

2025

Task Group Annual Report

We help people with mood disorders live healthier lives through advanced research delivering innovative treatment solutions with meaningful impact.



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Our Strategic Framework

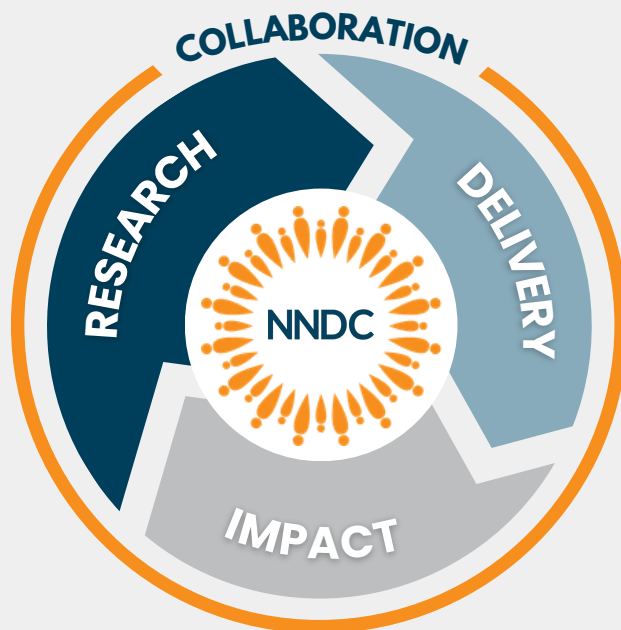
The National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC) is a collaboration among more than [30 leading academic medical centers](#) across the U.S. and Mexico. The NNDC enables our world-class researchers, clinicians, and other professionals in psychiatry and associated disciplines to accelerate the discovery and adoption of breakthrough therapies, and bridge the connection between mental and physical health. Through our commitment to cutting-edge science and training next-generation leaders, we are a powerful force for driving progress in brain health and advancing data-driven, actionable mental health care for current and future generations.

Research: Advancing scientific mental health research & discovery

Delivery: Driving innovative access, coverage & high-value care delivery options that can be scaled

Impact: Transforming people's lives through education & advancing collective impact

Collaboration: Harnessing the power of the Network through strategic partnerships, collaboration and mentorship



Our Members

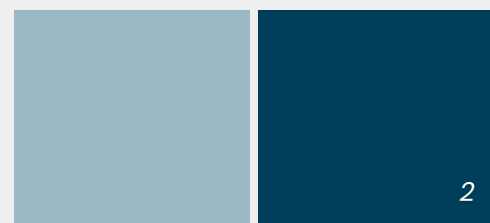
The NNDC is comprised of major academic medical centers from around the country. By uniting our Centers of Excellence and our Members in a collaborative network, the strongest players in the field grow even stronger. The NNDC combines unparalleled expertise and leverages best-in-class resources to advance state-of-the-science in the mental health field.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- Emory University
- Indiana University
- Johns Hopkins Medicine Mood Disorders Center
- Mass General Brigham — Harvard Medical School
- Mayo Clinic
- McLean Hospital — Harvard Medical School
- The Ohio State University
- Stanford University
- Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL)
- University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center & Lindner Center of HOPE
- Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- University of Florida Health, Mood Disorders Program
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Iowa Mood Disorders Center
- University of Louisville Depression Center
- University of Michigan Frances and Kenneth Eisenberg and Family Depression Center
- University of Pennsylvania
- Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- University of Utah
- Weill Cornell Medicine

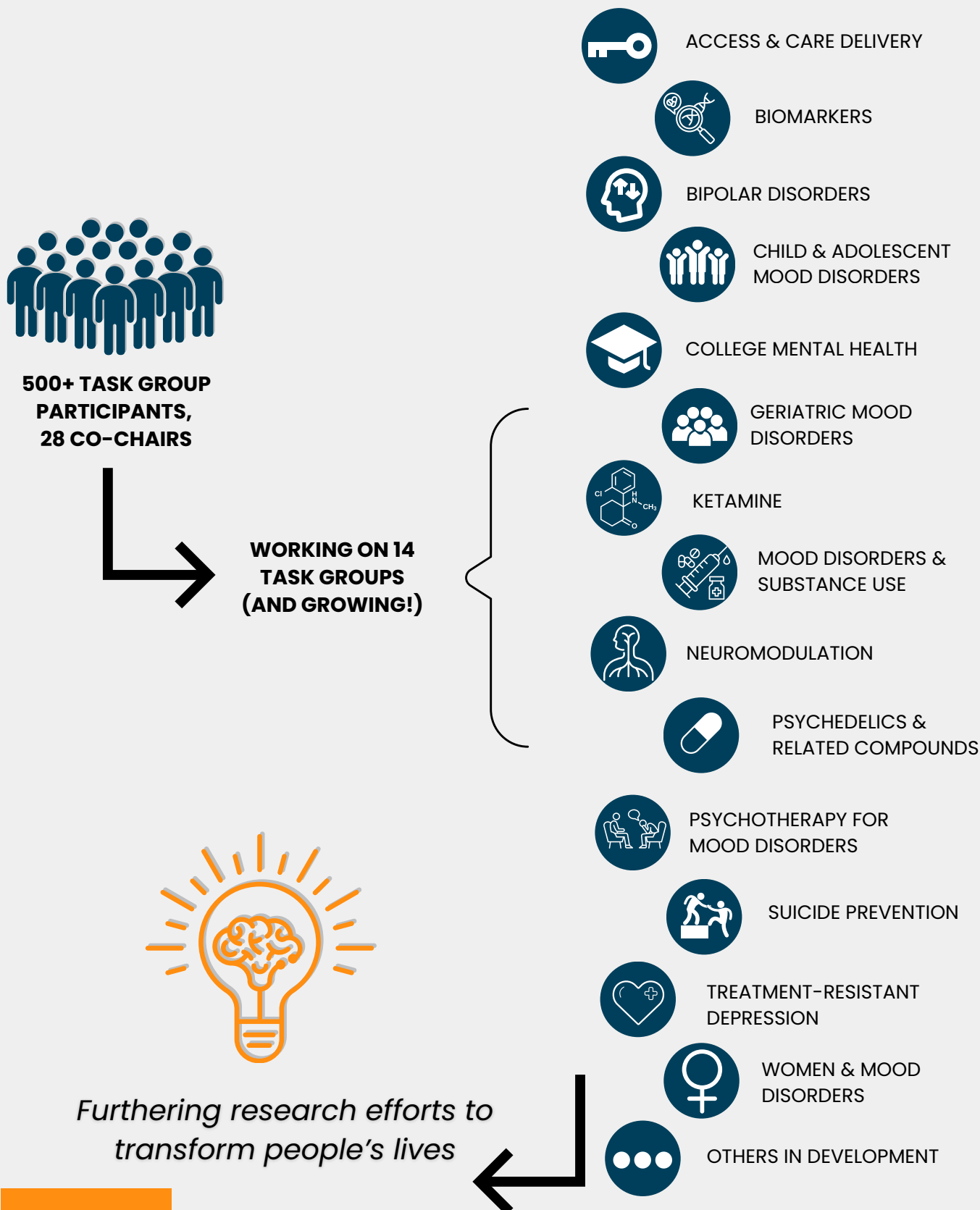
MEMBERS

- Cleveland Clinic
- Florida State University College of Medicine
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Michigan State University & Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
- Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
- The Jan Fawcett Affective Disorders Memorial Center (UNM & Rush)
- University of California — Davis
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
- Van Andel Institute
- Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
- Western Michigan University



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

Much of the NNDC's innovative work is driven by our task groups – multidisciplinary teams of leading clinicians and researchers from our member sites who dedicate their time and expertise to advancing initiatives focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of depressive disorders. This unique collaborative platform allows these leading experts to tackle pressing mental health challenges through focused areas of interest.



Summary of Focus: NNDC Task Groups

The NNDC's task groups play a vital role in advancing the organization's mission by transforming ideas into action. Drawing on the collective expertise of clinicians, researchers, and other professionals from across the network, these groups provide a forum for collaboration around shared areas of interest and unmet needs in mood disorders.

Through their work, task groups contribute to the NNDC's strategic priorities by generating new research opportunities, improving access to and delivery of care, fostering cross-site collaboration, and developing resources that support both clinicians and patients. Ultimately, these efforts are designed to accelerate progress in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of depression and bipolar disorders, to improve outcomes and enhance the lives of those affected by these disorders.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the dedication of members who volunteer their time and expertise to drive meaningful advances in mood disorders research and care. Below are brief overviews of our 14 task groups:

Access & Care Delivery: The Access & Care Delivery Task Group serves as a forum for identifying, evaluating, and disseminating effective approaches to mood disorder care. The group seeks to facilitate the adoption of practices and scalable models that can improve access to evidence-based treatment and enhance outcomes for patients across the network.

Biomarkers: The Biomarkers Task Group advances research aimed at identifying and validating biological markers associated with depression and related mood disorders. Through multicenter studies and data-driven initiatives, the group works to improve understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying these illnesses and to support the development of more precise diagnostic and treatment approaches.

Bipolar Disorders: The Bipolar Disorders Task Group promotes collaboration across NNDC member sites to advance research and improve care for individuals with bipolar disorder. The group supports initiatives focused on understanding the causes and course of the illness, evaluating treatment approaches, and generating evidence that can inform clinical practice and improve patient outcomes.

Child & Adolescent Mood Disorders: Children and adolescents face unique challenges related to the diagnosis and treatment of mood disorders, yet remain underrepresented in many areas of research and clinical innovation. The Child & Adolescent Mood Disorders Task Group works to advance understanding of youth mental health through research partnerships, clinical initiatives, and efforts that support improved care and outcomes for young people.

College Mental Health: The College Mental Health Task Group focuses on improving the understanding and treatment of mental health challenges among college students. Through research, knowledge sharing, and the development of practical resources, the group works to identify effective approaches that support student well-being, academic success, and healthy transitions into adulthood.

Geriatric Mood Disorders: The Geriatric Mood Disorders Task Group supports a broad range of initiatives aimed at improving the lives of older adults affected by mood disorders. By advancing research, fostering education, improving care delivery, and informing policy discussions, the group seeks to enhance both access to care and outcomes for aging populations.

Ketamine: The Ketamine Task Group fosters collaboration among clinicians and researchers working to optimize the use of ketamine and esketamine in the treatment of mood disorders. The group promotes evidence-based practices, supports research initiatives, and works to advance high-quality, patient-centered care across the network – and beyond.

Mood Disorders & Substance Use: The Mood Disorders & Substance Use Task Group focuses on the complex relationship between mood disorders and co-occurring substance use conditions. Through research, knowledge sharing, and the identification of best practices, the group works to support more effective, integrated approaches to treatment and recovery.

Summary of Focus: NNDc Task Groups

Neuromodulation: The Neuromodulation Task Group supports efforts to optimize the use of Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) in the treatment of mood disorders. Through collaboration, education, and the promotion of evidence-based practices, the group works to increase awareness of the safety and efficacy of neuromodulation therapies, expand access to effective treatments, and improve patient outcomes.

Psychedelics & Related Compounds: The Psychedelics & Related Compounds Task Group fosters collaboration among clinicians and researchers exploring the therapeutic potential of psychedelic and related psychoactive compounds. By supporting research initiatives, sharing emerging evidence, and promoting best practices, the group seeks to advance understanding of these treatments and their potential role in improving outcomes for individuals with mood disorders.

Psychotherapy for Mood Disorders: The Psychotherapy for Mood Disorders Task Group promotes the advancement of evidence-based psychotherapies for depression and bipolar disorder through research, education, and collaboration. By fostering knowledge exchange and supporting best practices in clinical care, the group seeks to expand access to effective psychotherapeutic treatments and improve outcomes for individuals with mood disorders.

Suicide Prevention: The Suicide Prevention Task Group brings together experts from across the network to advance research, clinical practice, and quality improvement initiatives aimed at reducing suicide risk across all age groups. Its members promote the identification of effective prevention strategies, support the use of data and measurement tools to better understand suicidality, and work to improve outcomes for individuals at risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Treatment-Resistant Depression: The Treatment-Resistant Depression Task Group focuses on advancing the understanding and treatment of depression that persists despite standard interventions. By fostering collaboration across NNDc member sites, the group supports research, education, and clinical initiatives aimed at improving treatment selection, optimizing outcomes, and expanding options for patients with treatment-resistant depression.

Women & Mood Disorders: The Women & Mood Disorders Task Group focuses on advancing research and promoting best practices related to mood disorders in women. The group supports efforts to better understand mental health during critical life stages, including pregnancy, the postpartum period, and menopause, with the goal of improving care and outcomes for women affected by mood disorders.

Task Group Co-Chairs

Access & Care Delivery

Steve Ferber, MD — Cleveland Clinic
Sagar Parikh, MD, FRCPC — University of Michigan

Biomarkers

Mark Frye, MD — Mayo Clinic
Faith Gunning, PhD — Weill Cornell Medicine

Bipolar Disorders

Jorge Almeida, MD, PhD — University of Texas at Austin/UT Health Houston
Jessi Lipschitz, PhD — Brigham & Women's Hospital
Robert Gonzalez, MD — Brigham & Women's Hospital

Child & Adolescent Mood Disorders

Leslie Miller, MD — Johns Hopkins University
Sally Weinstein, PhD — University of Illinois at Chicago

College Mental Health

Meera Menon, MD — The Ohio State University

Geriatric Mood Disorders

Regan Patrick, PhD — McLean Hospital
Antonio Teixeira, MD, PhD — UT Health Houston

Ketamine

Rob Meisner, MD — McLean Hospital
Mark Niciu, MD, PhD — University of Iowa

Mood Disorders & Substance Use

Sarah Sperry, PhD — University of Michigan
Beth Lippard, PhD — University of Texas at Austin

Neuromodulation

Dan Maixner, MD — University of Michigan
Nick Trapp, MD, MS — University of Iowa

Psychedelics & Related Compounds

Fred Barrett, PhD — Johns Hopkins University
Trisha Suppes, MD, PhD — Stanford University

Psychotherapy for Mood Disorders

Gage Jordan, PhD — The Ohio State University
Emily Standish, PhD — Western Michigan University

Suicide Prevention

Bill Coryell, MD — University of Iowa
Marie Gaine, PhD — University of Iowa

Treatment-Resistant Depression

Susan Conroy, MD, PhD — Indiana University
Jay Fournier, PhD — The Ohio State University

Women & Mood Disorders

Aysegul Ozerdem, MD, PhD — Mayo Clinic
Ritika Baweja, MD — Penn State
Sarah Nagle-Yang, MD — University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

ACCESS & CARE DELIVERY



The Access & Care Delivery Task Group was formally established in 2026. However, substantial planning and development activities occurred during 2025, including defining the group's scope, purpose, and strategic priorities. Because this work took place during the reporting period, a summary is included below.

- **What opportunity was identified that led to the creation of the Access & Care Delivery Task Group?**
 - Recognition of the need for a dedicated forum focused on improving access to care and advancing innovative care delivery models for individuals living with depression and related disorders.
 - Identification of opportunities to share successful operational approaches, workflows, and care delivery innovations across NNDC member sites.
 - Recognition that existing NNDC Task Groups primarily focus on specific treatments, populations, or research areas, while important challenges related to access, coverage, implementation, and care delivery lacked a dedicated home.
 - Interest in creating a mechanism to identify, evaluate, and scale effective care delivery models across diverse clinical settings.
- **What are the initial goals and priorities of the Access & Care Delivery Task Group?**
 - Identify systemic barriers that limit access to high-quality mental health care.
 - Evaluate innovative care delivery models and operational approaches being implemented across NNDC member sites.
 - Facilitate dissemination and adoption of successful workflows, program structures, and access initiatives.
 - Translate shared expertise into practical tools, best-practice recommendations, and implementation resources that support equitable access, quality improvement, and scalable care delivery.
 - Serve as a collaborative forum for clinical leaders, operational stakeholders, and subject-matter experts working to improve access and care delivery across the Network.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

BIOMARKERS



Project: [High Baseline Plasma Anthranilic Acid Predicts Remission Upon Acute-Series Ketamine Infusion for Treatment-Resistant Depression](#)

Leaders: E. Achtyes, S. Murata, Z. Madaj

Progress: Published in Biological Psychiatry Global Open Science

Project: [Utilizing Depression Symptom-Based Phenotypes to Explore Ketamine Treatment Response in Major Depression: The Bio-K Multicenter Trial](#)

Leaders: B. Penaluna, J. VandeVoort, W. Bobo, V. Pazdernik, E. Achtyes, F. Goes, J. Greden, S. Parikh, M. Frye, B. Singh

Progress: Published in Journal of Affective Disorders

Project: Summary of Insulin-Stimulated Immunometabolic Biomarker Analyses

Leader: S. Tye

Progress: Nearing completion

Project: Medications that Increase Mitochondrial Energetics are Associated with Increased Ketamine Remission Rate in Men with Refractory Depression

Leader: S. Tye

Progress: Nearing completion

Project: Extracellular Vesicles in Circulating Blood

Leader: S. Sabuncuyan

Progress: R21 resubmitted

Project: A Mitochondrial Based Endophenotype for Major Depressive Disorder

Leader: G. Scaini

Progress: Manuscript ongoing

Project: Metabolic Predictors of Ketamine Response in Treatment-Resistant Depression: The Role of Plasma Lactate

Leaders: G. Scaini, E. Achtyes

Progress: Poster abstract for 2026 ACNP Annual meeting published in [Neuropsychopharmacology](#) (p. 83)

Project: Lipid Peroxidation and Ketamine

Leader: R. McNamara

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Mitochondrial Stimulation and Neurotransmitter Modulation by Intravenous Racemic Ketamine in Treatment-Resistant Major Depressive Disorder: The Bio-K/NNDC Multicenter Trial

Leaders: R. Kaddurah-Daouk, B. Singh

Progress: Manuscript ongoing

Project: Metabolomic Signatures of Intravenous Racemic Ketamine in Treatment-Resistant Major Depressive Disorder: The Bio-K/NNDC Multicenter Trial

Leaders: R. Kaddurah-Daouk, B. Singh

Progress: Poster abstract for 2026 ACNP Annual Meeting published in [Neuropsychopharmacology](#) (p. 89)

Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

BIOMARKERS, *CONT.*



Project: Modulation of GABA Synthesis by Intravenous Racemic Ketamine in Treatment-Resistant Major Depressive Disorder: Insights from the NNDC Bio-K Multicenter Trial

Leaders: B. Singh, R. Kaddurah-Daouk

Progress: Poster submitted for SOBP 2026

Project: Complement System Dynamics in Ketamine Treatment Response in MDD

Leader: E. Severance

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Benzodiazepines

Leader: R. El-Mallakh

Progress: Paper in progress

Project: Ketamine and Lamotrigine

Leader: R. El-Mallakh

Progress: Paper in progress

Projects: Four Separate Studies of Biospecimens Undergoing Lab Analysis

Leaders: M. Majd, N. Epperson, L. Patino Duran, G. Scaini

Progress: Ongoing

-
- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Ongoing limitations in access to sufficient statistical support continue to pose a challenge and have yet to be fully addressed.
 - Coordinating the submission of large, multi-author manuscripts remains a significant hurdle. Tasks such as collecting conflict of interest disclosures, aligning references with journal requirements, and managing submission logistics are time-intensive and frequently contribute to delays in overall progress.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Dedicated administrative support from the NNDC for manuscript preparation would be highly beneficial. Assistance with tasks such as formatting references, coordinating author disclosures, and managing journal submissions would substantially reduce the administrative burden on the team. Support in coordinating the revision process – including multiple iterations across authors – would further streamline overall workflow.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - A primary objective is to finalize the remaining biomarker analyses and disseminate the findings through publication.
 - Alongside ongoing individual reviews of the scientific merit of specific bioassays, the group plans to explore correlational indices of biomarkers and treatment response. This effort will require integration of the clinical dataset (currently housed at the University of Michigan) with the biospecimen dataset (currently housed at Mayo).
 - As the NNDC considers future industry collaborations, the Biomarker Task Group is interested in playing an active role in helping to shape and contribute to these partnerships, which represent a valuable opportunity for high-impact, large-scale work.
 - The group aims to expand its leadership to three co-chairs, with particular interest in appointing an early-career professional to one of these positions.

Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

BIPOLAR DISORDERS



Project: Bipolar Clinics: Paper about Best Practices for Creating and Maintaining a Bipolar Clinic

Leader: C. Schneck

Progress: Submitted to Bipolar Disorders

Project: Brain Stimulation Project: Manuscript on Imaging Findings of the Pilot

Leaders: J. Almeida, P. Zandi

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Brain Stimulation Project: Symposium at the International Brain Stimulation Conference in Japan

Leaders: J. Almeida, P. Zandi

Progress: Complete

Project: Brain Stimulation Project: Poster Presentation at ISBD in Japan

Leader: J. Almeida

Progress: Complete

Project: BD2: A Roadmap for Learning Health Networks Driving Care Improvement in Bipolar Disorder

Leader: J. Lipschitz

Progress: Published in Journal of Affective Disorders – Momentum Grant project

Project: Considerations in the Development of Learning Health Networks for Mood Disorders

Leader: J. Lipschitz

Progress: Published in Journal of Affective Disorders – Momentum Grant project

Project: Learning Health Network Data Analysis Project

Leaders: J. Lipschitz, J. Fiedorowicz, P. Zandi

Progress: Ongoing – Momentum Grant project

Project: Group Medical Visits: Poster Presentation at 2025 APA Annual Conference

Leader: S. Parikh

Progress: Complete

Project: Group Medical Visits: Poster Presentation at 2025 ECNP Congress

Leader: S. Parikh

Progress: Complete

Project: Group Medical Visits (GMV): A Symposium at 2025 ASCP Annual Conference Featuring Presentations on the Bipolar GMV Program at UT Austin and University of Michigan

Leaders: S. Parikh, J. Almeida

Progress: Complete

Project: BD2 Integrated Network

Leaders: J. Fiedorowicz (a number of NNDC member sites are participating in the Integrated Network, including Johns Hopkins University, Mass General Brigham - McLean, Mayo Clinic, UT-Houston, University of Cincinnati/Lindner Center of HOPE and University of Michigan)

Progress: Ongoing



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

BIPOLAR DISORDERS, *CONT.*



Project: Smart BD: PCORI Feasibility Study

Leader: J. Almeida

Progress: Feasibility study completed; not moving to full study

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- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Balancing competing demands on time – including meeting attendance and project work – continues to be an ongoing challenge.
 - Identifying and securing funding opportunities beyond the Momentum Grant program remains an area of need.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Providing support for publication-related costs would help sustain the group's high level of scholarly output, particularly in cases where external funding is limited (eg, early-career individuals).
 - Developing a marketing or overview document for the Bipolar Disorders Task Group would enhance recruitment efforts and strengthen its ability to attract funding.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Publish the best practices paper on establishing and sustaining a bipolar clinic.
 - Finalize and submit the manuscript on imaging findings from the Brain Stimulation Project pilot study.
 - Develop a manuscript on integrating research into a bipolar clinic.
 - Explore a manuscript/project focused on lithium.
 - Evaluate the feasibility of convening a consensus meeting focused on mixed states.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MOOD DISORDERS



Project: Pilot Study to Examine the Utility and Feasibility of Implementing Brief Cognitive Assessment in Clinical Practice for Youth with Bipolar Disorder – numerous NNDC sites invited to participate

Leader: R. Huber

Progress: Ongoing

Project: [Challenges and Opportunities in Using Cognitive Screeners for Adolescents and Young Adults With Bipolar Disorder | Focus](#)

Leaders: R. Huber and CAMD TG members

Progress: Published in FOCUS: The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry, published by the American Psychiatric Association (paper can be used for CME/CEU credits)

Project: ECT Cognition in Children & Adolescents - Scoping Review

Leader: N. Ghaziuddin

Progress: Ongoing

This is a collaborative effort with the Neuromodulation Task Group

Project: [Differences in Cannabis and Cannabidiol Attitudes, Perceptions, and Behaviors Between US Adolescents Receiving Mood Disorder Treatment and Their Parents Across Legal Contexts](#)

Leaders: C. Hammond, M. Fristad, Y. Moon, M. Batt, R. Dopp, N. Ghaziuddin, L. Hulvershorn, J. Leffler, M. Singh, A. Sullivan, S. Weinstein, L. Miller

Progress: Published in International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

Project: Marijuana and Cannabidiol Attitudes, Beliefs & Behaviors Survey: Provider Attitudes

Leaders: L. Miller, C. Hammond

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Marijuana and Cannabidiol Attitudes, Beliefs & Behaviors Survey: Provider Attitudes Poster Presentation

Leader: L. Miller

Progress: Presented at NNDC Annual Conference

Project: Marijuana Summit with SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)

Leaders: L. Hulvershorn, S. Charney, C. Hammond, L. Miller, S. Weinstein

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Poster Presentation: Mood Outcomes Program Project – Examine How Specific Anxiety and Depression Symptoms Relate to Suicidal Ideation and Attempts in Youth Compared with Adults

Leader: R. Huber

Progress: Presented at the IASR Annual Conference

Project: Proposed OSSIBD (Overcoming Self-Stigma in Bipolar Disorder) Project

Leader: R. Huber

Progress: Ongoing



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MOOD DISORDERS, *CONT.*



- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - It is challenging for task group members to carve out time to meet while managing competing demands. It may be helpful to engage early-career professionals, who may be better positioned and motivated to lead projects. These individuals are often eager for opportunities to learn from experienced professionals, benefit from mentorship, and contribute to publishable work.
 - Individuals with established research infrastructure are often able to conduct pilot studies with minimal additional support, whereas others are managing all aspects of the work independently, which can be difficult.
 - Group membership has been declining, possibly due to competing priorities.
 - Momentum Grant-related challenges:
 - There is limited support for IRB preparation and submission, and no ability to use a central IRB. This creates challenges for multi-site participation, affecting data recruitment and limiting opportunities to pursue larger grants.
 - There is no funding available for research assistant support.
- **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Use a Doodle poll to identify a meeting time that allows for broader participation.
 - Momentum Grant-related suggestions:
 - Develop a centralized NNDC infrastructure to provide administrative support for Momentum Grant projects and facilitate coordination across sites.
 - Re-evaluate the current time constraints for Momentum Grants (currently limited to one year, with one extension).
 - Account for the additional time required for multi-site clinical studies compared to single-site studies.
 - Consider offering multiple tiers of funding.
- **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Complete the patient portion of the Pilot Study to Examine the Utility and Feasibility of Implementing Brief Cognitive Assessment in Clinical Practice for Youth with Bipolar Disorder and publish a manuscript on the project process and results.
 - Analyze MOP data for teens and young adults and publish a manuscript.
 - Complete the literature review on ECT Cognition in Adolescents and publish the findings.
 - Consider holding one or two annual brainstorming sessions to identify and develop future project ideas.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

COLLEGE MENTAL HEALTH



Project: [Exchange of Mental Health Information With Parents of College Students](#) | [Focus](#)

Leader: B. Busch

Progress: Published in Focus - The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry

Project: Parent Involvement poster presentation

Leaders: J. Green, M. Menon, M. Vo

Progress: Presented at the NNDC Annual Conference

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- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - As clinicians with a strong interest in research – though not primarily engaged in it – progress on projects is often constrained by competing clinical responsibilities.
 - This challenge is further compounded by a limited workforce and comparatively lower compensation in academic settings, which make recruitment and retention difficult and, in turn, further limit the time and capacity available for project work.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Assist in establishing a shared resource hub that includes up-to-date publications in college mental health, as well as other materials relevant to advancing the group's efforts.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Conduct a needs assessment to better understand national trends and priorities in campus mental health, encompassing both student and staff populations, and use these findings to inform a manuscript.
 - **Other comments**
 - Peer supervision is an essential component of the group's work, reflecting a commitment to supporting colleagues nationwide through shared challenges, the exchange of best practices, and collaborative problem-solving.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

GERIATRIC MOOD DISORDERS



Project: [Cognitive Deficits in Late-Life Depression: From Symptoms and Assessment to Therapeutics](#) | [Focus](#)

Leaders: A. Teixeira, M. Gentry, A. Gregg, S. Gujral, L. Oberlin, O. Ajilore, S. Weisenbach, E. Rapp, R. Patrick

Progress: Published in FOCUS: The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry, published by the American Psychiatric Association (paper can be used for CME/CEU credits)

Project: Expansion of the Multi-Site Database for Geriatric Mood Disorders

Leader: A. Gregg

Progress: Ongoing – Momentum Grant project

Project: Mapping the Intersection Between Geriatric Depression and AD: What We Know and What We Need to Know

Leader: R. Patrick

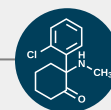
Progress: Ongoing – Targeting publication in BMC Psychiatry

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- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - While time and resources for larger initiatives are naturally limited, the team continues to make steady progress by prioritizing efforts and staying highly engaged.
 - Bandwidth remains an ongoing constraint for many members; however, a consistent core group continues to engage regularly, allowing the team to maintain productivity across meetings, manuscripts and grant submissions.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - A shared platform across task groups would improve visibility, data access and opportunities for collaboration, including joint projects and manuscripts.
 - Identifying overlap across datasets (e.g., from the Momentum Grant project) could support more integrated efforts; an initial step is mapping activities across groups.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Complete and submit the current manuscript: Mapping the intersection between geriatric depression and AD: What we know and what we need to know.
 - Develop and submit a CE symposium on late-life depression (from multiple perspectives) for upcoming APA and/or other conferences.
 - Identify and pursue additional projects, including new manuscripts, smaller grant opportunities, and other collaborative initiatives beyond traditional publications.
 - Conduct a survey of group members to identify areas of interest and potential overlap with other task groups to inform future collaborations.
 - **Additional comments**
 - The group is highly collaborative and productive, with strong engagement and contributions across members.
 - The team has excelled in outreach and welcoming new members, setting a high standard for engagement and growth.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

KETAMINE



Project: Consensus Guidelines and Best Practices for the Use of Ketamine and Esketamine in the Treatment of Depression

Leaders: R. Meisner, M. Niciu

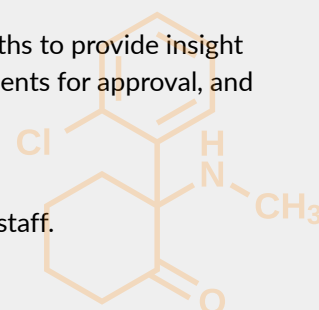
Progress: Momentum Grant project in process

Project: Ketamine/Esketamine Psychometric Database spreadsheet

Leader: B. Kitay

Progress: Ongoing

-
- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Limited time and competing professional responsibilities have been ongoing challenges in advancing the team's goals.
 - Insufficient time and resources for project management have further constrained progress and coordination.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Additional project management support from NNDC would help ensure efforts are coordinated, progress is sustained between meetings, and projects move forward efficiently.
 - Greater centralized support to help advance and track individual workstreams would be beneficial, as many responsibilities currently remain distributed across group members. This could include both a structured platform (e.g., a Teams channel or similar tool) and dedicated personnel to help coordinate and manage these efforts.
 - Establishing shared communication channels for each task group, with some visibility across groups, could facilitate the exchange of ideas, promote alignment, and encourage opportunities for cross-collaboration.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Initiate and advance the development of clinical consensus guidelines and best practices for ketamine treatment, informed by expert collaboration and systematic evidence review. This work will be supported by a Momentum Grant-funded Catalyst Conference, designed to accelerate progress through a focused, in-person brainstorming and writing session, with the goal of producing a manuscript by the end of 2026.
 - Explore the development of a shared, multi-center data registry to support harmonization of data collection practices across sites.
 - Consider hosting a conference aligned with potential FDA approval of IV ketamine, building on the group's 2023 publication addressing insurance coverage. This could include participation from key stakeholders such as thought leaders and FDA representatives.
 - Invite Tiffany Farchione (FDA) to join an upcoming meeting within the next six months to provide insight into current FDA perspectives on IV ketamine, including regulatory status, requirements for approval, and broader considerations.
 - **Other comments**
 - The group is grateful for the ongoing support and coordination provided by NNDC staff.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

MOOD DISORDERS & SUBSTANCE USE



The Mood Disorders & Substance Use Task Group was established in Q4 2025. As a newly formed group, its activities during the reporting period focused primarily on defining its scope, establishing priorities, and identifying initial collaborative projects. The responses below reflect the group's early-stage planning and development efforts.

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- **What have been the key considerations and areas of focus for this newly formed task group?**
 - Developing a survey to assess education, training, and clinical practices related to co-occurring mood and substance use disorders, including training gaps, clinician confidence, stigma, and barriers to effective care.
 - Determining the most effective quantitative and qualitative methods for gathering meaningful data on workforce needs and clinical practice.
 - Exploring how survey findings could be leveraged to support future educational, scholarly, and clinical initiatives.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff support the task group's development and growth?**
 - Help increase awareness of task group activities and engage members who may be unable to participate regularly but are interested in contributing to specific projects.
 - Support the dissemination of task group findings, resources, and promotional materials through conferences and NNDC communication channels.
 - Facilitate connections with potential collaborators, subject matter experts, and audiences that may enhance the reach and impact of task group activities.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Complete and implement a mixed-methods survey assessing current approaches to managing co-occurring mood and substance use disorders, practitioner knowledge gaps, training experiences, and areas for improvement in clinical practice.
 - Analyze and disseminate survey findings to inform future educational initiatives, clinical recommendations, and research directions.
 - Develop educational resources, workshops, and webinar series focused on the assessment and treatment of co-occurring mood and substance use disorders.
 - Complete and publish the Co-occurring Alcohol and Drug Use in Bipolar Disorder manuscript and identify additional scholarly opportunities related to co-occurring conditions.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

NEUROMODULATION



Project: ECT Cognition in Children & Adolescents – Scoping Review

Leader: N. Ghaziuddin

Progress: Ongoing

This is a collaborative effort with the Child & Adolescent Mood Disorders Task Group

Project: [Consensus review and considerations on TMS to treat depression: A comprehensive update endorsed by the National Network of Depression Centers, the Clinical TMS Society, and the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology](#)

Leader: N. Trapp

Progress: Published in Clinical Neurophysiology

This was a Momentum Grant funded project

Project: Consensus Review and Considerations on TMS to Treat Depression: An Update from the National Network of Depression Centers – Poster at the International Brain Stimulation Conference

Leader: N. Trapp

Progress: Complete

Project: [Consensus Review and Considerations on TMS to Treat Depression: An Update from the National Network of Depression Centers](#) – Conference Abstract

Leader: N. Trapp

Progress: Published in Brain Stimulation

Project: Bipolar Depression TMS NIH Grant Application

Leader: J. Almeida

Progress: Not funded

Project: GenECT Project

Leader: P. Zandi

Progress: Ongoing data analysis from both the US initiative and from global centers that have contributed

Project: Interventional Psychiatry Fellowship/Accreditation Program

Leader: S. Siddiqi

Progress: Development of a brain stimulation fellowship – a one-year program – with potential accreditation through the United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties

Project: [Genetics of Response to ECT, TMS, Ketamine and Esketamine](#)

Leaders: C. Franklin, M. Altinay, K. Bailey, M. Bhati, B. Carr, S. Conroy, K. Khurshid, W. McDonald, B. Mickey, J. Murrough, S. Nestor, T. Nickl-Jockschat, I. Reti, G. Sanacora, N. Trapp, B. Viswanath, J. Wright, P. Zandi, J. Potash

Progress: Published in American Journal of Medical Genetics Part B: Neuropsychiatric Genetics



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NEUROMODULATION, CONT.



- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Participation in NNDC initiatives often occurs outside members' primary responsibilities, making it difficult to consistently dedicate time to these efforts.
 - Ongoing reductions in national funding support have further constrained available financial resources.
 - Limited access to dedicated local research personnel reduces capacity to advance and sustain collaborative projects.
 - Coordinating meeting times across multiple time zones continues to present scheduling challenges.
- **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Greater guidance from NNDC staff on identifying funding opportunities and developing proposals would be helpful.
 - Periodic coordination among Neuromodulation Task Group chairs could support alignment and idea generation.
 - Adding a third co-chair – ideally an early-career professional – would help distribute workload and address scheduling constraints.
- **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - As policy and regulatory considerations continue to evolve, the group could consider a more engaged role in monitoring and responding to relevant advocacy issues.
 - There is an opportunity to strengthen the NNDC website as a go-to public resource by adding clear, accessible content on neuromodulation treatments and reducing stigma through educational materials and expert perspectives.
 - Developing standardized, patient-facing materials (e.g., brochures on TMS and ECT) with an NNDC-endorsed framework could support clinicians in practice and ensure consistency in messaging.
 - Curating and maintaining a vetted, regularly updated list of key readings on neuromodulation for depression could help clinicians and trainees stay current and support educational initiatives (e.g., CME or fellowship programs).



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

PSYCHEDELICS & RELATED COMPOUNDS



Project: [Considerations and Cautions for the Integration of Psilocybin into Routine Clinical Care: A Consensus Statement of the National Network of Depression Centers Psychedelics Task Group](#)

Leader: F. Barrett

Progress: Paper was published in eClinical Medicine (part of The Lancet Discovery Science)

Project: Challenges with Clinical Trial Participants in Studies with Classical Psychedelics: A Position Statement from the National Network of Depression Centers' Task Group on Psychedelics and Related Compounds

Leader: B. Lewis

Progress: Accepted for publication in the Journal of Psychopharmacology

Project: A review on therapist factors as a consideration in studies on psychedelic psychotherapy

Leaders: A. Wilton, G. Fonzo

Progress: Ongoing

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- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Time constraints remain a significant challenge.
 - The focus on experimental compounds presents challenges for developing formal clinical recommendations or guidelines, as well as for measuring progress using more traditional indicators of success.
 - The rate of development in the field is accelerating, making consideration of some issues outdated before they are even discussed.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Assist in exploring potential funding sources for a multi-site clinical trial when a project is identified and ready to advance.
 - Enable collaboration with the American Psychiatric Association on a consensus statement around minimum safety considerations in anticipation of potential approval of psilocybin in late 2026 or early 2027.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Complete work on the paper about therapist factors as a consideration in studies on psychedelic psychotherapy.
 - Establish a work group to examine potential pathways for advancing multi-site clinical trials.
 - Establish a work group with NNDC leadership, APA leadership and Psychedelics Task Group members to develop a consensus statement on the rollout of psilocybin as it's rescheduled at the end of 2026 or early 2027.
 - **Other comments**
 - Explore potential directions for the group, including areas of focus, shared interests, and the types of projects to prioritize moving forward.

Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR MOOD DISORDERS



The Psychotherapy for Mood Disorders Task Group was established in Q4 2025. As a newly formed group, its activities during the reporting period focused primarily on defining its scope, establishing priorities, and identifying initial collaborative projects. The responses below reflect the group's early-stage planning and development efforts.

- **What have been the key considerations and areas of focus for this newly formed task group?**
 - Determining how to assess prior psychotherapy treatment history in a meaningful and standardized manner.
 - Defining what constitutes an adequate course of evidence-based psychotherapy.
 - Identifying the core therapeutic techniques that should be captured in a treatment history assessment.
 - Ensuring that assessment approaches are patient-centered and applicable across research and clinical settings.
- **How can NNDC leadership & staff support the task group's development and growth?**
 - Facilitate connections with other NNDC task groups whose work intersects with psychotherapy, including bipolar disorders, treatment-resistant depression, substance use, suicide prevention, and other clinical populations.
 - Identify opportunities for cross-task-group collaboration and engagement.
 - Support efforts to ensure that the resulting tools and recommendations are broadly applicable and clinically relevant.
- **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Develop a standardized, patient-centered tool for assessing prior psychotherapy treatment history.
 - Pilot test the assessment tool and evaluate its utility for treatment planning and clinical decision-making.
 - Collaborate with other NNDC task groups to refine and validate the approach.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

SUICIDE PREVENTION



Project: Suicide Genetics in Bipolar Disorder Manuscript

Leaders: M. Gaine, B. Coryell

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Investigating Transition from Suicidal Ideation to Suicide Attempt

Leaders: M. Gaine, E. Monson

Progress: Momentum Grant application submitted (Note: Project will use the Mood Outcomes Program data that already includes Electronic Health Records information)

What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?

- Sustaining broad engagement across the full task group continues to be an area for growth. Although a dedicated core of members remains highly active, participation beyond this group has been more limited. Creating more opportunities for wider involvement would strengthen the diversity of perspectives and help drive progress on the group's priorities.

How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?

- Create a set of core outreach materials: Prepare adaptable communications that clearly convey the task group's purpose, ongoing work, and ways to get involved, with particular attention to making participation appealing and accessible to early-career clinicians and researchers.
- Develop and maintain a living database of members that captures areas of expertise and interest. Expanding this across NNDC task groups would help surface shared interests, foster connections, and encourage greater collaboration and engagement across the network.
- Have a user manual for the Mood Outcomes Program.

What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.

- Finalize and publish the manuscript on Suicide Genetics in Bipolar Disorder.
- Grow and diversify membership by strengthening recruitment efforts and clarifying avenues for meaningful involvement in task group work.
- Foster greater participation from early-career members in project development, data analysis, and manuscript preparation to support mentorship, leadership development, and the group's long-term continuity.
- Advance the Momentum Grant initiative aimed at identifying factors that contribute to the progression from suicidal ideation to suicide attempts.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

TREATMENT-RESISTANT DEPRESSION



Project: [Developing a TRD Consultation Program - Practical and Logistical Considerations](#)

Leaders: V. Voytenko, S. Conroy, J. Fournier

Progress: Published in Journal of Clinical Psychiatry

Project: [Developing a TRD Consultation Program - What an Assessment Would Look Like](#)

Leaders: V. Voytenko, S. Conroy, J. Fournier

Progress: Published in Journal of Clinical Psychiatry

Project: JAD Manuscript – DATAd: A Consensus Proposal for a New Tracking System in Treatment Resistant Depression

Leaders: S. Conroy, V. Voytenko, J. Fournier

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Manuscript - TRD Update and Treatment Options

Leader: B. Bobo

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Momentum Grant Application: Applying TRD Clinic Consensus Recommendations

Leaders: V. Voytenko, S. Conroy, J. Fournier

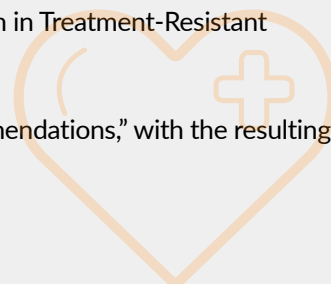
Progress: Funds awarded

Project: Applying TRD Clinic Consensus Recommendations Project

Leaders: V. Voytenko, S. Conroy, J. Fournier

Progress: Ongoing

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- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - As the team's work has expanded, maintaining alignment across projects while coordinating busy and often conflicting schedules has continued to be a central challenge.
 - **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Ongoing support in coordinating schedules and optimizing meeting logistics could facilitate broader participation.
 - Strategic assistance with member recruitment could expand the group's reach and involvement from member sites.
 - **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Prioritize launching several new, clearly defined projects to increase engagement and attract new members.
 - Complete the two manuscripts that are outstanding:
 - JAD Manuscript – DATAd: A Consensus Proposal for a New Tracking System in Treatment-Resistant Depression
 - JAD Manuscript – Overall treatment review
 - Launch the Momentum Grant project, "Applying TRD Clinic Consensus Recommendations," with the resulting data to be used to inform a subsequent PCORI or NIH grant application.



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

WOMEN & MOOD DISORDERS



Project: Momentum Grant application – Support for a biostatistician and a research assistant for an NIH grant application focusing on the role of the HPA axis and adversity/disparities in depression across the female lifespan

Leaders: L. Hantsoo, A. Ozerdem, M. Gaine

Progress: Momentum Grant awarded, NIH Grant application in process

Project: [Treatment Use and Preference in a Diverse Sample of Women With Mood Disorders](#)

Leaders: R. Ammerman, M. Deichen Hansen, R. Boyd, K. Longoria, M. Wagner-Schuman, D. Simeonova, H. Flynn, S. Weiss

Progress: Published in The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry

Project: Manuscript examining factors that influence women's preferences for the types of treatment they receive

Leader: R. Ammerman

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Collaborative support for PCORI grant project led by Dr. Sharma, assistant professor at Mayo Health Clinic – Building WomenWise: Empowering Women Through Capacity Building for Patient-Centered Research on Alcohol Use

Leader: S. Kornfield served on the Community Advisory Board for the project as the NNDC representative

Progress: Completed

Project: [Targeted Research and Treatment Implications in Women With Depression](#)

Leaders: M. Gaine, K. Jagodnik, R. Baweja, B. Bobo, E. McGlade, S. Weiss, M. Beal, S. Dekel, A. Ozerdem

Progress: Published in FOCUS: The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry

Project: Symposium: Targeted Research & Treatment Implications in Women with Depression

Leader: A. Ozerdem

Progress: Presented at the APA 2025 Annual Meeting

Project: [Gender differences in symptom profiles of individuals being treated for mood disorders](#)

Leaders: S. Weiss, S. Nagle-Yang, H. Flynn, B. Cooper, M. Muzik, D. Simeonova, A. Ozerdem

Progress: Published in Journal of Mood and Anxiety Disorders

Project: Maternal Suicide Work Group formed

Leader: S. Nagle-Yang

Progress: Group meeting on a monthly basis

Project: Maternal Suicide Work Group – Manuscript around better understanding risk factors for dying due to suicide in women across different reproductive stages and developmental time periods

Leader: E. Diblasi

Progress: Ongoing

Project: Momentum Grant application – Narrative review on post-traumatic resilience & growth in women with depression

Leader: K. Jagodnik

Progress: Completed; Momentum Grant not awarded



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

WOMEN & MOOD DISORDERS, CONT.



Project: Narrative review on post-traumatic resilience & growth in women with depression

Leader: K. Jagodnik

Progress: Ongoing

Project: R21 proposal to investigate the genetics of the HPA axis in depression in women

Leader: M. Gaine

Progress: Submitted

Project: Review article: Meta-analysis examining the role of the HPA axis in major depressive disorder (polygenic risk scores and sex differences)

Leader: D. Ceylan

Progress: Ongoing

Project: NNDC Annual Conference Poster Presentation – Polygenic risk scores for depression in women

Leader: M. Gaine

Progress: Completed

Project: Review article in response to the FDA Panel on SSRI treatment in perinatal populations

Leader: A. Ozerdem

Progress: Ongoing

Project: NNDC leadership/representation on PCORI convening to reach consensus on research priorities and patient-centered outcomes on suicide prevention in the perinatal period. The task group was a stakeholder partner in the project.

Leaders: S. Nagle-Yang, S. Weiss

Progress: Completed

Project: Symposium: Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Women

Leaders: M. Gaine, E. Diblasi, A. Docherty, S. Nagle-Yang, S. Weiss

Progress: Presented at the International Summit on Suicide Research

Project: Proposal for presentation at APA Annual Meeting in 2026: Transforming Women's Mental Health Care – The National Network of Depression Centers in Action

Leaders: A. Ozerdem, S. Weiss, M. Gaine, R. Baweja, S. Nagle-Yang

Progress: Proposal accepted



Advancing Scientific Discovery: NNDC Task Groups

WOMEN & MOOD DISORDERS, CONT.



- **What have been the major challenges experienced by the team while working toward your goals?**
 - Competing clinical, administrative, and research responsibilities can make it challenging to prioritize this work despite its importance.
 - MOP data currently does not capture reproductive stage, representing a significant gap in the dataset and an important unmet need for women's mental health research.
- **How can NNDC leadership & staff assist you in addressing any challenges faced by the task group/team?**
 - Facilitate the incorporation of women's health-related clinical variables into the MOP database. The availability of these data would support important research questions and help address existing gaps in the understanding of women's mental health across the lifespan.
 - Assist in identifying potential funding sources, including grants and collaborative funding mechanisms, to support task group projects and research initiatives.
- **What are some future goals for the task group/team? Please add specific possible projects and activities.**
 - Complete and disseminate manuscripts that are in process.
 - Increase engagement of early-career professionals by exploring strategies that accommodate scheduling constraints and varying levels of availability. Potential approaches could include asynchronous participation opportunities, targeted outreach, and project-specific roles that allow meaningful involvement outside of regular meetings.
 - Develop a structured pathway for early-career participation within the task group, including mentorship opportunities, leadership roles on projects, and other mechanisms to foster professional development and sustained engagement.
- **Other comments**
 - The NNDC serves as a valuable platform for multi-site collaboration, facilitating connections, shared expertise, and project opportunities that would be difficult to develop within a single institution.
 - Uncertainty surrounding the research funding landscape presents ongoing challenges for future projects and initiatives. Shifts in funding priorities may require greater flexibility in identifying collaborators, data sources, and alternative approaches to advancing research objectives.
 - The administrative and operational support provided by NNDC staff is highly valued and plays an important role in coordinating activities and facilitating collaboration across institutions.

