RECAP OF THE 2011 CPDD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence met in a new locale this year, the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood, FL. By all accounts, the facilities were outstanding. This year’s meeting was held in conjunction with the annual International Narcotic Research Conference, which overlapped with CPDD, having joint sessions on Wednesday and a separate track from Thursday through Saturday.

Attendance at CPDD was higher than in recent years with 1336 scientific registrants, including 373 members and 251 pre- and post-docs. With the social registrants and exhibitors, the total attendance was 1381. Adding in another 160 who registered just for INRC gave a grand total of 1541 attendees. The breakdown by country once again showed the largest contingents from the furthest places: Australia and Japan each had 25 representatives. Canada was next with 23; Sweden, 17; UK 16; Germany, 14; Brazil, 12; China, Spain, and The Netherlands, 10 each; Israel 8; Afghanistan and France, 7 each, and New Zealand, Ukraine and Viet Nam, 6 apiece. All told, there were attendees from 52 countries around the globe.

An opening reception was held on Saturday, June 18, 7 to 9 PM, in the hotel. The scientific program began with the opening plenary session. CPDD President Anna Rose Childress welcomed the attendees and then spoke briefly about 5 members who sadly had passed away since our last meeting, Bob Schuster, Steve Holtzman, Bruce Rounsaville, Dave Zanis and Dave Herin. A Memorial Room was made available during the meeting to view photos and read obituaries about them. Steve and Bob were former officers and Board members of the organization and their loss is keenly felt. CPDD extends condolences to the families and friends of all our departed colleagues.

The first award presentation was a surprise announcement by Anna Rose Childress that CPDD’s award for meritorious service has been renamed as the Martin & Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award, the first one being that presented to Patrick J. Kennedy this year. This honor was to recognize the Adlers’ many years of devoted service to CPDD.
Next was the presentation of the Marian W. Fischman Award for an outstanding female scientist to Bertha K. Madras by Mary Jeanne Kreek and Greg Miller. It was followed by Bertha’s talk on *Public Health and Drug Policy—Challenges for Neuroscience*.

After the award lecture, the CPDD/NIDA Media Award was presented to Justin Hunt by Marc Kaufman. Justin directed the widely acclaimed documentary, *American Meth*, which was screened as part of Film Night on Wednesday.

Bob Balster next presented the J. Michael Morrison Award for excellence in scientific administration to Steven W. Gust. The recipient of this year’s Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award was Thomas Prisinzano. This award was presented by Kenner Rice.
The 2011 Mentorship Award was bestowed upon Stephen G. Holtzman, who sadly, did not live long enough to receive it. It was accepted by his wife, Yung Fong Sung and son, Adrian. Heather Kimmel presented the award to the Holtzman family.

This year’s Nathan B. Eddy Award was presented to Michael J. Kuhar by Ivy Carroll. Dr. Kuhar’s lecture, *Uncensored Reflections on a Research Career: MUs, DATs, CARTs and Beyond*, followed the award presentation.

A Public Policy Forum was held over the lunch break, at which there was an Update from the Hill by Bill Dewey, a talk by Angela Hawken on the topic of criminal justice, and discussion of a potential new institute on addictions at NIH by Susan Weiss and David Shurtleff.
The rapid-fire Late Breaking Research News session followed the Policy Forum. Twelve 5-minute talks on a variety of topics were presented. The program then continued with the first of 14 symposia and 21 oral communications sessions.

In the evening, there was a reception for Primm-Singleton Travel Awardees.

In addition, the initial 4 of the 13 workshops were held.

Monday morning began with the first of 4 poster sessions with exhibits, at which there was no shortage of coffee or carbs.
Over the lunch break on Monday, the Animals in Research Forum was held. Speakers included Richard Nakamura from NIMH, Bob Balster, Nancy Ator, and Eydie London.

Later in the afternoon the Martin and Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award was presented to former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy for his advocacy for mental health and drug addiction treatment. He then gave a dynamic address entitled, “We Must Be of One Mind for Research.”
Following the talk, the annual CPDD/NIDA Pre- and Post-Doc Networking Event was held. Heads of NIDA Training Programs were available to answer inquiries of potential trainees, and students had the opportunity to discuss their programs and research as well as to socialize with each other.
Tuesday began with a second poster session, followed by the Grant-Writing Workshop and a Town Hall Forum on Academia/Industry/Government Relations at noon.
At the CPDD business meeting later in the afternoon, retiring Board members who were present received plaques for their service. The members who have completed their term of service are Rick Rawson, Pat Beardsley, Ed Nunez, and Ted Cicero, who continues on as Treasurer. Outgoing President Anna Rose Childress was presented with a plaque and an engraved vase by incoming President Scott Lukas.

Elections for representatives on the nominating committee were held. Fellows elected Sharon Walsh and Dorothy Hatsukami. Regular & Associate Members elected Heather Kimmel and Meg Haney.

In the evening, we held the first of the joint functions with the INRC, as the Reception/Dinner got under way.
Wednesday morning, following the breakfast for CPDD Travel Awardees, a joint plenary with the INRC was held, at which Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA, addressed both organizations. Presidents of CPDD and of INRC, Anna Rose Childress and John Traynor, respectively, welcomed Dr. Volkow.
After the plenary, the first of several joint symposia, *Epigenetics of Drug Abuse Genes*, was held, followed by a joint CPDD/INRC poster session with lunch.
The scientific program continued after lunch and went well into the evening with more workshops and Film Night, at which the documentary *American Meth* and the film *My Name is Bill W.* were shown.

On Thursday morning, we had the second of 2 joint poster sessions. The CPDD and INRC programs then continued independently. At lunchtime, CPDD held the annual Brunch with Champions. Students and young investigators had the opportunity to informally chat with more established mentors, ingesting advice about careers and research in addition to a delicious meal. This year’s Champs were Marilyn Carroll, Kathleen Carroll, Larry Toll, Richard Meisch, Rolley Johnson, Jane Acri, and Martin Iguchi. Incoming President Scott Lukas, who initiated this event at CPDD a number of years ago, made some welcoming comments to the group. Thanks once again to Stephanie Collins Reed for expertly organizing it.
After the last of the sessions, the meeting concluded with the ever popular, always entertaining CPDD Sweepstakes Drawing. All who attended the afternoon sessions were eligible to turn their badges in for a chance to take home some great (and some not-so-great) prizes.

Robert Crecelius won free meeting registration for 2012, Roberto Ciccocioppo won 2 nights at the La Quinta Resort, the headquarters for the 2012 CPDD Meeting, and Susan Stine won free membership dues for the coming year. Other lucky winners included Diann Gaalema, John Troost, Jessica Pierce, Jyotsna Agrawal, Rebecca Hartzell, Christine Cloak, and Cora lee Wetherington. Congratulations to all!
Thanks to our staff who worked so hard to make another successful meeting!

Mark your calendars now for June 9-14, 2012, when we try out another new venue, La Quinta Resort, near Palm Springs, CA. And plan to stay through the Thursday Sweepstakes Drawing!