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CPDD President's Column

Sandra D. Comer, Ph.D. President

Hi everyone, I hope you're doing well on this lovely September evening. I'm writing to you from New York, where Pope Francis is traveling through Central Park at this moment on his way to give Mass at Madison Square Garden. We won't go into why I'm here writing this article rather than listening to one of the most inspiring leaders in the world today. Maybe it's due to my aversion to large crowds, but it's probably more related to my excitement in telling you about all of the good things that have been happening in the College during the 3 months since we met at the Annual Conference. Many changes have occurred, both internally and externally.

Dr. Loretta Finnegan, our new Executive Officer, has fully assumed the many responsibilities of this important job, with the ever-sensible help and guidance of Ms. Ellen Geller, the Director of the Executive Office. Although we will miss the day-to-day guidance of Dr. Marty Adler, who for several decades served as the Executive Officer of the College, rest assured that he continues to help CPDD from behind the scenes. Some of the recent activities within the organization include negotiations with Temple University to establish a services agreement in order to formalize the employment statuses of Ms. Geller, Ms. Connie Pollack and Ms. Neico Smith, who have served CPDD in the Executive Office with hard work and loyalty for many years. We are also negotiating with Temple to modify the lease that we signed last year. Both of

these things are good steps forward and will serve to ensure a stable environment for the Executive Office. In addition to the lease and services agreement, Loretta, Ellen, Dr. Linda Cottler, our Treasurer, and Mr. Jeffrey Steinberg, our bookkeeper, have been working hard to gather the information needed to complete an audit of our finances. While some of these activities may seem mundane, they are crucial to the health of our organization so that we can carry on our mission to "promote scientific discoveries in addictive diseases as well as to inform legislators about their implications for public policy."

Along the latter lines, many new developments are occurring that will help move the field forward and hopefully improve the lives of those who suffer from substance use disorders. One of these developments includes the launch of the ABCD (Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development) Study, which is a longitudinal project that will recruit 10,000 youth before they begin using alcohol, marijuana, nicotine and other drugs and follow them for 10 years. This landmark study almost surely will yield a great deal of information about risk factors for and consequences of substance use among children and young adults. I am happy to report that over the past year several members of the CPDD Executive Committee and the Friends of NIDA advocated on Capitol Hill to support this study, and will continue to do so over the coming months to ensure that our legislators are aware of this important research and continue to support it.

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Another key area of change in recent years has been the increasing availability and use of electronic nicotine delivery systems ("e-cigarettes"). Although research on e-cigarettes can be conducted to understand their potential toxicity and abuse liability, research aimed at determining whether they may be useful as pharmacological treatments for cigarette smoking has been hampered by the requirement for an FDA-approved Investigational New Drug (IND) application. The problem is that the extensive background information needed to support an IND is not available for the currently marketed ecigarettes that may be suitable as treatment medications. This quandary has frustrated many within the CPDD community who wish to conduct this important research. Dr. Jack Henningfield and others on the CPDD Tobacco Committee drafted a letter, which was signed last year by Dr. Eric Strain, to the FDA advocating for changes to the regulations to allow investigators to use e-cigarettes as potential treatments for cigarette smoking. While that endeavor was ultimately unsuccessful, it may have prompted the release of a draft guidance by the FDA for "Use of Investigational Tobacco Products." The CPDD Tobacco Committee continues to advocate for allowing treatment-related research on electronic cigarettes to move forward. In addition to our interactions with the FDA, CPDD was one of the organizations that provided comments to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force on a draft recommendation regarding tobacco smoking cessation in adults and pregnant women. The final recommendations were published just this month and will likely have far-reaching influence among clinicians and patients alike.

Another important area of activity relates to Opioid Use Disorders (OUD). As many of you may know, heroin and illicit prescription opioid use have skyrocketed in recent years, with a corresponding increase in opioid overdose deaths. In order to address these alarming trends, key legislators are working to expand access to medication-assisted treatment for OUD, as well as increasing access to naloxone, which is used to reverse opioid overdose. Members of CPDD, as well as Friends of NIDA, advocated on Capitol Hill for both of these changes and the hope is that these measures will lead to a reduction in overdose deaths and ultimately help patients with OUD recover from their disease. The CPDD Executive Committee will be meeting in Washington DC in October to discuss this and many other topics related to both the inner workings of the College and external activities for which a response from our organization is warranted. We will meet with various individuals at NIDA in order to be sure that both organizations are aligned in their visions for how to further our basic understanding of substance use disorders and how to treat them. Ultimately, however, it is the work of all of us in the College to conduct this research and disseminate it through publication of papers and presentations at conferences, such as the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. So I encourage you to submit abstracts for symposia, workshops and posters at the next annual conference, which will be held in Palm Springs, CA on June 11-16, 2016 at the La Quinta Resort and Club. As Pope Francis said, "This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the good."



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2015 AWARD WINNERS

Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award

2015 Awardee: Roland R. Griffiths, PhD.

I feel personally touched and honored to be the recipient of this award. Since attending my first CPDD meeting more than 40 years ago, I have considered this meeting and this organization to represent my scientific home. In fact, I have only missed the meeting a small handful of times. I have fond memories of coming to each meeting with a list of colleagues that I wanted to talk to about specific research ideas or issues, and I remember leaving each meeting with several completely new ideas that I wanted to pursue.

While I do feel honored to receive this award, I also feel humbled, because this award is not really about me, it's about what I have done with numerous valued colleagues -- and, in a larger sense, it is about this larger community of drug abuse scientists represented by CPDD that I have drawn so many ideas from -- this award is about us.

So, I would like to provide a little bit of social context for how I have come to fit into this community: I trained under Travis Thompson at the University of Minnesota as a behavior analyst, with an interest in drugs. Travis had been post doc under Joseph Brady (another radical behaviorist interested in biological mechanism). Later, Bob Schuster and Travis conducted a classic rhesus monkey morphine DA study setting the stage for things to come.

The credit for my research goes here — to the more than 50 talented research scientists that did postdoctoral research with me over the years. I am going to resist the urge to start naming names here and elsewhere in my presentation because they are too numerous — and by naming some, I would be failing to mention others who have also made seminal contributions -- most of these who continue to be active in drug abuse science. But if you scan this list, you might spot 4 CPDD presidents and many prominent drug abuse scientists, mostly in university researchers, but also at NIDA, FDA, DEA, and other institutions connected with drug abuse and drug abuse policy.

Deciding what to present today initially seemed a daunting task because much of my research has been a bit whimsical - and in some sense unsystematic - a theme I will return to later. In an attempt to create a somewhat coherent presentation, I have organized my comments to reflect three major threads of research: 1) my fascination with hypnotics – In particular with the reinforcing effects of sedative hypnotics in infrahuman and human drug self-administration models; 2) my fascination with caffeine; and 3) psilocybin.

An overarching objective of this presentation is to describe a few general lessons I have learned that hopefully may be relevant to many of you as you reflect on how you personally engage in this process of science.



Roland Griffiths (left) receives the 2015 Nathan B. Eddy Memorial Award, presented by CPDD past-president Eric Strain (right).

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The title of my talk uses the word "fascination" because that reflects my experience of conducting science.

Doing science should be fun. I'm guessing that most of us have ended up in science careers because we are curious, we want to know how things work, and we think it is fun to try to figure those things out. Hopefully there should be that element of playful discovery that pulls us into the next best question to ask. For me personally, the most satisfying and impactful research that I have conducted was not agenda driven as grant applications so often assume that it should be. And thus I've organized this presentation around 3 points of initial fascination for me that led sequentially to a series of studies about which, only in retrospect, can I tell a story. But I think such scientific stories are misleading because they may give the appearance of a planned prospective research agenda [So, for those of you in the early stages of your career, I would encourage you not to worry about not having a long-term vision for precisely where your research and interests will take you].

First, I'll discuss my fascination with moodaltering drugs, specifically, caffeine. I mentioned that my initial fascination with orderly DSA processes was largely a function of my mentors and training. In this case, my interest in caffeine was curiosity about the determinants of my own behavior. The 1970s and 80s preceded the gourmet (Starbucks) coffee trend coffeepot work culture - and I found myself routinely drinking several cups of coffee each day and seeking out coffee on weekends in absence of the coffeepot at work (even stooping to mixing freeze-dried caffeinated coffee with warm tap water and gulping it down on a weekend if I thought I could use a little pick me up).

We had already demonstrated that orderly within-day patterns of cigarette smoking inhalation occurred when participants in our residential research unit were given access to 8 uniform cigarette puffs after completion of a stationary exercise bicycle riding requirement for each puff. This looked novel and interesting, to me at least, but just because you find something interesting doesn't mean that others will – caffeine was not exactly a high priority area within NIDA (understandably), and I did not anticipate the fact that I would be literally vilified and publicly mocked by the food industry for my research.

My fascination with mood altering drugs -Psilocybin: The fascination-meditation experiences-started a meditation practice about 20 years ago that fundamentally shifted my sense of self and world-view. It prompted me to start inquiring about other meditation traditions and reading the literature about mystical, religious, and transformative experiences - something I had no familiarity with or prior interest in, and, in fact, had a good deal of skepticism about. I would guess that most of my colleagues thought I had taken a rather odd turn with this interest in meditation, but not my friend, colleague, and mentor, Bob Schuster, former director of NIDA. Bob was both curious and supportive of my interests and, it was he who reminded me of the decades old research that drugs such as psilocybin might, under proper set and setting conditions, occasion spiritual-type experiences. Well that would be an interesting project, Ι thought. Characterizing the effects of psilocybin in healthy volunteers would provide a focus and context for my interest in meditation experiences. At the time, I held no strong idea about the outcome of such a study -whether or not psilocybin could produce effects similar to those sometimes occasioned by meditation.

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So, my curiosity was there, but giving people psilocybin was neither popular nor particularly feasible - this was mid 1990s - psilocybin was (and remains) a Schedule I compound. But worse than that, largely in reaction to the cultural trauma of the "psychedelic 60's", human research with psilocybin and other psychedelics had been functionally halted for decades because the risks were thought to outweigh any benefit. The emotional charge that surrounded the demonization of research with hallucinogens lingers to the present. While still in an early planning stage, I remember presenting the idea of conducting a psilocybin study to one of our usual investigator discussion groups -- the reaction was quite mixed. While some like George and Joe Brady were curious, a number of colleagues were decidedly negative (based largely on their misperceptions of risks) and most colleagues were simply indifferent. In 1999, we cautiously initiated a study of psilocybin in healthy volunteers who had no prior exposure to any classic hallucinogen. I thought the probability of actually getting approval for the study was about 50%, given the regulatory and logistical hurdles.

The protocol received, in my experience, unprecedented close scrutiny – not only by the IRB, but by the Deans Office, including 3 completely independent external reviews. And to its credit, JHU and the FDA finally moved forward to pursue good science rather than giving in to the temptation to suppress research because of political or public relations concerns.

Marian Fischman Lectureship Award

Kathleen Brady, M.D., Ph.D.

I am honored and grateful to be the recipient of this year's Fischman lectureship award. Dr. Fischman was an exemplary scientist who I greatly admired, so I am especially appreciative of receiving an award named in her honor. I credit any success I have had in my career to several major factors: mentorship, collegiality and being able to make a living doing something that I really enjoy. Throughout my career, I have had the good fortune to have the benefit of incredible mentorship. This, of course, began with an individual who is well known to CPDD, Joseph V. Brady, my father. Through his example and encouragement, my father taught me the value of intellectual curiosity and pursuits, the importance of being a loyal colleague and good mentor and instilled in me the conviction that with hard work and perseverance, I could achieve any goals. Through my mother's struggles with alcoholism and early life adversity, I gained an empathy for individuals struggling with addictions and a desire to better understand the complex connections between early life experiences and the development of addictions as well as factors related to resilience. However, without the guidance of mentors such as Bob Balster and Carrie Randal and the inspiration, sharing of ideas and passion with colleagues such as Sudie Back, Rajita Sinha and Shelly Greenfield, I wouldn't be here today. I feel fortunate every day to have found a career in which I enjoy going to work, feel that I can make important contributions and one that allows me to work with people who I enjoy working with. For me, this is the ideal combination - to have found something that really interests you and to have a group of colleagues who propel you forward and make it a pleasure to explore those interests.



Kathleen Brady (right) receives the 2015 Marian Fischman Lectureship Award. Also shown are Sudie Back (left) and Martin Adler (right).

CPDD Mentorship Award Michael Nader, Ph.D.

I would like to thank the CPDD Awards Committee for this unbelievable honor and Josh Lile for nominating me and also thanks to Paul Czoty, Matt Banks, Colleen Hanlon and Beth Reboussin for your letters of support. I looked at the list of past winners and am truly humbled to be among them. Since finding out that I had won this award, I have spent some time reflecting on my past and asking "how did this happen?" In the end, I've come up with three reasons and all three reasons will lead you to conclude that I've been really lucky!

First, I have been very fortunate to have been trained and worked in the laboratories of outstanding mentors. I was introduced to behavioral pharmacology in the lab of Alice Young at Wayne State University in Detroit. From there I went to graduate school at the University of Minnesota under the mentorship of Travis Thompson, did my post-doc with Jim Barrett at Uniformed Services University in Bethesda and spent four years in the laboratory of Bill Woolverton at the University of Chicago. All four mentors explore new avenues of research and their office door was always open when I had questions or concerns. I have tried to take these qualities and emulate them in my own lab. Over the past 10 years, I have also had the privilege of co-teaching a behavioral pharmacology course with Linda Dykstra. The uniqueness of this course is that we teach an entire semester of behavioral pharmacology in one week! Some of the classes are at UNC in Chapel Hill and some are at Wake Forest in Winston-Salem. You cannot help but be a better mentor after watching Linda interact with students, post-docs and junior faculty!

A second reason that I am standing here today accepting this award is the mentees that I have had the privilege of working with over the years. The truth is great mentors do not make great students and post-docs. It's closer to the truth if you think about that equation in reverse, but even that is not accurate. What is truly necessary for success is a really good fit between mentor and mentee. In addition to Josh and Matt, I have had several students and post-docs who have taken this laboratory into new directions and helped keep my research innovative and exciting. Following the lead of my mentors, my primary goal was to provide them with the resources necessary to succeed and that turned out to be a wonderful strategy!

Finally, I have been most fortunate in finding a life-long partner who also has been part of my lab for over 20 years (we can't help not discussing work during breakfast, lunch and dinner!). I met Sue while she was in Jim Barrett's lab and when we moved to Winston-Salem in 1992, she began running studies in my lab on weekends, before working in the lab full-time. Her name is in the acknowledgements section of every dissertation that has come out of my lab largely because of her enormous contribution to the lab environment. Sue, I thank you for everything!

I thank CPDD again for this tremendous honor.



Michael Nader (left) receives the 2015 CPDD Mentorship Award, presented by Joshua Lile (right).

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Joseph Cochin Young Investigator Award Adam Leventhal, Ph.D.

My deepest gratitude goes out to the College, the Awards Committee, and Jen Tidey for nominating me to receive the 2015 Cochin Award. When I look at the list of previous Cochin Award winners, I see the names of addiction scientists who have made massive impacts on our field with their innovative ideas and hard work. Receiving this award is extremely validating and tells me I am on the right track.

I feel that we are all so lucky that we get paid to ask and answer some of the most intriguing questions, like: "How do drugs affect the way we think and feel?" and "Why do people engage in the paradoxical behavior of drug use when they know it can hurt themselves and the people they love?" Not only are these questions fascinating in and of their own right, if we answer them, we can actually benefit the health and wellbeing of billions of people affected by drug dependence.

Over a decade ago, CPDD was the first major scientific meeting I attended. After seeing firsthand what exciting and impactful addiction science looks like, I caught the bug, and have since firmly dedicated my career to addiction science. One thing that struck me back then, and continues to resonate with me today, is the transdisciplinarity of CPDD, a society in which scientists from diverse backgrounds come together. As I've traveled through this first third of my career, I've found that this transdisciplinarity fits me well.

I am a clinical psychologist who has had the great fortune to train and collaborate with exceptional colleagues from diverse scientific backgrounds. I am lucky to have trained in graduate school with Andrew Waters - an experimental psychologist who taught me the critical importance of attention to detail and checking under every rock to ensure that one's methods, analysis, interpretation, and writing is sound. Later, getting placed at the Brown Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies for my psychology internship and postdoc to train with Chris Kahler was by far the best thing that could have ever happened for my career development. Being mentored by exceptional clinical translational scientists like Chris, Suzanne Colby, and Jen Tidey couldn't have been more ideal for my career development. I learned to model my program after Chris and Jen's research programs, which are ideal reflections of how to synergize clinical psychology and behavioral pharmacology to yield insights into the mechanisms underlying addiction-psychiatric comorbidity that can directly inform intervention development.



Jennifer Tidey (left).

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Over the past 6 years as faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine at USC, I've been surrounded by exceptional population scientists who have challenged me with questions about the practical relevance of my mechanisms research. I have heard a lot of, "That's interesting research, but why are you doing it and how does it impact public health?" from my USC colleagues, which has prompted me to think bigger and broader about the reach of my work.

Now I am pursuing a transdisciplinary line of research I call "sociopharmacology" – the study of how sociocultural and psychobiological factors synergistically interact with the acute psychopharmacological effects of drugs to render them more addictive for disadvantaged populations subject to health disparities. This type of work would have never happened without my colleagues and mentors who came from diverse backgrounds to influence my approach to science. These transdisciplinary ideas were also shaped by CPDD, a forum where the walls that divide subfields break down and scientists meet with the common goal of understanding and ameliorating drug dependence.

Thank you to my mentors and colleagues and the various students and trainees who have influenced me and made this work fun. Also, thanks to NIDA and ACS for their support and funding. Special thanks to my wife, Jenna, and daughter, Madalyn, for their continued support. Thank you again for this great honor.

CPDD/NIDA Media Award

Jeff Foote, Ph.D.; Nicole Kosanke, Ph.D.; & Carrie Wilkens, Ph.D.

I'm thrilled and honored to be recognized by the College on Problems of Drug Dependence and NIDA. The Media Award makes a very personal project even more gratifying.

When I optioned the rights to Victor DeNoble's story in 1995, I envisioned producing a star-driven film financed by a studio. Then, I saw Victor talk to kids in classrooms. Their focus did not waver. He was talking straight to them, saying that drugs felt good before expanding on side effects and the negatives that attend drugs of abuse. His approach was different and the kids were absorbing every word. He gave them information and let them make their own decision.

I envisioned assuming the point of view of a kid in a classroom as Victor is dispensing tools to say, "No, I don't want to hurt my brain". I set out to produce a portrait of a scientist determined to use his information to make the world a better place and was blessed with a trove of dramatic choices. The film's surprise is that Victor never changes. Over 30 years, he experienced a lot of rough treatment, but his vitality, humor and idealism remained constant.



Carrie Wilkens (left), Nicole Kosanke (middle-left), and Jeff Foote (right) receive the 2015 CPDD/NIDA Media Award. Also shown is Bertha Madras (middle-right).

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At film's end, Victor walks out of a classroom. The empty classroom leaves us to consider his impact and example.

I accept CPDD's/NIDA's MEDIA AWARD with gratitude that I can share Father's Day with my nine-year-old daughter, Lily, who is here today.

This is a moment when the film you have loved, loves you back.

Thank you.



Cora Lee Wetherington, Ph.D.

Receiving the email from Eric Strain telling me that I had been chosen for CPDD's Martin and Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award was a very moving and memorable moment for me. I was stunned. Being chosen for an award named in honor of two people who have been so dedicated and given so much to CPDD and the field of drug abuse is truly a great honor. It is an especial honor, and bittersweet one, given that this is Marty's last year as CPDD's Executive Officer after 29 years of dedicated service. It is also very humbling to be counted among the past recipients of this award.

There are so many people I want to acknowledge and thank. Thank you to the members of the CPDD Executive Committee for choosing me for this honor. Thank you to the CPDD program committees over the years for their support in including and highlighting women and sex/gender differences research in the CPDD programing and to Scott Lukas for making 'sex differences' a key word in the abstract submissions back when he was chair of the program committee. And thanks to Ellen Geller and her team who stuffed NIDA's mini-program on women & sex/gender differences in the CPDD registration bags for the past 15 years. Thanks to all of you in the audience who have incorporated the study women and sex/gender differences into your research and presented your work here at CPDD. Thanks to all the folks at NIDA who've supported and been part of the efforts. There's too many to name, but a special thanks goes to Samia Noursi who has been working with me on this effort since 2007 and to NIDA's Women and Sex/Gender Differences Research Group. And a special thanks goes to two NIDA directors -- Alan Leshner, the NIDA director who appointed me in 1995 as my role as NIDA's Women & Sex/Gender Differences Research Coordinator, and Nora Volkow, who has continued to support this effort.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to my husband Tony Riley and family for their support. And finally, a special thank you to Loretta Finnegan who laid the groundwork for all these efforts back when she was at NIDA.

Thank you again for this tremendous honor.



Cora Lee Wetherington (center) receives the 2015 Martin and Toby Adler Distinguished Service Award. Also shown are Martin Adler (left) and Loretta Finnegan (right). Award Winners continued from page 9

Stephen G. Holtzman Award for Preclinical Investigation

Chloe Jordan

Thank you, Dr. Sung, for honoring me with this award. I feel delighted, privileged, and incredibly humbled to accept it. Though I am sad that I never had the opportunity to meet Dr. Holtzman, I greatly admire and respect him, both for his legacy as an outstanding scientist and as an exceptional mentor and friend to others in the field and beyond. Like Dr. Holtzman, I hope to contribute a lifelong career to the preclinical study of behavioral pharmacology, and if I am so fortunate as to make even a fraction of the contributions that we can list for Dr. Holtzman, I will consider that a tremendous accomplishment.

I would also like to thank the friends and family of Dr. Holtzman, who established this award and made it possible, and the committee and the College for the opportunity to participate in what I know will be another exciting, enriching, and inspiring meeting. I especially want to thank Dr. Kathleen Kantak, who recommended me for this award, and who has been a tremendous advisor and mentor to me throughout my graduate career. Without her, I would not be here today. And of course I must thank my lab mates, my partner, and my family for their unwavering support over the years.



Chloe Jordan (right) is presented with the 2015 Stephen G. Holtzman Award for Preclinical Investigation by Yung Fong Sung (left)

78th Annual Meeting

LOCATION

La Quinta Resort and Club, Palm Springs, CA

DATES June 11th-June 16th, 2016

DEADLINES Symposiums October 15th, 2015

Workshops October 15th, 2015

Forums October 15th, 2015 **Abstract Submission** December 7th, 2015

CPDD Travel Awards for Early Investigators December 7th, 2015

CPDD Primm-Singleton Travel Awards December 7th, 2015

Awards for Excellence Nominations February 1st, 2016

Late Breaking Research Submissions April 15th, 2016

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Notable Committee News

Program Committee

Important deadlines for the upcoming annual meeting (June 11-16, 2016) at La Quinta Resort & Club, Palm Springs, California are as follows:

Symposium/workshop submissions due October 15, 2015 Abstracts submission due by December 7, 2015 Late Breaking Research Submission: April 15, 2016

Please contact Elise Weerts (<u>eweerts@jhmi.edu</u>) and Ellen Geller (<u>gellerellen@gmail.com</u>) for program-related issues.

Program Committee

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, Loretta Finnegan, CPDD Executive Director, asked the EOPP Committee to facilitate the development of updated fact sheets and research summaries for the CPDD website. Committee members have volunteered to draft and review useful reading lists for posting on the CPDD web pages on selected topics (e.g., prescription opioid policies, tobacco control policies, marijuana control policies). The Committee also invites CPDD members to submit topics they are interested in developing and summarizing for the CPDD website.

Please send suggestions to the EOPP Committee Chair, Dennis McCarty at <u>mccartyd@ohsu.edu</u>.