

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF GAMBLING DISORDERS

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### KEY FACTS

- The field of research on gambling disorders is relatively young compared with research investigating other mental health disorders. Many of the the achievements in the field of research on gambling disorders to date have been made by research supported by the NCRG and are detailed below.
  - The first reliable statistics of how many people have a gambling disorder <sup>1</sup>
  - Promising treatments for gambling disorders <sup>2</sup>
  - More evidence for the role of genetics in the development of gambling disorders behavior <sup>3</sup>
  - A greater understanding of youth gambling <sup>4</sup>
  - Improved instruments for measuring, screening and diagnosing gambling disorders <sup>5,6</sup>
  - The first national survey of gambling on college campuses <sup>7</sup>
  - A more sophisticated understanding of the brain's reward system <sup>8</sup>
  - A new understanding of addiction as a syndrome <sup>9</sup>
  - A better understanding of the health risks of casino employees <sup>10</sup>
  - A model for evaluating treatment programs <sup>11</sup>
  - A framework for understanding gambling as a public health issue <sup>12</sup>
  - Evidence that laboratory animals can be used to study gambling and gambling problems <sup>13</sup>

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