



THE COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.

Underrepresented Populations (URPOP) Committee SOP

Mission: The overall mission of the Underrepresented Populations Committee (URPOP) of CPDD is to increase the representation and inclusion of underrepresented groups in CPDD activities. Historically, the URPOP has focused on racial/ethnic minorities, but from time to time the Board of Directors may broaden, narrow, or otherwise alter this focus. NIH defines underrepresented populations as individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis including Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; and individuals from economically or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We have expanded our focus to also include these groups as well as sexual and gender minorities. The URPOP Committee advises the Board of Directors on strategies for promoting increased representation of these groups on committees, in the organization, and in attendance at the annual meeting.

Committee Members: Committee members serve for a period of 3 years and may be extended at the members request and with approval of the Committee Chair.

Committee Operations: The URPOP Committee maintains a listserv, posting information of relevance to the Committee's charge. The listserv reaches beyond the membership of the Committee to members and attendees at the annual meeting who are interested in the involvement of underrepresented groups in CPDD activities. In addition, the committee maintains a Facebook page to disseminate news and information to and about underrepresented populations.

The URPOP Committee also evaluates the involvement of underrepresented populations in CPDD and encourages participation and involvement of underrepresented groups in CPDD activities. Examples of such activities include organizing a related symposium or workshop at the Annual Meeting, proposing the establishment of a travel award relevant to the Committees' charge, and encouraging greater CPDD membership among underrepresented groups.

The Committee meets annually at the CPDD meeting. During the year, business is transacted by e-mail and telephone. A video conference call may be used if warranted. To stay abreast of developments in the arena, the Chair brings matters to the attention of the Committee members, and if appropriate, the Committee formulates a plan of action which it communicates to the President and Executive Office. Frequently, the action will entail distribution of a message to the CPDD membership via the URPOP listserv regarding important items relating to the Committee's charge.