

# Etiology of Tobacco Use and Dependence

## TERN: The RWJF Research Network on the Etiology of Tobacco Dependence

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This presentation will use a description of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's transdisciplinary research network, TERN, as the vehicle by which some of the salient issues in the etiology of tobacco use and the emergence of dependence will be discussed. The emphasis will be on the importance of examining trajectories rather than more static measures of involvement, the value of examining variables proximal to the behavior of smoking, the potential importance of early episodes of use, ways to link animal and human studies of similar phenomena, and the essential elements of a conceptual framework that is transdisciplinary in perspective.