



The Massachusetts Council on
GAMING AND HEALTH



Using Research to Rewrite the Playbook: Examining the Social Impacts of Sports Betting and the Changing Gambling Landscape

PRESENTER BIOS

Dr. Sasha Stark, GREO is Director of Research and Evidence Services at Greo Evidence Insights, an independent knowledge translation and exchange organization working across the health and wellbeing sectors. Sasha is an internationally known gambling researcher, having worked in the field for over 15 years. She has published numerous academic articles and reports, and has presented extensively internationally, including providing evidence to regulators and governments. In her current role, she oversees development of Greo's knowledge synthesis products, leads research activities, and works with stakeholders globally.

Dr. Rachel Volberg has been involved in research on gambling and problem gambling since 1985. She has directed or consulted on numerous gambling studies around the world, published extensively, and advised governments and private sector organizations on issues relating to gambling legalization, the epidemiology of problem gambling and public policy approaches to developing and refining services for problem gamblers and their families. Dr. Volberg is currently the Principal

Investigator on two major studies funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission: the Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) study and the Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort (MAGIC) study.

Dr. Marc Potenza is a board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training in addiction psychiatry. He has trained at Yale University receiving a combined BS/MS with Honors in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics and a PhD in Cell Biology, the latter concurrent with the MD through the Medical Scientist Training Program. He completed internship, psychiatric residency and addiction psychiatry fellowship training at Yale. Currently, he is a Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neuroscience at the Yale University School of Medicine where he is the Director of the Division on Addictions Research, the Problem Gambling Clinic, the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, the Women and Addictive Disorders Core of Women's Health Research at Yale and the Yale Research Program on Impulsivity and Impulse Control Disorders.

Dr. Michael Wohl (Ph.D. Univ. of Alberta, 2003) is a Professor of Psychology at Carleton University. Work in his Carleton University Gambling Laboratory (CUGL) focuses on, among other things, factors that predict disordered gambling (e.g., erroneous beliefs, financial focus), facilitators of responsible gambling (e.g., monetary limit setting and adherence), and means to overcome barriers to behaviour change (e.g., nostalgia for life lived before the addiction behavior hold). Members of CUGL also examine the potential pitfalls and possible harm-minimization utility of rewards program membership. Dr. Wohl has published over 190 peer-reviewed papers.

Dr. Richard Wood is the president of www.gamres.org and for the last 25 years has been developing and evaluating responsible gambling initiatives, such as www.gamgard.com for considering responsible game design and www.gamtalk.org a free online support service for people with gambling related issues. More recently Dr Wood developed the concept of Positive Play and led the development of the Positive Play Scale (PPS) the first ever instrument to measure and optimize responsible gambling strategy. Dr Wood is based in Ontario Canada, but works with gaming companies, regulators and other gambling stakeholders world-wide.

Long Banh received his master's in social work from Simmons College and his master's in business administrations from Fitchburg State University and is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) with clinical experience in community-based and acute settings with addiction, HIV/AIDS issues, and mental health. As a Program Manager with the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, he works collaboratively with casino operators and other stakeholders on

a range of casino and community-based initiatives to build a sustainable and socially responsible industry in the state.

Jeremy Wampler is the Clinical Manager for the State of Connecticut, DMHAS, Problem Gambling Services. In this capacity he oversees problem gambling services for the state which include treatment, integration, prevention, and recovery. Jeremy is also a trainer, facilitating training for key stakeholders throughout the state, in order to build capacity and raise awareness. He currently serves as President of the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board, and as Vice President on the Association of Problem Gambling Services Administrators board. Jeremy earned his MSW from Southern Connecticut State University, and he has been practicing in the field of problem gambling for over a decade.

Stephen Matos is a person in long-term recovery of over 37 years from gambling, alcohol and as a person affected by problem gambling. Stephen began working for The Connection's Bettor Choice Gambling Treatment Program and is currently with MCCA's Bettor Choice Program as a Peer Counselor and Recovery Support Specialist for over 6 years. Stephen facilitates recovery groups, family support groups along with seeing clients individually focusing on supporting those with gambling disorders and their family members along the road of recovery. Stephen works closely with the DMHAS Problem Gambling Services, Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and the RBAHO's in the facilitation of training, prevention, awareness. He is certified as a Recovery Support Specialist and has completed CCAR's Recovery Coach Academy. Stephen is an Internationally

Certified Gambling Counselor (ICGC-II). Stephen has also worked the 24-hour problem helpline with CCPG.

Matt Smith is Head of External Affairs for UK charity Betknowmore and has lived experience of gambling with over 9 years in continuous recovery. Matt is part of the senior management team at Betknowmore building relationships with stakeholders across the space and working on their communications and policy strategy. His working background was in the media industry where he spent over a decade working in management for UK radio station talkSPORT heading up major live sports events.

Andrew Purslow, Senior Peer Aid Coordinator, Betknowmore (UK) has his own lived experience of gambling harm. He first joined Betknowmore as a service user in 2020, before becoming a volunteer for the organization and subsequently starting his current role in 2022. In addition to his work at Betknowmore, he is also currently a member of the Recovery Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Council on Gaming and Health.

Kaitlin Brown is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor (LADC), Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor (ICGC II), holds an International Gaming Disorder Certificate (IGDC) and is a Board Approved Clinical Consultant (BACC) with the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board providing supervision to those seeking certification for Gambling & Gaming Disorders. Kaitlin is currently the Senior Director of Programs & Services for the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling. Kaitlin is currently a part of the Executive Team

for the NCPG Prevention Committee and Co-Chair for both the Prevention and Helpline Committees. In 2021, Kaitlin was honored with the NCPG Jim Wuelfing Prevention Award for her work in helping advance the field of problem gambling prevention.

Theresa Turcotte Glenn, MPH studied psychology at Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar. After receiving an MPH from the Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences she worked as a Health Educator for the City of Springfield Department of Health and Human Services. In her current position as Problem Gambling Coordinator for the Springfield Department of Health and Human Services, she oversees several projects funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Community Mitigation Fund including the Young Adult Gambling Project and the Springfield Safe Ride Home Project. Both projects seek to address problem gambling in Springfield, MA where she has been a resident of nearly 30 years.

Dr. Zu Wei Zhai, PhD, is an assistant professor of Neuroscience at Middlebury College. He joined the Middlebury faculty in 2017 after completing his NIDA T32 post-doctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. At Middlebury, the Zhai lab focuses on the relationships between childhood adversity, neurocognitive development of self-regulation abilities, and the risk for substance and behavioral addictions.

Dr. Eunice Avilés has a doctorate in Clinical Psychology, is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Gender Specialist, a certified Sex Educator, and an AASECT Certified Sex Therapist.

Dr. Avilés' general practice focuses on the treatment of depression, anxiety, trauma, problem gambling, and the emotional consequences of discrimination and bullying (for youths and adults). Her private practice with the transgender and gender non-binary community includes the evaluation and treatment of children, youth and adults presenting with gender dysphoria. She specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of sexual dysfunction as well as sexual orientation issues. She is innovative and her focus is on ensuring that clinical services, as well as professional training for her areas of expertise, are provided in-person and online.

Marlene Warner - As MACGH's Chief Executive Officer, Marlene D. Warner ensures MACGH is a thriving organization with global impact balancing public health priorities with a data-driven, people-first model, are growing our education, treatment, and advocacy strategies, and that diversity, equity, and inclusion centers in all we do. Marlene is recognized widely as a passionate, eminent expert in gambling and gaming. During her over two decades at MACGH, she has secured critical consumer protections, launched first-of-its-kind Voluntary Self-Exclusion programs, and spearheaded innovative programming amidst increasing digitalization. Her advocacy and leadership have garnered numerous awards, including the Monsignor Joseph Dunne Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG). She is also Principal with Spectrum Safer Gaming Advisors. Marlene holds a B.A. from Gettysburg College, an M.A. from The George Washington University, and a CSR certificate from Duke University. She is a former NCPG Board President and serves on NCPG's Advisory Board.

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming. Since 2013 Mark Vander Linden has served as Director of Research and Responsible Gaming for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. In this role, he manages an extensive research agenda to advance an understanding of responsible gaming, gambling disorders, and the social, economic and public safety impacts of gambling in Massachusetts. Prior to joining the MGC, Mark was the Executive Officer of the Office of Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention with the Iowa Department of Public Health where he oversaw problem gambling treatment prevention, treatment, recovery services, and workforce development. Mark serves on the Board of Directors of the International Center for Responsible Gaming. He received his master's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Mark has clinical experience in community-based settings with addiction, HIV/AIDS issues, and children and family mental health.

Dr. Michael Wohl (Ph.D. Univ. of Alberta, 2003) is a Professor of Psychology at Carleton University. Work in his Carleton University Gambling Laboratory (CUGL) focuses on, among other things, factors that predict disordered gambling (e.g., erroneous beliefs, financial focus), facilitators of responsible gambling (e.g., monetary limit setting and adherence), and means to overcome barriers to behavior change (e.g., nostalgia for life lived before the addiction behavior hold). Members of CUGL also examine the potential pitfalls and possible harm-minimization utility of rewards program membership. Dr. Wohl has published over 190 peer-reviewed papers.
