



The College on Problems
of Drug Dependence

NEWS LINE

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dear friends and colleagues,

As I reflect on our 87th Annual Scientific Meeting, held in New Orleans, I am filled with both pride and gratitude. With 1,297 attendees representing 36 countries and 48 U.S. states, our global reach and scientific community continue to grow. The broad representation of our membership remains one of our greatest strengths.

The Presidential Symposium, “What Is Kratom and Is It Harmful or Beneficial?”, presented by Dr. Christopher McCurdy, drew 477 attendees and sparked thoughtful dialogue on a topic of great importance to both science and public health. Another major highlight was the introduction of Neuroburst, the first mini-program within the main conference, developed by Dr. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt to increase neuroscience representation, participation, and membership within CPDD. The keynote address for this track, delivered by Dr. Eric Nestler, set the tone for a vibrant series of sessions that inspired engagement and collaboration across preclinical, clinical, and translational research.

As we look ahead to the year before us, it is important to acknowledge the significant accomplishments of 2025. I extend my deepest thanks to our outgoing President, Dr. Kelly Dunn, for her exceptional leadership. Under her leadership, CPDD held a highly successful annual meeting in New Orleans and advanced several major initiatives that will shape CPDD for years to come. Dr. Dunn empaneled a Program Task Force, chaired by Dr. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, which led to several innovative programming changes, including a restructured abstract review system designed to broaden representation across scientific content areas and reduce reviewer burden. This new process will be piloted during the 2025–2026 conference cycle.

She also established a Membership Task Force, chaired by Dr. Amy Janes, that focused on strengthening and expanding stakeholder representation within CPDD. This initiative identified practical strategies to increase engagement among neuroscientists, medicinal chemists, physician-scientists, and individuals with lived or living experience. These actions reflect Dr. Dunn’s commitment to ensuring that CPDD continues to evolve while retaining its identity as the leading forum for addiction science. I am grateful for her efforts and look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Dunn in her role as Past-President and Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee in the year ahead.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the 2025 Program Committee for its outstanding work. Dr. Kevin Freeman chaired three consecutive meetings and brought creativity, scientific breadth, and a welcoming environment to the program. During his tenure, Dr. Freeman introduced several innovative elements and in his final year pioneered a collaborative meeting to bridge the CPDD and RSA conferences while also supporting Dr. Gipson-Reichardt in her pioneering Neuroburst programming. The now-iconic second-line processional through the French Quarter was Dr. Freeman’s idea, and he worked tirelessly to make it a reality, creating a joyful, unforgettable celebration that concluded the meeting.

I also thank the 2025 Board of Directors for their steady leadership and engagement throughout the year: Drs. Cecilia Bergeria, Qiana Brown, Kevin Freeman, Diann Gaalema, Albert Garcia-Romeu, Charles Gorodetzky, Annie Kleykamp, Sandra Comer, Joshua Lile, Silvia Martins, Sterling McPherson, Angela Moreland, Francesca Filbey, Cassandra

I Gipson-Reichardt, Michael Taffe, Angela Heads, Deborah Hasin, William Stoops, Kelly Dunn, Aron Lichtman, and Judith Tsui.

Looking Ahead to 2026

I am delighted to welcome Dr. Judith Tsui as our new President-Elect. Her clinical expertise and public health insight bring valuable perspective to CPDD's future direction. She has already begun contributing to the 2026 program through initiatives that expand physician representation and engagement, which will be highlighted in special sessions and networking events. Her first task will be to chair the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee, comprised of Drs. Denis Antoine, Lais Berro, and Jermaine Jones.

Planning for our 88th Annual Scientific Meeting in Portland is well underway under the leadership of Program Chair Dr. Gipson-Reichardt. Along with our core programming,

Neuroburst will return, led by Drs. Sarah Yip and Ethan Anderson, following its strong debut, alongside two new specialty tracks that build on its momentum. The Real World of Addiction track, led by Drs. Joao De Aquino and Justin Strickland, will connect advances in research with clinical needs and real-world outcomes, drawing insight from clinicians, community partners, policymakers, and individuals with lived and living experience. It will highlight opportunities to strengthen translation across the full research pipeline, from epidemiology to preclinical work, human laboratory studies, and clinical interventions. The Lived and Living Experience track, led by Drs. Noel Vest and Wayne Kemper, will elevate perspectives that have too often been absent from scientific conversations. Its focus on recovery, harm reduction, and patient-centered success metrics will further ensure that research priorities reflect the needs of individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

Together, these new tracks reinforce our commitment to multidirectional learning across disciplines and lived experiences, ensuring that the questions we ask, the methods we apply, and the outcomes we prioritize ultimately improve the lives of individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

The city of Portland, Oregon offers a timely setting for these discussions, given the policy shifts and public health questions the region has confronted regarding drug decriminalization and community-based strategies. Even amid uncertainty in funding priorities and public policy environments, our mission remains clear. CPDD will continue advancing rigorous and impactful science that drives better treatments and healthier communities.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the 2025-2026 Executive Committee for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the continued success of CPDD. Please join me in thanking Dr. Dunn, Treasurer Dr. William Stoops, Public Policy Officer Dr. Sandra Comer, and the award-winning team at Parthenon Management Group (2025 recipients of the Martin and Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award) led by Jesse Howard, Liz Sansom, and Julie Hiscock, for their partnership and excellence. I also thank the 2026 Board of Directors for their leadership as we head into another exciting year: Drs. Cecilia Bergeria, Kevin Freeman, Sally Huskinson, Joshua Lile, Sterling McPherson, Laura Brandt, Diann Gaalema, Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, Annie Kleykamp, Silvia Martins, Francesca Filbey, Aron Lichtman, Erin McClure, Kelly Dunn, Judith Tsui, William Stoops, Angeal Moreland, Sandra Comer, and Justin Strickland.

The past year reaffirmed what makes CPDD exceptional, a community rooted in science, strengthened by collaboration, and united by purpose. The success of our meeting and the strength of our organization reflect the ongoing commitment of our members. I am honored to serve as your President and look forward to seeing you in Portland for another memorable and inspiring meeting.

With appreciation,
Wendy Lynch, PhD
President, College on Problems of Drug Dependence

JOIN US!



The College on Problems
of Drug Dependence

88TH ANNUAL MEETING

*Oregon Convention Center &
Hyatt Regency Portland*

June 13-17, 2026

PORTLAND OREGON

Learn more and register at cpdd.org

POLICY UPDATE



Throughout 2025, CPDD has been actively engaged in shaping public policy to support addiction science and research. After a successful Capitol Hill Day in February, where 47 meetings with congressional staff occurred from 12 states, we continued our advocacy efforts with a targeted July Hill Day.

Our July Hill Day focused on senate and house appropriations leaders from red states as they began discussions on the FY2026 HHS Labor Appropriations Bill. Our key talking points with these offices stressed the importance of NIDA's independence as a stand-alone institute, continued levels of Federal research funding overall, and both the financial and public health return on investments from drugs developed by past Federal funding.

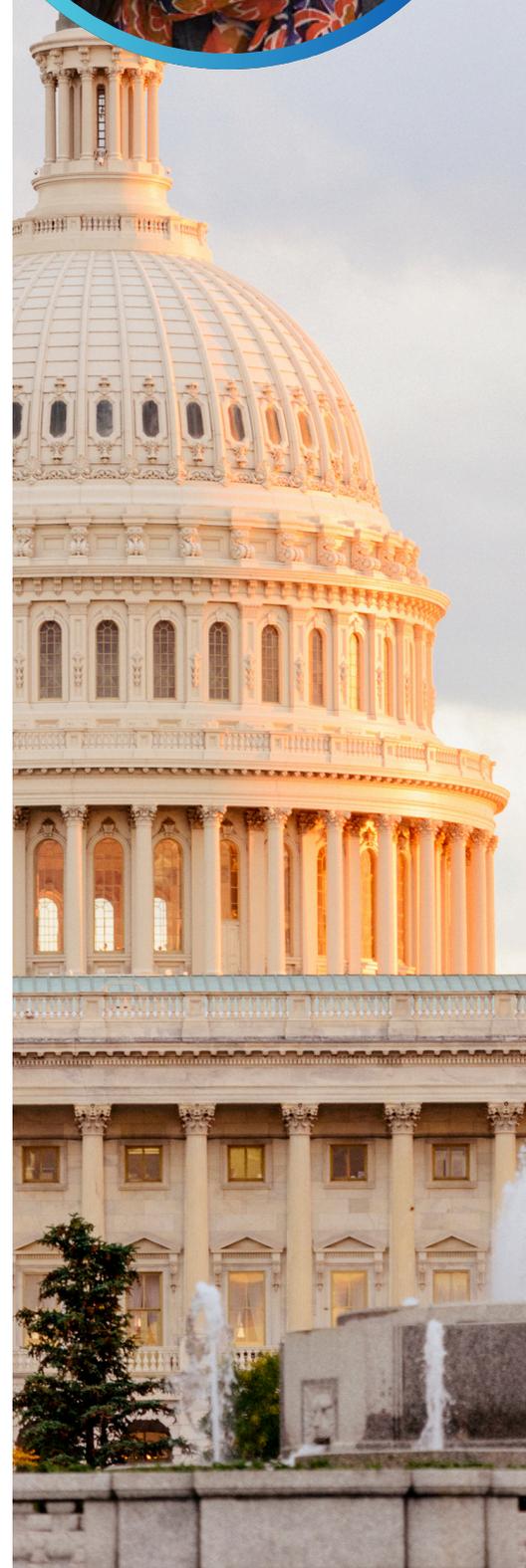
CPDD also took strong positions on key legislation. It endorsed the HALT Fentanyl Act and the SAFE Act, both aimed at reducing barriers to Schedule I substance research. Conversely, CPDD opposed the SPARE Act (H.R. 1802), which seeks to eliminate federally funded animal research at NIH, FDA, and CDC—arguing that such a move would hinder scientific progress.

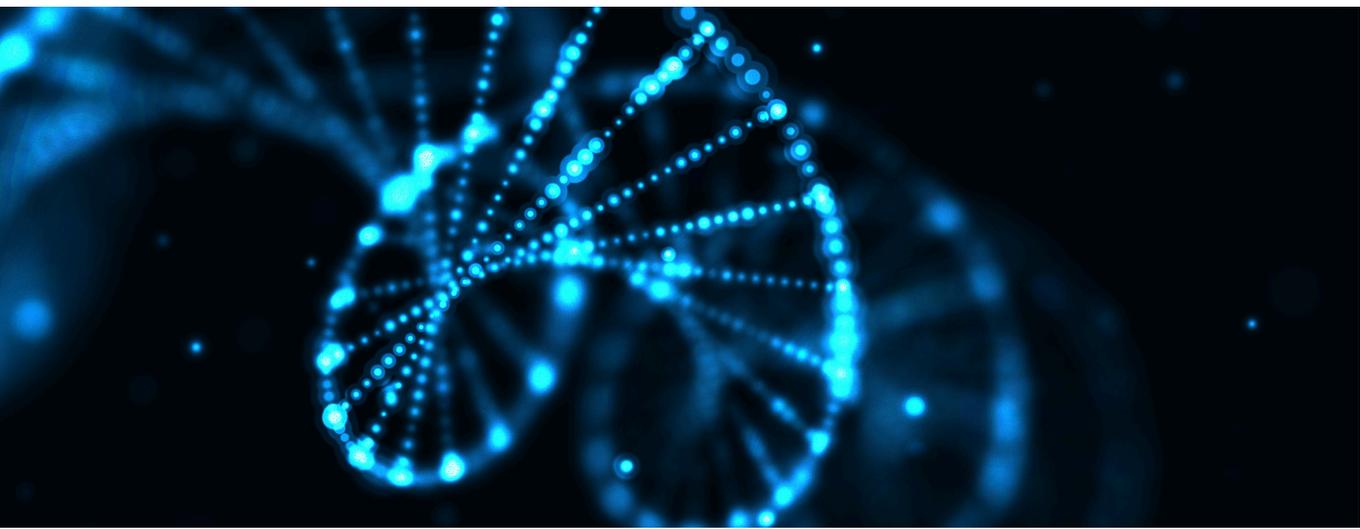
In response to federal policy changes, CPDD voiced concern over an August 2025 executive order that added political review layers to NIH grant peer-review processes, potentially threatening scientific independence. CPDD also responded to proposed NIH indirect cost rate caps, warning that cuts would negatively affect research institutions and innovation. Additionally, CPDD addressed the Supreme Court's decision allowing NIH to cancel millions in DEI-related research funding, emphasizing the importance of inclusive science.

As CPDD continues to champion the advancement of addiction science, its recent public policy efforts reflect a steadfast commitment to protecting research integrity, expanding access to critical funding, and removing barriers to innovation. In the face of shifting political landscapes and regulatory challenges, CPDD has remained a powerful voice advocating for evidence-based legislation, defending the autonomy of scientific inquiry, and ensuring that the needs of researchers and communities affected by substance use are heard.

We could not do our important work without the support of our members. Thank you for your everyday efforts in protecting substance abuse research.

Sandra Comer, PhD
Public Policy Officer





Drug and Alcohol Dependence had many significant and impactful papers published over the past six months. However, two papers caught my attention, and I wanted to highlight them here.

James JC, Thrush JR, Yusufali TM, Shaw HE, Avram M, Moran JH, Fantegrossi WE. *Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists exacerbate fentanyl-elicited respiratory depression and confer resistance to naloxone rescue in mice.* Drug Alcohol Depend. 2025 Jul 1;272:112672. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2025.112672. Epub 2025 Apr 15. PMID: 40319790; PMCID: PMC12119211.

This paper examined synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs: JWH-018 and 5F-ADB-PINACA) administered alone or in combination with fentanyl in mice. Co-administration of these drugs resulted in worsened respiratory depression and lessened the effectiveness of the naloxone rescue. These findings suggest that fentanyl in combination with SCRAs, drugs frequently implicated as adulterants and used together, may reduce the efficacy of naloxone in reversing respiratory depression associated with fentanyl overdose.

Rush CR, Santos GM, McMahan VM, Fraser A, Clark J, Luna Marti X, Walker JE, Shoptaw S, Coffin PO. *Mirtazapine reduces hypothetical methamphetamine demand in humans.* Drug Alcohol Depend. 2025 Sep 1;274:112769. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2025.112769. Epub 2025 Jun 24. PMID: 40580890; PMCID: PMC12279006.

This article examined the effect of mirtazapine for the treatment of methamphetamine disorder in a human laboratory study. Using a placebo-controlled cross-over design, 15 adults with moderate to severe methamphetamine use disorder were administered mirtazapine or placebo along with a methamphetamine infusion. Methamphetamine acute effects were tested via a drug purchasing task and surveys. Overall, mirtazapine was well-tolerated in combination with saline or methamphetamine and reduced drug demand, indicating a possible pharmacotherapy that can be helpful for treating methamphetamine use.

Karen Cropsey, Editor-in-Chief





Selected by Rachel Rabin, PhD Special Issue Editor

High-risk alcohol consumption is associated with mitochondrial damage-associated molecular patterns in people living with HIV

Shannon R. Gilstrap, Micheal D. Ho, Joanna M. Hobson, Dyan M. White-Gilliam, Khalid Freij, Michael A. Owens, Shameka L. Cody, S. Justin Thomas, Robert E. Sorge, Burel R. Goodin

This paper examined the molecular-level harms of high-risk alcohol use by assessing mitochondrial damage in people with HIV (PWH) compared to those without HIV. The findings link alcohol consumption to mitochondrial damage-associated molecular patterns (mDAMPs), a relatively unexplored biological pathway in addiction research. The results reveal a potential mechanism that may help explain poorer health outcomes in PWH associated with alcohol use and suggest a novel therapeutic target for intervention. By focusing on PWH, a population particularly vulnerable to alcohol's adverse effects, these findings can have direct implications for patient care.



Selected by Teri Franklin, PhD Editor-in-Chief

Early life outcomes of prenatal exposure to alcohol and synthetic cannabinoids in mice

Siara K. Rouzer, McKay Domen, Aisley George, Abigail Bowring, Rajesh C. Miranda

This well-conducted controlled study provides valuable translational insights and underscores the importance of preclinical research. It clearly demonstrates that prenatal exposure to alcohol, cannabinoids, and their combination reduces offspring viability, while surviving offspring show sex-specific behavioural impairments.



Selected by Sterling McPherson, PhD Associate Editor

Methadone-involved overdose deaths in urban and rural communities before and after the public health emergency flexibilities for methadone take-home doses

Rebecca Arden Harris, Judith A. Long, Yuhua Bao, Henry R. Kranzler, Jeanmarie Perrone, David S. Mandell

This article addresses a critically important aspect of the provision of MOUD care; how best to provide care to rural communities. Individuals dwelling in rural locations are not immune to the severe public health problems of opioid misuse and addiction. However, their access to care is often severely limited. This manuscript highlights another critical data point taken from the COVID pandemic, that take-home doses work well for many methadone patients and provision of this mode of care does not increase the risk. Hopefully, this paper along with others supporting the primary conclusion will lead to policy changes around provision of take home doses for communities and providers that are hindered by policies that disallow such modes of care



Selected by Sherry McKee, PhD Associate Editor

Receiving coupons and discounts for nicotine pouches is associated with current use of nicotine pouches among United States adults: Results from the population assessment of tobacco and health (PATH) study wave 7 (2022-2023)

Juhan Lee, Frank Merenda, Andrea H. Weinberger

This epidemiological study is the first to examine the relationship between exposure to discounts and coupons for nicotine pouches and nicotine pouch use among US adults. The use of nicotine pouches is on the rise in the United States, and the FDA has approved marketing for this product. Results identify that those offered discounts and coupons were 34 times more likely to engage in past 30-day use. These findings are of significant public health concern as the use of nicotine pouches are not without risk.

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MEMBERSHIP
TODAY.**

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Animals in Research Committee

Chair: Katherine Serafine, PhD



Since the last update, we are excited to share that [CPDD has launched a new fellowship in partnership with Americans for Medical Progress \(AMP\)](#) focused on animal research policy. The CPDD/AMP Animals in Research Policy fellow will receive training in science policy as it relates to animal research directly from AMP, and serve on the CPDD Animals in Research and Science Policy Committees. Stay tuned for an announcement about our inaugural fellow!

We've also started preparing for our Animals in Research forum for the 2026 annual meeting, which will be focused on working with institutional communications offices to share news about animal research. The forum will feature speakers from Portland-area institutions and will be moderated by our new CPDD/AMP Animals in Research Policy fellow!

The AIR committee is seeking nominations to feature early career CPDD members who work with animals for upcoming Member Spotlights! To nominate yourself or an early career researcher (graduate student, postdoctoral fellow or early-stage faculty/staff) for the Member Spotlight, reach out to the committee chairperson.

Finally, the AIR committee is coordinating with other societies, as well as the CPDD Public Policy committee, regarding continuing and reoccurring advocacy initiatives as opportunities to advocate for animal research, especially considering recent policy and legislation news. We encourage CPDD members who work with animals to subscribe for news updates through [AMP](#) and to follow news updates from the [National Association of Biomedical Research \(NABR\)](#).

Awards Committee

Chair: Maria Parker, PhD



Our committee is responsible for eight awards given by the organization, the Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award, the Marian W. Fischman Lectureship Award, the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, the J. Michael Morrison Award (not awarded in 2025), the Mary Jeanne Kreek Award, the Robert Balster Mentorship Award, the Innovator Award (not awarded in 2025), and the James L. Sorensen Distinguished Treatment and Research Mentor Award.

We again congratulate the 2025 CPDD Awards for Excellence winners below!

Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award

Dorothy Hatsukami, D. Phil, University of Minnesota

Marian W. Fischman Lectureship Award

Margaret Haney, Ph.D., Columbia University

Robert Balster Mentorship Award

Kathleen Brady, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina

Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award

Tory Spindle, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University

Mary Jeanne Kreek Award

Adam Carrico, Ph.D., Florida International University

James L. Sorensen Distinguished Treatment and Research Mentor Award

Gail D'Onofrio, M.D., Yale School of Medicine

The Awards for Excellence Committee will begin selecting the 2026 honorees early next year, and we're excited to celebrate the incredible work happening across our community. Our committee is committed to a **confidential yet transparent review process**. Each member discloses any potential conflicts of interest, and those with conflicts step aside for that award's review. Committee members without conflicts carefully review confidential nomination materials and provide preliminary scores to help guide our discussions. **Merit is always our top priority**, while diversity is actively encouraged and embraced.

A few friendly reminders about the nomination process:

- Each individual may nominate only one person per award, though multiple award nominations are allowed.
- The same nominee cannot be submitted for more than one award in the same year.

•Committee members are not eligible for nomination.
•I'm honored to serve as Chair of the Awards for Excellence Committee and look forward to working with the Committee and the College to recognize our members' outstanding contributions.

Nominations open November 1, 2025! Please start thinking about colleagues who deserve to be recognized – and consider supporting one of these awards through a financial donation.

Broadening Perspectives in Addiction Science Committee

Chair: Lais Berro, PhD



Introducing the Broadening Perspectives in Addiction Science (BPAS) Committee

You may notice a new name in the CPDD community – the Broadening Perspectives in Addiction Science (BPAS) Committee. Formerly known as the URPOP Committee, BPAS reflects both our ongoing mission and recent updates to federal terminology and guidance.

Although the name is new, the underlying principles of our work remains the same: to make sure a wide range of experiences, viewpoints, and voices are represented at CPDD and across addiction science. The BPAS Committee continues to advise the CPDD Board on ways to expand participation in membership, leadership, and annual meeting activities, using data-driven strategies and collaboration across committees.

This change provides an opportunity to highlight what has always been at the core of our efforts – broadening perspectives, fostering connections, and advancing scientific excellence through CPDD's core values: pluralism, collegiality, compassion, integrity, leadership, and scientific excellence.

While CPDD will no longer be awarding Primm-Singleton Travel Awards for the 2026 CPDD meeting, the BPAS Committee will still hold an oral presentation session highlighting CPDD travel awardees that represent and/or present on topics of importance to this Committee's

mission. We are excited to showcase these travel awardees, and we hope to see you all at the session.

We look forward to continuing and broadening perspectives in CPDD, and we thank all of you who help make CPDD a welcoming and forward-looking community for everyone in addiction science.

Code of Conduct Committee

Chair: Jacques Nguyen, PhD



The Code of Conduct Committee is responsible for reviewing and processing reports of possible conduct violations that occur during the CPDD Annual Meetings. After reviewing any conduct complaint documented by the Executive Office (PMG), the Committee discusses possible actions to be taken in response and provides a recommendation to the CPDD president, who then brings the issue to the CPDD Executive Committee.

The committee chair is responsible for keeping complainants apprised of actions being taken. The committee includes Drs. Jacques Nguyen (chair), Pia Mauro, Sudie Back, Catherine Stanger, and Mance Buttram. A committee meeting will be convened as needed to discuss reports of any alleged misconduct, should any new reports be received.

No changes were made to the Board-approved protocol and standard operating procedures in 2025. The CPDD website was previously updated to include committee policy documents and standard operating procedures. The CPDD Annual Meeting registration website was also updated to include an attestation check box with updated mission statement language. The committee welcomes input and comments from all CPDD members and Annual Meeting participants.

Communications Committee

Chair: Frank Schwebel, PhD



The Communications Committee is pleased to share updates on our ongoing efforts to enhance scientific communication among CPDD members, the broader research community, and the public.

At this year's CPDD Annual Scientific Meeting, we piloted a collaboration with the Early Career Member Committee to feature Early Career award finalists' posters on social media. In addition, for the fourth consecutive year, the Communications Committee hosted an updated Media Forum. This year's panel featured Drs. Jodi Gilman, Annie Kleykamp, Randi Schuster, and Frank Schwebel, who shared their experiences working with science journalists to disseminate their research. Planning is now underway for the 2026 Media Forum.

On November 16th, the Communications Committee will be hosting a webinar entitled The Role of Researchers with Lived/Living Experience in Shaping Research Agendas. Hosted by Communications Committee members, Drs. Bridget Hayes and Rachel Gicquelais, we have invited four CPDD members, Drs. Wayne Kepner, Emily Pasman, Martha Tilson, and Noel Vest, to share information about their research experience. You can register for the webinar here (<- please hyperlink).

The Committee continues to support the biannual publication of CPDD Newslines, now led by Drs. Eduardo Butelman and Emma Kay. This year, the Committee overhauled the review process for member submissions to the News and Views section of Drug and Alcohol Dependence. Submission guidelines are available on the [CPDD website] (<- please hyperlink). There is now capacity to publish News and Views articles on a monthly basis in Drug and Alcohol Dependence. In addition, the Committee continues to lead public engagement efforts through research-focused posts on CPDD's social media platforms.

For more information or to get involved in these initiatives, please get in touch with Committee Chair Dr. Frank Schwebel (fschwebel@unm.edu).

Early Career Committee

Chair: Sean Regnier, PhD



We have so many great initiatives in the Early Career Member Committee (e.g., our Workshop, Poster Competition). However, one of the most popular that I'd love to highlight is the CPDD Mentorship Program. This is an initiative coordinated by the ECMC prior to each annual meeting. The program aims to connect early career researchers (e.g., predoctoral fellows, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents) with more experienced researchers in their field to discuss topics such as career development, research ideas, and future goals. Mentor-mentee pairs are matched based on several factors, including research interests, career goals, and personal requests. We encourage the mentorship pairs to connect in-person at one of the many networking opportunities scheduled during the CPDD conference.

The 2025 CPDD Mentorship Program in New Orleans was a great success with 139 mentees paired with 95 mentors, matching our all-time enrollment record set last year. Excitedly, the gap in enrollment between mentees and mentors is shrinking, which reduces our need to ask mentors if they would be willing to provide mentorship for more than one mentee. We have wonderful mentors at CPDD who have participated in this program for several years.

Prior to assigning mentors, mentees are encouraged to prepare their CV, as well as questions they would like to ask their mentor. Once mentor/mentee matches are created, mentees are encouraged to initiate contact and scheduling the meeting, and to research their mentor's work, if they are unfamiliar.

We continue to receive overwhelmingly positive reviews when sending out our post-program survey. This year, we had 165 mentors and mentees complete the survey. About 90% of respondents felt their mentor/mentee was a good match. An insufficient lack of research overlap was the primary reason for participants finding the match to be undesirable, which is an area we are striving to improve in.

Both mentees and mentors have benefitted from this program! As stated by one mentor: “Early career scientists are the lifeblood of science and public health service. It is an honor and privilege to be able to serve as a mentor and try to give back some of the mentoring lessons that I benefitted from. I always feel like I learned more from my mentees than they learn from me and I thoroughly enjoy it.”

The ECMC is always looking for feedback on how to improve and expand this program. If there are Newsline readers interested in providing additional feedback, please feel free to contact the chair of the 2026 Mentorship program: Sean Regnier (sean.regnier@uky.edu). A big thank you to ECMC committee members for organizing this program!

Education Committee

Chair: Suky Martinez, PhD



The Education Committee (EC) is pleased to share exciting updates and extend a warm welcome to new members Anita Cservenka, Ph.D., Cristiana Nelise de Paula Araujo, Ph.D., Caitlin Ashley Molina, B.A., B.S., and Hillary Samples, Ph.D. We look forward to their important contributions as we continue advancing educational innovation within CPDD.

We also express our sincere appreciation to Lora M. Cope, Ph.D., Angela M. Heads, Ph.D., and Jermaine D. Jones, Ph.D. for their dedicated service and meaningful contributions during their committee tenure.

Ongoing Initiatives

The EC continues to make progress on its CPDD Curriculum, a major initiative aimed at expanding CPDD's educational reach and creating new avenues for knowledge dissemination. This initiative will feature a series of live and recorded lectures designed to provide accessible, high-quality educational content in addiction science for professionals, trainees, and the broader community.

Throughout 2025, the committee has focused on developing the curriculum framework, refining content priorities, and establishing a sustainable implementation plan. The inaugural lecture series is anticipated to launch in 2026.

Community Champions

The EC's Community Champions initiative, launched last year, continues to celebrate CPDD members who exemplify dedication to service, mentorship, and community engagement. Certificates of recognition will again be presented at the upcoming 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting, and honorees will be featured on the Education Committee portal of the CPDD website.

Nominations remain open and members are encouraged to submit recommendations, along with a brief description of the nominee's contributions, to info@cpdd.org.

As we close out 2025, the Education Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting excellence in addiction science education, broadening access to evidence-based knowledge, and strengthening the professional community that drives CPDD's mission forward.

Finance Committee

Chair: William Stoops, PhD



In times of uncertainty, it's critically important to hold fast to core values and to support one another. I'm proud to say that, even in times such as these, CPDD remains true to its values and is continually seeking ways to support our community. A perfect example of this is our Special Projects Fund proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors this past spring. With this program, we used excess funds from past successful years to support new initiatives proposed by our members to advance the College's mission, vision and values. The specific projects we supported were the NeuroBurst track at the 2025 meeting (proposed by Dr. Cassie Gipson), a virtual support and networking group for addiction researchers with lived experience (proposed by Dr. Noel Vest) and a partnership with TPN Health and our Education Committee to better communicate addiction science findings to the public (proposed by Dr. Suky Martinez). Each of these investments has already begun to bear fruit and I'm excited to see what's coming next!

Looking forward, the Finance Committee will continue to prioritize core values and support for our members. Our proposed 2026 budget, although conservative, maintains all the key features that make CPDD a welcoming and science-focused environment. We can do this because our investment portfolio continues to fare very well and we can responsibly draw from that, if needed, should political and other headwinds negatively impact meeting attendance and membership numbers—our primary sources of revenue. If you have suggestions, comments or questions about any of the Finance Committee’s activities, or our overall financial position, please reach out to me at william.stoops@uky.edu! We will plan to update the membership on our efforts at the meeting in Portland in June 2026. Hoping to see you there!

However, the Committee identified a more feasible opportunity: to create guidance on drafting a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) Charter. Members will conduct independent research and share ideas via email, with plans to draft guidance and revisit the discussion at the next committee meeting.

In preparation for the 2025 CPDD Annual Meeting in Portland, the Committee designed its forum and workshop around insights from a recent survey distributed to the membership, which received 48 responses. Based on the strong interest in emerging technologies, the Committee will present:

Forum: Ethical and Practical Considerations of Integrating AI into Clinical Research on Substance Use Disorders

Workshop: Innovative Methods of Naturalistic Assessment to Reduce Participant Burden, with a focus on Ecological Momentary Assessment, Digital Phenotyping/Passive Sensing, and the use of AI in research methodologies.

These sessions are designed to foster dialogue around cutting-edge innovations while addressing the ethical complexities they introduce to human subject's research. Looking ahead, the Committee continues to explore ways to support the CPDD community through the development of practical tools, resources, and guidance. Priorities include advancing the proposed “living library” of human research materials and creating concise summaries of past forums and workshops for broader dissemination, including materials geared toward lay audiences.

We look forward to engaging with CPDD members at the 2026 Annual Meeting and welcome input on future priorities.

Human Research Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Santa Ana, PhD
and Rachel Luba, PhD



The Human Research Committee continues to serve as a hub for identifying and addressing critical ethical, methodological, and scientific issues related to human subjects research in the context of substance use. Our goal remains to support CPDD members in conducting high-quality, ethical clinical research by recommending best practices, fostering discussion, and sharing resources.

This year, the Committee finalized the Researchers Conducting Human Research webpage. This is a centralized resource aimed at supporting investigators working with human participants in substance use research. The finalized page will now be submitted to the CPDD Executive Committee for final approval and publication on the CPDD website.

The Committee also discussed the development of new resources around Adverse Event (AE) reporting in non-pharmacologic clinical trials. After careful consideration, the Committee concluded that due to the trial-specific nature of AE/SAE reporting and the variation in regulatory expectations, a universal FAQ would be impractical at this time.

International Committee

Chair: Lalchhanhima Ralte, MPH



The International Committee (IC) is honored to welcome three distinguished new members: Katie Bailey from the University of California San Diego & San Diego State University, USA, Alex Guerin from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and Zachary Pierce-Messick from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, USA. The Committee also extends its heartfelt gratitude to Erin Winstanley and Jin Yoon for their exemplary service and invaluable contributions to the IC's mission over the past three years.

The IC is committed to advancing substance use research and treatment on a global scale. Its mission includes recognizing promising scientists, supporting the NIDA International Program, and assisting CPDD members around the world in the scientific study of substance use disorders.

The IC is preparing to submit a workshop for the 2026 CPDD meeting, building on the success of its workshops over the past five years. This workshop will focus on strengthening international collaborations in substance use disorder (SUD) research.

Drawing on connections from CPDD 2025, the sessions will explore strategies to transform networking opportunities into sustainable, equitable, and impactful global partnerships. Participants will gain practical tools for actionable collaboration, cross-cultural understanding, and career development in international SUD research. Through real-world examples and insights from experienced international researchers, the workshop will highlight successful approaches and opportunities for collaborative projects, supporting the formation of global research workgroups.

At the 2025 CPDD meeting, the IC invited international attendees to share feedback via a poster presentation. The most common concerns highlighted were travel costs, conference funding, and the need for greater international collaboration. To address this, the CPDD Executive Office will continue to offer Lower-Middle Income (LMIC) registration rates at last year's level.

Individuals seeking reduced registration fees should contact info@cpdd.org with specific requests. This initiative aims to make CPDD more accessible to participants from LMIC countries and support broader international engagement.

We warmly encourage international researchers and participants to start planning for CPDD 2026 in Portland, Oregon.

Long Range Planning Committee

Chair: Kelly Dunn, PhD



The CPDD Long-Range Planning Committee thanks the committee members for volunteering to support the visionary planning for the CPDD organization over the next year. This year the long-range planning committee will be focused heavily on the refinement of our existing strategic plan, our societal roadmap around which many of our organization's activities are centered. Our committee will be identifying methods for us to continue building and reinforcing the prominence of CPDD for the addiction science community while also determining opportunities for us to evolve and modernize with contemporary scientific and societal trends. We are honored to be serving in this role for the CPDD community and look forward to sharing information with you later this year.

Membership Committee

Chair: Alicia Allen, PhD, MPH



The Membership Committee advises the Executive Committee on CPDD's membership policies, including recruitment, application review, and retention. While the committee provides guidance and recommendations, final decisions are made by the Board of Directors.

In 2025, the committee strengthened membership engagement and streamlined operations. A major milestone was the approval and launch of the Professional Affiliate Membership. This membership level is designed for professionals not traditionally covered by existing categor-

ies, including peer recovery specialists, clinicians, government scientists, and early career individuals not yet meeting criteria for associate-level membership. Through September 2025, there were 183 new members (103 Members-in-Training, 8 Professional, and 72 Regular), reflecting a 110% increase since 2021 and demonstrating CPDD's success in expanding its reach and fostering a more inclusive professional community.

At the 2025 CPDD Annual Meeting, the committee prioritized interactive and welcoming activities to draw attendees to the Membership Booth and promote new membership opportunities. The booth, featured during all Poster Sessions, was staffed by membership committee members who engaged attendees through games, giveaways, and personalized conversations about CPDD benefits. Key activities included a Wheel of Fortune game with CPDD-related questions, a Marble Guessing Contest representing total memberships, and a Trivia Challenge through the meeting app. Booth visitors also received branded giveaways such as mints, magnets, and pennants. A large booth sign and updated handouts also highlighted membership categories and benefits. These efforts were supported by a set of "Did You Know?" conversation starters, emphasizing that membership no longer requires meeting attendance or sponsor letters, that CPDD offers strong early career engagement, and that the new Professional Affiliate level makes membership accessible to a broader audience. Together, these activities fostered meaningful interactions, promoted awareness of CPDD's evolving membership structure, and encouraged attendees to join or renew their membership.

Retention efforts were also advanced through the new CPDD Member Loyalty Program, launched at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Recognition elements include membership ribbons for milestone years and acknowledgment of long-term and Fellow Members on meeting slides. This reinforced appreciation for sustained engagement within the CPDD community.

Looking ahead, the committee is exploring additional strategies to enhance recruitment and retention. These potential initiatives aim to make joining CPDD easier, expand outreach to new audiences, and strengthen connections with trainees and early career professionals.

While still under consideration, these efforts reflect the committee's continued commitment to modernizing membership processes and fostering a broad, inclusive, and engaged community of addiction researchers and professionals.

Nominating Committee

Chair: Judith Tsui, MD, MPH
President-Elect



The Nominating Committee started their work at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans during the CPDD Business Meeting, calling on the members present to elect representatives to sit on the Committee for the 2025-26 year.

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the annual election of CPDD Board Members and any open Executive Committee positions. This year, we are soliciting nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer, and 4 Board Seats. Nominations are open until Dec 8, 2025. Once closed, the Committee, we review to provide the College with a slate of electors and voting will begin.

The Nominating Committee serves as a cornerstone of the organization's governance. Its role extends beyond simply filling positions; it ensures that the leadership team reflects broad scientific expertise, fosters continuity through succession planning, and upholds eligibility standards for key roles in College leadership. By carefully curating a balanced slate of candidates, the committee safeguards the integrity and effectiveness of CPDD's decision-making processes, ultimately shaping the organization's ability to advance research, education, and policy in the field of drug dependence.

Program Committee

Chair: Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, PhD



We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 meeting in Portland, Oregon. We are building an exciting program to share with you. Our invited content this year is timely in its focus and is built to provide you with exposure to cutting edge science and ensure an enriched CPDD experience. These sessions include our traditional slate of invited symposia, which will be:

- Emerging Adulterants in the Illicit Opioid Supply with a Focus on Medetomidine, to be chaired by Dr. Joseph Palamar
- How to Communicate Our Science to the Public, to be chaired by Dr. Erin Winstanley
- Non-Abstinence Endpoints- Have We Succeeded in Translation?, to be chaired by Dr. Erin McClure
- NIDA Drug Development Pipelines, to be chaired by Dr. David White
- Prevention Methods Across Data Sources Including ABCD and Other Big Data, to be chaired by Dr. Jill Bedi
- Substance Use During and After Pregnancy, to be chaired by Dr. Claire Coles

In addition to our featured invited core content, this year we are also including three focused tracks. Our goal with these tracks is to highlight critical areas of addiction science and elevate the experience of CPDD attendees by integrating this new content with our traditional core areas of focus.

The three tracks include the second annual NeuroBurst track, chaired by Drs. Sarah Yip and Ethan Anderson, Lived/Living Experience chaired by Drs. Noel Vest and Wayne Kemper, and the Real World of Addiction, chaired by Drs. Joao de Aquino, Justin Strickland and Wendy Lynch. Each track is a concentrated grouping of invited symposia, networking events, and possible mentor-mentee pairings.

The NeuroBurst track will feature Dr. Shelly Fligel as the keynote speaker, and content will include sessions focusing on epigenetics, PET imaging, and craving.

The Lived/Living Experience Track invites the addiction research community to expand our understanding of what counts as evidence – and who contributes to scientific discovery in shaping a more inclusive and translational future for the field.

The Real World of Addiction Track brings together clinicians, researchers, individuals with lived and living experience, and policymakers to strengthen the connection between addiction science and patient care.

We are also excited to announce our new program committee structure, which is being incorporated into our current review process. Our new structure incorporates a tiered system, with an opportunity for the CPDD community to contribute to the formation of the 2026 program by volunteering to be Poster Abstract Reviewers. This committee tier is open to all CPDD members and reviewers will become ad-hoc members of the Program Committee.

Members-In-Training (MITs) have an opportunity to apply to our new Reviewer Mentorship Program, which will provide an opportunity to learn how to review abstracts for our program, be mentored by the Program Chair in this process, and become an ad-hoc member of the program committee which will result in a certificate of service to be given at the 2026 annual meeting.

Public Policy Committee

Chair: Sandra Comer, PhD



The Public Policy Committee meets monthly to address issues important to CPDD and its mission. Currently the committee is working on scheduling Membership Town Halls as they relate to important and timely topics facing our profession; developing our Annual Meeting Policy Forum in Portland '26; and coordinating our fast-approaching February Capitol Hill Day.

Each year the Public Policy Committee plans and sponsors Advocacy Day in Washington DC. Our next Advocacy Day will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. During the meetings on Capitol Hill, CPDD members will advocate for increased research funding to address issues related to substance use disorders and current legislation relevant to CPDD's Mission. Anyone interested in attending Advocacy Day in 2026 should email the Executive Office at info@cpdd.org. We are looking for researchers from a broad range of states, allowing informative conversations with officials representing the country as a whole to join us for some targeted office conversations.

Travel Awards Committee

Chair: Dustin Lee, PhD



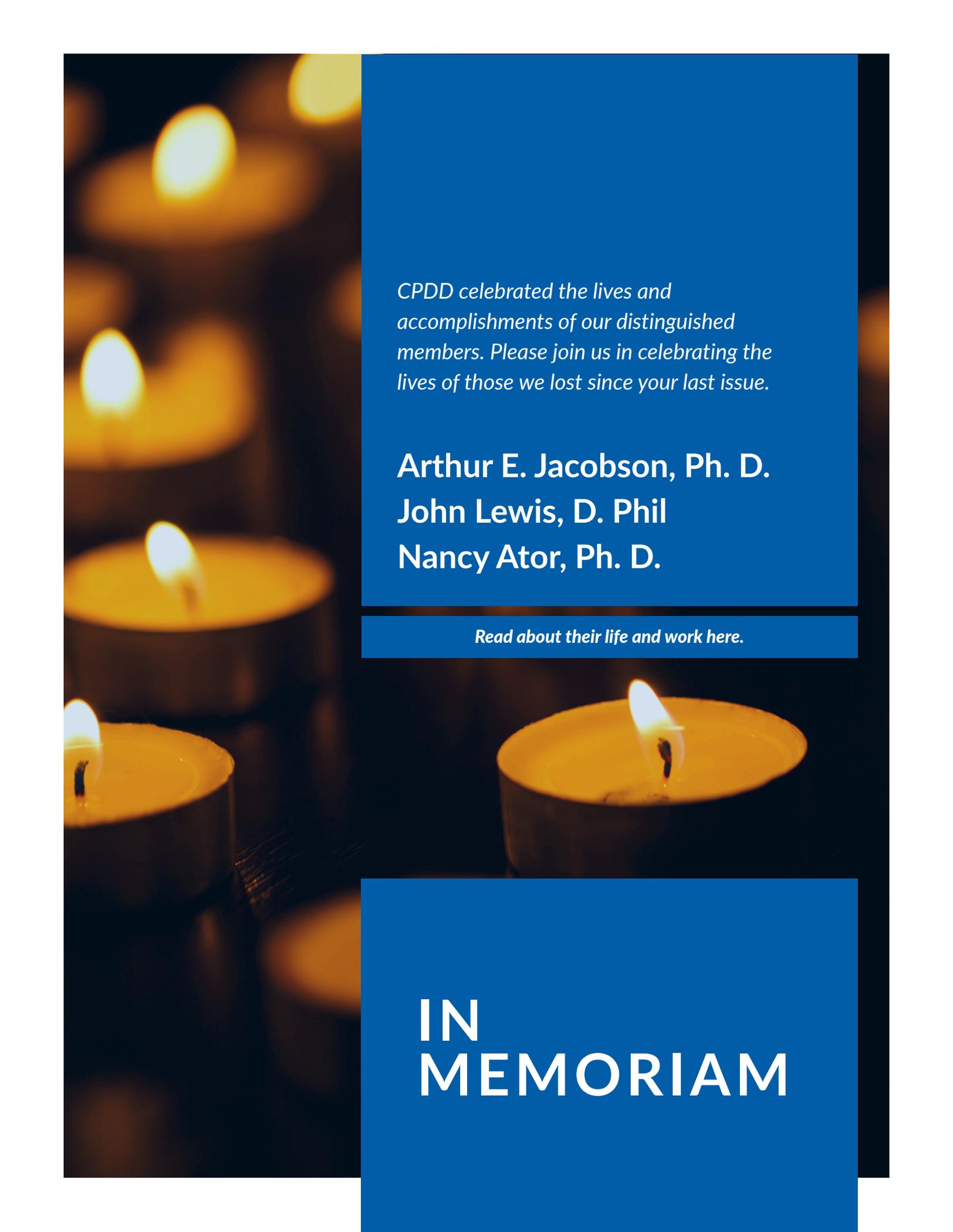
The Travel Awards Committee would like to thank Yukiko Washio, Tory Spindle, Shanna Babalonis, Chuan-Yu Chen, Thiago Fidalgo, R. Kathryn McHugh, Ty Schepis and Kirsten Smith for their service to the committee over the past three years. We welcome new members Kathleen Brady, Danielle Smith, Dawn Sugarman, Elenore Bhatraju, Francesca Filbey, Muhammad Parvaz, Mance Buttram, Michael Bardo, Kathryn Biernacki, and Alex Clement.

After reviewing over 270 applications for travel awards to attend the 2025 meeting, the committee selected 1 Holtzman Award, 29 Early Career Award, 3 FORCE Award, 22 NIDA Women & Sex/Gender Award, and 18 NIDA Directors Award recipients. Congratulations once again to all the awardees! The full list of 2025 Travel Award winners can be found at the following link:

<https://cpdd.org/awards/travel-awards/travel-awards-winners/>

Our always popular Brunch with Champions was another highly regarded success. We'd like to thank this year's champions: Michael Bardo, Cecilia Bergeria, Laura Bierut, Gail D'Onofrio, Dorothy Hatsukami, Bernard Le Foll, Chris McCurdy, and Nurulain Zaveri for making this year's Brunch such a success!

Travel Award applications for the June 2026 annual meeting are open now through December 9th. We encourage trainees and early career investigators to review the CPDD website for award info and to apply. Descriptions of and eligibility requirements for these travel awards can be found on the CPDD website: <https://cpdd.org/awards/travel-award-descriptions/>.



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

Arthur E. Jacobson, Ph. D.
John Lewis, D. Phil
Nancy Ator, Ph. D.

Read about their life and work here.

**IN
MEMORIAM**



SEE YOU
around

CPDD RECEPTION AT ACNP

Jan 15, 2026 7:00-8:00 PM

Atlantis, Bahamas

**ADVANCING SCIENCE ON CHILD
& ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT**

FRIENDS OF NIDA HILL BREIFING

Jan 22, 2026 9:00-10:00 AM

Rayburn House, Washington DC

CPDD HILL DAY

Feb 17, 2026

Washington DC

CPDD RECEPTION AT BBC

Mar 2026

San Antonio, TX



**The College on Problems
of Drug Dependence**