Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigs) are battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and other chemicals. They turn chemicals, including highly addictive nicotine, into an aerosol that is inhaled by the user. Most e-cigs are manufactured to look like conventional cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Some resemble everyday items such as pens and USB memory sticks.

Health Impact
"Vaping," or the use of e-cigarettes, involves individuals inhaling a vapor that contains nicotine. E-cigarettes are also known as tanks, vape pens, vaporizers, and e-pipes. According to the WHO 2014 E-Cigs Report, in 2014 there were 466 brands of e-cigs. In 2013, consumers spent $3 billion on e-cigs globally. Sales are forecasted to increase by a factor of 17 by 2030. Poison centers are reporting an increase in calls about exposures to e-cigarette devices and liquid nicotine. In 2014, there were 3,783 exposures, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It is unclear at this point if e-cigs are an effective way to quit smoking. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Marquette University recently collaborated to test popular e-cig juices: Lab Tests of E-cigs Reveal Harmful Chemicals. Research continues.

E-cigarette use among U.S. adults: 2014 data brief

Use by Children and Adolescents
A study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found youth who vaped e-cigs were nearly 4 times more likely to smoke. Current e-cigarette use among middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Findings from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey show that current e-cigarette use (use on at least 1 day in the past 30 days) among high school students increased from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent in 2014, rising from approximately 660,000 to 2 million students. Among middle school students, current e-cigarette use more than tripled from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014—an increase from approximately 120,000 to 450,000 students.

UW-CTRI Research
UW-CTRI conducted a study on the dual use of e-cigs and combustible cigarettes, sponsored by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Researchers are analyzing results. UW-CTRI also received a $3.7 million grant to further study e-cigs, set to begin in 2015.