



NEWSLINE

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE ON PROBLEMS OF DRUG DEPENDENCE, INC.
Volume Twenty, Number Two • March 2016

CPDD President's Column

Sandra D. Comer, Ph.D.
President

On this warm winter Sunday, crocuses made their first appearance in Central Park, which is surprising given the dire weather warnings that were issued last weekend (apparently frostbite can develop within 10 minutes when skin is exposed to temperatures that are -30°F (-34°C)). This volatility in the weather seems to be reflected in many other facets of our world including the Middle East, the stock market, and the U.S. political landscape. In contrast to these uncertainties, however, the CPDD Executive Office continues to stabilize. Dr. Loretta Finnegan, our Executive Officer, successfully shepherded CPDD through negotiations with administrators at Temple University to finalize a services agreement. A new lease agreement is next on the agenda. With regard to personnel, Ms. Neico Smith, a familiar name and friendly face in the CPDD office, is now a CPDD rather than a Temple University employee. Ms. Angela Predeoux also was very recently hired as a CPDD employee, so I hope you'll join me in welcoming her to the organization. But as is often the case, a bit of good news is tempered with some sad news. Ms. Connie Pollack, who has managed our website and

listserv for many years, gave notice recently in order to pursue other opportunities. We thank her for her service over the past 12 years and wish her well in her future endeavors.

In addition to the changes in personnel in the Executive Office, I am happy to report on the newly elected members to the Board of Directors. Drs. Jack Bergman, Elise Weerts, Beatriz Rocha and Bill Stoops will join the Board after the June conference. They all have been very active in the College in different ways and they bring to the Board their many years of enthusiastic leadership and wisdom. Their continued contributions will be greatly appreciated. I also would like to congratulate our new President-elect, Dr. Alan Budney. He served on the Board of Directors for many years and we look forward to his sage leadership of the organization in the near future. CPDD's annual conference is always the highlight of the scientific meetings that I attend each year because of its unique mixture of great science and warm collegiality. I'm sure that these new additions to the Board will ensure that the science will continue to be of high quality and the interactions between individual members of the College will

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continue to be fulfilling. This year, the annual conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA on June 11-16, 2016 at the La Quinta Resort and Club. I hope to see you there!

One final topic that I would like to address is the federal funding situation. As with the weather, the budget landscape is somewhat uncertain. Initially, President Obama's proposed fiscal 2017 budget for the NIH seemed to contain good news because it was to increase by 2.5% above the fiscal 2016 level. However, that 2.5% increase is earmarked for 3 specific areas: the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, the Precision Medicine Cohort Program, and the BRAIN Initiative. So in reality, all of the Institutes' budgets are frozen at their fiscal 2016 levels, with the exception of NIDA, which was decreased by nearly \$27 million from \$1.077 billion to \$1.051 billion. This reduction in NIDA's budget results from a loss of a portion of NIDA's AIDS portfolio, which comprises approximately one third of its overall budget. Under the leadership of the NIH Director, the Office of AIDS Research has shifted its focus to basic research, and behavioral research is now less a priority within the AIDS research portfolio. This information about the NIH budget will be included in a much more detailed report prepared by Dr. Ed Long of Van Scoyoc Associates, CPDD's lobbying and advocacy firm. You likely will have received this report prior to the publication of this issue of Newsline. In response to this change in funding for NIDA, members of CPDD's Board of Directors, Friends of NIDA, Van Scoyoc, and several other scientific organizations, drafted a letter to be circulated to key persons in Congress and HHS to express

concern about the shift in focus away from drug abuse as a contributing factor in the spread of HIV infection. We are hopeful that this letter will have an impact and that some of the funding that was eliminated will be restored to the NIDA. The ultimate resolution of fiscal 2017 funding for NIH will be resolved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee. That process will not be resolved until later in calendar 2016, after the presidential and congressional elections and possibly as late as December.

It seems ironic to me that NIDA's budget is being cut at a time when substance abuse is so much at the forefront of the news. I would encourage you to contact your elected representatives and CPDD's Public Policy Committee to find out how to advocate for increased funding for NIDA.

In these uncertain times, it may be difficult to maintain a positive attitude so I will leave you with a poem that might provide a small bit of comfort.

Hope Is The Thing With Feathers
by Emily Dickinson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

CPDD Membership Workgroup Report and Response from the Executive Office

Summary of the Survey: Prepared by Linda Perrino and the Committee

Response to the Survey: Prepared by Ellen Geller

Edited by: Loretta Finnegan, M.D.

The CPDD Membership Workgroup was formed in December 2014 to investigate the costs of CPDD membership including dues and meeting registration. Chaired by Dr. Linda Porrino, the members of the workgroup included the following: Drs. Kelly Dunn, William Stoops, Michael Bardo, Loretta Finnegan, Foster Olive, Sharon Boles, Linda Dykstra and Ellen Geller. The main questions considered were as follows:

1. How does CPDD look relative to other organizations for both dues and registration? For comparison sake, are the benefits of each comparable to CPDD? This needs to be considered across membership categories.
2. Have we got the price point for dues relative to registration at the right spot? Do we lose money if someone joins CPDD to pay the lower registration fee?
3. What would increases or decreases in these fees mean to membership and meeting attendance given the current fiscal climate for funding? Do people think they are getting a fair product for their dues and the registration at each level of the organization?
4. How can we ensure that our younger members continue to view CPDD as a relevant organization and an important meeting to attend?

MEMBERSHIP

1. Increase dues: This was endorsed by a large majority of the membership at all levels. It is our recommendation that CPDD increase dues by \$50. This will still leave us within range of many similar organizations. We further recommend that there be no increase for members in training and associate members, although there is some sentiment for a \$25 increase for this latter category. The majority of people are willing to increase their dues by a modest amount (\$25-50). Associates were highly in support of increasing their dues by \$25 but support dropped considerably for increasing by \$50, whereas >50% of the Regulars and Fellows supported a \$50 increase. There was very little support for increasing beyond \$50 across all groups.
2. Benefits of membership: Most members in all categories take advantage of (1) DAD subscriptions (although this was endorsed by only 50% of the members outside of the fellow category, likely because of the availability of the journal through their institutions) and (2) reduced meeting registration. There were some suggestions to make the Newsletter more prominent, perhaps increasing its frequency.

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MEETING

1. Registration costs: These were viewed favorably throughout the survey across all categories of membership. Therefore, these costs do not need to decrease at this time. Although not necessarily supported by the survey results, there was some sentiment among committee members to find a way to decrease the registrations costs of members in training to ensure their continued attendance at CPDD meetings especially given the relatively small amount of travel awards.

2. Hotel Costs: This was the number one reason given by many across all membership categories for not attending the entire meeting or not attending the meeting at all. There were suggestions about changing the venue from resort properties to more inexpensive alternatives. Availability of more alternative less expensive hotel options was also suggested. More inexpensive alternatives might require us to use a venue that has access to a small convention center (e.g., Quebec City), but this option should still be explored.

3. Meeting length: Based on the survey results the committee also recommends reducing the length of the meeting from 5 days to 4. This would increase the likelihood that members would attend the entire meeting and would help with hotel costs that are seen as a barrier to attendance. Most membership categories stated that they attend the meeting for less than 4 days (exception is fellows who average slightly over 4). Other reasons for not attending were competing work and family obligations. The Committee recognized that changing the meeting length could have repercussions, including increased food and room costs, decreased registration due to fewer accepted presentations and inability to offer meeting space to satellites due to added costs to use hotel meeting space. Cutting the meeting to 4 days could also lead to people only staying for 3 days. Options like increasing the number of posters in a session or increasing to two poster sessions per day were discussed to offset reduced registration, but such changes would be difficult because we are essentially at our maximum number of posters/session and extra poster sessions would cut down on oral sessions. Shortening the meeting could be tested on a trial basis for a specified period (e.g., 3 years) after which the meeting could revert to 5 days if warranted.

4. Mentoring opportunities: The committee also endorses improved mentoring opportunities for members in training and associate members. These could be modeled after other organizations. A workgroup could be established to create new ideas beyond the Travel Awards Luncheon and Brunch with Champions.

5. Meeting App: We need one. This could save on printing costs of the programs and be more in tune with our younger members. An app could be added for only a \$5 increase in registration. We would also allow registrants to “opt in” for printed programs.

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6. Meals: The survey respondents did not endorse any changes in the number of meals that are provided. The majority of people (over 70% in all groups) were satisfied with the meals provided; any changes suggested were in favor of reducing meals and the banquet was the meal most frequently endorsed for removal, although removing the banquet could result in decreased net income for the meeting.

7. Other: There were many other suggestions made by the membership who took the survey. These included free Wi-Fi, child care options during the primary convention days, more vendors/sponsors available at the meeting, job-fairs, videos of some of the talks available online and many more that are included in the survey summary.

MEMBERS IN TRAINING

Members in training and associate members are the future of this organization. Their continued attendance and interest should be paramount if we are to maintain the health of CPDD. Although not explicitly endorsed by the survey, we should consider reduced registration for these members. A sliding scale could be established. Other recommendations include the following:

1. Mentoring opportunities: Mentors could be matched with young investigators as is done at ACNP as an example. Other options include expanding the Brunch with Champions and mentoring socials to provide networking opportunities.
2. Defraying of some conference costs: Airport shuttles, affordable restaurant lists, as examples.
3. Career development symposia: Conference symposia or Q and A sessions where senior representatives can answer questions about various career issues.
4. Dedicated symposia: Members in training and associates could be encouraged to submit symposia that are made up only of junior members and could be highlighted in the CPDD Newsletter.

Response to the Survey Results from the Executive Office

One of the major findings, not surprisingly, is that many attendees would like to lower the cost of the annual meeting. Suggestions were made to shorten the program by 1 day and to seek lower-priced hotel rooms. Some individuals suggested eliminating the banquet as a way of cutting costs. However, there are problems with these approaches that may result in an outcome opposite to what is desired.

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Reducing the number of days (i.e., room nights booked) and the food and beverage for the extra day may mean that we cannot negotiate as favorable a room rate as we do now, in addition to having to pay for meeting space.

Accepting fewer presentations for a shorter meeting also means that fewer people will attend. That, coupled with the loss of satellite meetings to which we can no longer offer complimentary space under our contract, will decrease the number of attendees further and lead to higher costs per attendee. Every hotel has a "bottom line" that it needs to meet when negotiating a contract. If they don't get it through food and beverage, they will make it up in rental fees for space and in guest room rates. For contracts already negotiated (2016, 2017 and 2018), we cannot decrease the number of room nights booked or the minimum food and beverage without incurring heavy penalties, so that would be an option when a future contract is being considered (i.e., 2019). What can be explored are ways to alter the program and food functions while maintaining the guaranteed minimums and allowing for as many presentations as possible.

Another suggestion was to find less expensive places to hold the meeting. Because of our size, we are limited to a handful of properties that can accommodate our needs in terms of rooms and meeting space. Most, if not all of these, are resort-type hotels. We are at the size that is just below necessitating use of a convention center. Although we have tried using smaller centers like the one in Quebec City, in general, we try to avoid them because of the increased charges for items that would be included in a convention hotel, such as furniture and electrical outlets. If our meeting is held in a vast convention center as opposed to our taking over a hotel for our group exclusively, it is less conducive to interactions among attendees. Although we could find some larger hotels with adequate meeting space in major metropolitan cities, we have avoided those venues because of the danger that we will suffer huge attrition penalties if many people choose to book outside our contracted hotel blocks.

In addition to the economic issues for the organization of being in a venue with too many choices for housing, there are the disadvantages of having everyone spread out, diminishing opportunities for networking, as well as the distractions of a big city that draw people away from the meeting.

Thus, the best fit for our meeting seems to be resort hotels or convention hotels in smaller resort cities. Because these hotels tend to be expensive, we look for those that offer off-season rates in June. And because the meeting is in June, we also try to find places that can be a jumping off point for a family vacation or that have local attractions of interest for all ages. That said, we are acutely aware of the need for less expensive housing for students and government employees. We can sometimes negotiate a block of those rooms at the headquarters hotel, but we always search out nearby properties that can accommodate those who cannot afford to stay at the main hotel. As some have

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suggested, we will try to get the hotels to agree to keep the rate the same if the room is shared by more than 2 people, but that is not always possible. We do try to get complimentary Wi Fi, but that concession usually increases room rates. Rather than looking for cheaper hotels in which to hold the meeting, a better strategy might be to increase the amount of travel support available for students and Members in Training. We currently have about 75 travel awards available. CPDD is seeking additional corporate funds to increase the number of travel awards

Another suggestion to lower costs for the MITs and students was to arrange for complimentary shuttle service from the airport. That is not feasible with a meeting of our size when so many people are arriving and departing on different schedules.

Most people were supportive of an increase in annual dues of \$25-50. The money is sorely needed for operational costs of running the Executive Office since increased costs have occurred with rent to Temple and other fees. We will be implementing this increase for the 2016 dues.

A mobile meeting app was requested by a large percentage of respondents. We will provide one for this year's meeting.

We appreciate that the members took the time to complete the survey and the efforts by the committee in gathering and analyzing the data.

Should any member wish to offer additional comments and suggestions, please contact the Executive Office at gellerellen@gmail.com

2015 CPDD Outreach Event
UMOM New Day Center

Organized and Reported by Colleen A. Hanlon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Medical University of South Carolina

On Wednesday June 17th, 2015 a group of scientists and clinicians attending the CPDD annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona devoted their day to helping staff and clients at the largest homeless shelter in the state of Arizona, and one of the most innovative shelters of its kind in the United States.

Created from the skeleton of an old Travelodge motel, UMOM New Day Center is far from your average community shelter. Developed in 1964 (a year wherein President Lyndon Johnson declared his “War on Poverty” and the 24th amendment was ratified), this shelter has been a place of innovation and social change for over 50 years. During a time in United States history where much of the country was consumed with “Beatle-mania” and “Jim Crow” – a group of motivated and concerned Phoenix citizens developed one of the first comprehensive, volunteer-driven homeless shelters in the southwest. They started providing services at a loose confederation of community churches. They quickly gained enough community traction and state support to purchase a small building and eventually buy this old hotel.

To minimize homelessness and violence, the original founders of UMOM believed that society must look past the immediate, superficial, needs of those in need. Instead they believed that minimizing social harm associated with homelessness (including addiction and crime), society needed to address the educational, spiritual, social, and health needs of its poorest citizens – a refrain which echoes through the hallways of many academic and community-based addiction rehabilitation programs today.

This past summer, on a 115°F morning in the blazing Arizona sun, 20 scientists loaded into a series of vans to see what the hype was all about. Clad in shorts and tee shirts, ready to stack boxes, push brooms, or provide any basic staffing most low-budget shelters need, I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we were incredibly surprised with what we found upon arrival. As Micky Koffarnus, an Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech Carillion Research Institute, said, “I was struck that they went beyond simple food and shelter and offered residents a community setting. They provided valuable nontraditional resources which will help the short-term residents secure permanent housing.”

We approached the door of this old motel and were greeted by a volunteer coordinator that started by giving us a tour of their “campus.” Campus included a fully operational cafeteria, coffee shop, and a childcare center with 6 independently staffed classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged kids. There was also a Laundromat, a consignment store, playground, basketball courts, a rapid access medical clinic, an activity room wherein they have group fitness classes, and a private activity center for teenagers – equipped with elevated ceilings and freshly painted, larger-than-life murals of Marvel comic superheroes. She told us that UMOM provides shelter, job skills training, childcare, mental health and addictions counseling, medical care, and financial planning skills to over 150 families (including 600 people, approximately 60% are kids).

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Our volunteer guide then divided our CPDD team into smaller working groups. We spent the morning sorting clothes, making sheet sets for families that have graduated and are moving out on their own, entertaining the kids in the child care center and unloading boxes from supply trucks. As the quote below demonstrate, is it clear to see how this event had an impact on the participants and the image of our organization as a whole. We look forward to hosting our 3rd annual event in June 2016 at the CPDD annual conference in Palm Springs, CA.

We are still soliciting volunteers and a location to serve. Please let me know if you have any ideas or if you would like to participate! We look forward to seeing you there!

Quotes from Outreach Event Volunteers

"This was a truly inspiring and enlightening experience ... one of the most rewarding things I have ever done at a scientific conference. It inspired in my own work with the homeless. I would absolutely do it again."

- **Elizabeth Santa Ana**, Ph.D., Medical University of South Carolina

"This outreach event was a great way to help people who are working their way back up in life. Research can be so slow moving, the outreach event helps put things in perspective ... plus it was fun!"

- **Dorothy Yamamoto**, Ph.D., University of Colorado

"Adding the outreach component to CPDD makes the meeting all the more meaningful because while it's great to see friends and colleagues each summer, it is even better to go "do good" together."

- **Ryan Lacy**, Ph.D., Franklin & Marshall

"It really was amazing, humbling and incredible to take a break from the all the science and directly have an impact on people's lives.... The lives we are trying to help with our research."

- **Logan Dowdle**, Medical University of South Carolina

"I was just thinking about CPDD 2015 this afternoon, and the service event is one of the first things that came to mind."

- **Justin Strickland** Ph.D., Davidson College

"I particularly look forward to the annual service opportunity. We get to spend time with friends and colleagues while giving back to others--who could ask for a better addition to a week of great science?"

- **Bill Stoops**, Ph.D., University of Kentucky

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"Spending time with the children and staff at the shelter reminded me of how valuable and rewarding volunteer time can be for those in need and to those doing the volunteering. Although I try to tell myself that my treatment research is all about helping people, actually interacting with families in their environment and assisting with basic needs brings these hardships and societal issues so much more to life for me. CPDD's annual conference is typically held at a fancy resort; however, many times, those living in poverty surround the resort closely. I am very appreciative of Colleen's efforts each year that allow me and our members an opportunity to see these needy communities up close, and to provide a small offering of our time and efforts to improve their lives. I, for one, do not do enough of this type of work during the rest of the year!"

- Alan Budney, Ph.D., Dartmouth College



2016 Outreach Event – La Quinta Resort and Club, Palm Springs, CA

Planning for the outreach event that will take place during the 2016 annual meeting is currently underway. Information about the event is expected to be sent out to members via the CPDD listserv in April.

For additional details please contact
Colleen A. Hanlon, Ph.D. (hanlon@musc.edu).

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Notable Committee News

Education Outreach and Public Policy Committee

The CPDD website was filled with old position statements and fact sheets that were outdated. Dr. Loretta Finnegan asked the Education Outreach and Public Policy (EOPP) Committee to develop more current materials for posting on the new and improved CPDD website. The Committee developed a document regarding prescription opioids with links to CDC, ONDCP, and various DHHS websites describing epidemiological data and policy initiatives. Materials from state and community efforts to reduce misuse of prescription opioids were included in the document. The document can be updated periodically to keep it current. Useful reading lists are also in development on tobacco control and cannabis control policies. The documents contribute to CPDD's public outreach and education and inform the public about current policy issues.

Upcoming Scientific Meetings

78th Annual Meeting of The College on Problems of Drug Dependence

June 11th-16th, 2016

La Quinta Resort and Club
Palm Springs, California

[Click Here for Additional Information](#)

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

October 30th-November 2nd, 2016

Four Point Darling Harbour
Sydney, Australia

[Click Here for Additional Information](#)