EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER SYMPTOMS, POSITIVE SMOKING OUTCOME EXPECTANCIES, AND CIGARETTE SMOKING IN PEOPLE WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS: A MULTIPLE MEDIATOR MODEL (48 pp.)

Direction of Dissertation: Douglas L. Delahanty

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is highly comorbid with cigarette smoking and substance use disorders (SUDs) and may serve as a smoking cessation barrier in people with SUDs. Positive smoking outcome expectancies (i.e., beliefs that cigarette smoking will result in positive outcomes) are associated with PTSD, and may represent intervening variables that can be targeted in smoking cessation treatments in people with SUDs experiencing PTSD symptoms. Despite these relationships, no research to date has considered (a) whether PTSD symptoms are related to cigarette smoking in people with an SUD and (b) whether positive smoking outcome expectancies may serve as mechanisms for this relationship. The present study will address these limitations by examining the relationship between PTSD symptoms and typical daily cigarette smoking/cigarette dependence symptoms in a sample of people with SUDs seeking detoxification treatment services. In addition, the mediating effects of a number of different types of positive smoking outcome expectancies on these relationships will be tested to determine the contributions of different types of positive smoking outcome expectancies in explaining the relationship between PTSD symptoms and cigarette consumption/cigarette dependence symptoms. These aims will be tested using an
existing cross-sectional data set containing data from 227 trauma exposed, current smokers with SUDs (59.9% male, 89.4% Caucasian) self-identifying as current smokers who completed questionnaires asking about PTSD symptoms, typical daily cigarette consumption, positive smoking outcome expectancies, and cigarette dependence symptoms.