I sit down to prepare this column, my last, with less than a month to go before our annual meeting. We are in for a great treat as Sari Izenwasser, Ellen Geller, and the entire Program Committee have done an outstanding job organizing this year’s program. The program contains 16 symposia on a broad range of important topics on addiction, poster sessions Monday through Thursday mornings, and a rich diversity of workshops and paper sessions scheduled throughout the meeting. The meeting will kick off with its customary outstanding Plenary Session beginning at 8:30 AM in the San Geronimo Ballroom where we will receive a report from NIDA Director, Nora Volkow, and have the privilege of honoring Billy R. Martin with the Nathan B. Eddy Award, Joseph V. Brady with the Mentorship Award, Hendree Jones with the Joseph Cochin Award, Geoffrey K. Mumford with the Distinguished Service Award, Rita Liu and Betty Tai with the J. Michael Morrison Award, and William Cope Moyers with the Media Award. Also important to note is that Edythe D. London will deliver the 2008 Marian Fischman Lecture on Monday at 3:45-4:45 in the San Cristobal room. The annual meeting is clearly CPDD’s most important activity and this year’s program reflects well on all who are associated with The College.

I have tried in each of my columns to provide a quick update on where things stand with the few priorities that I set for my presidency. With regard to the priority of trying to draw attention to the important topic of socioeconomic disadvantage, especially educational disadvantage, and vulnerability to substance use disorders (SUDs), I am proud to say that the CPDD mini-conference on Women and Smoking: Understanding Socioeconomic Influences was held successfully in Annapolis, MD on April 9 & 10. Presenters and audience alike were outstanding and the interdisciplinary focus I believe was an important contributor to the meeting’s success. I extend my sincere appreciation to those who so capably assisted me in organizing the conference, including the national planning committee comprised of Howard D. Chilcoat (co-chair) Michele H. Bloch, Margaret E. Ensminger, Anna Levy, Yonette F. Thomas, and Cora Lee Wetherington, the University of Vermont planning committee comprised of Sarah H. Heil, Diana Cain, Jin H Yoon, Teresa Scott, and Matthew Bradstreet, the CPDD Central Office, especially Marty Adler and Ellen Geller, and Sailair Travel, especially Tina Haslett and Wendy Vassar. I also thank the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Office of Research on Women’s Health, Office on Women’s Health, American Legacy Foundation, Pfizer, Inc., and GlaxoSmithKline, Inc. for their generous financial support. We are now preparing to publish a special issue of Drug and Alcohol Dependence on this same topic. I also want to encourage those who have
interest in this topic to join us for a symposium on cocaine dependence and socioeconomic disadvantage to be held on Sunday afternoon at the annual meeting from 2:30-4:30 in the San Geronimo B room where we will explore the topic from range of vantage points extending from the basic preclinical laboratory into complex community settings.

The interdisciplinary focus mentioned above is another of the priorities that I set for my presidency. It was with that priority in mind that I invited Kelly Brownell, a psychologist and public health expert, to deliver this year’s President’s Lecture on the topic of obesity. That lecture is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, 1:15-2:15 in the San Cristobal room. Dr. Brownell is Professor of Psychology, Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University, where he also serves as Director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity. He is a prolific author with 14 books and over 300 articles/book chapters to his credit and a member of the Institute of Medicine. In addition to being an excellent scholar, Dr. Brownell is a high-profile and successful public advocate for health who was cited by Time magazine as a leading “warrior” in the area of nutrition and public policy. I am confident that those who attend his lecture will be well rewarded.

A final priority for my presidency was to try to explore ways to strengthen the relationship between CPDD and industry. I am thrilled to announce that Charles W. Gorodetzky has generously agreed to chair a committee on this topic. Dr. Gorodetzky has a long-standing relationship with CPDD and a distinguished career in industry. The mission is to explore in a thoughtful and substantive manner how CPDD does or does not satisfy industry needs. As I mentioned in a prior column, membership interest in participating in CPDD committee work regularly exceeds The College’s ability to accommodate. If any of you feel that you have expertise that would prove useful to this new committee and are willing to serve, please contact me or Dr. Gorodetzky. We are planning to limit membership to five or six, so please contact us soon.

This opportunity to serve as CPDD President has been an honor that I never anticipated and will always cherish. I can think of no better way to wrap up this year of service than to be among my friends and colleagues in the atmosphere of scholarship, collegiality and good old fun that the annual meeting represents. I look forward to seeing all of you in San Juan and encourage you to be in touch if there is anyway that I can be of assistance (Stephen.Higgins@uvm.edu).

See you in Puerto Rico!
Brunch with Champions

If you are a pre-doctoral student, post-doctoral trainee, or junior faculty attending the CPDD meeting this year, you are invited to attend CPDD’s famous Brunch with Champions. This is a great opportunity for pre-docs, post-docs, and junior faculty to chat informally with senior investigators in the drug abuse research field. Attendance is limited to people who have received their terminal degree within the last 10 years and are at or below the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent).

Our champions will include investigators who do pre-clinical, clinical, and epidemiology/PH research in academia, industry and at NIDA. Even if you have attended in previous years, you should consider attending again as we will have a new group of champs participating this year.

The brunch will be held on Thursday, June 19th, in the conference hotel (Hilton Quebec). Please note that this is the last day of the conference and plan your travel accordingly. We highly encourage pre-registration because attendance will be limited. For the last four years, the brunch has filled early and we have had to turn away people who waited too long to register. The registration form can be downloaded from the CPDD web site: http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/. Scroll down and click on “Brunch with Champions” to access the registration form. The form also is included in the call for abstracts/meeting announcement that was mailed to all members of CPDD.

Send the form with a check for $5, payable to CPDD (the address is on the form), by May 31st. This non-refundable fee is required to hold your spot at the brunch and there will be no additional charges for the lunch. The registration fee will be $10 on-site, if space is available.

Lunch Workshop

This is a reminder that a new lunch workshop with editors of the journal Drug and Dependence has been scheduled for the 2008 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 18th from 12 - 1:30 PM in Conference Room 8/9. It will provide an insider's perspective of the review process for submissions to scientific journals. Special preference will be given to post-doctoral fellows and junior scientists.

There is no cost for the lunch, but you must pre-register and attendance will be limited. Admission will be open until the attendance limit is reached. Please note that the session is full. The names of those applying now will go on a waiting list.

To read more information about the workshop and get the Registration Form, go to http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/Pages/Jrvw_s_021008.pdf

Membership in CPDD

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) is an interdisciplinary research society whose members address problems of drug dependence in the broadest range of scientific disciplines, including chemistry, basic biology, pharmacology, neuroimmunology, behavioral science, psychiatry, clinical research, sociology, psychology, anthropology, history, epidemiology, and prevention. Membership categories include Student or In-Training, Associate and Full Member categories. The cost of annual membership is $120 ($40 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
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.

Friday and Saturday, June 13-14, 2008
The Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico

The annual NIDA International Forum is a satellite meeting of CPDD, and highlights the range and quality of drug abuse research conducted around the world. The topic for the 2008 NIDA International Forum is Globally Improving and Applying Evidence-Based Interventions for Addictions. The Forum will feature a research symposium, interactive workshops, a poster session, and network-building activities highlighting NIDA-supported and other international research on drug abuse. This unique scientific meeting allows participants to network with talented colleagues, learn about drug abuse research and policy issues in other countries, and discuss NIDA-supported fellowships and other programs that can support international collaborations.

There is no registration fee to attend the 2008 NIDA International Forum. However, pre-registration is required. Because both the NIDA International Forum and the CPDD meetings have their own registration and abstract submission processes, two separate transactions are required to register for both these meetings.

Forum Online Registration

Keynote Addresses
• Treatment Research and Improvements Around the World
• How Public Policy Influences Drug Abuse Treatment

Important Dates
February 15, 2008
• Deadline for Forum Abstract Submission and Travel Award Application
March 17, 2008
• Forum Abstract and Travel Award Notification
March 2008
• WHO/NIDA/CPDD International Traveling Fellowship Award Notification
April 10, 2008
• Forum Registration and Lodging Deadline

Meeting programs and other information is also available at http://international.drugabuse.gov/meetings/2008forum.html
Bo McLellan – In Memoriam

We received the very sad news recently that Tom McLellan’s younger son, Bo, died of an accidental alcohol overdose.

For Tom, addiction has always been much more than an academic research path. The disorder has taken an extraordinary toll on his family across the generations. Though he did not start out to be an addiction researcher, his career-long professional journey to improve treatment, and treatment access, for these difficult disorders has often paralleled his intense personal efforts to improve the clinical odds for those closest to him. He was truly relentless in his battle against those odds.

As many of you know, the Treatment Research Institute (TRI) was co-founded by Tom McLellan in 1991 because of Tom’s frustration with finding adequate addiction treatment resources for his own son. Since then, improving treatment and finding ways to bring proven therapies to addiction treatment through research has been his and TRI’s guiding mission. This personal tragedy is a loss felt deeply by the TRI family, and the many friends and colleagues that Tom has cherished and been supported by through the years.

Many of you have asked if a memorial fund is being set up. A dream of Tom’s since the beginning of TRI has been to produce a guide for individuals and families seeking addiction treatment that could really help them find the best and most appropriate services. Recently TRI partnered with Drug Strategies to produce a “Consumers’ Guide to Addiction Treatment” that will begin in the Philadelphia region before going nationally. Thus, contributions made to Treatment Research Institute in Bo McLellan’s memory will be used toward this project.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the McLellan family.

-- Contributed by Anna Rose Childress, Ph.D.

Annual Meeting of the International Study Group Investigating Drugs As Reinforcers (ISGIDAR)

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 14, 2008
The Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico

ISGIDAR is a satellite meeting of College on Problems of Drug Dependence. Scientists present and discuss recent findings related to drugs as reinforcers, especially as it relates to human drug abuse. Registration and coffee begin at 8:30 followed by talks at 9:00 a.m.

For further information, contact Dr. Elise Weerts
(tel) 410-550-2781
(e-mail) eweerts@jhmi.edu

Meeting programs and other information is also available at www.ISGIDAR.org
Book Review

Addiction Treatment: Science and Policy for the Twenty-first Century
Editors: Jack E. Henningfield, Patricia B. Santora, Warren K. Bickel

The book Addiction Treatment is a collection of 26 short essays on a wide range of topics relevant to substance abuse, and an introduction by C. Everett Koop. The essays are grouped into three sections, 1) emerging science underlying treatment models; 2) complications of treatment and/or research in special populations; and 3) issues related to health care, public policy, and social factors. The book is aimed at the general, educated reader and does not necessarily assume a background in substance abuse or science. The book is of interest to scientists, clinicians, law and policy makers, and literate concerned citizens.

Nearly all of the chapters start with debunking some assumption or pointing to a direction the field needs to go. The book does not shy away from controversy, but tackles issues and brings them to the light for discussion, even to the point of giving space to opposing sides of a controversy. Some of the essays provide explicit research agendas for areas from treatment design to the roles of nutrition in substance abuse. Others are deliberately provocative, including issues such as the role stigma in seeking treatment, and insurance laws and access to addiction. Whether or not the reader chooses to agree with the authors’ thesis, the essays makes the reader think about the issues in such a way that they more clearly understand why they disagree.

The major weakness is an unevenness in the quality of the essays. Most are very good, some are outstanding, being written by well-known figures in substance abuse. Others are less well written, but even these have a valuable hypothesis, raise important issues, or have a kernel of truth to them.

The essays are as short as 5 pages and average less than 10 pages, which makes them easily readable in a single sitting. Digesting the implications of the essays, however, will last well beyond the reading, and indeed will provide grist for vigorous debate. The book is of interest to the full range of CPDD members from basic scientist to the clinician, and would also be useful for a seminar in substance abuse issues for graduate or advanced undergraduate students.

-- Contributed by Michael B. Gatch, Ph.D.
Editor, Newsline

Congratulations!

Linda Porrino, Ph.D. will be our new President-Elect.

Richard De La Garza, Ph.D.
Eric Strain, M.D.
David Fiellin, M.D.
Geoffrey Mumford, Ph.D. will join the Board of Directors.

NIDA/CPDD Annual Training Mixer

Calling all predoctoral, postdoctoral and early career scientists and clinicians! You are cordially invited to attend this year's Annual CPDD/ NIDA-sponsored Trainee Mixer. The mixer is being held on Monday, June 16th from 5:00 - 6:30 and will be located in the Las Olas room. It is important for us, as trainees, to become familiar with other members of our field and this mixer is a great opportunity to meet and talk with other trainees who have similar research interests, as well as with more experienced researchers. Past attendees have found it very useful for identifying potential research collaborators and have enjoyed the ability to talk with fellow researchers in a more informal environment. Refreshments will be available for all attendees.

Please RSVP if you know that you will be attending, however you are still welcome to attend if you forget to do so.
Contact Kelly Dunn at: kedunn1980@gmail.com
The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is pleased to announce that the next NIDA Blending Conference will be held on June 2–3, 2008, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Blending Addiction Science and Treatment:**
*The Impact of Evidence-Based Practices on Individuals, Families and Communities*

This 2-day conference provides a platform for discussion about how the latest scientific findings on drug abuse and addiction can fill the current gap between research and clinical treatment practices.

Participants will leave equipped with evidence-based approaches that address the current gap between research and practice and will better understand NIDA’s involvement as a crucial resource and partner.

**To register, please go to:**

[www.NIDABlendingConference.info](http://www.NIDABlendingConference.info)

**Early Bird Registration ends April 15, 2008**

**Speakers and topics available online.**

Visit the [Web site](http://www.NIDABlendingConference.info) to register and for more conference details. Please share this message with others via e-mail, e-newsletter, listserv, or organizational newsletter.

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The Friends of NIDA is a coalition of individuals, scientific and professional societies, patient groups and other organizations committed to the elimination of drug abuse and addiction through education, advocacy, and the promotion of broad public and private support for the research agenda of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

For more information about the Friends of NIDA, visit their website at [www.thefriendsofnida.org](http://www.thefriendsofnida.org)
This one-day meeting will bring together top researchers and practitioners in the field to address racial and ethnic health disparities in the treatment of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. CEUs will be available.

**Conference Features**

- Keynote presentation by Dr. H. Westley Clark, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
- Panel discussions with prominent speakers in the field including:
  - Dr. Beny Prim, Executive Director of the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation (A.R.T.C.)
  - Dr. Lula A. Beatty, Chief of the Special Populations Office, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health
  - Dr. Hortensia Amaro, Distinguished Professor, Bouve College of Health Sciences Director, Institute on Urban Health Research Northeastern
  - Dr. James Jackson, Director of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
  - Dr. Vickie Mays, Professor of Psychology and Health Services, University of California Los Angles Institute for Social Science Research
  - Dr. Martin Y. Iguchi, Professor, UCLA School of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences, Adjunct Senior Behavioral Scientist, Drug Policy Research Center
  - Linnie Smith, M.A., Senior Vice President for Prevention and Services, Housing Works, Inc.
  - Jamie Delgado, Director of Services, Community Outreach Interventions Projects, School of Public Health University of Illinois at Chicago
  - Dr. Tanya Telfair Sharpe, Deputy Director, Office of Health Disparities National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Dr. Robert E. Fullilove, Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences
  - Dr. Chilo L. Madrid, Chief Executive Officer of Aliviane, Inc.

For information, contact: Roxsana Saenz
JBS International, Inc.
8630 Fenton Street, 12th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
rsaenz@jbsinternational.com
240-645-4454
CPDD Special Reception

You are invited to attend a special reception, hosted by the divisions of Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuroparmacology of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), at the upcoming meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The reception will be from 6-8pm on Sunday, June 15th in the Las Olas Room at the Caribe Hilton. Drinks and snacks will be served. Please be sure to stop by to learn about ASPET and to network with fellow colleagues and friends..

We look forward to seeing you there!

-- Contributed by Charles P. France, PhD
Chair, Division for Behavioral Pharmacology

Editor’s Notes

At the CPDD meeting this last June, Tom Kosten asked me to make a few remarks about my vision for Newsline. What I would like to see happening in Newsline is increased exposure of a wide range of information and events of interest to substance abuse researchers. We will continue to publish interviews with Eddy Award winners as they come in, which are inspirational and provide direction for junior (and no-so junior) researchers.

Newsline will be periodically including reviews of books of interest to the CPDD membership. The intent is to expose CPDD members to books of broad interest to its membership, which they may not ordinarily see. Given the wide range of academic fields that are represented by the membership, it is likely that sources of interest to the entire membership may be noticed only by those within an academic field. This is also a valuable service, as the substance abuse journals and the related neuroscience and biomedical journals do not, to the best of my knowledge, publish book reviews. In this issue, “Addiction Treatment: Science and Policy for the Twenty-First Century”, edited by Jack E. Henningfield, Patricia B. Santora, and Warren K. Bickel is reviewed. In an upcoming issue, we will review “Discovering Addiction” by Nancy Campbell, which provides a history of substance abuse research in which the College and its members have played a significant role.

We need suggestions for future reviews. Of most interest will be books on substance abuse that are of broad interest in that they address issues relevant to the different fields that comprise the CPDD membership. Please suggest books for review by contacting the editor at: mgatch@hsc.unt.edu.

Finally, there are other bits of news of interest that we may direct the attention of CPDD members to that they might not see on their own. For example, in a recent issue of Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (which many, but not all of our members may see) there is a section on the controversy over terminology. The articles discuss whether the terms addiction or dependence be used for the upcoming revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

The substance abuse research field is burgeoning with new insights. We hope that Newsline will be a useful source of information about the College as well as events of interest to substance abuse researchers.

-- Contributed by Michael B. Gatch, Ph.D.
Editor, Newsline