

**The Development of a Prevention Intervention for Low-Risk Drug Court Clients (1 R21-DA-022293-01)**  
**Principal Investigator: David DeMatteo, JD, PhD**

The purpose of this Stage Ia/Ib behavioral therapy development project is to develop a secondary prevention intervention for adult drug court clients who do not have an identifiable substance use disorder. The drug court model assumes that drug offenders are addicts, and drug court clients must therefore satisfy an intensive regimen of treatment and supervisory obligations. However, recent research suggests that roughly one-third of drug court clients do not have a diagnosable or clinically significant substance use disorder. As such, these clients may be best suited for a prevention intervention designed to interrupt the acquisition of addictive behavior. Unfortunately, most prevention research for drug use has focused on children or adolescents, and we have been unable to locate any study of a prevention strategy designed for adult drug users who are not embedded in an educational institution. This project has the following specific aims:

- Finalize the content of the prevention intervention with the assistance of a multi-disciplinary expert panel
- Manualize the prevention intervention and develop therapist-fidelity and client-adherence measures
- Estimate an effect size for the prevention intervention by conducting a randomized pilot study comparing the intervention to standard treatment, which will enable us determine whether future Stage II research is warranted.