The Stephen G. Holtzman Travel Award for Preclinical Investigators was established by family & friends of Dr. Holtzman to honor his memory in tribute to his long-time service and dedication to The College on Problems of Drug Dependence. This award will be given annually or biannually to either a pre-doctoral student or postdoctoral trainee involved in preclinical research related to drug abuse and dependence.

2015  Chloe J. Jordan
2016  Jae Kim
2017  Jibran Khokhar

3rd Annual
Stephen G. Holtzman
Travel Award
for Preclinical Investigators

Award Presented to
Jibran Khokhar
by Alan J. Budney

Sunday, June 18, 2017
Montreal Ballroom
Hôtel Bonaventure
Montréal, Quebec
Dr. Khokhar has a broad background in behavioral neuropharmacology, specifically in animal models of drug abuse and metabolism. As a post-doctoral fellow (and now as an Instructor in Psychiatry) at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, he has worked with Dr. Alan I. Green over the past four years. Dr. Khokhar has been involved in research establishing novel animal models of schizophrenia and alcohol use disorder, while beginning to study the mechanisms underlying alcohol use in these models using behavioral and neuroimaging approaches. Dr. Khokhar is also interested in understanding the long-term consequences of adolescent drug exposure on these measures. He has received training in acquisition (and analysis) of magnetic resonance spectroscopy and resting-state functional connectivity data in rats in the laboratory of Dr. Elliot Stein. During his Ph.D. studies at the University of Toronto, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology in the lab of Dr. Rachel F. Tyndale, Dr. Khokhar developed an animal model of selective modulation of brain cytochrome P450s (CYPs) and used this model to show, for the first time, that local metabolism by CYPs in the brain can meaningfully alter the disposition of, and response to, centrally acting drugs and toxins, and how this metabolism contributes to therapeutic efficacy and addiction, as well as neurotoxicity from these substrates. During his undergraduate studies at Queen’s University, he worked with Dr. Eric C. Dumont on the role of the BNST in the affective component of pain and morphine withdrawal.