



IDARS Newsletter

International Drug Abuse Research Society News



Volume 1 Number 13, Fall 2016

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President's Message

I am happy to report great success in our biennial meetings and activities including the last IDARS joint meeting with APSAAR in Sydney Australia in 2015, followed by our continued activities at society for neuroscience meetings. We are encouraged by the significant progress and contribution of IDARS members to the field of drug abuse research.

At the IDARS dinner party during the 2015 SFN meeting in Chicago, Dr. Subhash Pandey spotlighted in this issue was the keynote speaker. For the coming 2016 IDARS-SFN social event in San Diego, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Howard Becker and his presentation is on "Stress and alcohol interactions: Mechanisms and potential therapeutics".

The 6th IDARS meeting in 2017 in Dubronik, Croatia, will provide another unique forum to present recent findings with focused as well as futuristic approaches in drug abuse research and novel potential therapeutic targets. We look forward to IDARS continued future advances by collaborating with the global drug abuse research community in the use of new tools in understanding and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction. We are further enthused by the generosity of IDARS members in fostering support for IDARS global outreach. For example, Dr. Eliot Gardner's travel award donation to support young scientists to attend IDARS meetings is another excellent contribution of members dedication and support to the continued progress and growth of IDARS. This generous effort will undoubtedly help expand our global network of future scientists in drug abuse research.



Dr. George F Koob
IDARS President

My deep gratitude to Syed for his commitment to IDARS and I am looking forward to seeing all of you and our new members from across the globe in San Diego for the 2016 SFN meeting.

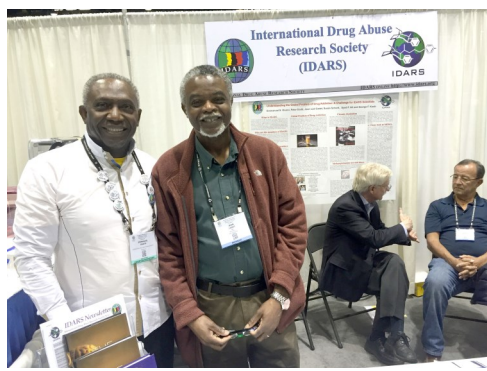
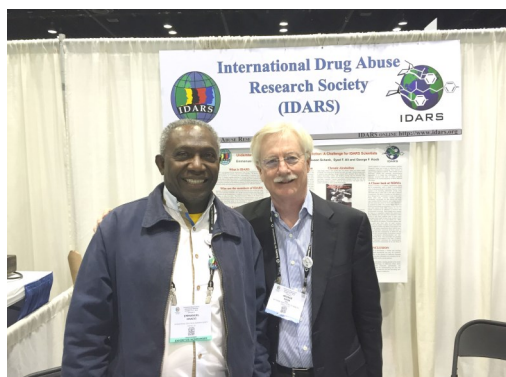
6th meeting of IDARS-September 4-8, 2017, Dubronik, Croatia

6th
Biennial Meeting of the
International Drug Abuse Research Society
www.IDARS.org

September 4-8, 2017
Hotel Neptun
Dubronik, Croatia
Syed.ali@fda.hhs.gov

IDARS MEMBERS NEWS.

IDARS Booth at the 2015 SFN Meeting in Chicago



We have established a tradition to showcase IDARS with an exhibition booth at the society for neuroscience meetings to attract additional members to IDARS for a truly international model of drug abuse research society. Selected pictures above are IDARS members during the 2015 SFN meeting in Chicago. The pictures were taken at the IDARS booth during the 2015 SFN meeting. We are looking forward to seeing all of you and our new members from across the globe in San Diego for the 2016 SFN meeting.

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IDARS DINNER WITH GUEST SPEAKER AT SFN IN Chicago in 2015.



Members of IDARS and their guests during the IDARS social event at the society for neuroscience meeting in Chicago in 2015.



Spotlight on Dr. Subhash C. Pandey

From the community:

Dr. Subhash C. Pandey received the 2016 University Of Illinois College Of Medicine "Faculty of the Year" award during the commencement ceremony of the college of medicine on May 6th, 2016.

Dr. Pandey is Professor of Psychiatry, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Alcohol Research Center at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Dr. Pandey is also a Senior Career Scientist at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. Dr. Pandey was Guest speaker at the 2015 IDARS-SFN social event in Chicago and his presentation was on *"Neuroepigenetics and Alcoholism"*.

He presented evidence regarding the epigenetic and molecular frame work for the co-morbidity of anxiety and alcoholism using various preclinical animal models. His presentation demonstrated that chromatin remodeling, due to alcohol exposure in specific brain circuitry, leads to the development of tolerance and dependence. Specifically, epigenetic inheritance within the amygdala in a genetic strain of alcohol preferring animals plays a crucial in maintaining heightened anxiety and alcohol drinking behaviors. His presentation also provided novel evidence that binge drinking during adolescence may be involved in the epigenetic changes and synaptic remodeling in anatomically specific brain circuitry that persists in adulthood and is responsible



for the phenotype of anxiety and alcoholism. Evidence has also been presented to demonstrate the role of microRNA494, histone deacetylases (HDACs), and DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs) in the pathophysiology of alcoholism and their implication as a therapeutic target for the treatment or prevention of alcoholism. Dr. Pandey's innovative research has demonstrated that alcohol drinking, by causing chemical modifications of proteins and DNA, interacts with and affects regulation of genes. This way alcohol alters neuronal function in the brain and behaviors of individuals. His research has provided a deeper understanding of the underlying processes that mediate the transition of a normal brain to an addicted brain.

Dr. Pandey has authored several peer-reviewed research and review articles and book chapters in the field of alcohol addiction. In addition, he has trained several scientists and physicians in the field of alcohol psychiatric disorders including alcohol addictive behaviors. He has received various honors and awards; most notably the 2010 Bowles Lectureship Award in alcoholism research presented by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was recognized as a noted biomedical VA researcher in 2014. He is an active member of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA), the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) and several other scientific societies..

President of IDARS and NIAAA Director Dr. George F. Koob received French Legion of Honor is pictured here on the right.

In recognition of his contribution to the development of scientific collaborations between France and the United States, Dr. Koob, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health, has received the insignia of Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) from the government of France. The award ceremony took place on Thursday, June 30, 2016, at the Washington, D.C., residence of French Ambassador Gerard Araud, who presented the award to Dr. Koob on behalf of French President Francois Hollande. Congratulations George.



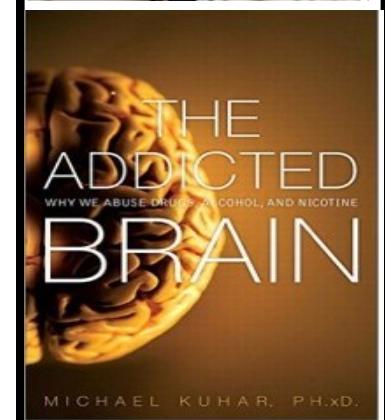
IDARS travel award donation by Dr. Eliot L. Gardner, pictured on the right, he is a Senior Investigator at the National Institute on Drug Abuse—Intramural Research Program:

Members of IDARS like Dr. Gardner is fostering support for IDARS global outreach. Dr. Eliot Gardner's travel award donation to support young scientists to attend IDARS meetings is another excellent contribution of members dedication and support to the continued progress and growth of IDARS. This generous effort will undoubtedly help expand our global network of future scientists in drug abuse research.



Dr. Michael Kuhar's Book, The Addicted Brain: Why We Abuse Drugs, Alcohol and Nicotine is pictured on the right below has been translated into Spanish and other languages.

The translation was highlighted in El Mercurio local news media in Chile. The risk of becoming an addict depends on biological factors as well as genetic and environmental factors. If the use of drugs starts during adolescence the probability of becoming dependent on the drug is significantly enhanced because the brain is still developing as highlighted in the news clip with pictures showing social events and drinking and another showing a young man smoking. The book also highlights what brain science has learnt about addictions. The book also explains how and why addiction destroys lives and why this happens, and presents advances in drug addiction and prevention treatment. The book also summarizes brain imaging and new research showing the powerful, long-term brain changes that drugs can cause, revealing why it can be so difficult for addicts to quit and what the future holds.



Editorial Corner: Welcome to our Newsletter*

Emmanuel Onaivi, Ph.D., Newsletter Editor of IDARS is delighted to publish our electronic newsletter, with information about the society, seeking ideas about our journal, and opportunities for our members. The intention of this newsletter is not only to communicate to you, but also, for you to be able to respond with suggestions for how IDARS may increase its role in your research. We are interested in the latest advances and new tools in drug addiction research. Please send us feedback, and get involved! As editor of this newsletter, I invite you to contact me with ideas for articles in future editions, or to volunteer to write an article yourself.

Current issues in addiction: Beyond the brain disease model of addiction (BDMA): Why is the concept of BDMA still been questioned? The disease model is the front-runner among current definitions of addictions. What is the moral model of addictions? And is there a role of choice, desire and self-medication in addictions? Like addictions treatment of psychiatric diseases are difficult to cure and genetics, environment and epigenetic factors have been linked to compulsive behaviors with withdrawal and relapse as deterrent from quitting from the cycle of addictions. More studies are required in addiction therapy. Send us your views on the way forward in drug abuse research and global implications of the brain disease model of addiction (BDMA).

Submit your next manuscript to IDARS journal:
Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research (JDAR).
JDAR website: <http://www.ashdin.com/journals/jdar/editors.aspx>

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Home Web Site

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IDARS-AWARDEES

TO BE

ANNOUNCED

GUEST SPEAKER

- *Dr. Howard Becker*
San Diego, CA - USA.

