

Competing interests

Richard Saitz is and has been the principal investigator of grants awarded to Boston Medical Center and Boston University from the National Institutes of Health (including NIAAA and NIDA, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) to study the management of unhealthy substance use, including to test the accuracy of screening and the efficacy of screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment and the effectiveness of integrated care.

He has been paid to speak or had travel reimbursed to speak or to consult for/at numerous professional and scientific organizations, all non-profit organizations for over a decade, such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), RAND, the Research Society on Alcoholism, the BMJ, the American Medical Association, the Institute for Research and Training in the Addictions, the National Council on Behavioral Healthcare, the International Conference on Treatment of Addictive Behaviors, and the International Network on Brief Intervention for Alcohol and other drugs (INEBRIA), and numerous universities and hospitals.

He is an author and editor for Springer, UpToDate, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, JAMA, the BMJ and the Massachusetts Medical Society (royalties and/or honoraria).

Wolters Kluwer has supported conference travel to an editors meeting. Systembolaget, a Swedish government agency that aims to minimize alcohol-related problems, supported transportation and lodging for a presentation on brief intervention at an INEBRIA thematic meeting in 2016. Alkermes provided medication for an NIH-funded trial of alcohol disorder treatment effectiveness.

He has been paid to serve as an expert witness in malpractice cases related to the management of alcohol and other drug disorders.

In 2009, he consulted for Inflexxion and Medical Directions, in 2008 and 2004 for Saatchi and Saatchi healthcare, in 2006 for Fusion Medical Education, in 2004 for the Lewin Group, in 2002 for Axis-Shield ASA and Forest Pharmaceuticals.

He has also consulted regarding research for Yale University, Brandeis University, Group Health, Beth Israel-Deaconess Hospital and other universities.

He spoke at a National Press Foundation event on the terminology of addiction and received no compensation, but the meeting was funded by ASAM, Open Society Foundations, Pew Charitable Trusts, Shatterproof, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation and the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network. He is employed by Boston University School of Public Health.