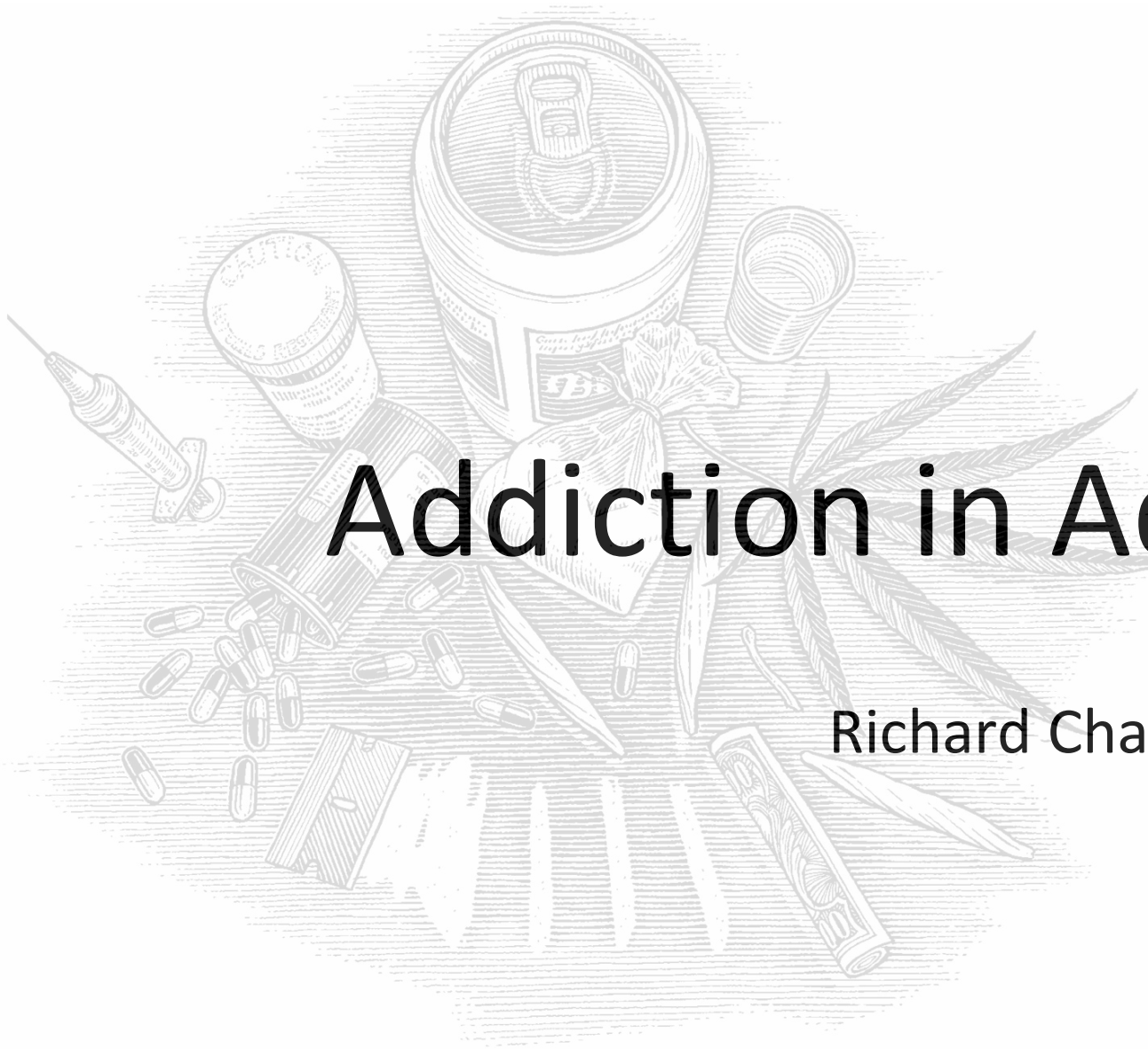


# Addiction in Adults with IDD

Richard Chapman, PhD

# Purpose of the Paper

1. Summarize what has been reported on addictions and persons with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (IDD)

2. Define addiction

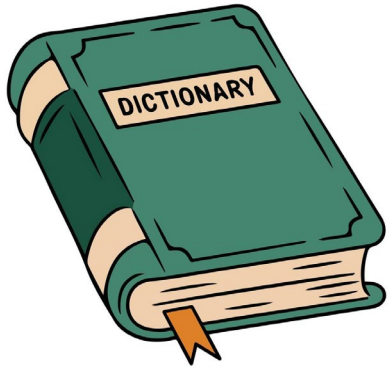
3. Explore how to prevent addiction

4. Share how to test and treat persons with IDD and an addiction

# Sections of the Paper

1. Define addiction
2. Risk factors for addiction
3. Medical model (i.e., DSM definitions for diagnosis)
4. Overview of addiction for persons with intellectual disabilities (i.e., substance and behavior addictions)
5. Treatment approaches
6. Conclusion

# Example: Defining Addiction

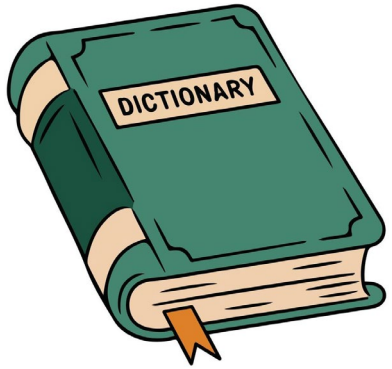


**The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM, 2019):**

"Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences.

People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences."

# Example: Defining Addiction



**Clear language definition:**

Addiction is a long-term health condition that can be treated.

It happens because of a mix of things, including how the brain works, a person's genes, their environment, and their life experiences.

A person with addiction may keep using a substance or doing a behavior over and over, even when it is causing harm or creating problems in their life.

# Small Group Discussion Questions

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