2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award
Patrick G. O’Connor, MD ’82

Dr. O’Connor is the chief of the Section of General Medicine and professor of Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine. He did his residency in internal medicine at The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, where he was chief resident and completed his fellowship at The Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at Yale University.

His academic and research focuses on the identification and treatment of substance use disorders in medical patients. He has received funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to examine the role of primary care physicians in the management of patients with substance abuse disorders.

In addition to publishing the first trial of the use of buprenorphine in primary care patients with opioid dependence, Dr. O’Connor’s work has also included several studies of new treatment strategies for both opioid dependence and alcohol dependence in primary care which has been published in leading medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. O’Connor is recognized for building a program in substance abuse research in the Yale Department of Medicine and has collaborated extensively with faculty in the Yale School of Public Health and in the Departments of Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine as well as with faculty at other institutions.

He is active in medical education on substance abuse both nationally and internationally. Dr. O’Connor is the past president of the Association for Medical Education and Research on Substance Abuse (AMERSA) and currently serves as president of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM).