

Paula D. Riggs, M.D.

Dr. Riggs is Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD) and UCD's Health Sciences Center. For the past decade, she has been Director of Psychiatric Services for Adolescents at the UCD-affiliated Addiction Research and Treatment Services' adolescent treatment programs. Dr. Riggs' research career has focused on the development and testing of effective pharmacotherapy and behavioral treatment interventions in adolescents with substance use disorders and psychiatric comorbidity. More recently, her research has expanded to include multisite effectiveness trials and dissemination research of evidence-based treatments in comorbid adolescents. Dr. Riggs has been principal investigator on a number of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded research grants, including a recently completed 5-year randomized controlled trial of fluoxetine vs. placebo plus cognitive behavioral therapy in depressed, substance-dependent adolescents. She is also currently Principal Investigator of a multisite trial in NIDA's Clinical Trials Network—"A Randomized Controlled Trial of OROS-MPH for ADHD in Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders." Dr. Riggs is the author of numerous publications, including educational articles and monographs in the field of adolescent substance abuse treatment research. In addition to her clinical research, Dr. Riggs also plays an active role in the mentoring, teaching, and training of medical students, psychiatric residents, and junior faculty members. She is currently Principal Investigator of a NIDA K-12 Physician Scientist Career Development Award to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, whose purpose is to provide training in mentorship for five child psychiatrists to establish careers as independent investigators in the area of adolescent addiction research.