In Memoriam

2012-2013
Donald (Don) Calsyn, Ph.D. (1949-2013) was a Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and a Research Affiliate in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute at the University of Washington. Prior to coming to ADAI in 2004, he directed Outpatient Services at the Addictions Treatment Center of the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System. He also served as the clinical team leader for opiate agonist treatment for 23 years. His work in substance abuse and HIV/AIDS research at the UW and the VA Puget Sound spoke to his passionate commitment to reducing rates of HIV infection in those struggling with substance use disorders or other risk behaviors.

In 2004, he retired from the VA but extended his long association with the UW Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute as the substance use and HIV/AIDS expert on the Pacific Northwest Node of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network. Don led the protocol for NIDA CTN 0018, “Reducing HIV/STD Risk Behaviors: A Research Study for Men in Drug Abuse Treatment.” From the results of that study Don and colleagues developed a treatment manual: “Real Men are Safe (REMAS): A Gender-Focused HIV and Sexual Risk Reduction Intervention for Men in Substance Abuse Treatment,” and a related training video for counselors.

Don was considered by colleagues and trainees to be a skilled clinician, a supportive clinical supervisor and mentor, and a productive researcher. He was active as a presenter at national and international conferences of professional psychology, addictions, and HIV/AIDS organizations.

Don loved spending time with family at their vacation condo on Ocean Shores, and traveling to Hawaii and Florida, among other places, with Teri. Don was an avid tennis player and bicyclist, and loved going to the theater and to local sporting events of all kinds. He touched many people in his personal and professional life with his compassion, wisdom, and humor.

Avram Goldstein, M.D. (1918-2012) was an eminent professor of pharmacology at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and one of the discoverers of endorphins in the late 1970s. His career was mainly devoted to research on addictive drugs, primarily opiates, opioid peptides, and their receptors. His laboratory research laid the basis for studying opiate receptors, and he discovered one of the three families of opioid peptides, the dynorphins. Simultaneously with his lab research, Goldstein worked directly with heroin addicts, where he organized California’s first major methadone clinic in the early 1970s, in San Jose. Over the years, Goldstein advised officials on drug policies, generally advocating a public health, harm reduction approach. His work ran the spectrum from basic research to real-world, applied science. In 1974, he established the Addiction Research Foundation, which he directed as human-subjects research, and treatment of heroin addicts. Goldstein and his colleagues contributed important research findings on the use of methadone, LAAM, and naltrexone in the treatment of heroin addiction. He also played a key role in the development of rapid on-site urine tests for illicit drug use.

Dr. Goldstein published more than 360 research papers, and authored three books: Biostatistics: An Introductory Text (1964), Principles of Drug Action (as the basic textbook of pharmacology, 1988, 1987), and Addiction: From Biology to Drug Policy (1994). He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and also of its Institute of Medicine. He was the recipient of many awards, including the Franklin Medal, Nathan B. Eddy Award, and Hollmann Award. He served two terms on the National Advisory Council of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He was an honorary professor of the Beijing Medical University, and of the Institute of Materia Medica of the Academia Sinica. He was also a scientific advisor to the Syva Company, the DNA Research Institute, Abbott Laboratories, and most recently Recepton, Inc., Neurobiological Technologies, Inc., and the drug discovery company Affymax, N.V. (of which he was a founder scientist).

Goldstein embraced the California lifestyle, driving a convertible and holding lab meetings at home by his swimming pool. He was passionate about piloting small airplanes, as an instrument flight instructor and writing several books about flying. He loved opera, and was fascinated by southwestern Native American culture. In the 1970s, Goldstein was treated for lymphoma, one of the first patients to receive radiation, and recovered fully. However, he was confined to a wheelchair in his last decade, after a spinal cord injury.

Pascal Courty, M.D., Ph.D. (1961-2012) of Clermont-Ferrant, France, was a psychiatrist who was certified in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and specialized in drug addiction and treatments of substitution. He was a member of the staff of the Societe d’Addictologie Francophone, served on the editorial board of Courrier des Addictions, and was a regular member of CPFD, and the European opiate addiction treatment association (EUFOPAD). He had been honored with the EUROPAD CHIMERA Award, during the last meeting in Barcelona, acknowledging his work helping addicts with drug addiction. Pascal was more than a colleague, he was a hearty and trusty friend, and a top-level professional, always forging ahead in spite of any difficulties he faced.

Toni Shippenberg, Ph.D. (1957-2012) was the Chief of the Integrated Neuroscience Branch in the Intramural Program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in Baltimore, MD. She also headed an outstanding Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory. Toni earned her B.S. in Neuroscience from Colgate University in 1979 and her Ph.D. in Pharmacology in 1985. Her research at NIDA culminated in many seminal contributions to our understanding of neuroadaptations underlying the dysregulated behaviors that characterize drug addiction. In particular, her work focused on the neurochemical and cellular mechanisms by which opioid peptides and their receptor systems regulate neurotransmission with the limbic cortical-atrialpalidal loop. She pioneered investigations of the ability of opioids to regulate monoaminergic transporter proteins. Toni suffered a cervical (C-3) fracture during her time in Europe. This life-changing event was described in her 2003-2008 Review for NIDA in which she stated, “I recently experienced the debilitating effects of chronic pain on daily function and the inability of currently available analgesics to relieve muscle-and nerve injury-evoked pain.” Her experience with chronic pain served as an impetus for Toni to refocus her research on identifying novel targets for its treatment. During the next few years, Toni published several reports on the potential of receptor targets for pain therapeutics, including ionotropic glutamatergic receptors, and opioid and non-opioid receptor-mediated actions of prodrmorphin-derived peptides.

In spite of the fact that Toni suffered from chronic pain, she rarely spoke of her own situation, being more interested in others. She was especially motivated to contribute to the research value and career advancement of her colleagues. Determined to help direct the publication of high quality neuroscience, Toni accepted the post of Reviewing Editor for the Journal of Neuroscience in 2002. She also served on the editorial boards of several important journals in the field of neuropharmacology, including Neuropsychopharmacology, and Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology. Toni was well-suited for these roles, for she did not shy away from controversy, readily expressing her knowledgeable opinions on a wide diversity of topics. Her editorial leadership as well as her bold, pioneering approach to neuroscience will be sorely missed. Toni is survived by her daughter Alexandra (Allie) Stein, her parents Trudi and Stanley Shippenberg, and friends from around the globe. We all are so fortunate to have shared Toni’s intellect, humor and caring.