



NEWSLINE

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

Volume Twelve, Number Two • February 2008

CPDD President's Column

STEPHEN T. HIGGINS, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

Greetings! I hope 2008 has been good to you thus far and extend a belated happy new year to all. I am pleased to say that CPDD remains in good health, and I would like to inform you of recent events.

Please join me in congratulating the new slate of CPDD officers who will begin their official duties at the end of the upcoming annual meeting. As you may know, Linda Porrino, Ph.D., is our new President-Elect, and Richard De La Garza, Ph.D., Eric Strain, M.D., David Fiellin, M.D., and Geoffrey Mumford, Ph.D. will join the Board of Directors (BOD). Especially pleasing about this newly elected group is the healthy mix that they represent in terms of expertise in basic and clinical research and science policy as well as medical versus more traditional academic training. Such an interdisciplinary slate of officers is vital to the success of CPDD as a scientific organization. Congratulations to each and many thanks for being willing to take time from an already demanding schedule to serve CPDD. I also thank our current President-Elect, Sharon Walsh, Ph.D., and the CPDD Nominating Committee for their excellent work in organizing the election.

Additional kudos also go out to President-Elect Sharon Walsh for an outstanding job of coordinating the new CPDD committee assignments for 2008. Once again our membership was strikingly responsive to the call for volunteers. As was the case last year, we

had more volunteers than open slots, which is a tremendously positive sign of professional interest and enthusiasm for CPDD. We will continue to give priority in future committee assignments to those who volunteered previously but were not appointed. So, if you want to serve but were not chosen this year, please continue to volunteer and we will do our best to get you involved.

Mentioned in my first column was my interest in (a) fostering interdisciplinary activities during my presidency and (b) bringing attention to the important topic of socioeconomic disadvantage and vulnerability to substance use disorders. I also mentioned that a CPDD mini-conference on the topic of vulnerability to cigarette smoking among disadvantaged women from an interdisciplinary perspective was in the planning stages. I am pleased to report that the conference has come together through the generous support of NIDA, NCI, American Legacy Foundation, and Glaxo Smith Kline. The program includes presentations from historians, epidemiologists, geneticists, behavioral and clinical pharmacologists, psychologists and behavioral economists among others. The meeting is scheduled for April 9 and 10, 2008 at the Annapolis Westin Hotel, in Annapolis, MD. We have made plans to accommodate up to 150 attendees. Please contact Sailair at 800-759-5800 if you are interested in joining us for what should be a stimulating and enlightening interdisciplinary conference on this complex public health problem. We also

Continued on page 2

President's Column *continued from page 1*

plan to do an interdisciplinary symposium on socioeconomic disadvantage and vulnerability to cocaine use disorders at this year's annual CPDD meeting.

Turning back to the administrative business of CPDD, the interim BOD meeting was held on December 6 & 7 in Hallendale, FL. I mentioned the elections above. Other matters discussed at the BOD meeting included the program for the 2008 meeting, which is being finalized and by all indications will be strong. Many thanks to the Program Committee, our new Program Chair, Sari Izenwasser, and Ellen Geller from the CPDD Central Office for their tremendous efforts in making sure we have an excellent scientific program for 2008. Due to the diligence of that same group, the new deadline for abstract submissions largely went off without a hitch. Of course, the CPDD budget was a priority item during this

period of national and international economic worry. There was some concern about spending slightly exceeding income this past year, but our reserves remain in very good shape. We are fortunate to have Steve Holtzman, Ph.D., serving as Treasurer in his usual careful and meticulous manner and overall CPDD's financial status remains healthy. Also discussed was the work of a committee of past CPDD Presidents (Drs. Bigelow, Bickel, Cunningham, Kosten, and Kreek) chaired by Steve Holtzman that is charged with devising a long-term plan for the CPDD Central Office. That work continues to go well, with plans set for recommendations to be ready for the June, 2008 meeting.

That brings this mid-term column to a close. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of service. Thank you for supporting CPDD and I look forward to seeing all of you in June.

Meeting Deadlines**Hotel Reservations:**

April 10, 2008

Early Bird Registration:

April 10, 2008

Late-Breaking Abstracts:

April 15, 2008

Visit the CPDD website for more meeting information

<http://www.cpdd.org>

See you in Puerto

Rico!!!

Program Committee Report

The Program Committee has been hard at work on the program for the upcoming 2008 Annual Meeting of the CPDD in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A record number of symposia were submitted and evaluated, and 11 full symposia and 5 mini-symposia were selected for the program (see page 4). There were 851 abstracts submitted in time for the December 5th deadline. Currently, the Program Committee is in the process of reading the abstracts and putting together sessions that will complement the symposia so that the program will cover a wide range of topics and interests. The program will be finalized in February, when everyone will find out when his or her presentations have been scheduled.

In addition to the submitted symposia and abstracts, there will be 11 workshops at the conference and several exciting special lectures. The President's Lecture will be given by Dr. Kelly Brownell, Director of the

Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University. Once again there will be a Public Policy/Public Advocacy session chaired by Drs. Martin Iguchi and William Dewey, and a session on the NIH Roadmap and NIDA funding opportunities organized by Drs. Tim Condon and David Shurtleff. There will be three satellite meetings again this year: The International Study Group Investigating Drugs As Reinforcers (ISGIDAR), the NIDA International Forum, and the 8th annual Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Satellite Session on Saturday.

We look forward to a very exciting meeting and to seeing everyone in San Juan.

*-- Contributed by Sari Izenwasser, Ph..D.
Program Committee Chair*

CPDD MINI-CONFERENCE

WOMEN AND SMOKING: UNDERSTANDING SOCIOECONOMIC INFLUENCES

APRIL 9 & 10, 2008

Westin Annapolis Hotel
100 Westgate Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

This conference offers a single-track, two-day, interdisciplinary program in which internationally recognized scholars will present on current research advances relevant to the problem of cigarette smoking among disadvantaged women. A plenary session involving two distinguished experts on social factors as fundamental causes of disease and the history of smoking will be followed by a series of five paper sessions:

- epidemiology & etiology
- genetic factors
- behavioral, pharmacological, & neurobiological factors
- prevention and treatment
- tobacco-control policies

Opportunities for interaction between presenters and members of the audience are scheduled following the completion of each of the morning and afternoon sessions. Following completion of all paper sessions each day, one of two distinguished leaders in smoking and women's health will act as Discussant with the charge of integrating and critically considering the knowledge shared during the meeting on that day. This is sure to be a stimulating and enlightening conference and we hope you will join us.

Conference registration is \$250, which includes continental breakfast each morning and afternoon refreshments.

More information is available on the CPDD website.

<http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/>

Conference, travel and hotel registrations can be made through Sailair
800-759-5800

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

Previews: 2008 CPDD Annual Meeting

Full Symposia:

Of Vice and Men: Shared Brain Vulnerabilities for Drug and Non-Drug (Food, Sex, Gambling) Rewards

Anna Rose Childress, PhD, Chair and Marc Potenza, MD PhD, Co-chair

Traffick Signals and Addictive Processes

Kathryn Cunningham, PhD, Chair and Toni Shippenberg, PhD, Co-chair

Cocaine Dependence and Social Disadvantage: Evidence from the Laboratory, Clinic, and Community

Stephen Higgins, PhD, Chair

Advances in the Development of Medications for Comorbid ADHD and Substance Use Disorders

Petra Jacobs, PhD, Chair and Frances Levin, MD, Co-chair

Adults May Be from Mars but Adolescents Are from Venus

Minda Lynch, PhD, Chair and James Bjork, PhD, Co-Chair

Pharmacogenetics of the Safety and Efficacy of Medications for the Treatment of Addictions

Ivan Montoya, PhD, Chair and Joni Rutter, PhD, Co-chair

Addiction Liability and Pain Relief Medication: Raymond Houde Memorial Symposium

Charles O'Brien, MD, PhD, Chair and Charles Inturrisi, PhD, Co-chair

Understanding Extinction Learning and Its Translation to Drug Addiction

Paul Schnur, PhD, Chair and David Shurtleff, PhD, Co-chair

The Consequences of Chronic Cannabis Abuse: From Neurochemistry to Treatment

Philip Terry, PhD, Chair

Opioid Analgesics: Protecting their Use and Preventing Abuse

Sharon Walsh, PhD, Chair and Sidney Schnoll, MD, PhD, Co-chair

Preclinical Research on the Discovery of Glutamatergic Therapeutics for the Treatment of Addiction

David White, PhD, Chair and Athina Markou, PhD, Co-chair

Mini Symposia:

The Twin Design: Studying Genes and Environment on Substance Use Behaviors

Arpana Agrawal, PhD, Chair and Michael Lynskey, Co-Chair

Sexual Acquisition and Transmission of HIV from and among Drug-Using Populations

Martin Iguchi, PhD, Chair and Richard Jenkins, PhD, Co-chair

Neonatal Responses to Maternal Substance Use

Karol Kaltenbach, PhD, Chair and Loretta Finnegan, M.D., Co-Chair

Innovative Applications of Technology to the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders

Lisa Marsch, PhD, Chair and Kathleen Carroll, PhD, Co-Chair

Functional and Clinical Relevance of Opioid Receptor Heterodimers

Philip Portoghese, PhD, Chair and Ajay Yekkirala, Co-Chair

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.

Interview: Edythe London, Ph.D.

By Richard De La Garza, II

On Saturday, October 25, 2007 animal rights activists flooded the home of UCLA professor and CPDD fellow Edythe London. I have the pleasure of knowing Eydie as a colleague, collaborator and friend so I wanted to speak directly with her about the incident and what it may mean to all of us. After speaking at a course I teach to undergraduates, Eydie and I adjourned to catch up and talk about recent events.

Newsl ine's Richard De La Garza: I am embarrassed to admit that I did not know about this event until I saw the front page of our University newspaper ([Click Here](#) and [Click Here](#)). When it happened, did you have any inkling that this was anything more than a malicious prank; that it was the work of terrorists like the Animal Liberation Front (ALF)?

Eydie London: In fact, on Sunday morning, the 26th, my husband Abe and I returned to the house and what we saw at first was just a lot of broken glass and a lot of water because someone had broken the panes in a French door, inserted a garden hose, taped it into place and turned the water on full bore. It was clear that there was no intention of any kind of theft -- just a malicious act of vandalism. At first, I was at a loss. I had some inkling that it might be one of these groups, like the ALF. I had even asked a colleague several days after the event if she thought that it looked like the work of the ALF and it was her impression that it was not them since they normally brag about this kind of work on their blog and they had not done that. But then the next morning it was on their blog and they were very, very pleased with themselves referring to me as a vivisectionist, and threatening me about future attacks.

Rich: You are one of several UCLA faculty who have been targeted by activists over the past few years. This was described in good detail in the December

18 issue of Science: ([Click Here](#)). Why do you think this sort of illegal activity is so robust in the Los Angeles area?

Eydie: UCLA has a tradition of animal research that supports medical advances and we are in an area which is very supportive of animal welfare. Sometimes this view is very narrow-minded.

Rich: Jerry Vlasek of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NALPRO) was quoted as saying that "most people in the general public, when confronted with this information, are horrified." I have seen some of this so called information, and as you know, it is terribly misleading, often sorely outdated, and at best grossly misconstrued.

Eydie: First let me say that I believe that most people are reasonable and that most people are supportive of what we do. I can tell you that after the attack, I received about 4 e-mails and 2 hard copy letters from people that were condemning and negative about the work they think I do, but many, many messages in support of what we are doing. NALPRO and the ALF would have people believe that scientists work in sheltered workshops where they do whatever they want to animals that cannot consent to what is happening. The reality is that my colleagues and I think very hard about the experiments we do, and every study is very carefully reviewed, with a requirement for compelling justifications for any procedures planned.

Rich: What responsibility do we have as researchers to do a better job of getting out the real facts about the value and importance of using animals in biomedical research? The reason that I ask is that as a postdoc at Harvard Medical School, I participated as a



Eydie London

Continued on page 8

Interview *continued from page 7*

member of the Speaker's Bureau of the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research (www.msmr.org) and had the privilege of going to local high schools and junior high schools to give talks on the importance of biomedical research using animals. Later, as a member of the CPDD Animals in Research Committee, I led the effort to develop a PowerPoint presentation that is available on our website and accessible to CPDD members ([Click Here](#)), which they can use to go out into the community and get the "good word" out. It is one tool that can be used to combat the misinformation put forth by these other groups.



Eydie: I think that a lot of people who are susceptible to the misinformation from underground animal welfare groups are individuals 18-20 years old, or younger, who see this as an idealistic cause that deserves their attention. Going out into the high schools would be very useful in helping them appreciate all of the medical advances that would have never been possible without experiments that involved animals as research subjects.

Rich: Let me return to an earlier comment that you made - that you received many positive letters. This must have meant a great deal to you.

Eydie: It meant everything. There were personal letters, which made me see that I was not all by myself, and official statements of support from CPDD and ACNP, which were published in the Los Angeles Times ([Click Here](#)). There also were E-mail messages from close colleagues as well as individuals I see mostly at scientific conferences. I think we all feel very much part of the same family.

Rich: No one who knows you would have ever doubted that you would proceed full steam ahead with planned research, but has anything changed as a

result of these events?

Eydie: It will not change what I am doing or my research, especially after an investment of 30 years. In terms of advising young people, however, it would be remiss for us to not let them know about the difficulties they may face. We don't want them to get discouraged though, and I personally find that it has been worth it.

Rich: I was pleased to see that the LA Times allowed you an opportunity to defend your research ([Click Here](#)). Speaking of important research, have you seen the elegant review article by Elise Weerts and colleagues on the importance of non-human primates in drug abuse research ([Click Here](#))?

Eydie: It's a wonderful article that is absolutely on target. I think that there are certain behaviors that can only be modeled in primates.

Rich: I wonder how we can get that information, which was written specifically for scientists, out to the general public. In other words, how can we make it more accessible? It is, on some level, "preaching to the choir". It is no different than this interview that is being written for and will perhaps only be read by our members. I don't think an outside news source will pick it up and say "right on, she's doing good work".

Eydie: There was a very aggressive and effective education campaign in Texas that put much of this nonsense to rest. Perhaps that should be a resource.

Rich: I think that this is something that we, as educators, can and should do. To close, can you say a few words about your future research plans?

Eydie: This is a very exciting time to be working on the neurobiology of drug dependence. We will continue to focus on inhibitory control and models that will allow us to understand the mechanisms

"In the grand scheme, what we should be doing is developing a systematic understanding of the symptoms that characterize addiction irrespective of the entire syndrome."
--Edythe London

CPDD OFFICERS

- STEPHEN T. HIGGINS, PHD
PRESIDENT
- SHARON L. WALSH, PHD
PRESIDENT-ELECT
- THOMAS R. KOSTEN, MD
PAST-PRESIDENT
- STEPHEN G. HOLTZMAN, PHD
TREASURER
- MARTIN W. ADLER, PHD
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- JAMES C. ANTHONY, PHD
- PATRICK M. BEARDSLEY, PHD
- STEVEN R. CHILDERS, PHD
- THEODORE J. CICERO, PHD
- WILLIAM L. DEWEY, PHD
- TOBY K. EISENSTEIN, PHD
- A. THOMAS MCLELLAN, PHD
- MICHAEL A. NADER, PHD
- EDWARD V. NUNES, MD
- ALISON OLIVETO-BEAUDOIN, PHD
- LINDA J. PORRINO, PHD
- RICHARD A. RAWSON, PHD
- MAXINE L. STITZER, PHD
- DACE S. SVIKIS, PHD

MICHAEL B. GATCH, PHD, EDITOR
M.W. ADLER, PHD, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CPDD PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

- RICHARD DE LA GARZA II, PHD, CHAIR
- KATHLEEN M. CARROLL, PHD
- RONALD COWAN, MD, PHD
- KIMBERLY LINDSEY, PHD
- STEPHEN MAGURA, PHD
- JOHN R. MANTSCH, PHD
- KENZIE PRESTON, PHD
- STACEY C. SIGMON, PHD
- LI-TZY WU, ScD

Send materials for **NEWSLINE** to:

Michael B. Gatch, PhD
U. of North Texas Health Science Center
Dept. of Pharmacology & Neuroscience
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Phone (817) 735-2062
Fax (817) 735-0408
Email: mgatch@hsc.unt.edu

Interview *continued from page 6*

and to evaluate medications and treatments with fairly rapid throughput. It is critical that we do this since there is a real need for these treatments. In the grand scheme, what we should be doing is developing a systematic understanding of the symptoms that characterize addiction irrespective of the entire syndrome. It should be possible to address individual symptoms, such as the deficit in inhibitory control. I think that we can, as addiction researchers, make a big

difference.

Editor's Postscript: On February 4, 2008 an incendiary device left against the front door caused a fire at Dr. London's home. CPDD joins the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) and other scientific organizations at decrying the use of violence and intimidation for the promotion of political or social agendas. Animal research comprises a critically important part of medical research and has contributed greatly to the quality of life of people and other animals.

SAMHSA Launches E-Learning Courses

Acamprosate: A New Medication for Alcohol Use Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Knowledge Application Program (KAP) is pleased to announce its first online e-learning course, [Acamprosate: A New Medication for Alcohol Use Disorders](#). The self-paced course provides information about the use, side effects, and contraindications of acamprosate; information to discuss with clients; and a comparison of medications for alcohol use disorders. On completion of the course, users will know how to include acamprosate in a treatment plan for appropriate clients.

The course is based on the acamprosate Substance Abuse Treatment Advisory published in fall 2005. Users who successfully complete the course will receive one NAADAC-approved

continuing education unit (CEU) at no cost and can print out their CEU certificate. The course is self-paced so that users can log out of the course and return at a later time to continue where they left off. If unsuccessful, users can take the course again.

Other e-learning courses in development include—

- Prescription Medications: Misuse, Abuse, Dependence, and Addiction
- Organizational Development: Marketing for Referral Development
- Organizational Development: Finance
- Organizational Development: Governance
- Anger Management

To access the "Acamprosate: A New Medication for Alcohol Use Disorders" e-learning course, go to www.kap-elearning.samhsa.gov