



NEWSLINE

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CPDD President's Column

Eric C. Strain, M.D.
President

In the northeast, we have gotten hit with a persistent snow and cold, although those of you in the Boston area probably look at us in the southern parts and see our weather as pretty unremarkable. I last wrote in September, and it is interesting that I began that column by reflecting on the changes in the seasons at that time. The weather is one way that we mark the passing of the year, and another is the changes in the grant season. I will soon attend a study section meeting, and various grants have deadlines nearing as well. The ebb and flow of a research year also seems to have a pattern of seasons. Unfortunately, the frenetic pace of writing, submitting, and reviewing grants can make us miss the natural seasons. It may be cold now, but the summer will return, and hopefully funding for our work will also move out of the current period of cold.

The College had its winter Board of Directors meeting in January. As I discussed in the fall column, we are going through several transitions, not the least being that Loretta Finnegan is stepping in to the Executive Officer position, and Marty Adler is coaching and mentoring her as he steps away from the position. I greatly

appreciate the work both of them do. We also have been in the midst of negotiations with Temple University, which is where the College has been physically located for many years. We have both a rent agreement (for the space we use) and a services agreement (for the staff of Temple that work for the College), and Loretta has been very actively involved in the negotiations. If there is a silver lining to such work, I believe it is helping Loretta to understand these aspects of the College and its operations.

The College has also been active on other fronts. We recently have co-signed letters related to issues of nicotine and tobacco. One of these was related to requirements to obtain Investigational New Drug (IND) applications for studies of electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products. The College, along with other organizations (Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco [SRNT], International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, and the American Association for Cancer Research) wrote to the FDA, advocating that INDs not be required investigations of ENDS products. We also signed on to a letter (with SRNT and the American Psychological Association) to the

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President's Column *continued from page 1*

FDA regarding an economic analysis of tobacco use, that attributed (we believe) an excess value to the "lost pleasure" of smoking cessation. Members of our Tobacco Control committee were very helpful on these efforts - and I always worry I will leave someone off, but I want to highlight Jack Henningfield and Stacey Sigmon, and their good work in this area. In addition to these letters, we also provided a letter of comments to NIDA, regarding its new (2016-2020) strategic plan. Bill Dewey was of great help with this response.

Turning back to the Board, I want to enthusiastically note and congratulate our new pre-President Elect: Leonard Howell. He will become the President-Elect at the end of the June conference, but we will start to bring him in on the activities of the College over the coming months. In addition, I am also delighted to report we have four terrific new members of the Board of Directors (who also will start upon the end of the June conference): Marilyn Carroll, Kathleen Carroll, Patrick Beardsley, and Jennifer Tidey. Thanks, too, to the members of the Nominating Committee: Sandy Comer (the Chair, and current President-Elect), Michael Bardo, Alan Budney, Linda Dwoskin, Linda Dykstra, Gantt Galloway, Steve Higgins, Sharon Walsh, and Elise Weerts. Their work to put together a slate of candidates is much appreciated.

Returning (for a moment) to the theme of seasons and the cycle of a year, we are now in the period of increasing activity associated with our planning for the June meeting. Members of the Program Committee met in Philadelphia a few weeks ago.

(It had to be rescheduled due to the weather!) I am eagerly looking forward to the June meeting, and hope you are, too. The conference is from June 13-18, 2015, and will be at the Biltmore Hotel in Arizona. As I mentioned in the fall, the CPDD conference will be held in conjunction with the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC) - their meeting will run from June 15-19. Registration is open - just go to <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1620554>. I look forward to being in Arizona to hear about great science and see terrific colleagues - and, I am also looking forward to wearing shorts, a t-shirt, flip flops, and worrying about getting a sunburn.

Writing this column is an interesting pause in my day. In some ways, it seems like a conversation with you, a member of the College - rather like a long email to a friend. What I have come to appreciate over the years is that our field and CPDD has provided a setting in which these sorts of conversations can occur - friendly, reflective, and at times perhaps a bit informative. I am grateful for a professional organization that has provided me with a number of friends and colleagues. I believe we are all engaged, in various ways, on an effort to better understand all aspects of drug use - from molecules on one hand, to public policy on the other (and everything in between). Our work as an organization has the potential to help millions of people throughout the world, and we have delivered on that potential. The members of the College have done great science, and I am confident that they - you - will continue to do so. That we do it in a collegial and supportive way is the icing on the cake. Keep up the good - the great - work. Thank you.

2014 CPDD Outreach Event

Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico (<http://bancodealimentopr.org/nosotros.html>)

Organized and Reported by Colleen A. Hanlon, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Medical University of South Carolina

On Tuesday June 17th, 2014 a group of individuals attending the CPDD annual meeting In Puerto Rico devoted their day to the citizens of Puerto Rico by lending a hand and breaking some sweat at the primary food bank of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The Bancos de Alimentos de Puerto Rico is a private, not for profit organization that provides food to nearly 450 non-profit facilities across the island, including homeless shelters, women’s shelters, and treatment programs for individuals with HIV/AIDS, chronic mental health concerns and substance-dependence disorders. The team of thirteen individuals that represented CPDD ranged from graduate students and spouses to full professors and CPDD Leadership.

While I led this grassroots effort it only came to fruition because of the abundant enthusiasm that was expressed by our membership on the CPDD Facebook page and through the Listserve. I had organized a



Back row left to right

Wallace Pickworth
Hannah Pickworth
Micky Koffarnus
David Penetar
Sudie Back
Alan Budney
Ryan Lacy
Erin Pullen
Matthew Johnson

Front row left to right

Daisy Thompson
Dorothy Yamamoto
Michael Wesley
Colleen Hanlon

2014 CPDD Outreach Event *continued from page 3*



Michael Wesley



Erin Pullen (front) and Dorothy Yamamoto (back)



Alan Budney

similar event in 2012 alongside the Annual meeting for the Society for Neuroscience. At that conference some other addiction researchers and I were driving alongside the Mississippi River in a van we had rented en route to spend the day rebuilding some homes that had been devastated in an already impoverished area along the Mississippi delta. As we drove along the water-devastated neighborhoods we passed multiple grocery stores that had been shut down, but we were struck by the number of liquor stores that still flashed their “OPEN” signs. As addiction researchers we could not resist thinking about how substance-dependence does not relent when you lose your house or your grocery store or even your electricity. And so, the momentum for starting a community outreach event as part of the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence was born.

We met at the Caribe Hilton and took a van to the food bank where we spent a few hours organizing, moving, and distributing food to locations where it would be loaded onto trucks that then delivered to homeless shelters, women's shelters, and rehabilitation centers throughout the San Juan area. Given that substance dependence rates are incredibly high in the individuals that benefit from these services it seemed like a thematically appropriate volunteer effort for our membership.

While we were initially hoping to find about 10 people that would be interested in donating their Tuesday afternoon to the activity, we were incredibly impressed when, within the first few hours after sending an email to the CPDD list serve 20 people had already expressed enthusiasm and over 50 people expressed interest in participating in an outreach event at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. I think this is a great sign about our membership on many levels!

2014 CPDD Outreach Event *continued from page 4*

What Participants Had to Say about the Event

“CPDD members should take pride in supporting the local communities that host our annual conference! Disadvantaged populations in need of assistance surround many resort communities. Poverty is a primary contributor to risk of substance misuse and abuse; however, it (poverty) unfortunately is not a primary target of our science and interventions. Perhaps tying these outreach activities to our conference will increase awareness of the importance of addressing impoverished environments and lead more of our members to focus their research on this critical variable.”

-Alan J. Budney, Ph.D.,
Professor, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, CPDD Executive Board member

“Helping out at the food bank as part of the scientific meeting was a great way to feel useful and meet people in a relaxed setting.”

-Dorothy Yamamoto,
Postdoctoral fellow, University of Colorado- Denver



Colleen Hanlon (event organizer) with Victoria Suarez & Lydia Falto (staff members at Banco Alimentos di Puerto Rico)

2015 Outreach Event – Phoenix Arizona

Planning for the outreach event that will take place during the 2015 annual meeting is currently underway. Information about the event is expected to be sent out to members via the CPDD listserv in April.

For additional details please contact Colleen A. Hanlon, Ph.D. (hanlon@muscd.edu).

77th Annual Meeting of The College on Problems of Drug Dependence

June 13th-18th, 2015

In conjunction with The International Narcotics Research Conference

June 15th-19th, 2015

Arizona Biltmore
Phoenix, Arizona

[Click here for Registration, Reservations, and Associated Fee Information](#)

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Notable Committee News

Education, Outreach and Public Policy Committee

In April 2014, the American Pain Society and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, in collaboration with the Heart Rhythm Society, issued "Methadone Safety Guidelines" (Chou, Cruciani, Fiellin et al., The Journal of Pain, 15 (4), 2014, 321 - 337). The Guidelines recommended routine EKG testing prior to initiation of methadone for the treatment of either opioid dependence or chronic non-cancer pain. The recommendation is controversial within opioid treatment programs. To disseminate the Guidelines and promote adoption of the recommendation, the Education, Outreach and Public Policy Committee proposed a symposium on the Guidelines for presentation at the 2015 American Association for Treatment of Opioid Dependence Annual Meeting. Dennis McCarty (Committee chair) collaborated with David Fiellin (CPDD representative on the Guideline Development panel) and Melissa Weimer (co-author on the Guideline evidence review) to prepare and submit a session abstract. The presentation is scheduled for March 31, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee is seeking a new editor for Newsline when the current editor steps down following the annual meeting in June. The Newsline editor functions relatively independently and is responsible for collecting all materials, editing the material as necessary, and formatting at least two yearly Newsline editions. The time commitment can range anywhere from 15-30 hours for each edition. The ideal candidate will have excellent writing, editing, and organizational skills, along with an interest in promoting the college and its members. Interested parties should send a CV to Silvia Martins, the chair of the Publications Committee (ssm2183@cumc.columbia.edu).

Announcements

The Contingency Management (CM) Working Group is an evening workshop that is held annually at CPDD and provides an opportunity to learn more about CM applications for behavior change. CM (also referred to as motivational incentives or voucher-based reinforcement therapy) is a behavioral treatment strategy that has demonstrated consistent success in promoting abstinence from a wide-range of drugs and within many different treatment populations. It is also being used to promote change in behaviors impacting the course of other chronic diseases (e.g., obesity, diabetes). During this year's 21st annual meeting of the CM Working Group, junior and senior researchers will present preliminary data from ongoing studies involving CM. The goal for this working group is to provide an informal outlet for discussion of ongoing CM research and dissemination, with an emphasis on developing or improving research strategies by seeking audience input and providing opportunities for junior and senior researchers to interact. The agenda for speakers will be posted on the CPDD listserv prior to the conference. The workshop is open to all conference attendees, and anyone who is using CM to promote behavior change, has an interest in learning more about CM, or would like to become acquainted with other researchers conducting CM is particularly encouraged to attend. The CM Working Group will be held the evening of Tuesday June 16. We welcome you to come join us!