



# What's Happening Down Under in New Zealand?

By Maria Bellringer PhD and Max Abbott PhD, Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand

Whilst the Northern hemisphere heads into summer and warmer weather, the researchers at the Gambling and Addictions Research Centre (GARC) are gearing up for winter, keeping snug in their offices and busy on a varied range of research projects.

## Current and Recently Completed Projects

One recently completed project examined the effectiveness of problem gambling brief telephone interventions in a randomised controlled trial (RCT). International studies have suggested that very brief treatment can reduce gambling problems, although it is not known how long the improvements

might last. Our RCT compared the effectiveness of three brief telephone-based treatments to the standard national telephone helpline treatment. Two of the brief treatments had been previously assessed in North American studies using volunteers recruited through media advertising (Hodgins et al., 2001; 2004). However, it was not clear wheth-

er these treatments could easily be integrated into the day-to-day operations of an existing New Zealand service, and how effective they would be. Additionally, extra participants were recruited to the control group (standard helpline treatment) and an outcome study was conducted examining differences in client outcomes between those who only accessed helpline telephone care and those who accessed additional professional counselling or therapy services after the initial telephone contact. The findings from the RCT are available on the GARC website ([www.aut-grc.ac.nz](http://www.aut-grc.ac.nz)). We are hoping to be able to release associated Outcome study results in the very near future. A three-year follow-up assessment of participants is currently on-going.

Another recently completed study, where we hope to release the findings soon, investigated the impact of gambling and problem gambling on Pacific families and communities in New Zealand. Pacific people have consistently been at higher risk than other ethnicities for developing problem gambling in New Zealand. Despite this higher risk, there is very little research on Pacific people's gambling and the impacts of problem gambling. There is even less gambling research focusing on different Pacific ethnicities, with most Pacific research conducted with participants described as 'Pacific' irrespective of their ethnicity. The main aim of our study was to improve our understanding of the impact of gambling on the health and wellbeing of Pacific families and communities, to understand why some Pacific people are more likely to develop problem gambling than others, and to discover what could protect Pacific people from developing problem gambling.

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GARC's on-going studies include a national gambling prevalence and 12-month incidence study. The last national prevalence study was conducted in 1999 - gambling availability and opportunities have changed significantly in the past 14 years. This project commenced two years ago with over 6,000 participants recruited face-to-face. Results from this study will not only give an up-to-date picture of gambling and problem gambling behaviours in New Zealand but will also allow comparisons with national prevalence surveys conducted in other parts of the world including Australia (Victoria), Canada, Sweden and the UK.

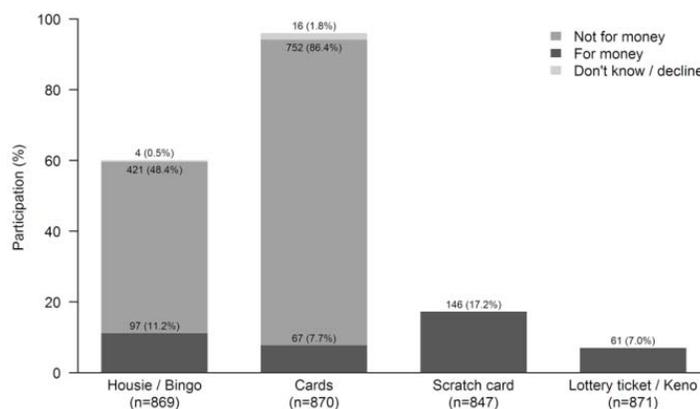
We are also investigating gambler behaviour in response to player information displays, pop-ups and game characteristics. Pop-up messages and player information displays were introduced to all electronic gaming machines in New Zealand as a harm minimisation measure. However, relatively little is understood about how harm minimisation technology and currently available game characteristics impact on gambler behaviour and satisfaction. This project has involved focus group consultation with gamblers including those experiencing problems and those who don't have any difficulties. We have also held groups with treatment provider and venue staff to gather their perspectives. Information from this consultation and also from 40 hours of observation of patrons conducted by GARC researchers in venues (with permission from venue operators) has informed the current phase of the study which involves a survey of over 500 gambling patrons with follow-up assessments at three- and six-months.

Our most recently commenced project is investigating the prevalence of the co-occurrence of problem gambling and family violence via brief screening and then in-depth measures to further explore associations between problem gambling and family violence. This research is closely modelled on a similar project currently underway in Australia and Hong Kong, led by the Problem Gambling Research and Treatment Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

## Pacific Children's Gambling

One of GARC's recently completed studies was a gambling element within the longitudinal Pacific Islands Families (PIF) study which has followed over 1,000 Pacific children and their parents since the children's birth in the year 2000. The PIF study aims to determine the pathways which lead to optimal health, development and social outcomes for Pacific children and their families. As part of the PIF study, 874 children and 957 mothers were assessed for gambling behaviours and associated findings when the children were nine years old. The key findings from this study showed that almost all of the children reported playing cards (96%) or housie (bingo) (60%) with 27% overall playing for money; 17% reported receiving scratch cards as a gift and seven per cent reported buying lottery/keno tickets (Figure 1). The substantial proportion of children who had received a scratch card as a gift is worrying as the minimum age for buying scratch cards is 18 years and it is an offence to purchase a scratch card for someone less than 18 years.

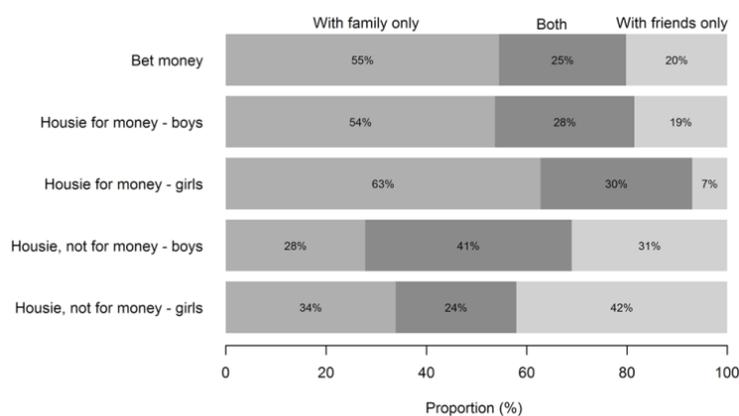
Figure 1: Gambling participation



A fifth of the children who had gambled for money did so with their friends whilst over half gambled for money with family members. As housie (bingo) is a popular form of gambling amongst Pacific people, the children were also specifically asked with whom they had participated in housie for money. A greater percentage of boys and girls reported participating more with family (54% boys, 63% girls) than when participating in housie not for money (28% boys, 30% girls). Conversely, a

substantially lower percentage participated with friends for money (19% boys, 7% girls) than when not participating for money (31% boys, 42% girls) (Figure 2). Therefore, family attitudes and behaviours towards gambling may deliver the message that gambling is an acceptable and harmless behaviour and this could play an influential role in how the children perceive gambling and is likely to impact on the children's future gambling behaviours.

**Figure 2: With whom child gambled**



We also found that the children who had gang involvement had 2.62 times greater odds of participating in gambling activities and children who were bullies had 1.55 times greater odds than children who were not part of a gang or were not a bully.

For the mothers in the study, data were compared with data from three-years earlier. Potential risk factors for gambling included:

- Prior gambling (over 4 times greater odds compared with those who had not previously gambled)
- Worsening of financial situation (twice as great odds for gambling than those whose financial situation did not change)
- Mild level of socio-economic deprivation (1.7 times greater odds)
- Being a smoker (2.75 times greater odds)

A potential protective factor against gambling for mothers appeared to be changing marital status from partnered to separated (0.43 lower odds).

## International Think Tank on Gambling Research, Policy and Practice

The inaugural meeting of the International Think Tank on Gambling Research, Policy and Practice was hosted by GARC in 2004. Since then, annual Think Tank meetings have taken place usually with a two-day event held biennially in Auckland, New Zealand and smaller regional events in the intervening years; the last three regional meetings were held in Melbourne, Australia. The Think Tank was formed as an invitation-only forum to address globally significant issues and developments in gambling research, policy and services; to foster collaboration within the network; and to identify, develop and promote evidence-based policies and services.

The vision of the Think Tank is an international network of scientists, researchers, policy makers, service providers, gambling industry members, consumers and interested others collaborating to advance understanding of gambling in the context of public health and social/economic development.

We currently have 140 Think Tank participants hailing from Australia, Canada, China, Finland, Hong Kong, Korea, Macao, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, UK, and USA. The latest Think Tank meeting was held in March 2013 where participants listened to brief presentations on gambling advertising and problem gambling service system design, and then in group workshops discussed these topics from public health, policy, and treatment perspectives.

If you would like to learn more about the Think Tank please contact Max Abbott (max.abbott@aut.ac.nz) or Maria Bellringer (maria.bellringer@aut.ac.nz). The next meeting will be on 17/18 February 2014 in Auckland, immediately preceding the International Gambling Conference (19 - 21 February 2014) *Gambling in a mobile era: Developments, regulation and responses* (<http://www.internationalgamblingconference.com>).

### References:

Hodgins, D.C., Currie, S.R., & el-Guebaly, N. (2001). Motivational enhancement and self-help treatments for problem gambling. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 69(1), 50-57.

Hodgins, D.C., Currie, S., el-Guebaly, N., & Peden, N. (2004). Brief motivational treatment for problem gambling: a 24-month follow-up. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, 18(3), 293-296. ♦

# *A New Gambling Research Initiative: the Massachusetts Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) Study*

*By Rachel Volberg, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, School of Public Health & Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Passage of the Expanded Gaming Act in Massachusetts in November 2011 permits the introduction of three resort-style casinos and one slot parlor in the Commonwealth under the auspices of the newly created Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). Section 71 of the Expanded Gaming Act requires that the Commission establish an “annual research agenda” in order to understand the social and economic effects of the introduction of casino gambling in the Commonwealth and assist in minimizing the harmful impacts. With the further requirement that the Commission and its Gaming Policy Advisory Committee make annual, scientifically-based recommendations to the Legislature, the new law is unique in enshrining the role of research in enhancing responsible gambling and mitigating problem gambling in Massachusetts.

On November 21, 2012, the Commission issued a competitive Request for Response (“RFR”) to engage a collaboration of researchers and consultants to establish a baseline for the economic and social indicators in the geographic areas where casinos and the slot parlor will be located (“baseline study”), and then to propose and implement on-going, periodic measurement and analysis of those indicators throughout the life of the gaming operations. The Procurement Management Team that evaluated the responses included principals from the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, the Department of Public Health and the Commission.

A main objective of the RFR was to identify, select and contract with a multi-disciplinary team of experts in survey research, econometrics, psychology, economic, and other social sciences who are knowledgeable about the gambling industry and/or its impacts and who would commit to implementing the research agenda prescribed in the Expanded Gaming Act. Two of the four responses received were comprehensive and included nationally recognized experts in socio-economic impacts in general and gambling in particular.

On May 8, 2013, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission announced that it had selected a research team from the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHC) to carry out the comprehensive, multi-year, multi-method, multi-disciplinary research project, believed to be the first of its kind in the world. Professor Rachel Volberg and biostatistician Edward Stanek will lead the multi-phase study at UMass Amherst along with Professor Rob Williams of the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada.

This first-of-its-kind research project will create a monitoring system that will accomplish the following:

- Provide Massachusetts stakeholders with a baseline assessment of the status of gambling and other factors for strategic analysis and decision-making
- Generate early detection signs of changes in social and economic impacts
- Promote responsible gambling and mitigate problem gambling through strategic services

The study team’s general approach has several overarching features:

- The assemblage of an experienced, multidisciplinary, scientifically rigorous team able to address all of the elements contained in the MGC research agenda. Socio-economic impact studies of gambling are methodologically complex and draw upon expertise in a range of areas. No single discipline has sufficient expertise to tackle all aspects of such a project. In recognition of this, the UMass Amherst research team includes individuals with backgrounds in economics and econometrics, gambling research, psychology, crime, public health, statistical analysis, sociology, public policy, hospitality and tourism. Equally important, several team members have direct experience in both researching and conducting socioeconomic analyses of gambling.

- A collaborative orientation whereby the major stakeholders (i.e., casino developers, problem gambling treatment providers, municipal governments, etc.) are invited to provide both input and assistance to the project. The reality is that some aspects of this project will be difficult to carry out without the cooperation of these stakeholders. At the same time, these groups are some of the primary beneficiaries of this research, and should have a keen interest in contributing to the project.
- A ‘state of the art’ analytic framework for socioeconomic impact studies. Decisions about what approach to take to study the social and economic impacts of gambling in a jurisdiction are fundamentally important because they ultimately determine what results are obtained. Historically there has been considerable controversy about the best theoretical and methodological approach to studying the impacts of gambling. However, much of this uncertainty has now been reduced with the recent release of the *Theoretical Framework for Conducting Socioeconomic Impact Analyses and Principles for Conducting Socioeconomic Impact Analyses of Gambling contained in the Social and Economic Impact of Gambling (SEIG)* report commissioned by the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (Williams, Rehm, & Stevens, 2011). Professor Williams, one of the Principal Investigators on the SEIGMA project, is the primary author of this report and will ensure that this theoretical framework and these principles are closely followed in the present study.
- A multiple methods research strategy that employs both primary and secondary data collection/analysis, as well as both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Gambling is just one of many economic forces contributing to the dynamic social and economic landscape of Massachusetts, making the disentanglement of gambling’s unique contribution difficult. The use of multiple methods aids in this task, as it allows for triangulation of findings.

Professor Volberg points out that the Massachusetts statute is unique in requiring an annual research agenda be carried out to help understand the social and economic effects of casino gambling on people and institutions and to minimize possible harmful effects. She notes, “This is the first time that the question of how the impacts of casino gambling change over time will be addressed in a comprehensive way. No other jurisdiction in the world has attempted such

an effort. This study will be an important resource for stakeholders in Massachusetts and elsewhere for many years to come.”

After the Massachusetts Gaming Commission has identified towns or cities that will receive newly licensed casinos, Volberg and her colleagues will use a variety of tools such as community and patron surveys, baseline demographic information, census and labor statistics and socio-economic indicators to collect information for their analyses over the next five years.

The study includes a very large (sample size 10,000) baseline survey of state residents before any licenses are granted, an online survey of 5,000 state residents, targeted surveys of residents within a focused radius of each of the new gaming venues, and collection of secondary data and statistics. The team will also formally evaluate problem gambling treatment services in Massachusetts.

Commissioner Enrique Zuniga says, “This research mandate is an opportunity to create a nearly unique, comprehensive, longitudinal, academic-quality study and series of studies regarding the socio- and economic impacts of introducing expanded gaming to a governmental jurisdiction. All of the research will be designed to not only assess these impacts, but to guide and assess remediation strategies for the potential negative effects.” Marlene Warner, executive director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, says, “The Commission’s strong commitment to researching gambling and problem gambling’s impact in the Commonwealth is not only highly commendable, but it is also cutting edge. This is the first study of this magnitude in the United States. It will provide solid and important data to inform problem gambling services and policy, within Massachusetts, and with similar programs in the United States and abroad.”

Other members of the research team at UMass Amherst are Krishna Poudel, Rosa Rodriguez-Monguio and Martha Zorn of SPHHC and Laurie Salame of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Dan Hodge, Rebecca Loveland, Lindsay Koshgarian, Carrie Bernstein and John Gaviglio at the Donahue Institute in the UMass President’s Office are part of the team, along with Natasha Schull of MIT and Mark Nichols from the University of Nevada Reno.

Surveys and other primary data will be collected by NORC at the University of Chicago, Ipsos USA Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. and Market Street Research of Northampton, MA. ♦

# *Congratulations to Dr. Mark Griffiths!*

In March, Dr. Mark Griffiths from Nottingham Trent University was named an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) following a nomination from the British Psychological Society (BPS). This prestigious award is reserved for academics who have made an outstanding impact in their field of study within the social sciences. Dr. Griffiths, a Chartered Psychologist, professor of Gambling Studies, and Director of the International Gaming Research Unit was recognized for his work in gambling and addictions.

In July, Dr. Griffiths was the first ever recipient of the Lifetime Research Award, given by the US National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). This award is given to a recipient

whose long-standing research assists problem gamblers and their families. This award is bestowed in exceptional circumstances and was awarded for the first time in 2013.

Keith Whyte, the executive director of the NCPG, said: "Mark has created an extremely impressive array of research on gaming and problem gambling. I think it is safe to say that there is no one with a more extensive record of publication, conference presentations and public speaking. His work has resulted in a much greater understanding of problem gambling among academicians, therapists, policy makers, and the general public."

Congratulations Dr. Griffiths! Your contributions to the field are invaluable. ♦

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## News briefs

### Casino Visit Limit in Singapore

Effective June 1, 2013, a new service, the "Casino Visit Limit" was made available for visitors to casinos in Singapore. This new safeguard is designed to provide support for financially vulnerable locals and is being administered by Singapore's National Council on Problem Gambling. The Casino Visit Limit, if imposed, caps the number of times an individual can visit the casinos at the Integrated Resorts within a one-month time period. Three types of Casino Visit Limits are in place including a) a Voluntary Visit Limit - an individual applies to limit their own visits; b) Family Visit Limit - family members apply to limit a family member's visits; and c) Third-Party Visit Limit - for persons having poor credit or for those who could be harmed financially by gambling, a Third-Party Visit Limit could be imposed by a Committee of Assessors appointed by Singapore's National Council on Problem Gambling. ♦

### Caesar's Entertainment Social Gaming Leaders

In 2011, Caesar's acquired controlling interests in social gaming company Playtika and in the ensuing two years they have moved past Zynga to become the industry leader in social gaming. Social games, while free to play in principle, allow users to augment their gaming experience through the purchase of additional functionality, game tokens or tools for small amounts of money. Some indicators show that social gaming is now worth \$1.2 billion worldwide in annual revenues with analysts estimating that the total social gaming market could top \$2 billion by the end of 2013. The fast-paced and significant growth of the social gaming industry has increased exponentially as the result of the games integration with Facebook and the ubiquity of portable/mobile device usage. Our Centre is involved in a number of empirical studies looking at social games and gambling. ♦

# Jamie-Lee Collins

## Wins the 2012 Durand Jacobs Award



The recipient of the 2012 Durand Jacobs Award is Jamie-Lee Collins for her paper entitled “How Stable are Frequency of, Quantity of, and Problems with Alcohol Use in Undergraduates? A 4-Wave, 18-Month Longitudinal Study.” The Durand Jacobs Award recognizes outstanding work related to the psychology of addictive behaviors, and is dedicated to the late Dr. Durand Jacobs’ lifelong efforts to help mentor students.

Ms. Collins is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario in the Scholar’s Electives program with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) with an Honours Specialization in Psychology and a Minor in Criminology. While at the University of Western Ontario, she researched executive cognitive functions in university students who were under the influence of alcohol and compared this to executive cognitive functions in sober violent offenders. She is currently enrolled in the Dalhousie University Clinical Psychology Ph.D.

program under the supervision of Dr. Sherry Stewart. Jamie-Lee is currently investigating the impact of mood and drinking motives on laboratory drinking behaviour. Her research interests are primarily in the domain of drinking motives, alcohol use disorders, and addiction. After completing graduate school, Jamie-Lee hopes to work in an addiction treatment setting, either with a general or forensic population

*Congratulations Jamie-Lee!*

### *Abstract*

Alcohol misuse is a common, destructive, and costly problem in undergraduates. The present study examined the temporal stability of frequency of alcohol consuming occasions, quantity of alcohol consumed per occasion, and alcohol-related problems in undergraduates. A sample of 301 undergraduates (72.40% women; average age of 20.86 years) participated in a 4-wave, 18-month longitudinal study. Questionnaires measuring frequency of, quantity of, and problems with alcohol use were completed online. Analyses indicated trait-like stability with state-like fluctuations in frequency of, quantity of, and problems with alcohol use. Frequency of alcohol use showed more state-like fluctuation over time than the other two alcohol variables. Frequency of, quantity of, and problems with alcohol use may be conceptualized as trait-states wherein undergraduates are both highly consistent in their rank order on these variables and they fluctuate somewhat in the level of these variables they experience at a given point in time. These findings provide novel information on the stability of three important alcohol variables in a population at risk for alcohol use disorders. Future research is needed to clarify factors that lead undergraduates to persist in and deviate from their typical levels of alcohol use. ◆

# The Annual Holiday Campaign Kicks Off

Although we are enjoying the gorgeous days of summer, planning for the annual Holiday Campaign is in full swing. This will mark the sixth year that the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University have partnered with lotteries around the world to share the message that *lottery tickets should not be purchased as holiday gifts for children*.

Research shows that the majority of adolescents gamble at least occasionally, and that lottery products may be a gateway to problem gambling. Youth gambling has been shown to be linked to other risk-taking and addictive behaviors such as smoking, drinking and drug use.

In 2012, a record number of lottery corporations participated in the campaign. The final list of 2012 participating lotteries included:

AB Svenska Spel (Sweden), Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Arizona Lottery, Atlantic Lottery, Austrian Lotteries, British Columbia Lottery Corporation, California Lottery, Camelot (United Kingdom), Colorado Lottery, Connecticut Lottery Corporation, Illinois Lottery, Hoosier (Indiana) Lottery, Hrvatska Lutrija d.o.o. (Croatia), Iowa Lottery, Kentucky

Lottery Corporation, Loto-Québec, Manitoba Lotteries, Maryland Lottery, Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, Minnesota State Lottery, Missouri Lottery, New Mexico Lottery, North Carolina Education Lottery, Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation, Ohio Lottery Commission, Oklahoma Lottery Commission, Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, Oregon Lottery, Rhode Island Lottery, Saskatchewan Lotteries, South Dakota Lottery, State Lottery of Serbia, Texas Lottery Commission, Vermont Lottery Commission, Virginia Lottery, Washington Lottery, and Wisconsin Lottery.

We are continuing to expand our collaborative efforts to promote responsible gambling. As in past years we have produced industry-specific materials including a playcenter insert to help lottery corporations spread the message. The insert is designed to facilitate rapid and easy lottery corporation customization. A space is provided on the insert enabling lotteries to add their corporate logo prior to printing.

For more information about the campaign or to join this initiative, please contact Lynette Gilbeau, Research Coordinator, International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors (McGill University), 514-398-4438 or [lynette.gilbeau@mcgill.ca](mailto:lynette.gilbeau@mcgill.ca). ◆

## Centre Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing

The Centre's ongoing fundraising campaign continues to grow with the support of corporate and private sponsors. Due to restricted government infrastructure funding, we have initiated a fundraising campaign to help us maintain our ability to develop and deploy empirically-based prevention and harm-minimization programs. The Centre is housed on McGill University's main campus in the heart of Montreal, Canada. McGill University is a public university and recognized charitable organization.

Donations can be made to:

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors  
McGill University  
3724 McTavish Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y2

Official letters of contributions and tax receipts will be forwarded

# Recent publications and presentations

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## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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Blanco, C., Blaszczyński, A., Clement, R., Derevensky, J., Goudriaan, A., Hodgins, D., van Holst, R., Ibanez, A., Martins, S., Moersen, C., Molinaro, S., Parke, A., Peren, F., Petry, N. & Wardle, H. (2013). Assessment tool to measure and evaluate the risk potential of gambling products (ASTERIG): A global evaluation. *The Journal of Gambling Business and Economics*, 7, 73-87.

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Lussier, I., Derevensky, J., Gupta, R. & Vitaro, F. (in press). Risk, compensatory, protective, and vulnerability processes influencing youth gambling problems and other high-risk behaviours. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.

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St-Pierre, R., Temcheff, C., Gupta, R., Derevensky, J. & Paskus, T. (in press). Gambling among college student-athletes: Predicting gambling involvement and problems from gambling outcome expectancies. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

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## BOOK CHAPTER

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Temcheff, C., Bowden-Jones, H., & Derevensky, J. (2013). Addictions. *Encyclopedia of quality of life research*. NY: Springer Publishing.

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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St-Pierre, R., Temcheff, C., Gupta, R., Derevensky, J. & Paskus, T. (2013). Predicting gambling problems and addiction from gambling outcome expectancies among college students. Poster presented at the Canadian Psychological Association annual conference, June, Quebec City.

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St-Pierre, R., Longpre-Langlois, C., Bessette-Bergeron, J-F, Martin, I., Gupta, R., Derevensky, J. & Temcheff, C. (2013). Beliefs and attitudes of psychologists with respect to gambling and other high-risk behaviours among youth in schools: A Pan-Canadian study. Poster presented at the Canadian Psychological Association annual conference, June, Quebec City.

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Derevensky, J. & Gupta, R. (2013). Parents' perspectives on youth gambling as a risky behavior. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Derevensky, J., Gupta, R. & Temcheff, C. (2013). Perspectives on adolescent risky behaviors: Implications for prevention. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Gupta, R., Derevensky, J., Temcheff, C. & St-Pierre, R. (2013). Teachers' perspectives on youth gambling as a risky behavior. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Temcheff, C., Derevensky, J., Gupta, R. & St-Pierre, R. (2013). Mental health professionals' perspectives on youth gambling as a risky behavior. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Paskus, T., Derevensky, J. & Temcheff, C. (2013). Gambling behaviors amongst college student athletes: The results from the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association study. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Gupta, R., Derevensky, J. & Wohl, M. (2013). A qualitative examination of online gambling culture among college students: Preliminary evidence and future directions toward identifying factors influencing participation, maintenance and cessation. Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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Gainsbury, S. & Derevensky, J. (2013). What do we currently know about the impact of social media gambling games upon current and future gambling among young people? Paper presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

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St-Pierre, R., Derevensky, J., Temcheff, C. & Gupta, R. (2013). Application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour within school-based prevention programs for adolescent gambling. Poster presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May. 2nd Prize Winner for Best Poster.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Derevensky, J. (2013). Social gaming and mobile gambling as our future? APPsolutely. Invited presentation at the Canadian Gaming Summit, Montreal, June.

Derevensky, J. (2013). Social gaming: A mock trail on a cutting edge issue. Are youth more vulnerable? Invited participant to present evidence at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking, Las Vegas, May.

Derevensky, J. (2013). Parents' perceptions and attitudes toward youth gambling: The need for greater awareness. Invited keynote address at the Victorian Responsible Gambling Awareness Week Conference, Melbourne, Australia, May.

Derevensky, J. (2013). Youth gambling: Another risky behavior? Invited talk presented to the Center for Gambling Research and the Georgia Decision Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, April.

Derevensky, J. (2013). The impact of social media gambling sites on youth: Should we be concerned? Invited address presented at the Discovery 2013 conference on problem gambling. Responsible Gambling Council (Ontario), Toronto, April.

Derevensky, J. (2013). Internet gambling among adolescents: Fun or cause for concern? Invited presentation to the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) meeting on Internet wagering, Toronto, April. ♦

# News from the Centre...

## Spring 2013 Very Busy for Centre Staff

The Spring of 2013 was an extremely busy period for Centre staff. In April, Dr. Derevensky delivered presentations at the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR) meeting on Internet wagering and at the Discovery 2013 conference both held in Toronto, Ontario. He was also invited to speak at the Center for Gambling Research and the Georgia Decision Lab at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. May continued to be extremely active with Dr. Derevensky travelling to Melbourne Australia for the Victoria Responsible Gambling Awareness Week conference. While in Melbourne, Dr. Derevensky delivered several presentations, met with policy makers and provided numerous media interviews. Later in the month of May, Drs. Gupta and Derevesnky participated in seven presentations at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking in Las Vegas, Nevada. At this conference, the Application of the Theory of Planned Behaviour Within School-

Based Prevention Programs for Adolescent Gambling poster by Renee St-Pierre, Dr. Derevensky, Dr. Caroline Temcheff and Dr. Gupta was the 2nd Prize Winner for Best Poster. In June, Renee St-Pierre travelled to Quebec City to present posters at the Canadian Psychological Association annual conference.

## Prevention Workshops Go on the Road

In May, our Centre again partnered with the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) taking the "Amazing Prevention Adventure" into 4 schools and providing workshops for children in Grade 6. The Amazing Prevention Adventure was an initiative of multiple partners including the LBPSB, Portage Adolescent Residential Rehabilitation Center (substance abuse rehabilitation center), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Montreal Urban Police (SPVM), Foster's Pavilion (substance abuse rehabilitation program), and the International Centre for Youth Gambling. In the May version of the

## News from the Centre...

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Amazing Prevention Adventure, the content was abridged and our Centre animator joined representatives from the LBPSB in the participating schools. During our portion of the presentations, we animated our gambling Jeopardy-style game with the children. In total, roughly 200 children participated in the hour long sessions. Student, teacher and school board feedback was all extremely positive.

### Upcoming Invited Presentations

In September, Dr. Derevensky will be the keynote speaker at the New York Council on Problem Gambling annual conference in Albany, New York. His keynote address is titled: Perspectives on adolescent risky behaviors: Is adolescent gambling perceived to be an important issue? Additionally, he will also deliver another presentation: "Internet gambling and the impact of social media gambling upon current and future gambling among young people: Should we really be worried?" at the same event.

### Carleton University Collaboration

The collaborative research project between our Centre and Dr. Michael Wohl's Gambling Lab at Carleton University in Ottawa regarding the convergence of social media gambling simulated play-for-fun sites and Internet gambling is continuing into its next phase. Initial findings from the first phase of qualitative studies were presented at the 15th International Conference on Gambling and Risk-Taking in Las Vegas, Nevada in May. The Carleton-McGill collaboration is pursuing the above findings with empirical methods as a next step to developing a greater understanding of the potential risks for online gambling initiation that are inherent to the social media world. ♦

## NCPG Names Award after Pioneer

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In memory of the late Dr. Durand Jacobs, the NCPG has named an award in his name. The *Dr. Durand Jacobs Dissertation Award* will now be presented for the outstanding graduate student doctoral dissertation in the area of problem gambling. The award will be presented annually to a student who has successfully completed a Doctoral Dissertation that merits special recognition. The recipient will have completed a research study that has the potential to contribute to the scientific knowledge and clinical understanding of problem and pathological gambling behavior. The NCPG awards committee will review potential applications in the coming year.

## Upcoming Events

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- **New York Council Annual Problem Gambling Conference**  
September 17-18, 2013  
Albany, New York
- **NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction**  
September 22-24, 2013  
Las Vegas, Nevada
- **NCPG Conference**  
July 11-12, 2014  
Orlando, Florida

## YGI Newsletter

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