



IN MEMORIAM



2014



Nancy K. Mello, PhD, (1935 -2013). Dr. Mello, who served as the Director of McLean's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research Center (ADARC) and Professor of psychology (neuroscience) at Harvard Medical School, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 25. She was 78. A dedicated and well-respected researcher and mentor, Dr. Mello along with her husband, Jack H. Mendelson, MD, founded the ADARC at McLean Hospital nearly 40 years ago.

Dr. Mello had a prolific publication record, authoring more than 400 original peer-reviewed articles in numerous biomedical journals, including *Science*, *Nature*, *the New England Journal of Medicine*, *the American Journal of Psychiatry*, *Biological Psychiatry* and *the Journal of the American Medical Association*. Along with Dr. Mendelson, Dr. Mello was the first to study the biological, behavioral and social dynamics of alcohol self-administration and withdrawal in people suffering from alcoholism.

Dr. Mello's interest in substance abuse went beyond alcohol as she conducted research on marijuana and opiates. In 1980, she and Dr. Mendelson published a landmark study in the journal *Science* indicating the potential use of buprenorphine for opioid dependence. The study became the foundation for work that, 20 years later, resulted in new and more effective methods to treat patients addicted to opioids.

Dr. Mello earned both her bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Pennsylvania State University. After receiving a PhD in Clinical Psychology, she was a postdoctoral trainee in physiology at Harvard Medical School and in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior Laboratory with Dr. B.F. Skinner at Harvard University. Dr. Mello then joined the Stanley Cobb Laboratories for Psychiatric Research at Massachusetts General Hospital and built her first operant behavior laboratory. Subsequently, Dr. Mello entered federal service and directed the first Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Mental Health's National Center for Prevention and Control of Alcoholism. She was also a Research Consultant to the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention of the Executive Office of the President.

In 1974, McLean Hospital recruited Dr. Mello and Dr. Mendelson to spearhead its alcohol and drug abuse research program—a program that flourished under their tremendous leadership, characterized by knowledge, hard work and scientific savvy. In its four decades, the ADARC's multidisciplinary research programs have expanded exponentially. The center now includes four laboratory divisions, which, since their founding, have been continuously funded by competitively obtained, peer-reviewed, federal grants and contracts.

A widely recognized authority and contributor to the science of addiction, Dr. Mello's guidance was often sought by others. She was a consultant to the President of the United States Jimmy Carter's Biomedical Research Panel, on the nominating committee for the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for 15 years, and served as chair of the National Institute of Drug Abuse Board of Scientific Counselors. Dr. Mello served on 12 editorial boards and was the editor of *Advances in Substance Abuse* since 1980 and editor of *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* since 2005. She was the recipient of CPDD's Marian W. Fischman Memorial Award in 2004, and a co-recipient, along with Jack Mendelson, of the Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award in 2007.

Excerpt from McLean Hospital obituary.



William Woolverton Ph.D. (1950 - 2013). Dr. William L Woolverton, Billy S. Guyton Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, died after a brief illness at the age of 62, on June 13, 2013. Prof. Woolverton, a member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), was a leading scientist and educator in the behavioral pharmacology of drugs of abuse. An Alabama native, Dr. Woolverton attended the University of the South, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology. He then attended graduate school at the University of Chicago studying pharmacology under the mentorship of Dr. Charles R. Schuster and graduating with a PhD in 1977. He completed postdoctoral training with Dr. Bob Balster in the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical College of Virginia. In 1980, he returned to the University of Chicago, rising to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Woolverton arrived at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in June, 1993, at the rank of Professor and served as Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior for over a decade. Dr. Woolverton was very active in the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, serving on the Board of Directors from 1997 to 2001. He also served as Secretary and the President of the International Study Group Investigating Drugs as Reinforcers. Dr. Woolverton was consistently funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and conducted outstanding neurobiological and behavioral research during his career. He was a gifted mentor, training dozens of graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and junior faculty members. Dr. Woolverton was also an outstanding and dedicated teacher of residents, medical students, and graduate students, and was a colleague of exceptional vision. In 1994, he served as the first Director of the Division of Neurobiology and Behavior Research, which he guided in its early development, and also served as the chair of the Steering Committee of the Program in Neuroscience, again, helping to guide a new training program in its early development.

Bill Woolverton was much admired by his colleagues and students, had an inquisitive mind and liked to challenge accepted scientific beliefs. He had a gentle way of guiding the development of his trainees and in engaging his research peers in the field. He loved to play and sing in the ever-shifting band of friends and colleagues that he cultivated primarily during his Mississippi years. He is survived by his loving wife, Candy Woolverton, his son Chris, and daughter Lucy.

Excerpts from obituaries written elsewhere by Robert L. Balster, Ph.D., and Scott F. Coffey, Ph.D.

