

# OUTPACE Tobacco Newsletter

## January 2024

### Welcome to the OUTPACE Tobacco inaugural newsletter!

OUTPACE Tobacco (Opioid Use Treatment Programs Advancing Cessation Efforts) is an evidence-based program from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center that is focused on building capacity in opioid treatment programs across Texas to support employees and patients who want to quit using tobacco. We provide partnering opioid treatment programs with many resources, including nicotine replacement therapy, access to direct referrals to the MD Anderson Community Quitline, patient education and provider support materials, and assistance in creating a tobacco-free workplace policy. Additionally, we provide training to all employees and opportunities for select employees to receive more intensive training (e.g., to become a tobacco treatment specialist).

### OUTPACE Tobacco Welcomes New Partners!

Although we just began this project in September 2023, we have already partnered with two opioid treatment centers: North Texas Addiction Counseling and Education and Life's Second Chance Treatment Center.

**North Texas Addiction Counseling and Education** is a family business whose mission is to deliver the highest quality of care to those suffering from addiction through a holistic approach that ensures they maintain a healthy lifestyle and abstain from illicit drugs.

Their team is pictured to the right at our recent partnership kickoff meeting!



Pictured (from left to right): Brittany Green, Susie Leatch, Rebecca Woolford, and Dr. Kimberly Scales (front)



**Life's Second Chance Treatment Center's** mission is to be a premier provider of medication-assisted treatment for patients with an addiction to opiates/opioids. They are a resource to their community by helping to educate the public on the disease of addiction and advocate at all times the value of treatment in improving the welfare of our communities.

Check out their director, Kisha Henderson, who was recently featured in the Southern Dallas Magazine (pictured to the left) for her amazing work in fighting the opioid crisis. Huge congratulations to Kisha on this recognition!

Pictured: Kisha Henderson

**If your center is interested in participating in OUTPACE Tobacco**, please reach out to our Health Education Specialist, Egondy Ohamara, at [ekohamara@MDAnderson.org](mailto:ekohamara@MDAnderson.org). [Click here](#) for a pre-populated email template.

## Meet the Team

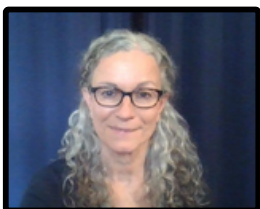
Now that you've become familiar with our project and partners, we'd like to introduce you to the members of our team who implement OUTPACE Tobacco!



**Lorraine Reitzel, Ph.D.** is a Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center who directs OUTPACE Tobacco with Dr. Maggie Britton. Lorraine has been working with minoritized and marginalized population groups to prevent tobacco-related cancers and promote health equity and has been funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas for over 10 years.



**Maggie Britton, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center who directs OUTPACE Tobacco with Dr. Lorraine Reitzel. Maggie's work is focused on reducing disparities in tobacco use and cessation among minoritized and marginalized groups, with the goal of her research being to develop, adapt, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions to address and prevent disparities in tobacco-related cancers.



**Isabel Martinez Leal, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center who leads the qualitative work for OUTPACE Tobacco. She conducts interviews and focus groups with center stakeholders to understand how to best meet centers' specific needs for program adaptation.



**Ann Chen, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor at the HEALTH Research Institute at the University of Houston who executes program evaluation on the quantitative (i.e., survey) data we collect during OUTPACE Tobacco.



**Paul M. Cinciripini, Ph.D.** is a Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center who runs the MD Anderson Community Quitline. Centers that partner with us will be able to refer their patients to this Quitline.



**Maheer A. Karam Hage, M.D.** is a Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center who serves as the Medical Director of the Tobacco Treatment Program. He is an addictions psychiatrist who is affiliated with the Opioid Response Network.



**Hector Sanchez, MPH** is a Senior Health Education Specialist at MD Anderson Cancer Center who provides overarching supervision of the on-the-ground implementation of OUTPACE Tobacco with partnering centers.



**Egondy Ohamara, MPH** is a Health Education Specialist at MD Anderson Cancer Center who works closely with OUTPACE Tobacco's partnering centers, providing education to employees, and ensuring that our program implementation strategies are ideal to create sustainable changes in centers' ability to address tobacco use among their patients.



**Kamira Glover, MPH** is a Program Coordinator at MD Anderson Cancer Center who oversees Project Connect, which provides community healthcare centers in Texas with tobacco cessation support through the MD Anderson Community Quitline. For OUTPACE Tobacco partners, Kamira will work with centers on referring their patients to this Quitline for tobacco care.



**Marcy Zere** is a Research Data Coordinator at MD Anderson Cancer Center who supports the day-to-day needs for OUTPACE Tobacco, such as administrative and data coordination tasks.

## Check Out The Opioid Response Network!

The Opioid Response Network (ORN) has many resources available for communities and organizations addressing the opioid use crisis. Additionally, free education and training is available on the prevention, treatment, or recovery of opioid use disorders, stimulant use, and other substance use disorders. By submitting a request on their website, someone on the ORN team will reach out to you to discuss your needs.





ORN also hosts bi-weekly [online grand rounds](#). These live one-hour forums are geared toward clinicians, focusing on topics they encounter in preventing and treating opioid use disorders, providing valuable insights and information targeting their needs. To join their grand rounds distribution list, email Calandra Bradford at [calandra.bradford@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:calandra.bradford@austin.utexas.edu).

## Check Out Our New Webpage!

We've launched our dedicated [webpage](#) for OUTPACE Tobacco, where you can learn more about our [program components](#)! Although our team has previously developed patient education materials on [pain and smoking](#) (pictured to the right), and [learning materials](#) on addressing tobacco use among people with opioid use disorders, we are in the process of developing an extensive and tailored resource suite for our partners on various topics related to tobacco and opioid use.

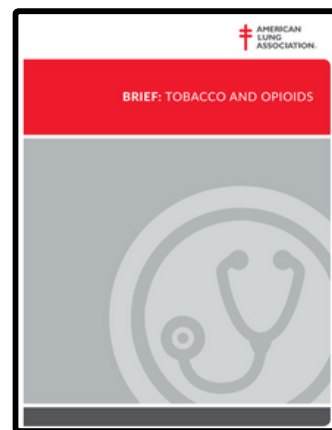
Stay tuned for these resources to be added to our webpage over the next several months!

## Resource Spotlight: Tobacco and Opioids Brief from the American Lung Association

The [American Lung Association](#) has published a [brief](#) (pictured to the right) on tobacco and opioids. It discusses the connection between the opioid epidemic and cigarette smoking, and how states and health systems can utilize tobacco cessation strategies and policies as tools to help achieve the mutually reinforcing goals of abstinence from both opioids and tobacco. For more information on opioids and lung health, check out their [policy brief](#) discussing the relationship between opioid misuse, tobacco dependence, and respiratory diseases, where they highlight the importance of working toward tobacco-free campus policies!

## Want to Stay Informed About Free Training Opportunities? OUTPACE Tobacco Has You Covered!

Our team compiles and shares information (sample pictured to the right) twice a month about tobacco-related trainings being offered virtually from across the nation that often offer free continuing or medical education credits (i.e., CEUs/CMEs). If you or someone you know would like to be added to our distribution list, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at [TakingTexasTobaccoFree@gmail.com](mailto:TakingTexasTobaccoFree@gmail.com) or [click here](#) for a pre-populated email template.



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