMaster University's Professional Addiction Studies Program. Her research and presentations focus on addiction knowledge translation and ethical practices in treatment. Querney is committed to improving addiction services and regularly conducts workshops on Dialectical Behavior Therapy and relapse prevention.

**Hugo R. Ramirez, BS:** Hugo Ramirez is the Director of Programs at Vision y Compromiso, overseeing community health initiatives throughout California. With 27 years of experience in community health, he is a certified instructor in various therapeutic disciplines, including child behavior therapy and posttraumatic stress management. Ramirez holds a diploma in Occupational Health from the Autonomous University of Zacatecas and is actively involved in advocating for health equity in underserved communities. His work focuses on creating and managing health programs that address the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring access to essential services and support.

**Karen Rice:** Karen joined IGT after over a decade in nonprofit leadership with Hatch For Hunger, a national hunger relief nonprofit, and Goodwill Education Initiatives. After spending her career in community and employee engagement efforts, Karen has continued community-centered work as the Corporate Social Responsibility Manager for IGT on behalf of the Hoosier Lottery.

**Jennifer Shatley, DPP:** Dr. Jennifer Shatley is the Executive Director of the Responsible Online Gaming Association and President of Logan Avenue Consulting. With over 25 years of experience, she has been a pioneer in developing responsible gaming policies and training programs. Dr. Shatley led the creation of the first responsible gaming IT application at Caesars Entertainment and has worked extensively in the Japan market. She serves as President of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling and is a recognized expert in the field, frequently speaking at conferences and advising on responsible gaming practices globally.

**Nathan Smith, PhD:** Dr. Nathan Smith is the founding Executive Director of Kindbridge Research Institute and a leader in behavioral addiction research. He advocates for straightforward methodologies to address complex mental health issues and focuses on practical solutions to real-world problems. Dr. Smith frequently speaks on mental health and addiction across the U.S., collaborating with scientific experts and those with lived experience. He holds a PhD in Psychiatric Epidemiology from the University of Florida and lives north of Boston with his wife and two sons, continuing his work in advancing mental health research.

**Elizabeth Thielen, LPC, PCGC:** Elizabeth Thielen is the Senior Director of Substance Abuse Treatment Services at Nicasa Behavioral Health Services. With over 20 years of experience, she is a licensed professional counselor and certified problem gambling counselor. Thielen is passionate about raising awareness of gambling disorder and serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Council on Problem Gambling. She co-chairs the Gambling Disorder Committee for the Illinois Substance Use Advisory Committee and is an adjunct faculty member at the College of Lake County, where she teaches on behavioral addictions.

**Jennifer Grant Weinandy, PhD:** Dr. Jennifer Weinandy is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Ohio University, focusing on addiction and health disparities. Her research explores how cultural perceptions impact the provision and use of support services for behavioral addictions, particularly gambling disorder. Dr. Weinandy is committed to improving access to care for underserved populations and reducing health disparities. Her work aims to enhance understanding of addiction and develop harm reduction treatment methods that are culturally sensitive and effective in addressing the unique challenges faced by different communities.

**James Whelan, PhD:** Dr. James Whelan is a Research Professor at the University of Memphis and Founding Director of The Institute for Gambling Education and Research. For over 20 years, he has led a treatment clinic and research lab dedicated to understanding and addressing gambling disorder. Dr. Whelan's research includes developing tools for prevention, assessment, and treatment of gambling problems. He has published extensively and frequently presents at international conferences. Dr. Whelan received the 2022 Scientific Achievement Award from the ICRG for his contributions to the field.

**Kevin Winters:** Kevin Winters is the founder of Almond Digital Health, a platform that addresses problem gambling through prevention, education, and recovery support. With 25 years of experience at the intersection of healthcare and technology, Winters has led digital transformation efforts across the globe. His work focuses on reducing disparities in healthcare access, particularly for underserved communities. Winters is committed to creating sustainable solutions that bridge gaps in healthcare and education, ensuring that all individuals have the tools they need to lead healthier, more informed lives.

**Dave Yeager:** Dave Yeager is a U.S. Army veteran and advocate for gambling addiction awareness among military service members and veterans. He hosts *Fall In: The Problem Gambling Podcast* and serves on the boards of the National Council on Problem Gambling and the Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling. Yeager uses his personal experience with gambling addiction to educate and support others, working as a behavioral health coach and advisor. He holds a BS in Human Services and has completed coursework toward a Master's in Social Work, continuing his commitment to helping veterans in recovery.



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## THEME: Gambling Behavior and Decision-Making

- 1) Identifying Slot Play Behavior Using Machine Learning**  
Mana Azizoltani<sup>1</sup>, Kasra Ghaharian<sup>4</sup>, Ismael Gomez-Talal<sup>2,3</sup>, Mohsen Larni<sup>5</sup>, Piyush Puranik<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>William F. Harrah, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Signal Theory and Communications and Telematic Systems and Computation, Camino del Molino, Madrid, Spain  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Business and Management at Rey Juan Carlos University, Camino del Molino, Madrid, Spain  
<sup>4</sup>International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>5</sup>Department of Computer Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2) Computational Modeling to Reveal Components of Risky Decision-making on the Rat Gambling Task**  
Claire Hales<sup>1</sup>, Catharine Winstanley<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada  
<sup>2</sup>Graduate Program in Neuroscience, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 3) Effects of Endowment on Slot Machine Play**  
Hannah Morrison, Jacob Daar, Isaac Pifer, Bri Mckinne, Jake Pastoor  
Northern Michigan University's Gaming and Gambling Lab
- 4) Tolerance Development Within a Blackjack Session**  
Isaac Pifer, Jacob Daar  
Northern Michigan University's Gaming and Gambling Lab
- 5) Gambling Behavior Tracking using Longitudinal Clustering**  
Piyush Puranik<sup>1</sup>, Ashkan Larni<sup>1</sup>, Kasra Ghaharian<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>2</sup>International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

## THEME: Responsible Gambling and Prevention

- 6) College Student Men Sports Bettors' Experiences and their Perceptions and Receptiveness to Responsible Gambling Warning Messages: A Focus Group Study**  
Chance V. Dow<sup>1,2</sup>, Matthew D. Andersland<sup>1,2</sup>, Emily A. Velandia<sup>2</sup>, Rory A. Pfund<sup>1,2</sup>, James P. Whelan<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education & Research  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Memphis
- 7) A Wake-Up Call I: A Secret Shopper Study on Accessing Casino Responsible Gambling Resources**  
Margaret Anne Gunnigle<sup>1,3</sup>, Lilia M. Russell<sup>1,3</sup>, Julia G. Schuetze<sup>1,3</sup>, Brianna Morelli<sup>1,2</sup>, Madeleine R. Halford<sup>1,3</sup>, Erin E. Riley<sup>1,3</sup>, Jordin N. Jones<sup>1,2</sup>, David A. Lee<sup>1,2</sup>, Chance V. Dow<sup>1,2</sup>, James P. Whelan<sup>1,2</sup>, Rory A. Pfund<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education and Research  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Memphis  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Rhodes College

- 8) A Wake-Up Call II: Secret Shopper Study on Accessing Information about Casino Self-Exclusion Programs**  
Brianna Morelli<sup>1,2</sup>, Margaret Anne Gunnigle<sup>1,3</sup>, Lilia M. Russell<sup>1,3</sup>, Jordin N. Jones<sup>1,2</sup>, Julia G. Schuetze<sup>1,3</sup>, Erin E. Riley<sup>1,3</sup>, David A. Lee<sup>1,2</sup>, Madeleine R. Halford<sup>1,3</sup>, Chance V. Dow<sup>1,2</sup>, James P. Whelan<sup>1,2</sup>, Rory A. Pfund<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education and Research  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Memphis  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, Rhodes College
- 9) Beyond the Bet: An Open Banking Perspective on Gambling in the UK**  
Jay Peterson<sup>1</sup>, Kasra Ghaharian<sup>2</sup>, Richard Young<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>2</sup>International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 10) Assessing Risk for Problem Gambling Among Lottery Players: A Machine Learning Approach**  
Paul Sacco, Jihyeong Jeong  
University of Maryland, Baltimore
- 11) Gambling Marketing and Advertising: Attitudes and Perceptions**  
Marudan Sivagurunathan, Carrie A. Shaw  
Responsible Gambling Council
- 12) BetterBettor: Promoting Responsible Gambling Through an AI-chatbot**  
Samantha Wells<sup>1</sup>, Kasra Ghaharian<sup>2</sup>, Richard Young<sup>3</sup>, Lukasz Golab<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Teaching & Learning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>2</sup>International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>3</sup>International Gaming Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
<sup>4</sup>Department of Management Sciences, University of Waterloo, Canada

## THEME: Gambling in Specific Populations

- 13) The Influence of Winning and Losing Gambling Experience on Mood State and Alcohol Cravings**  
Matthew D. Andersland<sup>1,2</sup>, Damon Lipinski<sup>3</sup>, James P. Whelan<sup>1,2</sup>, Blaine E. Stiglets<sup>1,4</sup>, Meredith K. Ginley<sup>1,4</sup>, & Rory A. Pfund<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education & Research  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Memphis  
<sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas  
<sup>4</sup>Department of Psychology, East Tennessee State University
- 14) The UK Armed Forces Veterans' Health and Gambling Study (VEGAS): Synopsis and Mediation Analysis**  
Dr Glen Dighton<sup>1</sup>, Dr Seb Whiteford<sup>2</sup>, Dr Martyn Quigley<sup>2</sup>, Katie Wood<sup>2</sup>, Dr Neil Kitchiner<sup>3,4</sup>, Prof Cherie Armour<sup>5</sup>, Prof Simon Dymond<sup>1,6</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Centre for Military Gambling Research, Swansea University, Swansea, UK  
<sup>2</sup>School of Psychology, Swansea University, Swansea, UK  
<sup>3</sup>Veterans' NHS Wales, Cardiff, UK  
<sup>4</sup>Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences, Cardiff University, Cardiff, UK  
<sup>5</sup>School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, UK  
<sup>6</sup>Department of Psychology, Reykjavik University, Reykjavik, Iceland

**15) Associations Between Speculative Trading, Substance Use, and Mental Health in Young Adults**  
*Joseph Lambuth, Amanda Lee, Frank Song, Scott Graupensperger*  
*Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

**16) The Centre for Military Gambling Research (MilGAM) at Swansea University, UK**  
*Samantha Treacy<sup>1</sup>, Glen Dighton<sup>1</sup>, Matt Fossey<sup>2</sup>, Simon Dymond<sup>1</sup>*  
*<sup>1</sup>Swansea University*  
*<sup>2</sup>Anglia Ruskin University*

**THEME: Sports Betting**

**17) Alcohol Use and Sports Betting in a Year-long Biweekly Study among Young Adults**  
*Scott Graupensperger, Joseph Lambuth, Arvin Shaygan, Frank Song, Modesta Hurtado, Ty Lostutter*  
*Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington*

**18) Social Norms Driving Sports Betting in a Year-long Biweekly Study among Young Adults**  
*Ty W. Lostutter, Joseph Lambuth, Arvin Shaygan, Frank Song, Modesta Hurtado, Scott Graupensperger*  
*Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington*

**19) Sports-Themed Video Game Players: A Vulnerable Population for Problem Gambling**  
*Sebastian Risco, Devin Mills*  
*Community, Family, and Addiction Sciences, Texas Tech University*

**20) An investigation of esports betting: Involvement, risk and gambling-related harms**  
*Vivien Wen Li Anthony, Lia Nower*  
*Rutgers University, Center for Gambling Studies*

**21) What's Driving Problem Gambling? Investigating the Impact of Different Sports Gambling Motivation and Perception of Skill vs. Luck on Problem Gambling**  
*Koo Yul Kim<sup>1</sup>, Colin Lopez<sup>2</sup>*  
*<sup>1</sup>Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Dietetics, University of Northern Colorado*  
*<sup>2</sup>Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University*



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## 2024 SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG) is pleased to announce that Dr. Rory A. Pfund has been selected for the 2024 ICRG Scientific Achievement Award. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Pfund's outstanding contributions to gambling studies and his significant impact on advancing research in gambling disorder and responsible gambling.

Dr. Pfund, who received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from The University of Memphis in 2020, is a Research Assistant Professor at The University of Memphis and the Clinic and Research Director at the Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education & Research. Despite being an early-stage researcher, Dr. Pfund has already authored over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, many of which focus on the treatment and prevention of gambling disorder. His work has set new standards in the field by applying cutting-edge meta-analytic methodologies to evaluate the efficacy of psychological treatments for gambling harm.

One of Dr. Pfund's most notable achievements is developing an open-access meta-analytic database for the larger Metapsy project. This database includes comprehensive data on psychological treatments for mental health conditions worldwide, with gambling disorder as the first and only addiction disorder currently represented. His work has not only elevated the research on gambling disorder but has also positioned it as a model for understanding other mental health and addictive disorders.

Dr. Pfund's research has been instrumental in achieving the official recognition of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for gambling disorder as an empirically supported treatment by



**Rory Pfund, PhD**, is Clinic and Research Director of the Tennessee Institute for Gambling Education & Research at the University of Memphis. His research program focuses on evaluating and personalizing psychological treatments for gambling disorder and substance use disorder. Dr. Pfund is a licensed clinical psychologist with experience in the provision of cognitive-behavioral therapy and contingency management. He has received research support from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the International Center for Responsible Gambling, and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Dr. Pfund currently serves as an Associate Editor for *Addiction* and a Consulting Editor for *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.

the American Psychological Association's Society of Clinical Psychology. This recognition is a significant milestone, as gambling disorder had not been included on the SCP's treatment list since its designation as an addiction in 2013.

In addition to his research, Dr. Pfund is leading a new three-year study funded by the ICRG to develop an innovative web-based intervention to prevent gambling problems among college students in Tennessee. This intervention is poised to significantly reduce gambling-related harm in the student population.

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### 2002

Robert Custer, MD | Nancy Petry, PhD

### 2003

Robert Ladouceur, PhD | Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD  
Renee Cunningham-Williams, PhD (Honorable Mention)

### 2004

Alex Blaszczynski, PhD | Jon E. Grant, JD, MD, MPH

### 2005

Ken C. Winters, PhD

### 2006

Suck Won Kim, MD | Rina Gupta, PhD

### 2007

Howard J. Shaffer, PhD, CAS

### 2008

Marc N. Potenza, MD, PhD

### 2009

Jon E. Grant, JD, MD, MPH | Anna Goudriaan, PhD

### 2010

David C. Hodgins, PhD

### 2011

Wendy S. Slutske, PhD

### 2012

Randy Stinchfield, PhD, LP

### 2013

Jeffrey Derevensky, PhD

### 2014

Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH | Catharine Winstanley, PhD

### 2015

Luke Clark, PhD

### 2016

Donald W. Black, MD

### 2018

Debi LaPlante, PhD

### 2019

Michael J. A. Wohl, PhD

### 2022

Sarah E. Nelson, PhD | James Whelan, PhD

### 2023

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# ICRG ADVISORY COUNCIL

The ICRG Advisory Council is a group of industry leaders that provides guidance and direction on trends and issues facing the ICRG.

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The most effective responsible gaming approach is to stop problem gaming behaviors before they start.

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# A TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE (CHRIS) REILLY

**Christine Reilly's journey with the ICRG began in 1997** when it was still known as the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG). As the organization's first executive director, she laid the foundation for what would become a leading institution in the field. From 1997 to 2000, she played a pivotal role in establishing the NCRG's mission and direction. In 2009, after a distinguished tenure as the executive director of the Institute for Research on Pathological Gambling and Related Disorders at Cambridge Health Alliance, Chris returned to ICRG. For the next 15 years, she served as Senior Research Director, guiding the organization with her unparalleled expertise and unwavering commitment.

Chris's passion, dedication, and insights have been invaluable to the ICRG. She spearheaded numerous initiatives and was instrumental in the creation of the Gambling Disorder Conference. She grew the conference to one that not only included scientists interested in bench to community issues, but also invited people with lived/living experience and people who create and manage new gaming technology. Her ideas for growth also included developing educational materials for the field which she brought to fruition. Chris also spearheaded the creation of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), the fair and rigorous review of research grants like the NIH, and managed the grant portfolio. Her leadership extended to collaborating on and managing the important firewall needed to function as independent researchers from the funders and NCRG/ICRG Board. Chris also developed data visualizations that documented the papers published, the impact factor of the journal, and progress of each grant. It was under her leadership that the program published a number of grant mechanisms on important topics for research and collaboration, including one for fellows and trainees. Chris also served as a vital link between the ICRG and the broader scientific community through her work with the Scientific Advisory Board and her roles as treasurer and secretary of the ICRG board.



Chris has been a central figure in the development and success of the ICRG. She can be largely credited with the success of our annual event at G2E (among others) and oversight of over 150 grants totaling more than \$11 million spanning two decades. These contributions will have a lasting impact on future investigators who will build on this meaningful foundation of peer reviewed research. High praise to Chris, we have been fortunate to have you on the team.

– **Mark Lipparelli**, Founder & CEO, Gioco Ventures, LLC; ICRG Board Chair

ODE TO CHRIS REILLY... One of the things that I always said about anyone in not-for-profit work is, "is this person the real deal?" Chris is that person in spades. Her focus on creating such a high standard for the research product of the ICRG is legendary. Her commitment to reducing player harm and keeping players safe comes from the heart. Her incredible craftsmanship of the proposals that she wrote to donors was instrumental in our fundraising success. Chris will be long remembered for her legendary contributions to the field.

– **Arthur Paikowsky**, President ICRG

Who goes on the Mount Rushmore of *preventing problem gambling*? Chris Reilly is as deserving as anyone. Thank you so much Chris for your outstanding contributions to the field!

– **Ken Winters, PhD**

ICRG = Chris Reilly You have built a solid foundation for this important institution! Thank you for 25 creative and productive years.

– **David Hodgins, PhD**; Member, ICRG Scientific Advisory Board

TRIBUTES CONTINUED>>



The ICRG would simply not be what it is today but for the steadfast commitment to excellence that Chris has demonstrated throughout her career. She placed integrity and rigor at the heart of everything she's done, and the ICRG and the entire field are better for it. As a direct result of her dedication, the ICRG has established a rock-solid foundation upon which it can continue to grow our understanding of gambling and public health. My best wishes for a retirement full of exciting travels and loving family.

–Alan Feldman, ICRG Chair Emeritus

When Chris told me that she was going to retire, my surprise quickly turned to recognition. Anyone who works in the gambling research field owes Chris a great debt. She has been at the center of gambling research and education for many years — no decades. Chris was a participant at the original meeting that later became ICRG. She established the funding, research, and education mechanisms that was known as the Center for Addiction Studies. Chris has been at the center of gambling education around the world. I could go on but instead want to acknowledge that virtually every advance in the gambling studies and research field has been shaped by Chris Reilly. Thanks for your dedication, careful and dedicated work. The field will be empty without you. Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it!!

– Howard J. Shaffer, PhD

Chris was a true delight to work with and was over-and-above dedicated to helping advance problem gambling research. She was the catalyst for bringing together an amazing array of people on the board and grant review committees, over several decades, cultivating a culture of open discussion and honest appraisal of the challenges. We really bonded within our groups in large part due to her stewardship, and had good-spirited times while tackling the issues. I wish her the very best in her retirement, so well-deserved.

– Lisa Najavits, PhD

When we look at the important organization that ICRG is today, we need to recognize that the one constant since its founding in 1996 has been Chris Reilly. Her competence, skills, professionalism and dedication to quality have shaped the ICRG that we know today. We are grateful to Chris for her unwavering leadership and commitment to building and sustaining the ICRG.

– Kathy Scanlan, ICRG Board Member

Chris Reilly's outstanding stewardship of ICRG for over 25 years can be seen in the sustained and high impact of ICRG's research programs on the field of responsible gaming. Chris's clear commitment to research excellence, boundless compassion, and inspiring energy have driven ICRG's success. Thank you, Chris!

– Tammy Chung, PhD; Member, ICRG Scientific Advisory Board

Chris Reilly's work has allowed for the creation of hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific studies with tens of thousands of citations. It's not simply that Chris has influenced the field of gambling disorder science; it's that without her, there is no field as we know it today.

– Nathan Smith, ICRG Program Officer 2009-2016

As much as any of the legions of academics whose research she supported and nurtured, Chris is responsible for bringing gambling research new and well-deserved legitimacy through her many years of leadership at NCRG/ICRG. All stakeholders in commercial gambling have Chris to thank for building a base of knowledge for empirically-grounded policies and practices that make a meaningful difference in the lives of gamblers and their families.

– Dean Hesterman, VP, Issues Management and Strategic Communications, Caesars; ICRG Board Member

Though we still don't know with certainty what the odds are on gambling addiction, we do know with certainty what the odds are for success having you in driver's seat at ICRG. There were infinity! *Congratulations on your new role: where every day is a weekend.*

– Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE, Founding Chair of the SAB





I developed an immense appreciation for “all things Chris” during my tenure on the Scientific Advisory Board. Of the many extraordinary skills in Chris’s toolbox, I particularly appreciated her ability to adeptly coalesce the diverse perspectives among the many facets of the ICRG organization. In the community at large, Chris connected people from all aspects of gaming and gambling. She generously shared her vast array of knowledge to forward the cause of responsible gaming, and was always willingly to ‘roll up her sleeves’ to help; without fail, my favors were always met with a “yes”. These attributes helped propel the ICRG to the internationally respected powerhouse of today, with its unique, positive impact on research and education related to gaming and gambling. Indeed, Chris built an impressive legacy for the ICRG, but for me, she became a colleague that I highly respect and most of all, a wonderful friend.

– **Celeste Napier, PhD**; Member, ICRG Scientific Advisory Board

I have known and worked with Chris for nearly three decades, and I don’t know where to begin with the accolades. Chris is one of the most professional, thoughtful, smart, and lovely people I’ve had the pleasure of working with. Her commitment to the topic of responsible gaming is unparalleled. Chris has helped shape the landscape of RG with the most reliable, evidence-based research. I feel so lucky to call Chris a friend and colleague, and hope this next chapter is as fulfilling as the former! Here’s to you, Chris Reilly!

– **Chrissy Thurmond**, Head of Responsible Gaming Relations, DraftKings

Thank you for all you have done for our industry. Your passion, personality and professionalism have made a lasting impact on so many throughout your career in this sector. We are all fortunate to call you our colleague and friend.

– **Daron Dorsey**, AGEM President & CEO, ICRG Board Member

## ANNOUNCING THE CHRISTINE REILLY AWARD!

As we reflect on Chris’ immense contributions, we express our deepest gratitude for the position of strength and success she has helped ICRG achieve. In honor of her legacy, we are proud to announce the establishment of the *Christine Reilly Grant Award*. This prestigious award will be bestowed upon the highest-rated of our Seed Grants, which support a wide range of research activities. These grants explore the etiology, prevention, and treatment of gambling disorder and the development and evaluation of responsible gambling strategies. Areas of focus include:

- Pilot and feasibility studies
- Secondary analysis of existing data
- Small, self-contained research projects
- Development of research methodology
- Development of new research technology

Chris’ name will forever be associated with excellence and innovation in the field, and we look forward to seeing the impactful research that will be carried out in her honor.



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