



# NEWSLINE

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.  
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## CPDD President's Column

### Openness and Inclusion: Closing the Circle

Warren K. Bickel, Ph.D.  
President

In this the last column of my presidency, I want to return to my themes and report to the membership the latest efforts to enhance the openness and inclusiveness of the College. These efforts provide continuing opportunities for each member to have a voice and to participate fully in our organization. I hope that in some concrete and meaningful way this allows the themes of openness and inclusion to permeate throughout our organization.

First, I am pleased to announce that the College has purchased and implemented a service, CapWiz, that will allow the members of the CPDD and others to participate in the important public policy issues confronting us. CapWiz allows you to email each member of your Congressional Delegation with minimal effort. On each issue, we will provide suggested text reflecting the College's view on a topic that you can modify to reflect your own perspective. With this service, CPDD commits itself to opening its policy concerns and issues to the membership in timely manner by providing a convenient and efficient tool so that members can play a real and concrete roll in expressing their viewpoints to our public policy leaders.

Second, we have decided to conduct a yearly survey of our conference attendees. After last year's conference, we asked all attendees to fill out a web-based questionnaire about their experiences. We reported the results of that survey to you in the first NEWSLINE of my presidency. We have decided that allowing the attendees to provide feedback on a continuing basis, reporting that feedback back to the membership, and using it to inform the decisions of the leadership is essential for being responsive to our membership!

As my term comes to an end, I must tell you that being elected and serving as President of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence has been a true honor that I will always cherish and never forget. I look forward to our conference (the ultimate opportunity for inclusion and openness), learning of our scientific advances, and having a chance to talk with you my friends and colleagues. Also, I am interested in what you think, so feel free to talk to me at the conference on what matters to you. As always, I invite you to email me ([wbickel@uams.edu](mailto:wbickel@uams.edu)) with your suggestions and thoughts for our College.

## CPDD Executive Committee Meeting

President Warren Bickel called the spring meeting of the CPDD Executive Committee to order at 9:30 AM, April 18, 2005 in Washington DC. The most important items addressed include:

### 2005 Scientific Program

Ellen Geller and Marty Adler reported that the program for the 2005 annual meeting is complete and posted on the CPDD website. The attendance and suc-

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Executive Committee Meeting Report *continued from page 1*

cess of sessions will be monitored during the meeting. It was agreed that there will be no abstract book printed this year since fewer than 100 people purchased a copy last year, there is considerable expense to CPDD involved, and the abstracts are on our website <http://www.cpdd.org>

Washington News

In letters addressed to congressional representatives, the CPDD requested a 6% increase for NIH and NIDA budgets for 2006. The CPDD Public Policy Officer, Bill Dewey and our Washington representatives from Capitol Associates met the staffers of five legislative offices this spring to discuss NIH reauthorization. A summary of these activities during the year is to be prepared by Dr. Dewey and published in the NEWSLINE three times/year.

Friends of NIDA (FON)

Bill Dewey reported that the Executive Committee for FON, an advocacy group, is now meeting monthly and about 50 different organizations have signed on. The FON sponsored a congressional briefing about NIDA research on March 15. Over 100 participants at the meeting heard presentations by Nora Volkow (Director, NIDA) and Dexter Manley (former Washington Redskins). The next

briefing sponsored by FON will focus on promoting the goals of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network.

On-line Public Advocacy

The CPDD has contracted to utilize the on-line public advocacy tool (Capwiz®; Capitol Advantage) to help bridge the activities of CPDD and its Washington representatives with the membership. Dr. Bill Dewey, Capitol Associates and the CPDD office are in the process of generating the first email solicitation slated for release in May.

Credit card

The CPDD office we will soon begin accepting credit cards for payment of membership fees, abstract submission fees and registration for the annual meeting.

The committee also approved support of a project to compile an Oral History of Substance Abuse and the Drug Evaluation Committee (DEC) testing program. In addition, the committee is working to develop a concrete mechanism by which members may become fellows, to finalize a Conflict of Interest policy, and to explore new sites for the annual conference.

*– Contributed by Kathryn Cunningham, CPDD President-Elect*

## Public Policy Report

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence continues to play an active role in the advocacy for appropriate funding for research in all aspects of drug-abuse related problems. The College has retained Capitol Associates of Washington D. C. to help in this important work. A major portion, but not all, of our activities supported by the expertise of Ed Long and Roxanne Burnham of Capitol Associates this year have been directed toward convincing congress of the importance of additional funding for research supported by The National Institute on Drug Abuse. We have requested oral and supplied written testimony to the appropriate committees

in both houses of congress responsible for appropriations in this area. Our request for an increase of 6% in the budget is well above the amount proposed by the President, but similar to that being proposed by others advocating for funds for all or any other part of the NIH. Our approach emphasizes that advocacy for NIDA should be at least be equal to, if not better than, that for any other area of research. We have supplied language to be included in the congressional record on the importance of various aspects of the NIDA research portfolio. Congressional staff meetings were held in the offices of five of the appropriations committee members to impress upon

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*CPDD has been in existence since 1929 and is the longest standing group in the United States concerned with research on problems of drug dependence*

**Public Policy Report** *continued from page 2*

them the importance of research in this field. Information was sent to the offices that were not available for these visits. This information included the consequences of a 0.6% increase in the NIDA budget for FY 06 as proposed by the President, and the benefits of the 6% increase we are proposing. Finally, on appropriations, CPDD has developed a relationship with the leadership of the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus in the House of Representatives.

CPDD has taken a leadership role in working with congressional staff in writing a bill to provide incentives for the pharmaceutical industry to increase their activity in the discovery of drugs useful for treating the diseases of sub-

stance abuse. CPDD also has taken an active role in convincing congressional leaders to correct a mistake in the original Drug Addiction Treatment Act that prevents each physician in a group (including very large teaching institutions, and other large treatment practices) from treating more than thirty patients. The original intention was to allow each physician to treat 39 patients.

The College has been a very strong supporter of The Friends of NIDA coalition, which was organized over the past two years to coordinate and advance advocacy for all aspects of drug abuse research.

*-Contributed by Bill Dewey  
CPDD Public Policy Officer*

## CapWiz

The College has contracted with CapWiz to provide a fast and efficient mechanism for each of the members of the College to correspond with government leaders on issues important to our mission. This mechanism will provide each member with the opportunity to send a letter prepared by the College to their congressional delegation, or any other appropriate government leaders. You also will be able to modify the letter to

suit your particular needs. Congressional offices respond more to their constituents than to others. This mechanism will allow each of us the opportunity to very quickly express our opinions on important issues. Very little work will be required since the letter will be prepared for you to use as is, or to modify.

*-Contributed by Bill Dewey  
CPDD Public Policy Officer*

## Meeting Report Impact of Drug Formulations on Abuse Liability, Safety and Regulatory Decisions

On April 19-20, the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) hosted a national conference on "Impact of Drug Formulation on Abuse Liability, Safety and Regulatory Decisions" that was held at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in North Bethesda. This conference was the second in a series sponsored by CPDD as part of its mission to foster communication among industry, government and academics on issues related to abuse liability assessment. The first conference entitled "Abuse Liability Assessment of CNS

Drugs" was highly acclaimed, and the presentations and findings were published as a supplement to *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*<sup>1</sup>. Because of the success of that first conference in bringing together academics, regulators, and industry, Drs. Edward Sellers and Charles R. Schuster organized this second conference to focus specifically on issues of evaluating the abuse liability of pharmaceutical formulations. At the present time, industry is actively engaged in the development of new formulations for scheduled drugs, in

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*CPDD membership includes a subscription to Drug and Alcohol Dependence, ranked among the most cited drug abuse research journals.*

## Voice of Experience

### An Interview with Mary Jeanne Kreek

#### 1999 CPDD Nathan B. Eddy Award Winner

By Richard De La Garza

Dr. Mary Jeanne Kreek has spent the better part of four decades establishing a course, setting priorities, and revolutionizing drug addiction research. After a few bouts of phone tag, we sat down on two separate afternoons in late 2004 to talk about addiction research: its past, present and future.

I distinctly recall attending Mary Jeanne's Nathan B. Eddy Award lecture at the CPDD conference in 1999. The sheer amount of data presented was simply extraordinary. I did one of those 5-HT<sub>2A</sub>-mediated wet-dog shakes thinking, 'Wow, what a *tour de force*'.



**RD: Do you realize how much a talk like your Eddy Award lecture impacts young scientists?**

**MJK:** Rather than trying to simplify things, when asked to give a very general lecture, I will do so and I've found that young people really appreciate this. They say they rarely hear the context of the evolution of thought that a senior scientist brings to a topic.

**RD: Of course, you're right. In order to appreciate the road that lies ahead, it is crucial to have a clear perspective on where we have been.**

**MJK:** From the very beginning, I coded the word bi-directional translational research (not just translational research). I try to show that I go from the clinic to the bench and back to the clinic. Another hallmark of mine is to not be wedded to a discipline, but rather to learn new things.

**RD: Tell us about your lab focus, trainees and the lab environment.**

**MJK:** Our lab and center focus on the role of opioids, interactions with dopaminergic systems, as well as neuropeptides. We have elected to focus primarily on three addictions: opiates, alcohol, and cocaine. We look at the similarities and differences. We do that with our human stress responsivity work, our human genetics work and neurobiological work. We do this to learn about the disease, to learn the natural history of the disease, and to help in primary prevention—for which we think genetics will play a seminal role. I am very close to all of my trainees and I'm very proud of them. We support our people and I call them my extended family. I expect two things from them; they have to be impeccably honest and ethical at all times - that's *sine qua non*. I also demand very hard work with enthusiasm. It's a characteristic of everyone in here and I think I set the tone. It's a wonderful family atmosphere—everyone is interactive with everyone else.

**RD: What advice would you offer about things that can be done to ensure the success of trainees?**

**MJK:** They ought to always think about who their mentor and the people around them will be, and in what kind of fomentation do they believe they will perform best. We must support our young people - we have to support them actively in our lab as predocs, as postdocs, and in the critical period of early faculty positions. It is also incumbent for grad-, med-, and any science-student to learn about other fields. So you have to expose yourself to new things. Now you can't just sit in lectures all the time, although that is a real temptation around here [Rockefeller] because there is so much going on. You could be in lecture all day and never go to the lab. You become a kind of voyeur and some kind of commentator, but not a scientist. So you have to balance these things.

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Voice of Experience–Interview with Mary Jeanne Kreek *continued from page 4*

**RD: What are your thoughts about the addiction research field?**

**MJK:** It's unfortunate the fact so many people working within the field have never seen a patient with addiction. Such exposure allows scientists to formulate their questions with greater relevance. It is not just a matter of applied vs. basic science. I reject that. It is making the choices within basic science and/or the choices within integrative biology that allow you to go towards a human condition more rapidly. In this lab we make MDs and PhDs sit together, we make everyone attend the journal club, and we have a couple of other meetings a week that everyone has to attend. In the end, everyone is "foment-seamless".

**RD: Yes, and it is important to seek out lectures with both clinical and pre-clinical approaches, especially for drug addiction research scientists.**

**MJK:** Absolutely, because it's under-taught. Of course the deplorable thing is that graduate schools, nursing schools, and medical schools do not teach addiction. It's almost not taught at all.

**RD: What do you think it will take to get "big pharma" interested in developing medications for drug addiction?**

**MJK:** I went to California to lecture to a huge group of biotechies, and the reason was because I tried to get them involved in medication development. *Stigma* is what terrified them. I could convince them there is plenty of money now – the market is enormous and yes, somebody will pay for it – because most governments, including our own, have realized treatment is cheaper than imprisonment or crime on the street. We have to teach the public to stop stigmatizing addiction. We've got to teach our friend the psychiatrist to stop talking about dependence and to start using the word *Addiction*. I wish we wouldn't use the word dependence because it is actually a misnomer – dependence is a pharmacological term and a molecular term and it refers to changes that yield a need for increasing amount of compound. We really have to use the word addiction to de-stigmatize it. 150 years ago nobody had tuberculosis. 100 years ago cancer was stigmatized – no one in your family had cancer – they had some other disorder. 20 years ago nobody had mental health problems – quite amazing! And now, behold 1 in 5 have depression diagnosed by DSM-IV. So, we're hearing a lot about depression, but I have to warn you – still nobody has bipolar depression or schizophrenia – those are still no-no's. Addictions? Yes. You know people who are alcoholic, but it's never your father, your son, your cousin or yourself. It's always somebody else who is an alcoholic with some pejorativeness attached to the discussion.

**RD: What do you feel is your most important contribution has been to the drug addiction field?**

**MJK:** Defining addiction as a disease. The concept that addiction was a disease is what we came to grips with in 1964 here at Rockefeller and out on the streets of New York, in detox centers, and in prisons. This included the concept that addiction was not just criminal behavior, not just a weak personality.

**RD: It must be very rewarding to see your research at this stage.**

**MJK:** We obviously have every intention to go further.

The quality and quantity of work emanating from Dr. Kreek's lab assures us that this is certainly the case, and gives us much to look forward to. Speaking to her has inspired and reinvigorated me, and serves as a reminder that CPDD's top scientists have much to teach us.

*[Editors Note: This new column, Voice of Experience, is the brainchild of CPDD President Warren Bickel who hoped to honor our Eddy Awardees and inspire our membership. I especially want to thank Rich De La Garza for his perseverance in writing such fine column, Mary Jeanne Kreek for providing the inspiration, and the Publications Committee for working hard to make Warren's idea a reality. We hope to continue this column in future issues of NEWSLINE (if we do it twice, it's a tradition) and encourage all you Eddy's out there to stand still for just a few moments and help us out. A little inspiration can go a long way.]*

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*We have to teach the public to stop stigmatizing addiction.*

## Orlando, Here We Come

### CPDD 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting June 18-23



The program for the 2005 meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence has been finalized and is now available on the College's Web site. Two Presidential Lectures are planned: Dr. Trevor Robbins of the University of Cambridge will speak on Sunday and Dr. Harel Weinstein of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University will speak on Monday. There will be eighteen full symposia and mini-symposia and ten evening workshops. A total of 814 abstracts were accepted for presentation, and these will be presented in twenty-seven oral communication sessions, four poster sessions, and one Late-breaking News session. There will also be a special Forum on Animals in Research organized by Dr. Nancy Mello and featuring Frankie Trull from the

Foundation for Biomedical Research as the guest speaker. New for this year's meeting is the switch to shorter sessions – one or two hours – to allow for the inclusion of a wider variety of topics. We are also inaugurating a system for PowerPoint presentations that will allow presenters to pre-load their data on either a Mac or PC; this will be available in each session room.

We look forward to a stimulating and enjoyable conference in Orlando. If you have not already done so, please register and make your hotel reservations soon. We already have about 1000 registrants. For discounts on attractions in the area, go to our Web site ([www.CPDD.org](http://www.CPDD.org)) and click on the Orlando link.

– Contributed by Ellen B. Geller  
and Sharon Walsh

#### Drug Formulations Meeting Report – Continued from page 3

part to combat the recent increase in prescription drug abuse as well as to improve clinical efficacy. However, because consensus concerning appropriate assessments of safety and clinical efficacy is lacking and communication among interested parties needs to be facilitated, the present conference was held. Funds to support the conference were provided by several pharmaceutical companies as well as NIH institutes and professional organizations. The program for the conference can be found on the CPDD website. The conference presentations clearly highlighted that there have been amazing advances in the technology being utilized by industry to provide better and safer medications by altering their pharmacokinetic profile. There is still confusion, however, as to the best strategy for assessing the abuse liability of these new formulations in comparison

to the constituent active compound. However, at the conclusion of the conference, it became obvious that all parties are working together towards developing appropriate strategies. In addition, all agreed that while avoiding the unleashing of new abusable forms of CNS drugs is extremely important, the provision of improved medications for treating those in need remains paramount. The presentations and summary statement of the working groups will be published in a supplement in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* to be edited by Edward Sellers and Chris-Ellyn Johanson.

– Contributed by Chris-Ellyn Johanson  
CPDD Past President

<sup>1</sup>Johanson, CE, Schuster, CR, Hatsukami, D and Vocci, F. (eds) Abuse liability assessment of CNS drugs. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2003, 70:S1-S114.

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## CPDD 2005 Trainee Mixer

This year we are expanding our student mixer to include both pre- and post-doc trainees. Last year's mixer was a great success, with over 90 students in attendance. We hope many will be able to attend this year's Trainee Mixer. The Mixer will take place Sunday evening, June 19, 2005, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Cloister Room at the Wyndham Plaza Resort and Spa. Food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided and a cash bar will also be available.

Current, Past, and Incoming CPDD Presidents will be there to share a few thoughts and this will be a wonderful time to mingle with other young investigators. Registered pre- and post-docs can expect an invite via email. Please pass it along to other students and trainees. Feel free to contact [kmgatchalian@uams.edu](mailto:kmgatchalian@uams.edu) or (501) 526-7806 if you have any questions. See you in Orlando!

– Contributed by Kirstin M. Gatchalian  
CPDD 2005 Trainee Mixer Committee

Visit the CPDD Website for Loads  
More Info about the Annual  
Meeting – [www.cpdd.org](http://www.cpdd.org)

**FINAL TALLY OF 2005 BALLOTS:**  
**Next President-Elect: Thomas Kosten**  
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**Thomas McLellan, Alison Oliveto**

## Benefits of Membership to CPDD

- A subscription to *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, which has among the highest ratings for impact among substance abuse journals (not included in student membership).
  - Reduced registration fees to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting.
  - Eligibility to sponsor abstract submissions for presentations at the Annual Meeting (not for Student Members)
  - Eligibility to submit abstract for Late-breaking News session.
  - Impact on public policy, including educating our representatives and other governmental officials on the need to support addiction research, ensuring the science base for new policies as well as programs dealing with human and animal research issues.
  - Mentorship activities for trainees and early-career scientists.
  - Opportunities to serve on CPDD committees.
  - Access to Members Only section of CPDD website, containing directory information, easy email to other members and committee reports.
  - Membership Listserv, for rapid communication of items of interest to the entire membership and posting of job opportunities.
- Membership categories include Student or In-Training, Associate and Full Member categories. The cost of annual membership is \$95 (\$35 for Student and In-Training Members). Additional information about the College, membership criteria and student benefits can be obtained at the CPDD website
- <http://www.cpdd.org>.