Recap of CPDD 2008

The 70th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence was held at the Caribe Hilton Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 14-19, 2008. It was very well attended with 1382 registrants, almost the same number (1375) that came to the meeting the last time it was in Puerto Rico in 2004 and more than the number (1264) who traveled to Quebec City for last year’s meeting. There were 366 members, 60 members-in-training, 711 nonmembers, and 157 students, the balance being social registrants, exhibitors, and press. Attendees flocked to San Juan from 48 countries. After the US, the most highly represented countries were France (24), Canada and Spain (23), Australia (22!), Sweden (10), Brazil, Germany, Israel, and Puerto Rico (8 each).

The kick-off reception took place Saturday evening on the beach. Many in the crowd took that literally, kicking off their shoes in the sand and renewing old acquaintances while sampling the tastes of Puerto Rico. Sunday morning began the scientific sessions. Following introductory comments by President Steve Higgins, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Dr. Nora Volkow, addressed the assemblage.

The award ceremonies started with the presentation of the CPDD Distinguished Service Award by Bill Dewey and Steve Higgins to Geoffrey K. Mumford for his outstanding contributions to policy and advocacy in support of drug abuse science. Next, the CPDD/NIDA Media Award was given to William Cope Moyers of the Hazelden Foundation for his work in improving the public’s understanding
of issues related to addiction and recovery. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Moyers relayed his moving personal story of drug abuse and treatment.

This year’s J. Michael Morrison Award was given to two equally deserving individuals at NIDA: Rita Liu and Betty Tai; to Rita, for her expert and long-standing service to the drug abuse research enterprise through management of the Center Grants review process, and to Betty, for advancing drug abuse research through work within the NIDA Drug Development program and for expert and enthusiastic leadership of the Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network.

For her outstanding early career contributions to drug abuse research, Hendree Jones was scheduled to receive the Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award in the morning session, but, unfortunately, the airlines were on their own schedule, so her award was postponed until later in the day. The 2008 CPDD Mentorship Award was given to Joseph V. Brady for being an exemplary mentor to several generations of developing scientists in the field of drug abuse research. It was tag-team-presented by several of his distinguished disciples, Jack Henningfield, Bob Schuster, Nancy Ator and Scott Lukas.

A melancholy mood pervaded the posthumous bestowal of the prestigious Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award on Billy R. Martin, who sadly had lost his valiant battle with cancer only a week earlier. Friend and colleague, Bill Dewey, delivered a touching tribute to Billy, providing a synopsis of his most notable scientific accomplishments, as well as a glimpse into the many cherished relationships with family and friends.
During the lunch break, an enthusiastic crowd overflowed the auditorium to hear the Public Policy Forum, chaired by Bill Dewey and Martin Iguchi. The President’s Lecture, delivered by Kelly D. Brownell and appropriately titled, “Can Food Be Addictive and Why?” followed lunch. After the lecture, Karol Kaltenbach presented Hendree Jones with her long-awaited award.

The symposia and oral communication sessions commenced after the President’s Lecture. In all, we had 16 symposia (full or mini) and 22 oral presentation sessions. Topics covered a broad range of research in the field and can be viewed at cpdd.org along with the submitted abstracts. On Sunday afternoon, Tim Condon and David Shurtleff chaired a special forum on the NIH Roadmap and NIDA funding opportunities. In the evening, ASPET sponsored a mixer for the first time at CPDD, and 3 of the 11 workshops were held.
In direct competition with the workshops was the showing of the film, The Panic in Needle Park, featuring Al Pacino. Movie Night is a new addition to the CPDD program, brought to us by Pat Santora and Jack Henningfield of the Innovators Program at Johns Hopkins, and one that we hope to make a tradition. A second classic film, Days of Wine and Roses, starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick, was shown on Tuesday evening. The irrepressible Pat & Jack are also responsible for the fascinating Art & Addiction Exhibition, which gets better every year, and this year included talks by historian Nancy Campbell about the films, and tales about the Narcotic Farm in Lexington.

Monday morning brought the first of 4 lively breakfast poster sessions. Judging by the faces of some of the attendees, it was apparent that the heart-healthy menu choices were a hit.
In conjunction with the posters, we had a few exhibitors displaying their products.

On Monday afternoon, the Marian W. Fischman Memorial Award was given to Edythe D. London for her contributions as an outstanding woman scientist in the field of drug abuse research. Introduced by Jerome Jaffe, Dr. London presented a talk on Studying Addiction in the Age of Neuroimaging.
Also on Monday, the 1988 and 2005-2008 Early Career Investigator Awardees were treated to a luncheon hosted by CPDD.

In other related activities targeting students and younger investigators, CPDD held a breakfast on Sunday morning before the Plenary for the CSAT, and a reception on Sunday evening for the Primm-Singleton, travel awardees.
A mixer for pre- and post-docs on Monday evening was jointly sponsored by CPDD and a number of NIDA Training Program Directors. As in the past, NIDA ran both a satellite session on Saturday afternoon on general topics of interest to new investigators in the drug abuse field, and the Grant-Writing Workshop on Tuesday afternoon.

New for this year was a Journal Reviewer Luncheon workshop sponsored by Elsevier, publisher of *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, our society's journal, to train students and Members-in-Training in techniques of reviewing articles for publication. On Thursday, the annual Brunch with Champions was held, at which junior investigators had the opportunity to chew the fat (and protein and carbs) with more senior researchers and administrators in the field. It was organized by this year by Stephanie Licata, who did a great job in signing up attendees and lining up the stable of Champs. They were Martin Iguchi, Anna Rose Childress, Craig Rush, Michael Owens, Sam Deadwyler, Beatrice Rocha, Athina Markou, and Charles France.
A reception was held on Monday evening in the Presidential Suite for past Presidents of CPDD and Eddy Award winners.
This year’s Late-Breaking Research News on Tuesday afternoon was the largest ever with 15 5-minute presentations. Thankfully, all presenters stuck to the time limit, so that the speed-data-ing session ended on schedule, allowing most attendees to head for the beach on their afternoon off.

On Wednesday afternoon the CPDD Business Meeting was held, and representatives to the Nominations Committee were voted on by the Fellows and Regular Members. The newly elected members of the Committee are Tom Crowley, Bill Dewey, Alan Budney and Kat Kantak. Plaques in recognition of service to the College were given to retiring Board members, Jim Anthony and Bill Dewey. Also retiring (but definitely not shy) was Tom Kosten, outgoing Past-President. President-Elect Sharon Walsh presented a plaque to Steve Higgins acknowledging completion of his term as President.
Wednesday night's festivities afforded the opportunity to work off some of the week's calories by trying your hand (and feet) at Salsa dancing to the sounds of Arpeggio.
It was also a good opportunity to sing *Happy Birthday* to Herb Kleber.
At the conclusion of the scientific sessions on Thursday afternoon, badges were collected from the attendees seated in the meeting rooms for the 11th annual CPDD Sweepstakes Drawing. The event was ably emceed by the new and quite entertaining Program Chair, Sari Izenwasser, who called on some of the younger CPDDers to help with the drawing. (Thanks, Amy, Kevin, Manassah Grace, and Jasper!)

The lucky winners of a variety of chatchkes (that's Spanish for lovely souvenirs) were Michael Gatch, Brady Reynolds, Paula Riggs, Susan Stine, Elena Zakharova, Emily Jutkiewicz, David White, Jennifer Plebani, Cheryl Paradis, Christine Collins, Gene McCullough, Robert Hollenbeck, and Alexis Ary. Other prizes included a 2-night stay at John Asuaga’s Nugget Hotel in Sparks (Reno), Nevada (the site of next year’s meeting), which was won by David Ledgerwood; membership dues for 2009 won by Jeremy Miles; and free meeting registration for 2009, which was won by Jim Anthony.
Congratulations to all the winners! Maybe YOU will be lucky enough to join us next year in Reno, June 20-25, for the 71st Annual CPDD Meeting. Hope to see you there!