



Inside this Issue:

President's Message	1-2
IDARS Awardees	2
IDARS Booth-2022 & 2024	3, 6
IDARS meeting in Nice France 2022	4-5
IDARS Spotlight on Dr. Shilpa Buch	7
IDARS Member News and Editorial Corner	8-10

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Advances in Drug and Alcohol Research Journal
Emmanuel S. Onaivi

President's Message: Dr. George F. Koob

Dear Colleagues, I am thrilled to share with you highlights of the continued progress of IDARS, from our successful in person IDARS meeting in 2022, in Nice, France with members from across the globe. As always, this IDARS meeting enhanced scientific exchanges and the development of collaborative opportunities for IDARS members, and exemplified our role as an international organization for new strategies in addressing the global problem of drug and alcohol use. Plans were initiated with the aim of sustaining and increasing our membership to support drug and alcohol research to unravel the gaps in the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction.

IDARS is also promoting and supporting the gathering of pre-clinical and clinical scientists with the goal of advancing and providing an international forum for equitable and inclusive access, and sharing of scientific data from diverse backgrounds. Consistent with this goal, we have launched an open access journal called *Advances in Drug and Alcohol Research (ADAR)* in collaboration with the International Narcotics Conference (INRC). ADAR is published by Frontiers Publishing Partnerships as the official journal on behalf of IDARS and INRC. We are pleased to announce that INRC under the leadership of Dr. Susie Ingram supports and welcomes Dr. Lee-Yuan Liu-Chen of INRC as the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of ADAR journal. She will help us to balance the workloads of the Editors and allow for the division of editorial responsibilities into their respective sets of expertise, as well as represent the joint stewardship of IDARS and INRC for guiding the ADAR journal. As such, the ADAR journal brings together drug and alcohol research scientists from across the globe to share and discuss the state of knowledge and future of drug and alcohol addiction that continues to be a global problem. Publications in ADAR support the dissemination of drug and alcohol research knowledge and help bridge gaps in education and outreach globally.

In 2021 while under COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, INRC had an online conference using three platforms of Slack, Zoom and GatherTown to allow interactions of attendees and poster presentations. During the online INRC meeting and in person meeting in Atlanta, GA in 2023, the ADAR journal was introduced to INRC members by Frontiers Partnership Editorial Office team (see acknowledgment photograph on page 10). *(President's message Continued on page 2).*





International Drug & Alcohol Research Society IDARS Meeting Report



Volume 2 Number 3, fall 2023

President's Message continue from page 1: Dr. George F. Koob

At the 2023 INRC meeting a special issue was initiated for publication in the ADAR journal to focus on the basic science and pharmacology of opioid drugs including but not limited to fentanyl and its derivatives with Dr. Lawrence Toll as the special issue editor. Similarly, during our 8th IDARS 2022 biennial meeting in Nice France, the ADAR journal was introduced to IDARS members (see photograph on page 9) with a special issue initiated for publication in ADAR journal to highlight the research advances and contribution made by attendees of the 8th biennial IDARS conference with Drs. Nicolas Gilpin and Emmanuel Onaivi as the special issue editors. We welcome submission of your contributions from both members of IDARS and INRC to the ADAR journal.

As we plan to be together again for our 9th biennial IDARS 2024 meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from April 29-May 3 (see page 10), we express our special thanks to Dr. Syed Ali, and Dr. Nicholas Gilpin as pivotal members of IDARS meeting organizers. We encourage graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty without access to sufficient funds to apply for NIAAA-sponsored R13 travel grant/travel support to the IDARS meeting. For individuals in the early stages of their careers in addiction research are encouraged to apply to the four Young Investigator Awards (Dr. George Koob Travel Award, Dr. Michael Kuhar Travel Award, Dr. Eliot Gardner Travel Award and Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology Travel Award). The application for these awards are in IDARS website, <http://idars.org/> Please note that IDARS is dedicated to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization and at all our meetings. I look forward to meeting you all in Rio de Janeiro, and seeing you all again in person.

Dr. George F. Koob, PhD
President of IDARS

2022 Awardees at the 8th IDARS meeting in Nice France



Presentation and list of Awardees at the 8th IDARS meeting in Nice France, 2022 include Dr. Brandon Warren—for Dr. George Koob award; Dr. Marcus Weera for Dr. Michael Kuhar award; Dr. Umakant Sharma for Dr. Eliot Gardner award, and Dr. Lucia Hipolito, for the Institute of Neuroimmune Pharmacology at Seton Hall University award. Dr. Kuhar was presented with a life time award for continued services to IDARS.

IDARS BOOTH & SOCIALS AT SFN IN SAN DIEGO 2022



In continuation of our established tradition of showcasing IDARS with an exhibition booth at the society of Neuroscience meeting (SFN), the selected pictures above are IDARS members introducing IDARS to SFN attendees around the IDARS booth at the 2022 SFN meeting in San Diego. Lower right panel with key note speaker Dr. Olivier George during IDARS socials and dinner.



International Drug & Alcohol Research Society *IDARS Meeting Report*



Volume 2 Number 3, fall 2023

Photo gallery from 2022 Symposia in Nice France



Selected images from registration and presentations.



International Drug & Alcohol Research Society *IDARS Meeting Report*



Volume 2 Number 3, fall 2023

Photo gallery from 2022 Symposia in Nice France



Selected images from lunch break.



International Drug & Alcohol Research Society IDARS Meeting Report

Volume 2 Number 3, fall 2023



SFN IDARS BOOTH IN WASHINGTON DC 2023



IDARS exhibition booth at the Society for Neuroscience (SFN) meeting in Washington DC 2023. Selected pictures are members of IDARS introducing IDARS to SFN attendees.



Dr. Shilpa Buch



Dr. Shilpa Buch, a distinguished scientist, currently holds the position of Professor & Executive Vice Chair for Research and is the Director of the Nebraska Center for Substance Abuse Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA. She earned her Ph.D. in Microbiology from Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India, in 1982. After completing her doctoral studies, Dr. Buch pursued postdoctoral training in Canada. She began her independent research career as an Assistant Professor at the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto. With a strong research background, Dr. Buch then made a significant move to Kansas University, where she advanced her research area. Her studies encompassed understanding how addictive drugs collaborate with HIV-1, leading to worsened neurological outcomes. During her time in Kansas, she rose through the ranks. In 2007, she made another career move to the University of Nebraska in Omaha, where she assumed a full Professorship role. The research conducted in Dr. Buch's lab employs a multi-faceted approach, utilizing a range of complementary model systems. These systems encompass various experimental models, including cell cultures, rodent models, and the highly relevant macaque model of SIV pathogenesis. Dr. Buch's recent research interests revolve around investigating the role of exosomes as carriers of essential signaling mediators, such as small noncoding RNAs and microRNAs, facilitating gene expression regulation and intercellular communication.

Dr. Buch's active research program involves collaborations on national and international levels, leading to 261 peer-reviewed articles being published. Throughout her career, she has consistently secured funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and

has served on NIH study sections. Her dedication and contributions to the field have earned her recognition from various national and international societies. She received the Wybran Award in 2012, the Distinguished Service Award in 2013 and 2023, the UNMC Scientist Laureate Award in 2016, and the Kansas City Scientist Award. Additionally, she was honored with the Women in Neuroscience Award at the International Society of Neurovirology in 2016.

Dr. Buch is passionate about mentoring and has actively participated in the Women's Mentoring Program at UNMC from 2015 to 2017. Her commitment to leadership development led her to graduate from the Executive Leadership for Academic Medicine Program, which aims to foster the growth and career progression of women leaders in academia. Dr. Buch has also made significant contributions to professional societies, serving as the Secretary of the Society on Neuroimmune Pharmacology. Her expertise and leadership have led to invitations as a speaker and chair at various meetings, and she has organized several symposia, further solidifying her impact on the scientific community.

The remarkable contributions of Dr. Buch to the scientific community have left an indelible mark on the field of neuroscience, HIV, and substance abuse research. Her pioneering work in understanding the intricate interplay between addictive drugs and HIV-1 and her investigations into the role of exosomes in gene regulation have provided valuable insights into complex biological processes. Her dedication to mentoring aspiring scientists and her leadership roles in professional societies exemplify her passion for nurturing the next generation of researchers. Dr. Buch's invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication make her a true luminary in the scientific community, inspiring others and impacting HIV neurobiology and drug abuse research.

Welcome to our IDARS Newsletter*

Emmanuel Onaivi, Ph.D., Newsletter Editor of IDARS is delighted to publish our newsletter, with information about the society, seeking ideas for special issues for our joint official ADAR journal with the International Narcotic Research Conference (INRC), 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 therapeutics and vaccines that could help people stop smoking, or stop compulsive use of drugs and alcohol. 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.

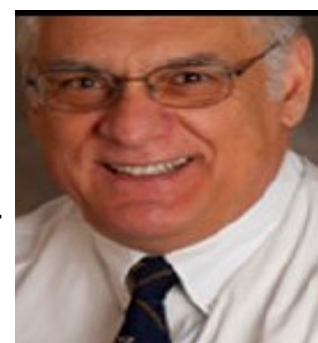


IDARS MEMBERS NEWS



Dr. Michael Kuhar

Dr. Michael Kuhar: Congratulations to Dr. Michael Kuhar who received the 2023 Emory School of Medicine Scientific Integrity Award during the Faculty Eminence Ceremony in Atlanta Georgia on October 3rd. He also retired on September 1, and was awarded Emeritus Professor status.



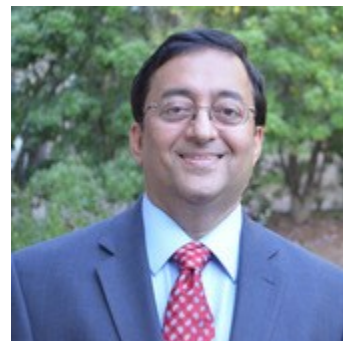
Dr. Anna Bukiya

Recent activities/accomplishments of interest to IDARS with significant contribution as Associate Editor of ADAR journal to special issue and reviews. Symposium talk: "Sexual dimorphism in the effect of commonly used anesthetics on the vasoactive properties of alcohol and tetrahydrocannabinol in the brain", 27th Scientific Conference of the Society on Neuroimmune Pharmacology, New Delhi, India. Invited talk titled "Role of dietary lipids in shaping the effect of alcohol on brain arteries", 19th International Winter Eicosanoid Conference, Baltimore MD, USA.



Drs. Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti

With the global use of cannabis/marijuana products for medicine and recreation, Drs Mitzi and Prakash Nagarkatti, both Professors at the University of South Carolina, recently explained in "The Conversation", the medicinal benefits and potential risks of cannabis-derived products like delta-8THC and delta 10 THC that have become available everywhere—at gas stations, convenience stores, vape shops and online. They concluded that while there is promise in the use of these products in medicinal applications, they caution about the unknowns and the safety and psycho properties of these cannabinoids.



Advances in Drug and Alcohol Research.

ADAR



The official journal of International Drug Abuse Research Society and the International Narcotics Research Conference was launched in April 2021.



Frontiers' is a global transformative, open access publisher with open science platform.

Frontiers' transparent peer-review approach allows authors to interact with reviewers and editors to improve the articles for publication.



Dr. Marcelle Cochrane—Frontier's Partnership program leader pictured third from right with Drs Syed Ali, Michael Kuhar, George Koob, Marcelle Cochrane, Emmanuel Onaivi and Nick Gilpin, introduced ADAR journal to IDARS members in Nice France. The Manager of IDARS Surya Nedunchezhiyan introduced ADAR to the INRC members during their meeting in Atlanta GA in 2023. ADAR is the official journal IDARS and INRC.

Acknowledgement

Advances in Drug and Alcohol Research.



Michael Kuhar



Syed Ali



George Koob



Gillian Dohrn



Surya Nedunchezhiyan



Marcelle Cochrane



Emmanuel Onaivi



Lawrence Toll



Susie Ingram



Lee-Yuan Liu-Chen



The next IDARS 2024 meeting will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from April 29th to May 3rd, 2024.