Spring 2021

The College *on* Problems *of* Drug Dependence

NEWSLINE

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Spring 2021

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Stacey Sigmon, Ph.D.
President, CPDD

Dear friends and colleagues,

It's certainly continued to be a wild ride since I last wrote in October 2020. As we hopefully move into brighter days ahead, I hope this finds you, your loved ones and colleagues in continued safety and good health.

This year marks our 92nd anniversary as an organization and our 83rd CPDD Annual Scientific Meeting, and I'd like to express my deep appreciation to all of our CPDD committee members, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and our Parthenon Management Group team who have worked tirelessly to make sure our scientific community continues to grow and thrive despite all of the challenges over the past year. Our accomplishments thus far this year have included an updated CPDD Strategic Plan, creation of our first ever webinar series, a freshly-designed CPDD homepage, and a completely-revamped interactive conference platform for our June virtual meeting (see below for a sneak peak of our new platform!).

A Preview of the 2021 Annual Virtual Meeting Hall

I would like thank Dr. Kelly Dunn and the entire Program Committee for their incredible efforts developing this year's Annual Meeting. We received and accepted more than 600 Symposium, Mini-Symposium, Forum, Workshop, and Poster submissions. In the year of COVID-19 and its paralyzing effects on research, I would certainly call that a big win! This year, attendees can look forward to specific sessions geared to medicinal chemists, preclinical researchers, human laboratory, clinicians, epidemiologists, clinical researchers, and a special track for early career members. CPDD is also partnering with ISGIDAR to produce their Annual Meeting on Friday, June 18, as well as the NIDA International Forum during the morning hours of the conference and NIDA's Grant Writing Workshop.

I'm also very excited to announce the addition of Dr. Sandro Galea as the keynote speaker for this year's Presidential Symposium. Dr. Galea is a physician, epidemiologist, author, and is currently the Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health. He will be speaking on the intersection of economics, politics, and the risk of substance use and its consequences. Please plan to join us for this great opportunity to hear Dr. Galea's perspectives on the issues we grapple with daily in our work. Don't forget to register before May 7 to take advantage of Early Bird registration rates and reach out to us at info@cpdd.org with any questions, ideas and suggestions you have for our upcoming meeting.

Because we will be hosting presentations by last year's award recipients at our upcoming June meeting, our Board of Directors chose to only offer one Award for Excellence this year: the time-sensitive Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award. We will reinstate all Awards for Excellence for the 2022 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. The Cochin Award, in memory of a respected leader in drug abuse research and a former Chairman and Executive Secretary of CPDD, was established in 1986 to recognize research contributions in any facet of the field of drug abuse. The award is given annually to an investigator who has

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Stacey Sigmon, Ph.D.
President, CPDD

demonstrated excellence in their field of research, authored several publications, and not attained their 40th birthday by July 1 in the award year. Please join me in congratulating this year's Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award recipient Cassandra (Cassie) Gipson-Reichardt, PhD!

CPDD will also provide nearly 130 Travel Registration Awards for the 2021 Annual Meeting. As our meeting this year is virtual, the Board of Directors elected to apply this year's Travel Awards to registration only and to expand the number of Travel Award recipients. In addition to receiving a Travel Award this year, these awardees will also remain eligible to apply for the same award (with travel benefits) in future years. Congratulations to all 2021 award recipients!

I'm very proud to also announce our next President-Elect and newest members of the CPDD Board of Directors, all of whom will assume office at the end of our 2021 Annual Meeting.

- President-Elect
  - Amy Janes, PhD, McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical School

- Board of Directors
  - Qiana Brown, PhD, MPH, LCSW, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
  - Albert Garcia-Romeu, PhD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
  - Angela M. Heads, PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) McGovern Medical School
  - Michael Taffe, PhD, University of California, San Diego

Congratulations to each of you and thank you in advance for your steadfast service and commitment to the College! It's clear to me that we are in really great hands for the years ahead.

Importantly, we would also still love your input related to our efforts to actively promote diversity and inclusion within the College and within our field across race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The scientific community strongly benefits from diversity in thought, experience, and background, and our Long-Range Planning Committee and Executive Committee are working on a diversity and inclusion action plan to advance our Commitment to Diversity mission. Please reach out to us at info@cpdd.org to share your ideas for action-oriented steps that we can take to broaden the diversity of our membership and develop an inclusive leadership pipeline for our future.

Lastly, please don't forget to renew your membership! CPDD membership and conference registrations directly fund our numerous programs, awards, and opportunities for early career scientists. To ensure that we continue advancing substance use disorder research, I encourage you to renew your membership or donate to CPDD right away.
I look forward to "seeing" each of you and your science at our June Annual Meeting!

Warmly,

Stacey C. Sigmon, Ph.D., CPDD President

CPDD provides a national and international forum for scientists of diverse backgrounds to advance the understanding of molecular-neurobiological aspects of addictive disorders and, by the application of new scientific knowledge, to improve and develop treatments utilizing novel behavioral and pharmacological therapies.

Since 1938, a major focus of the CPDD's activities has been its sponsorship of an annual scientific meeting. This conference serves as a forum bringing together basic scientists and clinical investigators from industry, academia, and government. Representatives of regulatory agencies, as well as scientists and professionals in a number of diverse disciplines interested in the biochemical, behavioral, and public health aspects of drug dependence participate. We expect to have approximately 1,200 attendees for the 2021 meeting, including many international attendees who come for the CPDD meeting as well as the NIDA International Forum. This year's meeting also boasts the NIDA Grant Writing Workshop, and the new Early Career Member Poster Award.

This year's meeting will feature more than 550 learning and engagement opportunities, including Symposium, Mini-Symposium, Forums, Workshops, Posters and Oral Presentations. Here is a preview of what you can expect.

Big Data Science Approaches to Identify Novel Behavioral and Biological Mechanisms of Addiction

Chair: Susan Wright, NIDA/NIH
Co-Chair: Lindsey Friend, NIDA/NIH

The untapped power of large-scale data emerging from addiction studies lies in big data science mining, integration, and analysis. The emerging field of big data science is inextricably linked with artificial intelligence, particularly machine learning approaches. The convergence of big data, machine learning, and high-performance computing bring opportunities and challenges, as well as a need for training in this area. This symposium will feature four speakers: Brenda Curtis (NIDA Intramural Research Program) will discuss digital phenotyping methodologies for addiction research using large-scale population data. Martin Paulus (Laureate Institute for Brain Research) will discuss latent variables and statistical causal inference with large data sets and highlight how the ABCD study can be used to develop explanatory models of behavior.

Hyejung Wong (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) will discuss how chromatin interaction profiles in cortical and dopaminergic neurons can help identify biological principles underlying substance use disorder.

Daniel Jacobson (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) will discuss the use of supercomputing and systems biology to address challenges in substance abuse research.

This symposium will showcase how big data science can be leveraged to reveal new aspects of addiction biology and how incorporating data science as a new tool for the study of substance use disorders will bring together researchers with expertise in a variety of disciplines. It will also highlight the importance and necessity of data science training for combining the latest computational capabilities with biomedical research to advance this field.

Black Science Matters

Chair: Ayana Jordan, Yale University School of Medicine

There are strong and increasing levels of evidence of disparities in access to addiction treatment by race. The reasons for this are varied, but stem from structural racism, including a persistent gap in funding for Black research scientists—a group more likely to conduct research that affect racial and ethnic minority populations—along with an absence of readily available culturally-informed treatment options.

This symposium will highlight Black scientists dedicated to conducting research aimed at eliminating racial disparities in addiction. First, we will present a summary of our systematic review of all existing randomized clinical trials for adults reporting differences in substance use

treatment initiation, engagement and outcome by race/ethnicity. Second, we will report on findings from an uncontrolled pilot delivering web-based CBT (CBT4CBT) to Black Adults with substance use disorders in the Black Church and data on racial effects in response to computerized CBT from 5 clinical trials.

Third, we will present findings from a scoping review and meta-analysis of psychosocial and pharmacological treatments for cannabis and tobacco use among Black adults, highlighting an ongoing Twitter study for Black men ages 18-29 to minimize cannabis and nicotine ("blunt") use. Finally, we will conclude by featuring research from the PRISM (Prevention Research In Substance Use and Minority Health) lab illuminating culturally relevant risk/resilience models for substance use and other risk behavior among racial and ethnic minorities, to ultimately reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for youth.

The untapped power of large-scale data emerging from addiction studies lies in big data science mining, integration, and analysis. The emerging field of big data science is inextricably linked with artificial intelligence, particularly machine learning approaches. The convergence of big data, machine learning, and high-performance computing bring opportunities and challenges, as well as a need for training in this area. This symposium will feature four speakers: Brenda Curtis (NIDA Intramural Research Program) will discuss digital phenotyping methodologies for addiction research using large-scale population data.

Cannabis and Cannabinoids: Variables That Impact Risk

Chair: Conor Murray, The University of Chicago
Co-Chair: Ziva Cooper, UCLA

Over the past two decades, cannabis and cannabinoid products have become increasingly legalized for medical and recreational use in the United States and in countries around the world. To meet the demand for data related to both therapeutic and adverse effects of cannabis exposure, researchers have begun to identify variables that may help prevent hazardous use and maximize potential medical benefits.

This symposium, co-chaired by Dr. Conor Murray and Dr. Ziva Cooper, addresses hypothesized variables that either protect against or increase risk of cannabis and cannabinoid products. These variables lie within both the complex nature of cannabinoid products, and in the individuals that use these products for medical or personal use, including roles of sex and age. Dr. Rebecca Craft will begin the session by introducing long-term effects of adolescent THC exposure in preclinical studies. Then in humans, Dr. Murray will present findings on acute effects of THC in adolescent (aged 18-20) males and females relative to mature (aged 30-40) adults.

Transitioning from variables in individuals to variables in cannabinoid products, Dr. Tory Spindle will explore interactive effects of THC and two cannabis terpenes (limonene and pinene) in humans. Finally, Dr. Deborah Hasin will conclude with a discussion that ties together the preclinical and clinical findings from an epidemiological perspective, relating our work in the laboratory to use patterns in the population.

Female Sex Hormones and Addiction: Preclinical and Clinical Studies

Chair: Jessica Weafer, University of Kentucky
Co-Chair: Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, University of Kentucky

Drug and alcohol use are increasing in women at alarming rates. Additionally, findings in both human and animal models indicate that females have a faster course from initial drug use to addiction. As such, it is important to identify female-specific risk factors for drug and alcohol use. This symposium will present exciting new data highlighting the role of endogenous ovarian and synthetic hormones in addiction vulnerability. The speakers will present data using diverse approaches to study cellular, pharmacological, and neural mechanisms of behavior in animal and human models.

Dr. Gipson (University of Kentucky) will present data in rats showing that nicotine self-administration, demand intensity, reinstatement, and protein expression within the reward pathway are sensitive to both endogenous and synthetic estrogens.

Dr. Wendy Lynch (University of Virginia) will discuss evidence indicating that estradiol enhances motivational aspects of an addiction-like phenotype in rats with cocaine and fentanyl.

Dr. Emma Childs (University of Illinois at Chicago) will discuss findings from clinical studies showing that hormonal contents of oral contraceptive pills are related to subjective euphoria and stimulation following methamphetamine and alcohol.

Dr. Weafer will discuss findings showing that among heavy drinkers, low estradiol levels are associated with less neural

inhibitory function, a known risk factor for addiction.

Collectively, these findings illustrate that ovarian hormone levels can influence susceptibility to problematic drug use in multiple ways. As such, this work has important implications for developing sex-specific prevention and treatment efforts for addiction.

Getting Further, Faster: Models to Advance the Implementation of Personalized Genetics for Tobacco Use Disorder in Routine Health Services

Chair: Alex Ramsey, Washington University School of Medicine

Co-Chair: Laura Bierut, Washington University School of Medicine

The past decade has ushered in paradigm-shifting genomic discoveries into the contribution of CHRNA5 and CYP2A6 as genetic risk factors for tobacco use disorder (TUD) and smoking-related diseases. Despite enthusiasm for exploring the behavioral impact of returning these personalized results, widespread implementation in real-world practice has been elusive. Increased attention to conceptual models that guide the development of emerging innovations will accelerate progress from basic science through clinical trials to implementation of genetic biomarkers for population health impact.

This symposium will provide a current review of the leading genetic biomarkers in TUD and propose models to determine whether a given biomarker is ready to proceed to the next stage of innovation development, clinical trial testing, or implementation research. The proposed models will define thresholds for key decision criteria to guide the advancement of promising biomarkers for TUD along the research pipeline toward implementation.

Laura Bierut, MD from Washington University School of Medicine will begin by offering a scientific vision for moving toward the implementation of genomics for TUD care. Alex Ramsey, PhD from Washington University School of Medicine will then present evidence and a framework to guide the design and implementation of genetically informed interventions for TUD.

Hilary Tindle, MD, MPH from Vanderbilt University Medical Center will highlight data on her team's approach to integrating precision treatment of smoking in clinic, hospital, and community settings.

Kimberly Kaphingst, ScD from the University of Utah will describe the state of the science for communicating genetic susceptibility information among diverse populations in primary care.

Colleen McBride, PhD from Emory University will provide a behavioral medicine lens aimed at bridging genomics and implementation expertise to identify and promote evidence-based genomic applications primed for implementation. Shelley Su, PhD from NIDA will conclude the session with a discussion of opportunities and challenges for the use of genomics to personalize TUD services.

Intersection of Minority Health, Health Disparities, and Social Determinants of Health with Psychopharmacology and Substance Use

Chair: Adam Leventhal, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

Co-Chair: Hector Lopez-Vergara, Brown University

Across substance use outcomes, ethno/racial minorities in the U.S. experience disproportionately higher burden of negative health outcomes and lower access to care. This symposium will "unpack" various levels of analysis in substance use disparity research, ranging from psychopharmacology, individual differences, social determinants, and psychometrics across the lifespan. The chair (Dr. Leventhal) and co-chair (Dr. Lopez-Vergara) will review a multi-level framework for addictions disparity research, which will be followed by four presentations.

Dr. Adam M. Leventhal (University of Southern California) will present research examining nicotine withdrawal as a cardinal component of nicotine addiction, specifically by using a sample of African American smokers (n=667) assessed after ad lib smoking (nicotine non-deprived) and after overnight abstinence (nicotine deprived) to induce withdrawal. Dr. Leventhal will investigate if the frequency of experiencing discrimination predicts variability in the urge to smoke.

Dr. Tamika Zapolski and Richelle Clifton (Indiana University) will present data from a study investigating the role of impulsivity in the relationship between discrimination and substance use. Data from ethno/racial minority adolescents (n=112) and young adults (n=502) will be used to show how these processes unfold across two developmental periods.

Dr. Sycarah Fisher (University of Georgia) will present research

testing the influence of social support (parents and teachers) on the relationship between ethnic identify and substance use in multi-racial youth (n=523), an important topic as multiracial youth are often not included in research comparing racial/ethnic groups.

Dr. Hector Lopez-Vergara and Jodi M. Sutherland (University of Rhode Island) will present their work examining the cultural equivalence of measures from a psychometric perspective; and will use structural equation modeling to test for the measurement invariance of subjective effects of drugs across ethno/racial groups (n=1,054).

In concluding remarks, Dr. Albert Avila (National Institute on Drug Abuse) will integrate results with an eye towards building a future blueprint for addiction disparity research.

New Medication Targets for Methamphetamine Use Disorder

Chair: Anna Moszczynska, Wayne State University
Co-Chair: Edythe London, UCLA

Methamphetamine Use Disorder (MUD) is a global health problem, linked to an increasing rate of overdose deaths in the United States, where about 2 million people use the drug in 2018. Relapse after completing treatment is common, and there is no FDA-approved medication despite decades of focused research. Some medications have shown low efficacy in people who have light-to-moderate methamphetamine use but not in those who use the drug heavily. New drug targets are needed, particularly for people who abuse methamphetamine heavily because they suffer the most from methamphetamine abuse-related neuropsychological problems and are at high risk for relapse and death from methamphetamine overdose. This symposium will present the newest preclinical and clinical data on several potential molecular targets for the development of medications for MUD. Dr. Shoptaw (UCLA, CA) will provide an update on recent developments in neuroimmune therapies for MUD, with a focus on phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitors and applications in a South African population. Dr. London (UCLA, CA) will review evidence for metabotropic glutamate receptor-5 allosteric modulators as prospective medications and PET findings on mGlu5 receptors in brain, and. Dr. Dwoskin (University of Kentucky, KY) will present her drug discovery data on selective vesicular monoamine transporter-2 inhibitors. Finally, Dr. Moszczynska (Wayne State University, MI) will present evidence for a role of parkin in MUD. Discussant Dr. Szumlinski (UC Santa Barbara, CA) will then briefly summarize these presentations, after which she will moderate a discussion between the panel and audience members.

A Peek Inside DEA's Process: Drug Scheduling Actions, Pharmacological Testing, and Schedule I Research Registration

Chair: Olubukola Kalejaiye, Drug Enforcement Agency
Co-Chair: Luli Akinfiresoye, Drug Enforcement Agency

The Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section at DEA is responsible for the administrative process as it pertains to drug scheduling set forth by the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). This process includes the scheduling of drugs (substances) encountered on the illicit market, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drugs with potential for abuse, drugs that are the subject of a petition, and drugs scheduled under international treaties. Dr. Olubukola Kalejaiye will discuss drug evaluation and scheduling to include the components of eight-factor scientific analyses, the process to communicate CSA additions or subtractions, and the movement of substances between schedules during her presentation entitled “The United States Drug Enforcement Administration’s Process for Drug Scheduling.”

The rapid introduction and abuse of novel psychoactive substances has been widespread in the United States in the past decade and continues to pose a significant risk to public safety. These substances are broad ranging and include stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens. Pharmacological and other scientific data for these substances is needed to inform public health and regulatory decisions. Through partnerships, collaborations, and contracts, data is rapidly collected and shared within the interagency community. Dr. Teneille Walker will share information on how DEA collects such data through her presentation entitled “Research with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration: Conducting Pharmacology Contract Studies.”
The CSA provides a regulatory framework to investigate schedule I controlled substances. DEA in consultation with FDA, process applications for federal registration to conduct research with schedule I controlled substances. The process to apply for a registration including the regulatory requirements for handling controlled substances under the CSA and the Code of Federal Regulations will be discussed. Mr. Paul Repaci will review the type of modifications to an active registration and tips for providing complete applications to ensure timely approvals during his presentation entitled “Demystifying the Process to Conduct

Research with Controlled Substances: United States Drug Enforcement Administration's Schedule I Researcher Registration."

Promising New Smoking Cessation Treatments

Chair: Evan S. Herrmann, NIDA/NIH

Co-Chair: Kevin Walton, NIDA/NIH

The 2020 Surgeon General's Report states that existing FDA-approved smoking cessation treatments (i. e., NRT, bupropion, varenicline) are safe and efficacious but limited in their appeal, reach, and real-world effectiveness. This represents an opportunity for new smoking cessation treatments to have a large impact on this public health problem. This symposium brings together experts on smoking cessation and highlights four promising new treatments with the potential to overcome these limitations and increase overall cessation rates.

Dr. Sherry McKee, Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University, will present data from human laboratory studies and clinical trials examining the potential utility of repurposing guanfacine, an α2A noradrenergic agonist currently FDA-approved for ADHD.

Dr. Cindy Jacobs, Chief Medical Officer of Achieve Life Sciences, will provide an overview of clinical research and Phase I-III development of Cytisinicline®, a novel formulation of cytisine, a naturally occurring alkaloid and nicotinic acetylcholine receptor partial agonist.

Dr. Matthew Johnson, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University, will present data from clinical studies of the 5-HT2A agonist psilocybin for smoking cessation, including data from an ongoing Phase II comparative efficacy trial vs. nicotine patch.

Dr. Abraham Zangen, Professor of Life Sciences at Ben-Gurion University and Director of the Scientific Advisory Board at BrainsWay, will present on a deep-brain repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment that was recently FDA authorized for smoking cessation.

Dr. Celia Winchell, Medical Team Leader on Addiction Drug Products at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation Research, will serve as discussant, providing an overview of the FDA's role in smoking cessation medications development and approval processes.

These scientifically diverse talks focus on new data spanning multiple clinical development Phases, provides researchers and clinicians with cutting-edge information on promising new smoking cessation treatments and broader insights into treatment development and regulatory processes.

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as an Addiction Therapeutic: Insights from Clinical and Preclinical Studies

Chair: *Vaughn Steele, Yale University School of Medicine*

Co-Chair: Colleen Hanlon, Wake Forest Health Sciences

Decades of preclinical and clinical research have taught us that addiction is, indeed, a disorder of dysregulated circuits. Until recently, however, there were no circuit-based treatments for substance use disorders (SUDs). In 2020, a unique form of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) received FDA-clearance to aid smoking cessation. This has opened the door to a wide range of emerging TMS-based therapeutic options for SUDs. This symposium, chaired by Dr. Vaughn R. Steele (Yale School of Medicine) and Colleen Hanlon (Wake Forest Health Sciences) will showcase several recent, and transformational advances in preclinical and clinical TMS-based SUD therapeutics.

Dr. Hanbing Lu (National Institute on Drug Abuse Intramural Research Program) will present data demonstrating the effect of a preclinical focal TMS coil that induces single-limb movement and its implications for treating cocaine dependence. Coil specificity in preclinical models help uncover neurobiological mechanisms of TMS and will accelerate advances in developing TMS-based therapeutics for SUDs. This will be followed by clinical TMS treatment studies in cannabis, opiate, and cocaine users. Specifically, Dr. Tony George (University of Toronto) will present results from a randomized controlled trial of TMS in cannabis use disorder (20 Hz, bilateral dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC)). Dr. Hanlon will present results of a study evaluating the relative efficacy of two potential TMS treatment targets as tools to decrease pain and promote opiate sparing (Motor Cortex, DLPFC). Finally, Dr. Steele will present new data which demonstrates that chronic TMS can reduce cocaine use (theta burst, DLPFC). The Discussant, Dr. Travis Baker (Rutgers University Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience), will summarize the tremendous promise of TMS as a tool for treating SUDs, especially as an adjuvant to other treatments.

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UPDATE ON THE 2021 CPDD CONFERENCE

Kelly Dunn, PhD, MBA, Chair, CPDD Program Committee

Hello CPDD members,

The CPDD Program Committee is excited to provide you with a fully virtual meeting for 2021. Our theme is "Beyond the Looking Glass", which reflects that fact we are meeting behind our screens once again. However, this year we have added some new exciting developments to our programming. For instance, you will be able to create your own avatar (resembling early video game technology) that can be used to explore our virtual "convention center" and network with other meeting attendees in real time throughout our meeting. To support this fun new addition, we have built in several dedicated networking breaks to provide you with ample time to see your friends and colleagues.

Drawing from this opportunity, the Program Committee has composed several full and mini-oral sessions for you that will run LIVE this year and are named after some classic video games. For instance, be sure to attend our Epidemiology session that is named after "SimCity" or a Neuroscience session named after "Sonic the Hedgehog". These oral sessions will run concurrent to symposia and workshops, resulting in up to 4 active programming tracks each meeting day. We have tried to cluster similar research topics together to make it easier for you to carve out time to attend live sessions while managing other responsibilities (we understand the challenge of virtual meeting attendance). All sessions will also be recorded and available for on-demand viewing after the meeting.

Altogether, CPDD 2021 will feature 4 forums, 36 sixty-minute (full) sessions, 13 thirty-minute (mini) sessions, and 3 dedicated poster hours. These sessions are composed of a rich mix of science, methodology, and professional development presentations. We will also be joined by the directors of NIDA (Nora Volkow, M.D.) and NIAAA (George Koob, Ph.D) during our Plenary Session, a Presidential Session focused on the Role of Poverty in Vulnerability to Addiction, an Innovator Symposium chaired by our distinguished colleague Dr. Bertha Madras, and a Late-Breaking session (abstracts due April 15th). We are also introducing a new Drug and Alcohol Dependence Session, wherein the editor of our CPDD flagship journal will select 3 articles to be highlighted as a talk during the conference. This session will be a standing feature moving forward, so be sure to submit your best work to DAD for the opportunity to discuss your research in this unopposed session.

Although we all look forward to the day when we can meet again in person, we hope you will share our excitement for the quality of work being presented this year and be inspired at the passion our community has towards our mutual goal of advancing the science of alcohol and drug use disorder. We can't wait to see you in June 2021.


JUNE 21-24
83rd Annual Scientific *Virtual* Meeting
NEW *SCIENCE*. **NEW** *INTERACTIVE PLATFORM*.
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Spring 2021

CPDD 2021 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE (COCHIN AWARD)

Joshua Lile, PhD, Chair, CPDD Awards for Excellence Committee

The CPDD Awards for Excellence Committee is quite literally the most rewarding committee of the College! Our committee administers the Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award, the Marian W. Fischman Lectureship Award for An Outstanding Woman Scientist, the CPDD Mentorship Award, the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, the J. Michael Morrison Award and the Innovator Award. Selecting the winners is always a difficult choice, but it is our privilege to bestow such recognition on our outstanding colleagues and members of the College. The recipients in 2020 are highly accomplished and represent the key attributes of our interdisciplinary College. They will be honored at the 2021 virtual meeting. Due to limited programming availability, the CPDD leadership determined that the only new award for 2021 is the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, as this award has an age limit. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt was recently selected as the 2021 recipient of this prestigious award. Congratulations!

Our committee would also like to communicate to the membership that we are committed to a confidential, yet transparent, review process. The members of the committee are listed on the Member Resources section of the CPDD website and represent the diversity of interests of the College. Members are required to disclose actual or perceived conflicts of interest with any of the nominees, and those with conflicts do not participate in the review process for a given award. If needed, the past committee Chair is asked to assist with the review. The process is similar to an NIH Study Section: committee members are provided the confidential materials for each nominee, the members review the materials and provide preliminary scores independently, and those preliminary scores are used to guide discussion on a subsequent teleconference. Merit is the primary criterion, but diversity is encouraged and embraced.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as the Chair for the Awards for Excellence Committee and look forward to working with the Committee and the College to recognize the best and brightest of our members in the coming years. Thank you for nominating deserving colleagues for one or more of the CPDD Awards for Excellence! Josh Lile

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In Memoriam

CPDD celebrated the lives and accomplishments of our distinguished members. Please join us in celebrating the lives of those we lost since our last issue.

- Mary Jeanne Kreek, MD
- Kathleen (Kathy) M. Carroll, PhD
- Nancy E. Suchman, PhD
- Reginald V. Fant, PhD

Read their memorials by clicking here.

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CPDD HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL ADVOCACY DAY

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence held its annual Advocacy Event virtually on February 16-19, 2021. Nineteen CPDD members and representatives participated in meetings with 53 Congressional member offices—an increase from 2020 where fifteen CPDD advocates participated in 45 Congressional office meetings.

"This year's meeting was unique due to the COVID-19 Pandemic," shared Sandra Comer, PhD, Professor of Neurobiology (in Psychiatry), Columbia University and CPDD Public Policy Officer. "More substance use disorder professionals were available to host meetings with Congressional member offices expanding the reach of our efforts."

During the meetings, CPDD members advocated for increased drug abuse research funding, NIDA-specific Report Language being used in the Fiscal 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill and reducing barriers to research.

Under drug and research funding, CPDD advocated for $46.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) overall and to include a proportionate increase for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). A portion was requested for targeted research on opioid misuse and addiction, development of opioid alternatives for pain management and addiction treatment. CPDD also supported the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act to support the research enterprise in the rebuilding efforts of the pandemic. The bill was introduced in the House and Senate by a bipartisan group of lawmakers.

Under reducing barriers to research, CPDD supported legislation reducing barriers to research on compounds listed in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. CPDD also supported legislation supporting a less cumbersome registration process for opioid and marijuana research, reducing overall wait time, costly security measures and unnecessary layers of protocol review allowing for private manufacturing and distribution of marijuana solely for the purpose of research. Two bipartisan bills would accomplish these objectives: the Medical Marijuana Research Act and the Cannabidiol Research Act.

CPDD will host the next CPDD Advocacy Event in February 2022.

Opioid-Related Overdose Mortality in the Era of Fentanyl: Monitoring a Shifting Epidemic by Person, Place, and Time
Keri N. Althoff, Kathryn M. Leifheit, Ju Nyeong Park, Aruna Chandran, Susan G. Sherman
Drug Alcohol Depend. 2020 Nov 1;216:108321. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.108321. Epub 2020 Sep 25.

Contrary to the popular narratives of the US opioid epidemic, we found that young (<55 years old) urban non-Hispanic (NH) Black Americans experienced a steeper increase (178%) in opioid-related overdose mortality than young, rural white Americans (62%) in the period after illicit fentanyl emerged (2013-2017). Among older adults (>=55 years), urban NH Black Americans had the steepest increase (87%). Urban NH Black Americans had the greatest increase fentanyl-involved deaths (65% in younger, 61% in older) during this period. Public health interventions specific to urban NH Black Americans are needed to curb fentanyl-involved overdose deaths in the US.

Retention of Opioid Agonist Treatment Prescribers Across New South Wales, Australia, 2001–2018: Implications for Treatment Systems and Potential Impact on Client Outcomes
Nicola R. Jones, Suzanne Nielsen, Michael Farrell, Robert Ali, Anthony Gill, Sarah Larney, Louisa Degenhardt
Drug Alcohol Depend. 2020 Dec 19;219:108464. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.108464.

Opioid agonist treatment (OAT) is an essential health service for people dependent on opioids. Providing OAT in primary care settings can increase access, however in Australia, in recent years the retention of primary care OAT prescribers has declined. Prescribers ceasing prescribing now exceeds new prescribers. Using administrative data, in 2017, more than 80 per cent of clients were managed by 20 per cent of prescribers with an average duration of prescribing OAT of greater than 17 years. There is a need to develop new strategies to increase recruitment and retention of new and younger prescribers.

Blunted prefrontal signature of proactive inhibitory control in cocaine use disorder
Kabir B. Nigam, Lisa K. Straub, Edward A. Zuniga, Aysha Sami, Kathryn A. Cunningham, Noelle C. Anastasio, F. Gerard Moeller, James M. Bjork
Drug Alcohol Depend. 2021 Jan 1;218:108402. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.108402.

Brain regions that help us control ourselves can be recruited by a potential need to stop. Persons with cocaine use disorder (CUD) and controls played a game like “Simon Says” during brain scanning. Participants earned money by responding to some targets but had to stop their response mid-stream for others. Target color signaled whether a “stop signal” might happen. Healthy controls activated a key self-control region of the brain when alerted they might have to stop, but persons with CUD did not. This proactive control deficit in CUD may relate to a broader lack of self-control common in CUD patients.


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