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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Local Researcher Awarded One of First 2009 Stimulus Plan Grants to Improve the Efficiency of Substance Abuse Assessment**

Bloomington, IL -- Chestnut Health Systems announced today that one of its researchers, Dr. Barth Riley, received one of the first stimulus-funded research grants. Riley's work will aim to improve the efficiency of clinical assessment for substance abuse treatment. The grant is funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) with funds from the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/recovery/>).

One of the key components of the 2009 Stimulus Plan is to fund more research to make health care more effective and efficient. Dr. Riley's research team will use computer technology to reduce the time needed to conduct clinical assessments of substance abusers while obtaining information necessary for diagnosis and treatment planning. Since multiple problems are common among people presenting to treatment, it is important that a comprehensive assessment is performed. It is also important, however, that the assessment be efficient.

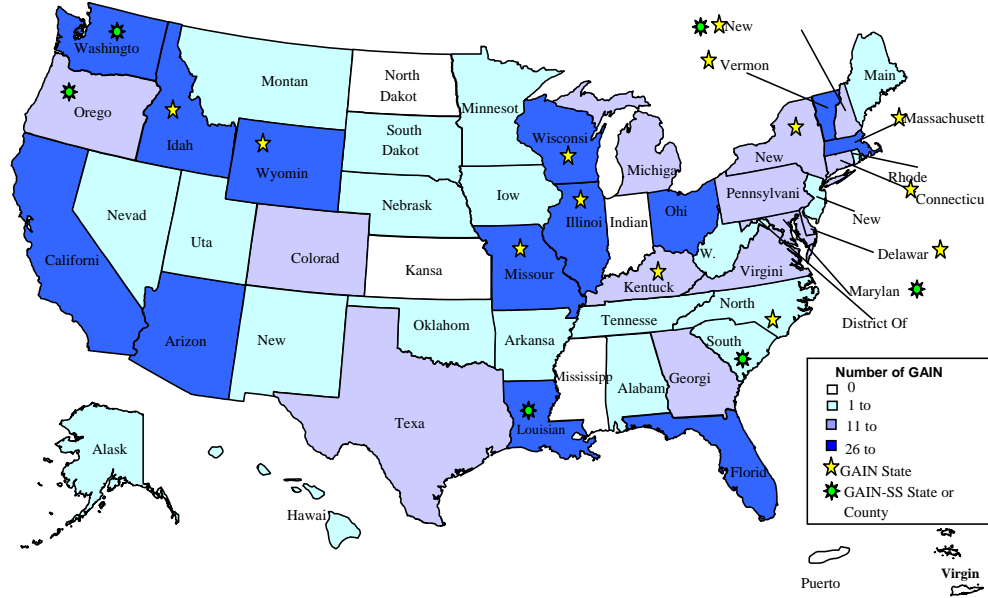
"The median total number of counselling hours a client receives is only 4-6 total hours," Dr. Riley explained. "It is easy to see that an initial assessment lasting 1-2 hours is disproportionate. Computerized assessment can potentially cut this time by 50 percent or more."

The aim of Riley's research study is to develop better methods of administering clinical assessments to alleviate the burden to both clients and staff. This work will study one of the most comprehensive assessment tools available, the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN).

"The GAIN is in use by over 800 agencies in 46 states around the U.S. using a common software program", said Dr. Riley, "so what we are able to learn through this grant can be put into practice quickly"

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**Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN).** The GAIN is a standardized assessment tool with its own training program and data and analytic coordinator center. The GAIN is designed to help improve the link between assessment, evidenced based practices, and better outcomes. It was developed by researchers and clinicians at Chestnut Health Systems in collaboration with hundreds of other providers, researchers, and policy makers with funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Below is a map showing the locations of the agencies using the GAIN. For more information, contact Matt Orndorff at [norndorff@chestnut.org](mailto:norndorff@chestnut.org) or 309-451-7833.



**Chestnut Health Systems.** Chestnut Health Systems is a private non-profit organization that provides substance abuse, mental health, employee, school and community-based behavioral health prevention and treatment programs. It also operates one of the largest applied research and training programs focused on addiction treatment in the U.S. For more information about Chestnut Health Systems, contact Alan Sender (voice: (309) 820-3579; email: [asender@chestnut.org](mailto:asender@chestnut.org)).

**National Institute on Drug Abuse.** The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at [www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov). For more information, contact Stephanie Older at [olders@nida.nih.gov](mailto:olders@nida.nih.gov) or (301) 594-6145.