



The College on Problems  
of Drug Dependence

# NEWS LINE

SPRING 2026

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# CPDD LEADERSHIP



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# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dear friends and colleagues,

As our field navigates significant shifts in federal research priorities, NIH operations, and public discourse surrounding substance use research, the role of CPDD has never been more important. Periods of uncertainty challenge us to clarify who we are and what we stand for. CPDD remains committed to rigorous science, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and evidence-driven solutions to substance use disorders. We are a scientific home for investigators across the full translational spectrum, and we will continue to lead with clarity, integrity, and purpose.

## Strengthening Translation Across the Meeting

One of the initiatives I am most excited about this year is the launch of the *Real-World of Addiction (RWOA)* track at our 88th Annual Scientific Meeting, as we mark CPDD's 97th year as a scientific society. This track, led by Drs. Joao De Aquino and Justin Strickland, reflects a deliberate effort to strengthen the bridge between discovery science and implementation.

RWOA challenges us to move beyond asking whether an intervention works under controlled conditions and instead ask: Under what real-world conditions will it succeed or fail? What boundary conditions shape translation? Where do our models diverge from clinical realities and community contexts?

The Presidential Address by Dr. De Aquino will further emphasize the importance of translational cross-pollination within CPDD, highlighting how intentional collaboration across preclinical, clinical, epidemiological, and implementation science can accelerate impact.

Panel sessions, symposia, and network discussions will build on this theme, creating a full day of focused and forward-looking programming dedicated to strengthening translation across our field.

RWOA is complemented by two additional specialty tracks. The *Living/Lived Experience* track, led by Drs. Noel Vest and Wayne Kepner, centers the voices and scientific leadership of people with lived and living experience, strengthening how we define recovery and treatment success. The *NeuroBurst* track, led by Drs. Sarah Yip and Ethan Anderson, highlights cutting-edge discoveries and emerging scientific frontiers in addiction neuroscience. Together, these tracks strengthen complementary dimensions of the translational continuum: from mechanistic discovery, to lived reality, to real-world implementation.



This coordinated innovation is made possible through the extraordinary leadership of our Program Chair, Dr. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, whose vision has ensured that these specialty tracks are seamlessly integrated into an already exceptional core scientific program. I am also deeply grateful to the many committee members and volunteers whose work behind the scenes makes this meeting and our broader initiatives possible.

### **Protecting and Advancing Preclinical Science**

Our commitment to the full translational spectrum also requires that we actively defend and articulate the value of preclinical research. Preclinical models remain indispensable for identifying mechanisms, testing causal hypotheses, and developing treatments that would not otherwise be possible.

In response to increasing political and public scrutiny of animal research, I convened a **Preclinical Research Task Force**, led by Dr. Kevin Freeman, to develop both short- and long-term strategies to address and inform policy pushback against preclinical addiction research. The task force is charged with articulating the scientific value and limitations of current models, identifying opportunities for education and engagement, strengthening partnerships, and developing actionable short- and long-term strategies for advocacy. I am grateful to Dr. Freeman for his leadership and to the members of the task force, including Drs. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, Sandra Comer, James Rowlett, Aron Lichtman, and Katherine Sarafine, for their thoughtful and strategic contributions to this important effort.

We are also proud to support the inaugural CPDD/AMP Animal Research Policy Fellowship, awarded this year to Dr. Taylor Woodward. His fellowship work helped inform CPDD's advocacy materials and talking points for our recent Capitol Hill visits and reflects our commitment to preparing scientists to engage thoughtfully and effectively in science policy.

I am grateful to the Animal Committee, chaired by Dr. Katherine Sarafine, for advancing the creation of this fellowship and providing ongoing oversight, and to the Policy Committee, chaired by Dr. Sandra Comer, for ensuring that the value of preclinical research was prominently represented in our advocacy efforts. Together, these committees are helping to align strategy, education, and policy engagement across CPDD.

### **Looking Ahead**

Our priorities remain clear: protect the full translational spectrum of addiction science, strengthen connections across discovery and implementation, advocate for sustained federal investment, and support investigators at every career stage.

I am honored to serve alongside you at this pivotal time. I am also deeply grateful to the 2026 Board of Directors and the Parthenon Management team for their steady leadership and partnership during this dynamic year. The work we do matters, for science, for public health, and for the millions of individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

I look forward to continuing this work together and to seeing many of you in Portland, Oregon, June 13–17, 2026.

With appreciation,

Wendy Lynch, Ph.D.

President, College on Problems of Drug Dependence

# JOIN US!



The College on Problems  
of Drug Dependence

## 88TH ANNUAL MEETING

*Oregon Convention Center &  
Hyatt Regency Portland*

June 13-17, 2026

# PORTLAND OREGON

Learn more and register at [cpdd.org](http://cpdd.org)

# POLICY UPDATE



32 CPDD members representing 17 states traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in CPDD's 2026 Advocacy Day on February 26, 2026. They met with congressional offices to highlight the critical role of federal investment in substance use and addiction research. The day demonstrated the strength of our community and the powerful impact that scientists, clinicians, and researchers can have when they engage directly with policymakers.

Throughout the meetings, CPDD members shared a unified message: sustained federal support for research is essential to improving public health and addressing the evolving overdose crisis. Participants thanked lawmakers for their support of the FY2026 Labor-HHS appropriations bill and urged continued growth in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including proportional increases for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

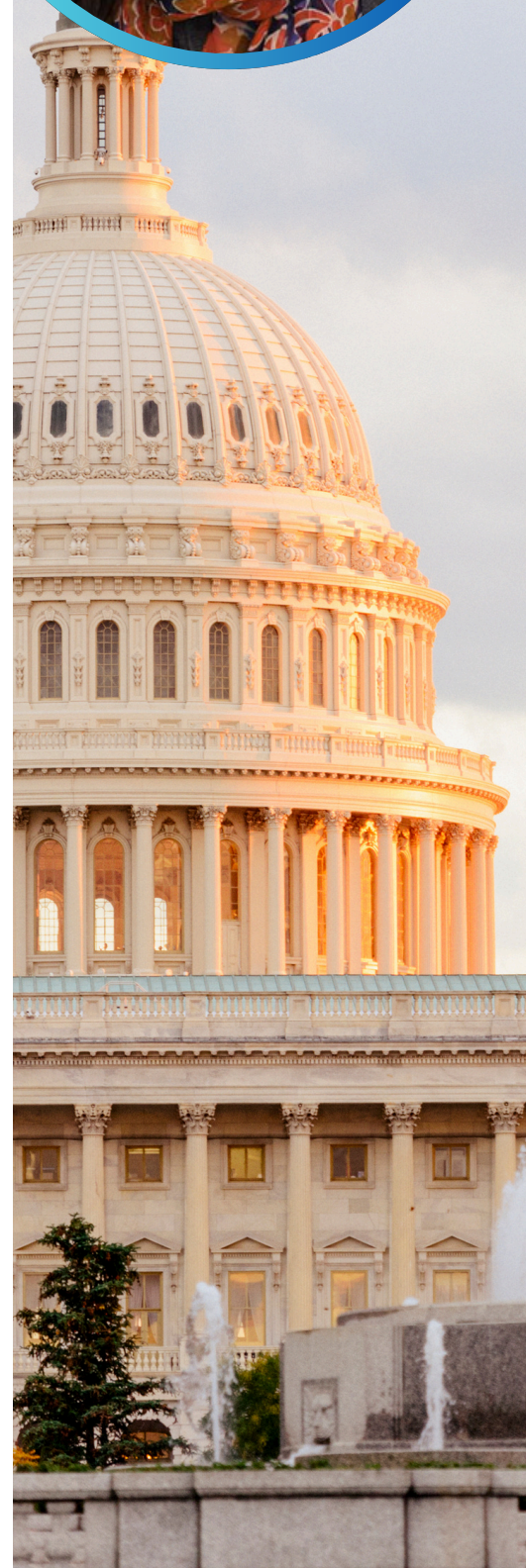
Members also emphasized the importance of protecting the research infrastructure that makes scientific discovery possible, including maintaining current negotiated NIH indirect cost rates and avoiding policies that could destabilize research institutions.

Advocacy Day serves as a reminder that the voice of the scientific community matters in shaping federal policy. When CPDD members share their expertise with policymakers, they help ensure that decisions affecting research funding, regulation, and public health are informed by evidence.

As we continue forward toward Summer 2026, we are working with CPDD members, policy makers, and key stakeholders on issues involving Cannabis, Animal Research, and keeping NIDA a standalone agency within NIH.

Your voice is a vital and impactful piece of our advocacy efforts. I encourage you to take advantage of our advocacy- and policy-related forums and workshops at the Annual Meeting and to get involved. Together, we can make a change.

Sandra Comer, Ph.D.  
Public Policy Officer





Selected by Mia Rough, Ph.D. Social Media Editor

***A humanized monoclonal antibody attenuates carfentanil self-administration in nonhuman primates.***

Galbo-Thomma LK, Baehr C, Gay EA, Runyon S, Pravetoni M, France CP

Ultra-potent synthetic opioids such as carfentanil contribute substantially to overdose risk, and medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) and overdose reversal may be less effective against these highly potent compounds. In this proof-of-concept study, a single administration of the fentanyl-targeting monoclonal antibody hHY6-F9 reduced intravenous carfentanil self-administration in rhesus monkeys, with effects lasting up to five weeks. Together, these findings provide translational evidence that immunopharmacotherapies can reduce the reinforcing effects of ultra-potent fentanyl analogs and represent a promising avenue for future research aimed at developing novel therapeutics for OUD in an increasingly unpredictable illicit opioid landscape.



Selected by Teri Franklin, Ph.D. Editor-in-Chief

***Relationship between Medicaid coverage design and receipt of medication for alcohol use disorder (MAUD): Probability of receipt increases based on comprehensiveness of plan.***

Garcia Estrada, M.A.; Steuart, S.R.; Andrew, C.M.; Grogan, C.M.; Hinds, O.M.; Lawlera, E.C.; Lozano-Rojas, F.; Westlake, M.A.; Peterson, L.; Wing, C.; Abraham, A.J

Medicaid is an important service for individuals with AUD seeking treatment and medication for AUD (MAUD). But plans vary in their coverage with some covering more services than others. Further, in states like Kentucky individuals are randomly assigned to plans. Using a large data set, the authors show that expanding coverage within the plans increases the probability of patients receiving MAUD.



Selected by Sterling McPherson, Ph.D. Associate Editor

***Craving mediates the relationship between sleep quality and impaired control over drinking: A preliminary study.***

Grodin EN, Baskerville WA, Ray LA

Sleep is a commonly untreated, co-occurring condition for people with all types of substance use disorders, including alcohol use disorder (AUD). However, mechanisms that may drive that relationship are understudied. This investigation highlights an important mechanism to examine closely, and should be a call to focus on therapeutic sleep targets in this population to 1) better leverage existing AUD therapies, and 2) work to identify new therapeutic targets that account for this comorbidity.



Selected by Sherry McKee, Ph.D. Associate Editor

***Perceived Racism-Based Police Violence and Substance Use among Black and Hispanic Emerging Adults: Evidence from a National Sample.***

Motley R O, Williamson E, McTernan M, Beeler, S and Salas-Wright CP

A recent survey found that **nearly nine in ten U.S. adults said they had personally seen videos of police violence against Black people.** The violence isn't new. It is just more visible now that everyone has the capability to film it. But how does seeing it affect us? Specifically, how does seeing it, witnessing it, or being a victim of it affect people of color? With this study, and others, this group is focused on finding out. Here, they showed that in black and Hispanic young adults, greater exposure to racial based violence was associated with greater use of alcohol and cannabis. The discussion of the paper is exceptional, providing food for thought on how to intervene through trauma-informed mental health services and community healing initiatives. The findings underscore the need to identify racial based police violence as a public health concern with potential behavioral health-related consequences.

**YOU BELONG  
HERE.  
APPLY FOR  
MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY.**

CPDD.ORG

# BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

One of the privileges of serving in CPDD leadership is the opportunity to welcome new colleagues who are stepping forward to guide the organization. I'm delighted to share the results of our recent elections and to congratulate the outstanding individuals who will be joining CPDD leadership.

Please join me in welcoming **Qiana Brown, M.P.H., Ph.D., LCSW** (Rutgers University), who has been elected CPDD President-Elect for 2026–2027. Dr. Brown's commitment to advancing research and care related to substance use make her a dynamic addition to CPDD's leadership team. I look forward to working with her in the years ahead.

We are also pleased to welcome **William Stoops, Ph.D.** (University of Kentucky) as our Treasurer for his second term. His continued experience and long-standing engagement with CPDD will ensure the continued strength and stewardship of the organization.

In addition, four outstanding scientists have been elected to serve as Members-at-Large on the CPDD Board of Directors:

- Brian Thomas, Ph.D., Empirical Pharmaceutical Services, LLC
- Caroline Arout, Ph.D., Columbia University Irving Medical Center
- Maria Parker, M.P.H., M.S., Ph.D., Indiana University–Bloomington
- Steffani Bailey, Ph.D., Oregon Health & Science University

Each of these colleagues brings valuable expertise, perspective, and dedication to CPDD's mission. Their leadership will help us continue advancing innovative science, supporting our research community, and strengthening the impact of our work in addressing substance use disorder and addiction research.

CPDD's success has always been driven by the commitment and collaboration of our members. I'm grateful to everyone who participated in the election process and to those who continue to contribute their time and expertise to our community.

Please join me in congratulating our newly elected leaders. I look forward to the work ahead as we continue building the future of CPDD together.

Wendy Lynch, Ph.D.  
President



# CPDD2026 IN PORTLAND

## A Dynamic and Expansive Scientific Program

The CPDD Program Committee is thrilled to welcome our community to Portland, Oregon for the 88th Annual Scientific Meeting. After a near-record breaking number of submissions, the program will feature 17 symposia, 13 mini-symposia, and 13 workshops. Furthermore, 236 Orals and 600 Posters have been selected, with late-breaking submissions hitting a record-breaking 107. These numbers reflect both the depth and breadth of the science driving our field forward.

Our invited content this year is especially timely. Together, these sessions highlight emerging challenges, translational progress, prevention science, and the evolving interface between research, policy, and public communication.

- **Emerging Adulterants in the Illicit Opioid Supply with a Focus on Medetomidine**, chaired by Dr. Joseph Palamar
- **How to Communicate Our Science to the Public**, chaired by Dr. Erin Winstanley
- **Non-Abstinence Endpoints – Have We Succeeded in Translation?**, chaired by Dr. Erin McClure
- **NIDA Drug Development Pipelines**, chaired by Dr. David White
- **Prevention Methods Across Data Sources Including ABCD and Other Big Data**, chaired by Dr. Sandra Brown
- **Substance Use During and After Pregnancy**, chaired by Dr. Claire Coles

In addition, we are pleased to spotlight CPDD's three Specialty Tracks (Real World of Addiction, Lived/Living Experience, NeuroBurst) which you will learn more about in this issue.

Each track will feature a dedicated poster session as part of the larger CPDD poster sessions and will include a focused networking time: creating space for attendees to connect around shared interests, foster collaboration, and build community.

We kickoff the meeting on Saturday with our Workshop Sessions. This year, we are featuring high impact and timely workshop topics that will engage and challenge our attendees to think big, including:

- **Individual Advocacy 101**, chaired by Dr. Sandra Comer
- **Putting the Quality in Qualitative Data Collection**, chaired by Dr. Danielle Davis
- **NIDA Grant Writing Workshop**, chaired by Dr. Lindsay Friend

Additionally, each year CPDD Committees host some truly outstanding forums for our membership. This year, we are featuring a forum entitled "Ethical and Practical Considerations of Integrating AI into Clinical Research on Substance Use Disorders" from the Human Research Committee, as well as "Real-World Psychedelic Use: State and National Perspectives" from the Policy Committee. The Animals in Research Committee is also leading a real-time forum discussion on the status of Animal Research as of June 2026 – among so many more – our committees continue to create spaces for thoughtful dialogue on the issues shaping addiction science today.

We look forward to gathering in Portland to share science, strengthen collaborations, and continue advancing the mission of CPDD. Additional program details and participation opportunities can be found on the digital agenda planning on the meeting website.

## NEUROBURST

NeuroBurst is a specialty track highlighting cutting-edge research on the neuroscience of SUDs. We have invited numerous participants who are leaders in their respective fields that do not customarily attend CPDD with the intent to spark long-term interest and participation among these researchers and their wider network. We have included a mix of research covering both preclinical and human neuroscience work, with an emphasis on potential or realized translation of findings. This year, our keynote speaker, Dr. Shelly Flagel, will discuss preclinical studies on the relationship between cues and rewards, incentive salience, plus separate neurobehavioral endophenotypes relevant to psychiatric disorders. To further foster cross-translation, each of our symposium sessions includes a mix of research covering both preclinical and human neuroscience work.

First, we will have a symposium about both basic, clinical, and translational studies on the epigenetics of SUD with Drs. Elizabeth A Heller, Andreas Pfenning, Deena Walker, and Zijun Wang. Then, Drs. Ansel Hilmer, Christin Sander, and Paul Czoty will discuss new radiotracer findings in Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging with an emphasis on measuring nociception, opioid receptors, neuroimmune changes, and dopamine. Later, we will learn about the state-of-the-art research on craving from Drs. Hedy Kober, Yavin Shaham, and Nicole Peterson using both clinical and preclinical studies. Our final symposium will feature exciting talks by Drs. Oscar Solis Castrejon, Raag Airan, and Gordana Vitaliano. These three speakers will show new data on emerging tools in neuroscience with the potential to study and/or treat SUD. Finally, the day will end with the NeuroBurst poster session, the largest collection of neuroscience-related posters at CPDD this year.

On behalf of Co-Chairs Sarah Yip and Ethan Anderson, we look forward to seeing you soon at NeuroBurst all day on Monday, June 15th!



## REAL WORLD OF ADDICTION

The Real World of Addiction Track brings together clinicians, researchers, individuals with lived and living experience, and policymakers to strengthen the connection between addiction science and patient care. Led by Drs. Joao De Aquino and Justin Strickland, the track focuses on identifying the most important research questions and the best methods to answer them across the full pipeline from epidemiology and preclinical models, to human laboratory work, and clinical trials.

The Presidential Keynote will be delivered by Dr. De Aquino, who will present a clinical case-based lecture on major challenges to treatment success and how translational science can overcome them. The remainder of the program will engage the community in discussions about defining and measuring recovery outcomes, tailoring treatments to individual needs, and improving real-world implementation. A dedicated poster and networking session will foster partnerships that support science designed to work for the people who need it most will close out Sunday.

We look forward to seeing you there and having some amazing, thought-provoking discussion. *Read more about RWOA in Dr. Lynch's column earlier in this issue.*

## LIVED AND LIVING EXPERIENCE

This year's LLE track was intentionally designed to feature sessions led by people with Lived and Living Experience. In designing the program, we prioritized elevating the voices and scholarship of individuals whose professional work is informed by firsthand experience navigating substance use, treatment, harm reduction approaches, and recovery. We sought presentations grounded in experiential insight delivered by researchers and clinicians drawing from their own lived journeys rather than about others' experiences from the outside.

The LLE Track brings together sessions that span a wide range of topics, career stages, and disciplinary perspectives which are all united by the thread of lived/living experience.

This year's plenary session highlights the Oregon Model, a pioneering approach to expanding access to treatment for people who use drugs and may not be actively seeking services. Attendees will hear from peers and their research collaborators who have been instrumental in developing and evaluating this model. The session offers a detailed look at what becomes possible when people with direct knowledge of substance use communities help design and deliver interventions.

Beyond the plenary, the track explores how lived experience intersects with academic and clinical careers at every career stage and level. Another session convenes addiction scientists—from graduate student to senior investigator—to discuss the challenges and opportunities of integrating personal experience into a research identity. Too often, early-career scientists feel they must keep their histories hidden to be taken seriously. This session aims to open that conversation and provide models for how lived experience can be a source of professional strength.

The track also extends into neuroscience by exploring what it means to study the brain and behavior "from within." Presenters will examine how experiential knowledge can challenge dominant assumptions about normality and pathology, and how centering that knowledge can lead to more human-centered science.

Finally, the track addresses a topic that touches every person with lived experience in this field: stigma. A session dedicated to recovery, stigma, and the reframing of lived experience as a clinical superpower brings together psychiatrists who have their own histories with medications for addiction treatment. Their presence on the program reflects a key priority of the track, which is to ensure that all forms of lived experience are represented, including those that are often met with additional layers of judgment within both clinical and academic settings.

Our hope is that attendees will leave these sessions with a renewed vision of addiction science—one that fully includes the people whose lives and experiences it seeks to understand. Lastly, we hope the track will encourage more researchers, clinicians, and trainees with lived experience to bring their full selves to CPDD, whether through future submissions, poster presentations, or simply by showing up and being part of the conversation.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Noel Vest, PhD, Boston University School of Public Health, and

Wayne Kepner, PhD, Stanford University

Co-Chairs, CPDD Lived/Living Experience Track.

# DISCOVER PORTLAND

Portland sits at the intersection of scientific discovery, public health leadership, and thoughtful policy dialogue, making it a fitting place for the CPDD community to convene.

The Pacific Northwest has long been a leader in innovative approaches to public health, offering a unique backdrop for the conversations that shape our field.

At the same time, Portland has played an important role in the national conversation around drug policy, treatment, and harm reduction. Gathering here provides an opportunity for CPDD members to engage not only with the latest scientific findings, but also with the broader policy and community contexts in which addiction research operates.

Beyond its strong ties to health and research, Portland offers an inviting and accessible setting for a scientific meeting. The city is known for its walkable downtown, extensive public transportation system, and welcoming atmosphere, making it easy for attendees to navigate between conference sessions, networking events, and the many local attractions.

Of course, Portland is also famous for its vibrant culture. Attendees will find an abundance of award-winning restaurants, local coffee roasters, bookstores, breweries, and arts venues, all contributing to the city's creative and independent spirit. These spaces often become the backdrop for some of the most meaningful conversations that happen during the Annual Meeting.

Nature is never far away in Portland. The city is surrounded by remarkable landscapes, from Forest Park's miles of wooded trails to the breathtaking vistas of the Columbia River Gorge and the iconic presence of Mount Hood in the distance. Whether it's an early morning walk, an evening run, or a post-conference excursion, Portland offers many ways to recharge and connect with the natural environment.

Portland's combination of intellectual energy, cultural richness, and natural beauty makes it an ideal setting for bringing our community together.



## 5 COOL THINGS TO DO IN PORTLAND

### Explore Powell's City Books

The largest independent bookstore in the world.

### Walk through Forest Park

With more than 80mi of trails to explore, it's sure to be an adventure.

### Visit the Portland Art Museum

It features an impressive collection of Native American art and contemporary works.

### Explore Portland's Food Scene

It's a foodie's paradise.

### Shop Independent

Small businesses are the heart of downtown; find special gifts to take home with you.



## FELLOW FEATURE

### CPDD/AMP ANIMALS IN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

#### *A Conversation with Taylor Woodward, PhD and Katherine Serafine, PhD.*

Taylor Woodward, PhD studies how chronic opioid use alters signaling lipids, a class of molecules that regulate neurotransmission and inflammation. He is currently an Assistant Research Scientist at Indiana University-Bloomington. He has spent over a decade using preclinical animal models to uncover mechanisms of addiction and explore potential treatments for substance use disorders. Taylor earned a dual Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Psychology from IU Bloomington and has authored/co-authored 17 peer-reviewed articles in academic journals. He is CPDD's first Animals in Research Fellow.

*Serafine: Has anything surprised you about working in the policy space around animals in research?*

Woodward: Honestly, one of the things that surprised me was how much I already knew about animals in research from my experiences as a researcher and working with IACUC. My experience in the policy space has enhanced my ability to explain concepts that for me were "everyday" parts of working with animals—how animals are well-cared for in research facilities, how researchers and veterinary staff work together to maximize welfare and minimize pain/distress, and how animal studies are vital for understanding addiction neurobiology.

*Serafine: What is one thing you understand now about science policy or research oversight that you didn't fully appreciate before this fellowship?*

Woodward: While I've always known that animal studies were important for understanding neurobiological mechanisms of addiction, my experiences with this fellowship have given me the opportunity to reflect on and articulate why animal studies are presently irreplaceable with available technologies, and how vital they are in the development of life-saving treatment strategies for substance use disorders. This fellowship has given me the societal perspectives and communication tools to convey these concepts to non-scientist individuals involved in policymaking.

*Serafine: How has this experience changed the way you think about the relationship between scientists, policymakers, and the public?*

Woodward: This experience has been incredibly empowering to me as a scientist. As I have worked as a scientist mentoring students, publishing papers, and applying for grants, I have often felt powerless in the face of broader national attacks on science, and especially those aimed at animal research. This fellowship has helped me to see that science advocacy is actually not as difficult nor inaccessible to the average scientist as I thought. While I have historically kept my head down and worked on science as my way to (hopefully) make the world better, I have been surprised by how much of a difference I can make just by showing up, explaining my story and goals, and communicating with the right people.

*Serafine: From your perspective, what are some of the most important policy conversations currently shaping the future of animals in research?*

Woodward: Recent arguments propose that “Novel Alternative Methods”, Artificial Intelligence and organ-on-a-chip approaches might be able to refine, reduce, and potentially replace aspects of animal testing. While I’m excited about new tools that we can use to learn about how drugs affect neurophysiology, part of my efforts as a fellow has involved evaluating the limitations of these technologies in the context of addiction research. A main takeaway that I’ve learned about these novel methods is the critical need to continue animal research, as the new approaches are not yet able to fully capture the behavioral, biological and whole-system variables that are critical for continued discovery in the field of addiction science. Substance use disorders are by definition brain and behavioral disorders, and presently organoids cannot behave or interact with their environment in the way that animals can. This is something that we have been discussing in the context of policy, and that we’ve shared on the Hill.

*Serafine: What accomplishments or contributions from your fellowship year are you most proud of?*

Woodward: I’m very proud of the advocacy work I’ve done so far during this fellowship. In preparation for CPDD’s Hill Day, I worked on materials to leave with staffers that highlight the importance/value of animal studies in addiction research, as well as some “myth busting” of common misconceptions about animal research (to reinforce that it is highly regulated, benefits people and animals, and is currently irreplaceable). Preparing this was helpful for me to understand how to talk about animal research, and I think the resources I helped create are useful for advocacy efforts by others as well.

*Serafine: Has this experience influenced how you think about your own role as a scientist or advocate for research?*

Woodward: This experience has given me a lot of experience and perspective on how to be intentional in my communication and research efforts. I’ve learned about different strategies that can be useful for affecting public opinion, and many of the conversations that I had in preparation for CPDD’s Hill Day have actually helped me solidify some of my research directions as well.

*Serafine: How has working at the science-policy interface shaped your communication skills or approach to public engagement?*

Woodward: Working in this space has given me lots of practice in communicating in a way that is focused, concise, and tailored to my audience. As I’ve interfaced with policymakers, I’ve realized that concentrating on the most important information that will resonate with the recipient’s priorities and background is the most effective way to communicate. As science is full of nuance and complexity, this is a different intellectual muscle than what I often use as a researcher and adds to my ability as a communicator.

*Serafine: What advice would you give to trainees interested in applying to be a future Animals in Research Policy Fellow?*

Woodward: Apply! This fellowship has given me opportunities, skills, and experiences that will be helpful to me in future career paths, whether in academia, industry or policy/advocacy. I’ve been able to make connections with individuals in the policy space and get exposure to different career paths, which is important to me as an early-career researcher. This fellowship provided me with unique experiences and perspectives that I would never have been able to do on my own.

*Serafine: If you could share one key takeaway from your fellowship year with the CPDD membership, what would it be?*

Woodward: There is much to do! I am inspired by the enormous efforts and incredible skills of my fellowship mentors, and I’ve gained an appreciation for how much more we need to do to support animal research as researchers. I feel like I’ve gained skills that will be helpful for me and others in the future and look forward to doing what I can!





# COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Animals in Research*  
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*Broadening Perspectives  
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*Rules*

*Chairs were asked to provide quick bullet-point updates on their committee's work this winter.*

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### **Animals in Research Committee**

Chair: Katherine Serafine, Ph.D.



We are preparing to share critical content to help educate animal researchers at our forum in June about the recent legislative and policy updates as they pertain to animal research.

We want to highlight that our Animal Research Policy Fellow developed fantastic a two-page handout for the CPDD Hill day in February related to the critical role of animals in addiction research.

We are also working closely with the new CPDD Animal Research Task Force to address the rapidly changing landscape of animal research legislative and policy news.

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### **Awards Committee**

Chair: Maria Parker, Ph.D.



We identified our well-deserved Awards for Excellence winners.

We will be reviewing the guidelines and eligibility for the Cochin Award. We look forward to celebrating together at the Annual Meeting.

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### **Broadening Perspectives in Addiction Science**

Chair: Lais Berro, PhD



The Committee selected their Oral Session speakers, whose research focuses on broad populations and impact.

Is preparing for the the Bridges to Community Networking Event at CPDD 2026 on Sunday evening in Portland.

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### **Code of Conduct Committee**

Chair: Jacques Nguyen, Ph.D.



Looking forward to the Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.

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### **Communications Committee**

Chair: Frank Schwebel, Ph.D.



Successfully hosted the Lived/Living Experience webinar for CPDD, and is looking forward to the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting.

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### **Early Career Committee**

Chair: Sean Regnier, Ph.D.



We finalized our lineup for the Navigating a Career in Addiction Science Workshop. We have a great group of speakers who will provide early career scientists at CPDD the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of addiction scientists from a range of professions spanning academia, industry, and government agencies. Speakers will present information on their career sector, the skill set and expertise needed to succeed in their area, the costs and benefits of their work, and any "insider information" on how to successful navigate their space in the field.

We have made significant improvements to the CPDD poster competition, including the creation of a Standard Operating Procedure and improved transparency for everyone involved in the competition.

We are also working to improve the ECMC Mentorship program and have been reviewing feedback from last year's participants. We are working on developing a conversation guide to help facilitate discussion between the mentor and mentee. We hope to have this completed for this year's Annual Meeting.

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### Education Committee

Chair: Suky Martinez, Ph.D.



Looks forward to seeing members at our first think lab webinar: Ethical Considerations for Clinical Research in People Who Use Drugs on May 13, 2026.

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### Finance Committee

Chair: William Stoops, Ph.D.



Proposed the 2026 budget, which was approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Continued to monitor our investment position in collaboration with our advisors at Evermay.

Began financial planning to support our upcoming Centennial Year Celebration in 2029.

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### Human Research Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Santa Ana, Ph.D. and Rachel Luba, Ph.D.



Launched Human Research Committee (HRC) website resources, providing centralized guidance for researchers conducting human subjects research, with content finalized and approved for public release.



Organized upcoming 2026 Annual Meeting programming, including a forum on ethical and practical considerations of AI in substance use research and a workshop on innovative, low-burden assessment methods.

Planning development of public-facing resources for individuals with LLE, focused on research participation and subject rights; pending Executive Committee guidance, the Committee aims to define key topics and begin content development by the Annual Meeting.

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### International Committee

Chair: Lalchhanhima Ralte, MPH



Recorded a virtual welcome session for international attendees for CPDD 2026, covering travel awards, visa support letters, and accommodation. The video will be emailed to international registrants.

Invited CPDD International Travel Award winners to present on stimulant use in their countries during the International Committee Workshop scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2026, at CPDD Portland.

Published a Special International Edition of the CPDD Newslite (February 2026), featuring seven research highlights that emphasize the importance of local context and global collaboration in substance use science.

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### Long Range Planning Committee

Chair: Kelly Dunn, Ph.D.



With the new CPDD Strategic Plan well under way, we are excited to see everyone at the Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.

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### Nominating Committee

Chair: Judith Tsui, M.D., MPH  
President-Elect



Congratulations to our newly elected Board Members and leadership positions. We look forward to seeing everyone in Portland, OR. Remember to attend the CPDD Business Meeting on Tuesday at the Annual Meeting!

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### Membership Committee

Chair: Alicia Allen, Ph.D., MPH



Expanded and modernized membership pathways: Expanded eligibility for Member-in-Training status to undergraduates and supporting rollout/ongoing review of the new Professional membership level.

Explored strategies to grow membership: Discussed new opportunities to grow membership (e.g., outreach to non-member registrants, integration with manuscript submissions) and began brainstorming opportunities for the 100th anniversary (e.g., drawings, special recognitions).

Enhanced engagement opportunities: Planned activities to increase visibility and conversion at the annual conference (e.g., games to increase engagement, ribbons to identify membership committee members and length of membership) and ongoing exploration of incentives and partnerships to strengthen member value.

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### Program Committee

Chair: Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, Ph.D.



The poster schedule has been finalized and published in the Annual Meeting Agenda.

Late-Breaking reviewer are complete, with a record-breaking 107 abstract submissions. *See the Program Feature earlier in this issue for more details!*

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### Travel Awards Committee

Chair: Dustin Lee, Ph.D.



Congratulations to all our outstanding Travel Awardees for the 2026 Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Portland, OR.

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### Public Policy Committee

Chair: Sandra Comer, Ph.D.



CPDD-led letter opposing the SPARE Act - signed by multiple other organizations. Supported review and recommendations on the letter from Ryan Vandrey, PhD on Cannabis THC levels, which was shared with Congressional offices.

Co-sponsored with Friends of NIDA on a Hill briefing for recovery from substance use disorders.

Working closely with the Preclinical Task Force on Federal advocacy efforts around Animal Research.



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of Drug Dependence