CPDD 2012 Annual Meeting Recap

The 74th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence was held in a new venue this year—the beautiful La Quinta Resort near Palm Springs, CA. Over 1200 people attended. There was representation from nearly 50 countries and territories, the largest contingents being Australia with 31 representatives, 22 from Canada, 20 from Brazil, 14 from Japan, 11 each from China, France, and Spain. Members numbered 335; In-Training Members, 195.

Following several days of pre-meeting satellites including Biomarker Development for Substance Abuse, International Women & Children’s and Gender Group, NIDA International Forum, ISGIDAR, and CSAT, the 2012 CPDD meeting began Saturday evening with an opening reception on the lawn.
On Sunday morning, the scientific program opened with the Plenary Session. Following a welcome by President Scott Lukas, Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, gave an update on research in the field supported by NIDA. Dr. Volkow’s talk was followed by an address by Gil Kerlowske, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The awards portion of the Plenary began with the presentation of the CPDD/NIDA Media Award to Dirk Hanson by Mark Kaufman, Chair of the Media Relations Committee. Next was the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, which was given to Joshua Lile by Tom Kelly, followed by the Mentorship Award presented to Kathryn Cunningham by Noelle Anastasio. The recipient of the 2012 Nathan B. Eddy Award was Edward M. Sellers. After an introduction by Bob Balster, Ed presented an outstanding Eddy Award Lecture, The Dance of Science.
Following the Plenary, a luncheon for the 2012 CPDD Travel Awardees and recipients of the award from the previous 3 years was held in Morton’s Restaurant at La Quinta.
After lunch, the President’s Symposium addressed the challenges of tobacco and alcohol use. That was followed by the first of 16 submitted symposia, on such diverse topics as Bath Salts, Chronic Pain and Opioid Use, Exercise as a Treatment for Drug Dependence, Recent Advances in Medications Development for the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, Sleep Disturbance in Abstinence.
Towards the evening, a reception for the Primm-Singleton Travel Awardees was held. Also invited were the NIDA Minority Workgroups Travel Awardees.
Later on, the first 4 of 12 evening workshops were held. Topics of workshops included *Epidemiology and Public Health Research Methods*, *Technology-Based Interventions for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders*, *Non-medical Prescription Drug Use among ED and Trauma Patients*, *Trauma-Informed Care for Adolescents*, and *Mobile Health Treatment Interventions*. 
Monday morning began with the Animals in Research Forum at which there was discussion of the impact of new regulations in the latest edition of the Guide for Animal Research on Substance Abuse.

Next came the presentation of the Marian W. Fischman Award to Marilyn E. Carroll followed by the award lecture. Previous recipient of this award, Nancy K. Mello, gave the introduction.
The first of four poster sessions accompanied lunch. Attendees had a chance to chow down and chat up poster presenters and exhibitors.
On Monday afternoon in the lovely, albeit sweltering, setting of La Casa (the erstwhile home of Greta Garbo), a CPDD/NIDA Networking Event for Pre- and Postdoctoral Trainees was held. In that environment, all discussions were heated ones.
President Scott Lukas hosted a reception for former CPDD Presidents and Eddy Award winners in his suite.

In the evening, more workshops and the NIDA International Meeting poster session were held.
Tuesday morning began with the Industry Relations Town Hall Meeting, an open discussion of issues concerning academia/industry/government relations, followed by the Media Training Forum on Science, the Press, and an Informed Public. A grant-writing workshop for junior investigators also took place.

After a relaxing lunch and poster talk, the pace picked up with the rapid-fire Late-Breaking Research News.
Tuesday evening was Film Night, at which *28 Days*, starring Sandra Bullock, was screened, complete with popcorn & lemonade.

Of course, there were also more workshops for the non-movie goers.
To start the day on Wednesday, we had the Public Policy Forum, co-chaired by Bill Dewey and Martin Iguchi, at which Ed Long and Bill Dewey reported on the budget and other issues on Capitol Hill. General Barry McCaffrey was presented with the Martin & Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award and then led an animated discussion on *Decreasing Addiction with Emphasis on the Military, Veterans, and their Families.*
The third poster session with lunch was sandwiched between the morning and afternoon symposia and oral communications. A business meeting was held in the afternoon. Ted Cicero gave the Treasurer’s report, stating the sound fiscal standing of the College. Several agenda items were discussed, and plaques were presented (in absentia) to retiring Board members David Fiellin, Geoffrey Mumford, Linda Porrino, and Eric Strain. President-Elect Richard De La Garza
presented a plaque and a gift to Scott Lukas for his service as President the past year. Elections for representatives to the Nominating Committee were then held. Sid Schnoll and Ted Cicero were chosen from the Fellows; Gantt Galloway and Beatriz Rocha from the Regular Members.
Later that evening, attendees feasted and danced the night away to the sounds of Shaken Not Stirred.
On Thursday morning, there was a breakfast poster session followed by another group of oral communications and symposia, and then the Brunch with Champions, at which students and junior investigators have a chance to chew the fat, carbs, and protein with more seasoned scientists.
This year's Champs were Rich De La Garza, Suzette Evans, Chuck Gorodetzky, Deborah Hassin, Ed Sellers, Roger Spealman, and Frank Vocci.
Following the last of the oral sessions, we held the annual CPDD Sweepstakes drawing for a number of fun & exciting, not to mention, useful, prizes.
Congratulations to all our lucky winners and especially to Grace Kong, who won meeting registration for 2013, Hannah Knudsen, who won 2 nights at the Bayfront Hilton in San Diego for next year’s meeting, Sucharita Somkuwar, who
won student membership dues for 2013, and to Colleen Hanlon who doesn’t have to pay her dues in 2013!
We hope to see you at the 75th Annual Scientific Meeting of CPDD next June in San Diego. Please check the CPDD.org for updates. Symposia & workshop applications are due October 15; abstracts December 3. Plan to stay for the entire meeting, so you, too, can participate in the drawing and perhaps win a recycled tote bag or a 2-night stay at the Caribe Hilton in Puerto Rico in 2014!