



IDARS Newsletter

International Drug Abuse Research Society News



Volume 1 Number 15, Fall 2018

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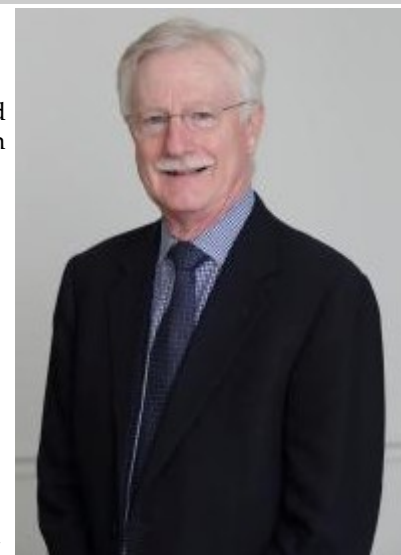
President's Message

As IDARS continues to move forward, I am optimistic about the signs of progress and growth of our society. These signs include quality and number of symposium and poster presentations and contributions from members from different countries across four continents. In addition, we have continued to present IDARS to the scientific community during the annual society for neuroscience (SFN) meetings, with an exhibition booth, and IDARS social event with outstanding Guest speakers in the field of drug abuse research. Furthermore, with the newsletter we are able to share with members and those interested in joining IDARS, our activities and ideas. In this edition of our newsletter we have provided a spotlight on Dr. David Goldman, who was our Guest speaker at the 2017 IDARS-SFN social event in Washington DC.

The choice of Casablanca, Morocco for our next IDARS 7th biennial meeting has set us up for another exciting international event and promises to be a memorable one with a projected high level of science. I clearly feel that we have been successful in involving new scientists, creating additional momentum and setting-up new collaborations, but there is considerable amount of work that needs to be done, not only in preparing for our next IDARS biennial meeting in Morocco (see flyer in this newsletter), but also by submitting your next manuscript to IDARS journal JDAR, that is now co-sponsored by the International Narcotics Research Conference (INRC). As IDARS members, and others in the field of drug addiction research continue to make progress in new discoveries for the development of new therapeutic targets and prevention of drug abuse, more advances and innovation are needed to eliminate the scourge of drug addiction, particularly in the light of the current opioid mortality epidemic.

While the future growth and progress of IDARS is good, now is the time to encourage and attract more junior scientists through mentoring, and utilizing travel award opportunities to present in symposia, posters, and network at IDARS meetings. These networking opportunities are also important for understanding the research techniques of others, who use different approaches. Embracing the different questions and approaches used by others may enhance a collective understanding of multidisciplinary nature of addiction science.

I would also like to bring to your attention the continued energy, high quality and proactive way in which Dr. Syed Ali is active in IDARS and instrumental in putting the IDARS biennial meeting, IDARS-SFN booth, and social event together. Also, a big shout out to Dr. Emmanuel Onaivi for being our resident IDARS scribe, historian and photographer. Let us know your thoughts on how members can become actively involved in the continued growth and successful future of IDARS. For the 2018 IDARS-SFN social event in San Diego, the keynote speaker will be Dr. M. Foster Olive, Professor of Psychology and Director, Addiction Neuroscience Laboratory, at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona and his presentation is titled, "Designer stimulants and their continuing evolution in the addiction landscape". I am looking forward to seeing you all in San Diego for the 2018 SFN meeting, and at the IDARS social event.



Dr. George F. Koob
IDARS President



Spotlight on Dr. David Goldman

David Goldman, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Clinical Director and Chief of the Lab of Neurogenetics, was Guest Speaker at the 2017 IDARS-SFN social event in Washington DC, speaking on “Is the heritability of addictions explained by thousands of genes?” He profiled progress in gene identification via genome-based discovery, including Genome Wide Association and sequencing. He highlighted the importance of deep phenotyping in elucidating genetic causes and their connections to behavior. Dr. Goldman graduated *cum laude* from Yale and *magna cum laude* from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston where he was also a Resident in Psychiatry. He joined NIAAA in 1979, was an NIMH Clinical Associate 1980-1984, rejoined NIAAA in 1985, and has been there since. Throughout his career he has focused on psychiatric genetics, using a combination of genomic, intermediate phenotype, cell model and model organism approaches to identify functional alleles that influence behavioral variation and disease. He has authored more than four hundred papers, including several of the first “imaging genetics” studies, and is one of the most highly cited scientists in the field, with several papers cited >1000 times. Several genes he has studied, such as *COMT*, which he named a “warrior/worrier gene,” alter stress response and emotion but also cognition, and their effects are context-dependent and stronger on molecules and intermediate brain functions. He discovered an *HTR2B* “to be or not to be” stop codon that can lead to impulsivity. This strongly functional serotonin receptor variant is population-specific, but common in people of Finnish ancestry. His studies take advantage of the ability to control genetic and environmental factors in model organisms, both for gene discovery and for validation, and for example he identified a stop codon in *mGluR2* that alters alcohol preference and glutamate function and is common in Wistar rats. His lab discovered a functional variant of the human mu opioid receptor and has done groundbreaking work on the effects of functional variants in *COMT*, *FAAH*, and *NPY* to alter endogenous opioid release in brain and concomitant changes in pain and emotion. Dr. Goldman is a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and has received many awards including the James Isaacson Research Award of ISBRA, NIH Director’s Awards, the RSA Distinguished Researcher Award, and the top prize of the British Medical Association for his book “Our Genes, Our Choices.”

IDARS Booth at the 2017 SFN Meeting in Washington DC



Selected pictures above are attendees of SFN meeting in 2017 in Washington DC at the IDARS booth. Pictures highlight presentation of IDARS to SFN members who are interested in joining IDARS.

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IDARS Booth at the 2017 SFN Meeting in Washington DC



We have established a tradition to showcase IDARS with an exhibition booth at the society for neuroscience to attract additional members to IDARS for a truly international model of drug abuse research society. Selected pictures above are IDARS members during the 2017 SFN meeting in Washington DC. The pictures were taken in front of the IDARS booth at the 2017 SFN meeting.

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IDARS DINNER WITH GUEST SPEAKER AT SFN MEETING IN WASHINGTON DC IN 2017.



Members of IDARS, and their guests with the guest speaker, Dr. David Goldman, top right picture (see also spot light on IDARS news makers page 2), during the SFN meeting in Washington DC in 2017.

IDARS DINNER WITH GUEST SPEAKER AT SFN MEETING IN WASHINGTON DC IN 2017.



Members of IDARS, and their guests during the SFN meeting in Washington DC in 2017.

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 in drug addiction therapeutic advances that could help people stop smoking, or stop compulsive use of drugs of abuse. But whether vaccines can prevent smoking or drug addiction remains an open question. 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.

IDARS MEMBERS RECENT ACTIVITIES

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. George F. Koob was awarded the Jellinek Memorial Award for 2018 for his outstanding contributions to understanding the behavioral course of addiction.

Symposia/Roundtables/Workshops

"Non-Coding RNA in Alcoholism: Mechanisms, Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets" (Drs. **Antonio Noronha**, co-organizer and speaker, and **Subhash Pandey**, co-organizer).

"Neurobiology of cannabinoid type 2 receptors" Emmanuel Onaivi, co-organizer and speaker at the International Behavioral Neuroscience meeting in Florida.

"Neurobiology of endocannabinoid system in psychiatry" Emmanuel Onaivi, co-organizer at the World congress of psychiatry in Mexico-city.

Satellite Meetings: RSA Meeting, June , 2018, San Diego, California

"Integrative Neurosciences Initiative on Alcoholism – Neuroimmune and Stress Satellite Meeting" (Dr. **Antonio Noronha**, speaker).

IDARS journal is the Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research (JDAR). JDAR website: [http://](http://www.ashdin.com/journals/jdar/editors.aspx)

www.ashdin.com/journals/jdar/editors.aspx

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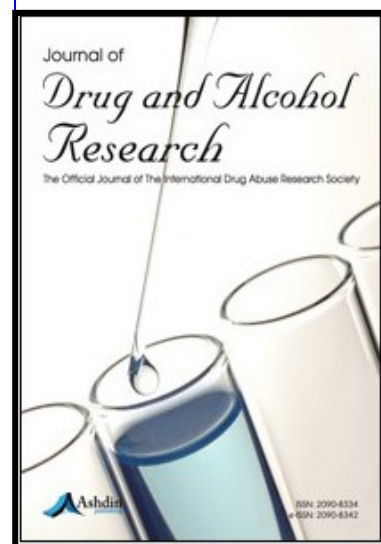
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PREVIOUS IDARS-AWARDEES

- *Dr. Ana Canseco-Alba, Mexico-USA*
- *Dr. Jamie Peters
USA*
- *Dr. Bruk Getachew
USA*

GUEST SPEAKER

*Dr. M. Foster Olive,
Arizona-USA*



IDARS Flyer for the 7th Biennial meeting from September 2-6 in Casablanca, Morocco.

**7th Biennial Meeting
of the
International Drug Abuse
Research Society**



September 2 - 6, 2019

***Hyatt Regency
Casablanca, Morocco***

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