

# IX INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ON ALCOHOLISM (LASBRA) NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup> AND 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2019.

#### "DETERMINANTS OF ALCOHOLISM: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND BASIC RESEARCH"

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alterations that persisted in the offspring and omega 3 mitigates those effects but not omega 6. These data are relevant considering that omega-3 treatment may have therapeutic effects through mitigating some of ethanol's damaging consequences.

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## PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES AND ALCOHOL USE IN ARGENTINEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ACADEMIC SEASON AND THE SUMMER BREAK.

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Introduction: Protective behavioral strategies (PBS) reduce or minimize the negative consequences of alcohol drinking. PBS hold promise as intervention targets to reduce alcohol use and its negative consequences and, therefore, there has been an increasing interest in assessing determinants of this variable. It has been reported that women use more PBS than men and that certain contexts/seasons (e.g., Spring break vs. the regular academic season) are associated with greater use of PBS. The great majority research assessing these effects, however, comes from U.S., and very little is known about PBS determinants in South America. Aim: This work examined seasonal variations in the use of protective behavioral strategies (PBS) and alcohol outcomes in two distinct times of the academic calendar: 1-the spring academic semester and 2-summer break. We examined -both within each time and prospectively- the relationship between the use of PBS and alcohol outcomes. Method: A sample of 223 college students reported -via two online surveys -- use of PBS, alcohol use and alcohol-related negative consequences. Results. The use of PBS (notably, the dimension "manner of drinking") was negatively associated with alcohol outcomes, particularly in women and during spring. The frequency of use (in women only) and the weekly volume of alcohol ingested were greater during the summer. Women, but not men, reported greater use of PBS and fewer negative consequences during the summer break than at the academic season. Conclusions. The use of certain PBS may be associated, particularly in women, with lower alcohol consumption and alcohol-related negative consequences.

#### ELSA COHORT 2014: HEAVY EPISODIC DRINKING TRAJECTORIES AMONG ARGENTINEAN COLLEGE STUDENTS

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**Introduction:** Heavy episodic drinking (i.e., the ingestion 4/5 standard alcohol drinks in one drinking session for women and men, respectively) is prevalent in college students. In Argentina, there is a need to progress from cross-sectional to longitudinal studies to better understand changes in alcohol use during the college

years. Trajectory studies generate a progression of behavior and, by accumulating data over time, allow to identify groups that exhibit different patterns of alcohol use across time. Aim: to identify heavy episodic drinking trajectories in Argentinean college students during the first three years of college. **Methodology:** Sample: participants were 1749 college students (62.6% women) between 18 and 25 years old ( $M = 19.1 \pm$ 1.7) who completed at least two of the 7 data collections carried out over three years. *Measures*: participants reported frequency of engaging in heavy episodic drinking (from less than monthly to three times a week or more) and the prevalence of several alcohol use indicators: usual quantity, usual frequency and alcoholrelated negative consequences. Data analysis: Latent Class Growth Analysis (LCGA) was used to identify the pattern and number of heavy episodic drinking trajectories that best fit the data. Results: we identified five trajectories of heavy episodic drinking frequency: Heavy Stable Frequency, Moderate Frequency, Low Frequency, Infrequent and Descendent Frequency. Two of these five trajectories were relatively stable and three trajectories showed a decreasing slope over time. These trajectories were significant different in several alcohol use indicators. Conclusions: These trajectories partially coincide with those identified in studies from other cultures. In coincidence with previous studies, we identified the high and stable frequency trajectory, the low/near zero frequency trajectory, two moderate frequency trajectories and a descending frequency trajectory. Unlike previous studies, we did not find a trajectory with increasing/ascending heavy episodic drinking frequency. The latter may be related to contextual/cultural variables like differences in the age when the peak in alcohol consumption is reached, the legal minimum age to buy alcoholic beverages, and the idiosyncratic elements that characterize college life in Argentina.

### INTAKE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS ALCOHOL, AND CONSUMPTION CONTEXTS AMONG SCHOOLED ADOLESCENTS FROM CÓRDOBA AND SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO

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The aim of this study is to analyze the amount of alcoholic beverages consumed weekly by adolescents of both sexes, schooled, residing in Cordoba and Santiago del Estero, according to expectations towards alcohol (EA) and consumption contexts (CC), in order to determine differences and associations. The sample was of n = 259 subjects (58.30% female, 41.70% male) aged 13 to 18 years (mean = 16.24,  $\pm$ sd 1.32), of which 65.64% were living in Córdoba and 34.36% in Santiago del Estero. The data collection was carried out via online. The following instruments were administered: a socio-demograpihe data questionnaire (created *ad hoc*); the Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire for Adolescents (CEA-A); and the Drinking Contexts Questionnaire – Adolescent form (CCCA-A). Rstudio was used for data analyses. Non-parametric statistics were applied to analyze differences (Wilcoxon test: W) and associations (Spearman correlation coefficient: rho). Type I error was set at  $\leq$  0.05. No significant differences (p-value < 0.05) were found between the scores obtained by the Cordoba and Santiago del Estero participants in positives EA (which include the factors: sociability, relaxation, and sexuality), in negatives EA (which include the factors: deterioration, risk and aggressiveness, and negative states), and in almost all the CC factors (social facilitation, peer group acceptance, and parental