

I want to start by thanking the CPDD and the Awards Committee of the CPDD. I am very honored to receive this award, and am especially happy that CPDD has such a broad definition of young. I have always felt very much a part of the CPDD, as it is an organization that truly reaches out to young investigators - from the postdoctoral travel awards, to allowing us to have the first young investigator symposium, to honoring me with this award. I also want to thank the people who wrote letters supporting me for this award.

As you have heard, I started out as Kat's first graduate student, and I think we really learned together about the need for persistence in this career. I saw what it took to start up a new lab and I learned from watching Kat about the fortitude necessary to do well. I value the friendship that we have shared since I was her student.

From Conan I learned about the importance of mentoring in science - that the contribution we make to the field is greater than merely the number of manuscripts we publish. When I was leaving his laboratory, he followed me to the elevator. He wanted to tell me one last thing before I left and that was to remember that when I had my own lab I should treat people the way I would like to be treated - in fact in the way in which he had always treated all of us. I have often thought about this over the years as my laboratory has grown, and can only hope that I am living up to his example.

I want to thank Jim Smith for letting me discover neurochemistry in his lab. I learned that you can get whole curves in one day - coming from a behavioral background, this was very exciting, and it changed the course of my career.

From Brian I learned about integrity in science - about doing this work without ego involvement. I also learned that there is no such thing as too many control experiments. I am very thankful for the opportunities that he gave me to work independently and especially that he allowed me to take our project on the chronic effects of cocaine with me when I left his lab.

Working with Jonathan was proof positive that the "happy lab" can be the most productive lab. He let me come to NIDA and basically said, here is a room, build a lab. Jonathan allowed me to build an independent research group while providing the opportunity to collaborate with him as well. He took care of all the bureaucracy so that I was free to just do science. He continues to be supportive and I fully appreciate our collaborations. I can always count on him to make me laugh, and I am always in a better mood after speaking with him than I was before.

I want to thank Deborah for allowing me the opportunity to build my own laboratory, and to collaborate with her on the human brain studies. I think that the combination of studies using animal models with those on the human brain have a huge potential for elucidating the underlying neurochemistry of drug abuse, and I am very happy to have the opportunity to work with her on these studies. She took a big chance on hiring me from the intramural program, since I had no history of grant writing. I greatly appreciate her leap of faith and her continued support.

I also thank all of my collaborators - I have been lucky to have worked with such wonderful people. In addition I thank the people who have been so supportive of me for no apparent reason. Linda Porrino, Roger Spealman, Marty Adler, Mary-Jeanne Kreek - thank you all for the continued support that you have shown to me. And of course, I need to thank NIDA who has supported me one way or another at all stages of my career - on grants to all of the people in whose labs I have worked, through the intramural research program, and finally through my own grants.

In closing, I thank all my fellow young investigators - and hopefully you know who you are. I don't have words to express my appreciation for your friendship over all of these years - it is often what has kept me

going during those times when I wondered why I was doing this. I also want to acknowledge my family, who has always provided a tremendous amount of support for me, without which I would not be here. I am very lucky to have them.

Finally, I would like to end with a word about Joe Cochin. I knew Dr. Cochin while I was a student at Boston University. Until I started coming to the CPDD meetings I thought of him as just the nice man down the hall who somehow always knew when it was donut day in the lab. Once I started studying drug abuse and attending this meeting, I realized the great contributions that he had made to our understanding of opioid tolerance. I am truly honored to receive this award with his name on it.