Celebrating the 80th CPDD Scientific Meeting

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence returned to the Hilton Bayfront San Diego for its 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting. The 80th Annual Scientific Meeting drew 1302 attendees, one of the largest in years. We had 344 Elected Members, 158 Members-In-Training, 216 nonmember pre and post-docs, and 542 nonmembers, in addition to social registrants and exhibitors. Attendees came from 32 countries across the globe. After the US, the next largest contingent came from Canada (50), even more than last year when the meeting was in Montreal! The next largest group was from Australia (27), followed by Brazil (17), Taiwan (14), Thailand (13), France (10), Japan & UK (9 each), and China & Spain (8 each).

As it was the 80th Scientific Meeting of the organization founded in 1929, celebrations were in order. The opening reception on June 9th was held in the Promenade Plaza outside the hotel. The weather was much more comfortable than the chilliness we experienced in 2013 when everyone was congregating around the heaters.
Sunday morning began the first of several plenary sessions. The schedule was rearranged somewhat to accommodate the overlap days with the International Narcotics Research Conference that began on Tuesday evening. Sunday’s plenary opened with a welcome from President Alan Budney. Dr. Budney was followed by Executive Officer Dr. Loretta Finnegan, who presented a historical perspective of CPDD.
After Dr. Finnegan's talk, the awards portion of the plenary commenced, beginning with the Stephen G. Holtzman Travel Award for Preclinical Investigators, which was presented to Lais F. Berro by James Rowlett. Next up was the CPDD/NIDA Media Award that was given by Meg Chisolm, chair of the Media Committee, to Maia Szalavitz for her book, *Unbroken Brain: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction*. 
Dr. Finnegan then introduced the recipient of this year’s Martin & Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award, Bertha Madras. The J. Michael Morrison Award was presented to Ivan Montoya by Frances Levin. Maxine Stitzer next introduced the winner of the 2018 Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award, Kelly Dunn, who accepted via video clip as she was unable to travel to the meeting this year. Lais Berro then took to the stage once more to present the Mentorship Award to this year’s recipient, Leonard Howell.

A new award for CPDD, sponsored by Indivior, was the Innovator Award. It was conferred upon Tom Prisinzano by Chris Cunningham. (Unfortunately, the actual award never made it to the meeting site, courtesy of UPS. However, it was returned to the CPDD Office after the conference and redirected to its recipient.) Dr. Prisinzano then introduced the Nathan B. Eddy Award winner, Alex Makriyannis. Dr. Makriyannis presented the Eddy Award Lecture, *Cannabinoid Receptors, Their Structure and Functions*. 
The first of 4 poster sessions was held on Sunday over lunch. Two forums followed: Animals in Research and one on Confidentiality. We then experienced a novel format for CPDD—5 concurrent sessions, including 3 symposia and 2 oral communications.

A reception for the Primm-Singleton Travel Awardees was held in the evening, followed by 4 workshops.
Monday morning began with breakfast at Poster Session II. The next 3 oral communication sessions and 4 symposia preceded lunch. The Travel Awardees Luncheon brought together awardees from the past 3 years, as well as current CPDD Young Investigator, FORCE, and Holtzman Travel Awardees.

Afternoon sessions included 2 more of the oral communications and 3 additional symposia. The President’s Lecture, hosted by Dr. Budney, entitled *Eyes Wide Shut: Social and Structural Process Contributing to Addiction and Its Health Consequences*, followed. The speakers were Jamila K. Stockman and Steffanie Strathdee from UC San Diego.
The NIDA/CPDD Pre- and Post-Doc Trainees Networking Event was held at the Fox Grill that evening prior to the NIDA International Forum Poster Session and 3 more workshops.
Tuesday morning was the Annual Outreach Event organized by Jessica Weafer and Colleen Hanlon. The group of about 25 volunteers helped out at Father Joe’s Villages making breakfast for local homeless people.

The Policy Forum, chaired by Martin Iguchi and Sandra Comer, included an update on activities on Capitol Hill by Ed Long of Van Scoyoc Associates, a discussion of availability of Medication-Assisted Treatment in the US by Dr. Iguchi, and talks about state-level approaches to the opioid crisis by Drs. Cimaglio and Korthius.

Following a few more symposia and oral communication sessions, two more forums were held during the “lunch break”. The Media Forum, chaired by Meg Chisolm and Bertha Madras, highlighted some of the more newsworthy presentations at the 2018 meeting; the Town Hall, chaired by Marco Pravetoni and Sid Schnoll, focused on abuse-deterrent opioid formulations.

This year’s Marian W. Fischman Award for an outstanding woman scientist went to Kenzie L. Preston, who presented a lecture entitled, In the Footsteps of Fischman. Dr. Preston was introduced by Rick Lamb.

The afternoon continued with more of the symposia and oral communications and in the evening, the last 5 of the 12 workshops were held.
Wednesday morning’s program began with a welcome to the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC), the organization holding its annual meeting in conjunction with CPDD this year. Dr. Budney introduced INRC President Fred Nyberg, who then introduced Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA. Dr. Volkow reported on activities at NIDA, addressing *Drug Abuse and Addiction Research: Progress, Priorities, & Challenges.*

The morning was rounded out with additional oral communications and symposia, including one jointly sponsored by CPDD & INRC on fentanyl abuse, chaired by Sandy Comer and Cathy Cahill. Poster Session III commenced with lunch.
Among the afternoon sessions was the ever-popular Late-Breaking Research, at which a dozen presentations were made at break-neck speed. Another of the joint symposia, this one on comorbidity of opioid abuse and other psychiatric disorders, was chaired by Rita Valentino and Chris Evans.
The CPDD Business Meeting was held Wednesday afternoon when the sessions ended. In addition to reports from the Executive Officer, Treasurer, DAD Editor, and Program Committee Chair, and Public Policy Officer, plaques were given to retiring Board members, Howard Chilcoat, Tim Condon, Sarah Heil, and Tom Prisinzano. President-Elect Meg Haney thanked outgoing President Alan Budney for his service, presenting him with a plaque (that should have been accompanied by a lovely gift had it not been in the same missing box with the Innovator Award. Thanks, UPSI!)
Elections were then held for membership on the Nominating Committee. The Fellows elected Sandy Comer and Andy Coop, and the Regular/Associate Members elected Catherine Striley and Heather Kimmel.
Wednesday evening culminated with dinner and dancing to the sounds of Republic of Music.
On Thursday morning, prior to the CPDD/INRC plenary session, the annual Brunch with Champions was held. This event, for students and junior investigators, gives the attendees an opportunity to chow down and chat up with more senior investigators and administrators in the field. This year’s Champions were Colleen Hanlon, Jack Henningfield, Hendree Jones, Sherry McKee, Thomas Prisinzano, and Jennifer Tidey.
Another of the joint symposia, International Opioid Guidelines, chaired by Fred Nyberg and Gabriele Fischer, followed the plenary talk.

The last of the 4 poster sessions was held at lunch and the last of the 22 symposia and 24 oral communications took place after the posters. One of the symposia was another joint effort with INRC: New Targets for Drug Abuse Therapy, chaired by Tom Prisinzano and Nurulain Zaveri.

At the end of the scheduled program, the annual CPDD Sweepstakes Drawing took place. Badges were collected from attendees seated in any of the final sessions of the afternoon and names drawn for a plethora of prizes, of varying degrees of value. The 2-night stay at the Hill Country Marriott, next year’s meeting hotel, was won by Sharon Walsh; the coveted 2019 meeting registration went to Christopher Chapleo; and 1 year of waived dues was awarded to Nicolas Schlienz. These and other winners of totes, recipe books, and assorted tchotchkes are pictured below.
Actually, not quite the end, since this year sessions continued through Friday in conjunction with the ongoing INRC meeting and the RSA (Research Society on Alcoholism). There were 2 symposia sponsored by all 3 groups: *Translating the Molecular Underpinnings of Alcohol and Tobacco Interactions towards Effective Treatment*, chaired by Sherry McKee, and *Pharmacogenetics of Addiction Treatment*, chaired by Lara Ray.

Congrats to all the lucky winners and thanks for staying to the end!
Thanks to all our exhibitors who helped support the meeting!
And a BIG thank you to our Frosh and CPDD staff for all their efforts!!

See you next year in San Antonio, Texas, for the 81st Annual CPDD Meeting!