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Dr. William L. Dewey to Receive the 2009 CPDD Distinguished Service Award

Dr. William Dewey is Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He joined the VCU faculty in 1972. Dr. Dewey has served as Director of the Graduate Program, Vice Chair of the Department, Associate Dean and later Dean of the School of Basic Sciences, Assistant Dean and later Dean of the Graduate School, and for 13 years as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

He served as director of three training grants from three different NIH institutes, one currently in its 34th year. The major emphasis of the work in his laboratory has been directed toward the underlying mechanisms of opioid and cannabinoid tolerance and physical dependence with a focus on the functional role of endogenous substances, including neurotransmitters, opioids, calcium, and CGRP.

His discovery of increased endogenous opioids in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) led to the use of naltrexone for the treatment of SIDS and other diseases with centrally induced respiratory depression.

Dr. Dewey has served as the President of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and, currently, the Friends of NIDA.

The Distinguished Service Award will be presented at John Ascuaga's Nugget Resort, Reno/Sparks, Nevada, on Wednesday morning, June 24th, at the Public Policy Forum.

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence is the largest and oldest organization for the scientific study of drug dependence and addiction.

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