



NEWSLINE

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.

Volume Seventeen, Number Two

• February 2013

CPDD President's Column

RICHARD DE LA GARZA, PHD
PRESIDENT

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and that your new year is off to a great start. I am pleased to begin this column by reporting on preparations for the 2013 annual meeting. Since my last newsletter, the abstract and symposium deadlines have come and gone, and the Program Committee, led by Sandy Comer, has deftly selected some wonderful science for us to enjoy at the June meeting. In addition, the Awards Committee, led by Suzette Evans, has been actively fielding nominations and in just a couple of months we will know who among our colleagues has been selected for each of the highly meritorious recognitions. While I am certain that many of you are neck deep with grant and manuscript writing, as well as mentoring and teaching, I want to encourage you to start planning for your trip to San Diego in June to celebrate our 75th annual meeting.

I previously remarked on the trepidation that many were feeling

about the creation of a new addictions institute at NIH and the "fiscal cliff" that we faced as a nation. In a somewhat unexpected move, we have now learned that NIH Director Frances Collins has decided against a structural merger of Institutes, but has specified that a functional integration will take place instead ([link to → Functional Integration](#)). On behalf of the College, I participated in a subsequent teleconference on December 13, 2012, during which NIH Deputy Director Larry Tabak provided a basic overview of the path forward. As a scientific society, we then submitted a letter to make our position clear on these plans and we specified four research areas that we felt should remain in NIDA's portfolio. The writing of that letter was spearheaded by Past-President Scott Lukas with input from all members of the Executive Committee. It is available for you to read on our website. With regard to the functional integration, I think the topic is important enough that we would all likely benefit from a better explanation of what it means and what to expect, so I am pleased to announce that Dr. Nora Volkow has

Continued on page 3

Congratulations to the 2013 CPDD Election Winners!

President-elect

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Marc Kaufman

Charles O'Keefe

Toby Eisenstein

Book Review: *Drugs – Without the Hot Air: Minimizing the Harms of Legal and Illegal Drugs*

Written by David Nutt

Review by Michael B. Gatch

CPDD membership includes a subscription to Drug and Alcohol Dependence, ranked among the most cited substance abuse research journals.

Drugs – Without the Hot Air: Minimizing the Harms of Legal and Illegal Drugs.

Written by: David Nutt

2012 UIT Cambridge Ltd.,

Cambridge, England

352 pages.

Review by Michael B. Gatch

Department of Pharmacology & Neuroscience

University of North Texas Health Science Center

David Nutt has achieved some notoriety as the scientist fired from his government advisory position for supposedly stating that the risk of using Ecstasy was less than that of riding a horse. The primary focus of his new book, “*Drugs Without the Hot Air*”, is on

relative harm and risk reduction—how do we measure harm and what should we do about it—and indeed begins his book with this anecdote. Over the course of the book, Nutt discusses the relative harmfulness and risks of recreational drug use, how assessments of harm should inform governmental policies, how the policies should be used, and finally, gives advice on what to tell our kids (and ourselves) about recreational drug use.

The book is aimed (as described at the end of the first chapter) at the general reader. No special knowledge is assumed, and the basic science of drugs and drug use are clearly explained. Nutt is a noted physician/scientist, not a journalist or other substance abuse science outsider, and the factual content of the book is highly accurate and reliable, yet the book is quite readable.

The chapters alternate between

Continued on page 5

President's Column *continued from page 1*

accepted my invitation to address us in San Diego as the keynote speaker for the President's Symposium. I sincerely hope you will make a point to attend, ask questions, and to share opinions and insights that can help us all move forward with this new initiative.

During the past few months, the American people also re-elected Barack Obama as President and I think this is a positive for the College on several levels. I cannot recall a US President who has indicated the importance of biomedical research so often and with such fervor during speeches about our nation's future. He seems truly committed to avoiding drastic cuts to NIH research at a time in our nation's history when it is clear that more people gaining access to medical care (through the Affordable Care Act: [link to → Healthcare](#)) will mean that all Americans will benefit by our leading the charge in developing new medications, new behavioral treatments, and new insights into the neurobiological bases of psychiatric diseases. Key among these are provisions that will require health insurers to cover smoking-cessation programs, alcohol misuse screening and counseling, and HIV screening ([link to → Preventative Health Care](#)). Of equal importance is the recent report by the Institute of Medicine stating that use of alcohol and other drugs among members of the armed forces remains

“unacceptably high” and constitutes a public health crisis ([link to → IOM Report](#)). We should and can do more for our nation's heroes and CPDD members are especially well poised to make a difference in this regard. I also think that approval of medical marijuana in several states (18 plus Washington DC!) and the legalization of recreational use of marijuana in 2 states (Colorado and Washington) will mean that continued research on this psychoactive substance will be critically needed. Also, the recent recommendation to the FDA that prescription opiates be moved to Schedule II ([link to → RxOpiates Schedule II](#)), and our knowledge that they are the number one drug class used illicitly by millions of people each year, will surely mean that additional research on these compounds and other pain relievers will not only be intellectually stimulating, but a necessity for the health of our nation.

There are some exciting changes for CPDD on the horizon. The first is that 2013 will mark the first time that conference abstracts will be accessible during and after the meeting in electronic format via the Drug and Alcohol Dependence web site. You may have noticed this new option when uploading your abstract online. That decision was the culmination of several Board of Directors (BOD) conversations and a final vote by the Executive Committee. While we have been posting PDFs of prior annual meeting

The annual scientific meeting serves as a forum for scholarly exchange among preclinical and clinical investigators from academia, government, the pharmaceutical industry, and colleagues in government regulatory and policy-making positions.

President's Column *continued from page 3*

abstract books on our web site for the past several years, this contemporary electronic capture of abstracts will provide a readily accessible and permanently archived source of scientific findings for future reference. In addition, many of you recently participated in an online survey put together by Marc Kaufman, Chair of the Media Committee, inquiring about ways we might improve the CPDD web site. Marc is actively tabulating the 120+ surveys that were submitted and he will present a summary and recommendations to the BOD semi-annual meeting in February. The other exciting change in the works, though it occurs annually, is that CPDD elections are underway! By the time this newsletter comes out we will either be at the end of voting or very close to it. Congratulations to President-elect Frank Vocci and members of the Nominations Committee for putting together such a wonderful and diverse ballot from which we can choose our next set of leaders. The nominated scientists may differ in their areas of expertise, age, gender, and university affiliations, but they all have at least two things in common: an explicit desire to serve in a leadership role and a documented history of serving our College in the past.

While only half of my tenure as President has expired, I am already lamenting how quickly time passes when you are doing something you truly enjoy. Thanks to those of you who have contacted me during the past few months to provide input or to ask questions. I encourage you to continue doing so in the months that lie ahead.

Upcoming Deadlines for the 2013 Annual Meeting

Late-Breaking Research Abstract Submission
04/15/13

Hotel Reservations
04/12/13

Early Bird Registration
04/12/13

Visit the CPDD website for more *meeting information*

<http://www.cpdd.org>

Book Review *continued from page 2*

descriptions of specific drugs and their biological effects, and descriptions of basic addiction science. The focus of the chapters is not technical exposition of the neurobiology, but on harm. Still, the scientific information is current, accurate and expressed in an easy-to-understand manner. For example, Nutt begins by using Ecstasy as an example of assessing the risks of harm from use of a specific compound. In the following chapter, he explicitly lays out various attempts to objectively categorize harm so that novel compounds could be rationally assigned to appropriate control categories (e.g., Class A-C in the UK; Schedule I-V in the USA).

Chapters are variously devoted to Ecstasy, cannabis, alcohol, mephedrone (as an example of the recent synthetic cathinones), cocaine, nicotine, prescription drugs (including benzodiazepines, antidepressants, and pain relievers), psychedelics, and performance enhancers (cognitive and physical). Other chapters are devoted to the biology of drug taking; tolerance, dependence and withdrawal, and addiction; and treatment. Policy issues are woven throughout each chapter, but there are also chapters devoted to the War on Drugs, the significance of recent research in drug use and abuse, and finally a summary chapter of the specific, and very real, risks associated with recreational drug use. The chapter on the War on Drugs maintains the theme and assesses the war based on harm reduction, i.e., what are the costs and benefits of supply and demand reduction, and has it actually reduced recreational drug use? The final chapter includes sections on why to avoid intravenous drug use and inhalants, and advice on getting help early on if one becomes entangled with drug use,

among others.

The book is definitely biased. As he states in the book, Nutt believed that current policies were appropriate, but has reversed his position. He feels that the popular press and politicians respond very quickly to perceived harm from compounds and push for non-rational legislation for political gain. Still, the book provides a useful, thoughtful analysis of the issues, and a rational approach to the policy debate, regardless of which side of the debate the reader falls. Further, Nutt provides accurate information on the basic science of addiction. Minor quibbles are that he may be too skeptical about the risks of brain damage from high dose MDMA, and that he seems very pessimistic about the usefulness of substance abuse treatment.

Whether or not the reader agrees with his positions or methods of analysis, his engagement of the issues can encourage development of rational policies in a time of great change in attitudes towards recreational drug use. Perhaps well-written, easy-to-read books such as this one can help educate the public about the relative harms of illicit drug use and increase advocacy by citizens and the press to encourage policy makers to legislate rationally. Overall, the book is appropriate for a wide audience, from scientists to undergraduate students taking a course in substance abuse to lay people concerned about the issues.

CPDD has been in existence since 1929 and is the longest standing group in the United States concerned with research on problems of drug dependence

CPDD 75th Annual Scientific Meeting

June 15-20, 2013

Symposia, Workshops, and Forums

FULL SYMPOSIA

Preclinical to clinical evidence that glia and neuroinflammation mediate drug abuse and related pathologies

Patrick M. Beardsley, Chair and Kurt F. Kauser, Co-Chair

NMDA antagonists: Therapeutic implications and abuse liability

William Fantegrossi, Chair and Robert Balster, Co-Chair

New tools provide new insights into methamphetamine's actions

David K. Grandy, Chair and David Shurtleff, Co-Chair

New directions in the pharmacological facilitation of psychotherapy for drug dependence

Roland R. Griffiths, Chair and Herbert D. Kleber, Co-Chair

Brain functional connectivity as a biomarker for stimulant abuse

Leonard Howell, Chair and Anna Rose Childress, Co-Chair

Substance use: Health and social effects in older drug users: What we know and we don't

Nicholas Lintzeris, Chair and Michelle Lofwall, Co-Chair

What do we really know about the impacts of medical marijuana? Research exploring policies across America

Marsha Lopez, Chair and Bethany Deeds, Co-Chair

Cannabis from the bench to the bedside

Iain McGregor, Chair and Margaret Haney, Co-Chair

Behavioral disinhibition, drugs of abuse, and brain dysfunction in humans and rodent models

Barry Setlow, Chair and Thomas Crowley, Co-Chair

Emerging data on efficacy and clinical applications of extended release naltrexone formulations

George E. Woody, Chair and Þórarinn Tyrfingsson, Co-Chair

MINI SYMPOSIA

Sex hormone modulation of nicotine reward: Effects on urges, affect, physiological response, and brain activation

Sharon Allen, Chair and Cora Lee Wetherington, Co-Chair

New science and tools to improve the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of hepatitis C virus and its sequelae

Wilson Compton, Chair and Redonna Chandler, Co-Chair

Pharmacotherapeutic targeting of glutamatergic signaling in the reversal of addiction pathology

Cassandra D. Gipson, Chair and Erin A. McClure, Co-Chair

Childhood maltreatment and substance abuse: New findings on a complex relationship

Deborah S. Hasin, Chair and Cathy Spatz Windom, Co-Chair

This is your brain before drugs: Neuroimaging high-risk youth

Leslie Hulvershorn, Chair and Joanna Jacobus, Co-Chair

Use it AND Lose it: Impact of a pharmacological pot pourri on the developing brain

Scott E. Lukas, Chair and Stacy Gruber, Co-Chair

WORKSHOPS

Epidemiology and public health research methods

Jim Anthony, Chair and Georgiy Bobashev, Co-Chair

Evaluating and minimizing the risk, misuse and diversion of prescription drug use in youth

Linda B. Cottler, Chair and Sidney H. Schnoll, Co-Chair

The interplay of the juvenile justice and adolescent treatment systems and how to use evidenced-based assessment, treatment and implementation practices to improve outcomes

Michael L. Dennis, Chair and Redonna K. Chandler, Co-Chair

Symposia, Workshops, and Forums *continued from page 6***WORKSHOPS continued**

The Intertwining epidemics of drug use and HIV/AIDS: The HIV/AIDS workgroup
Don C. Des Jarlais, Chair and James L. Sorensen, Co-Chair

The 19th Annual Contingency Management Working Group
Kelly Dunn, Chair and Kathryn Saulsgiver, Co-Chair

Animal models of sex differences and drug abuse: Mind the gaps
Suzette M. Evans, Chair and Cora-Lee Wetherington, Co-Chair

Approaches for screening and treating risky drug using patients in community health centers
Lillian Gelberg, Chair and Ronald M. Andersen, Co-Chair

How are we doing? Measuring quality of care for adolescent substance abuse treatment
Beth Ann Griffin, Chair and Rajeev Ramchand, Co-Chair

Novel tobacco and nicotine products and regulatory science
Dorothy Hatsukami, Chair and Stacey Sigmon, Co-Chair

What's new at NIDA and NIH: Peer review and other policies that affect applicants
Mark Swieter, Chair, Eliane Lazar-Wesley and Meena Hiremath, Co-Chairs

Career development: Career alternatives for scientists
Gerald McLaughlin, Chair and Scott Chen, Co-Chair

Early career research and secondary data analysis
Amy Pienta, Chair and Kaye Marz, Co-Chair

Assessment of abuse of deterrent and tamper resistant technologies Part II: New Directions
Marta Sokolowska, Chair and Kerri A. Schoedel, Co-Chair

Findings from introduction of reformulated opioid analgesics on patterns of abuse and diversion of prescription opioids and their surveillance
Edward Sellers, Chair and Paul Coplan, Co-Chair

How to get your addiction research manuscripts published: Guidelines for emerging investigators
James L. Sorensen, Chair and Carmen Masson, Co-Chair

Take-home naloxone to address opioid overdose: State of the evidence and methods
Alexander Y. Walley, Chair and Phillip Coffin, Co-Chair

Are we missing the mark with gender differences, women substance users, and social determinants for HIV risk? Lessons from around the globe
Wendee Wechsberg, Chair and Steffanie Strathdee, Co-Chair

FORUMS

Animal Forum
Toby K. Eisenstein, Chair

Media Training Forum
Marc Kaufman, Chair and Kathleen Brady, Co-Chair

Public Policy Forum
Martin Iguchi, Chair

The 2013 International Conference on Global Health: Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse and HIV will be held on April 17 - 19, 2013, Taipei, Taiwan. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Nora Volkow.

A brief program may be found on the CALDAR website, www.caldar.org. Please contact Dr. Yih-Ing Hser (via anissafrank@mednet.ucla.edu) with questions regarding awards or abstract submission. Applications must be submitted by February 17th, 2013.

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Notable Committee News*Tobacco Control ad hoc Committee*

The Tobacco Control ad hoc Committee will be sponsoring a workshop at the annual 2013 CPDD meeting. The topic will be on novel tobacco and nicotine products and regulatory science. The Committee is focusing on this topic because the tobacco market is being populated with a plethora of new tobacco products of varying types and degrees of abuse liability and harm. The major challenge is determining how best to evaluate and regulate these products. Furthermore, some of these products, such as e-cigarettes, contain primarily nicotine derived from tobacco. As a result, the distinction between a product to be used for recreational purposes and for cessation is becoming blurred. The goal of this workshop is to describe the current Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, the current tobacco market and how CPDD researchers can contribute to tobacco regulatory science. Dr. David Ashley, Director of the Office of Science for the FDA Center for Tobacco Products, will provide a description of the Act and the FDA research priorities. Dr. Jack Henningfield will describe the types of products that are being marketed by the tobacco companies, how they are similar and different from medicinal nicotine products and the impact of an uneven playing field between tobacco products and pharmaceutical products. Dr. Larry Carter will describe the areas of regulatory science to which CPDD researchers have contributed and are particularly positioned to address and Dr. David Shurtleff will describe the role of NIDA in contributing to tobacco regulatory science.

Animals in Research Committee

The Animals in Research Committee of CPDD addresses issues related to the conduct of biomedical research using laboratory animals. There are a number of important issues that the Committee has acted upon in the fall. CPDD signed on, along with 160 other scientific organizations, to a National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) generated letter, to airline CEOs urging them not to discontinue transport of animals to be used for research. Your Committee has also been following issues relating to use of primates in research. We urged members to contact their representatives in Congress to vote against the Great Ape Protection and Cost Saving Act. We are also studying recommendations of the Working Group on the Use of Chimpanzees in NIH supported research. An emerging issue is another move by animal rights organizations to have rats, mice and birds put under the supervisory umbrella of the USDA by an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act. We are following this movement closely and will organize to fight against it. These issues, as well as others, affecting members who use animals in their work, will be the subject of the Animal Forum, to be held on Tuesday, June 18 from 12:15 to 1:45 at the meeting in San Diego. This year the Forum will be a round-table that will cover a wide range of topics based on questions submitted ahead of time and from the audience. Issues may relate to regulations pertaining to research animals and their interpretation, dealing with IACUCs, animal rights activists, and veterinarian oversight of animal facilities. Dr. Taylor Bennett, a veterinarian and consultant to NABR, will be our resource person. If you wish to join the Animal List serve hosted by the Committee to stay informed and receive action alerts, send your name to Toby K. Eisenstein, Chair, <mailto:tke@temple.edu>.