



# IDARS NEWS



**IDARS PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Michael J. Kuhar.**

Newsletter of the International Drug Abuse Research Society



Speakers at our official satellite symposium of the society for neuroscience meeting held on October 12, 2006 at Emory University in Atlanta, GA USA. From left to right are Drs. Eric Nestler, USA, David Weinshenker, USA, Heather Kimmel, USA, Francesco Fornai, Italy, Michael Kuhar (Chair and moderator) and Bill Carlezon, USA. The symposium was on advances in drug abuse research. As Chair of the symposium I gave a brief introduction of how drugs of abuse induce changes in the brain that might suggest therapeutic targets. The speakers used various models from cells to primates and discussed why some individuals are more vulnerable than others to drug abuse.

Briefly, Dr. Carlezon discussed the role of nucleus accumbens CREB in motivated behaviors and implications for comorbidity of depression and addiction; Dr Kimmel presented data on the effects of stimulant abuse and monoamine transporter inhibitors on brain chemistry and behavior; methamphetamine toxicity and neurodegenerative disorders were addressed by Dr. Fornai; Dr. Weinshenker presented data on the mechanism of disulfiram-induced cocaine abstinence; and finally, Dr. Nestler presented data on delta FosB as a molecular switch for addiction.

Don't forget that The First Annual IDARS Meeting is scheduled for August 14-17, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Merida, Merida, Mexico. See you in Merida, Mexico.

Mike Kuhar

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**IDARS President  
Michael Kuhar**

**Executive Officer  
Syed F. Ali**

## The Challenge for IDARS Scientists: Combating Global Stimulant Abuse

### What is IDARS?

“IDARS” is an acronym for the International Drug Abuse Research Society. The purposes of IDARS are scientific, educational and charitable. The Society seeks to promote excellence in: 1) advancing the understanding of drug abuse, substance abuse, and addiction, 2) bringing together scientists of varying backgrounds and disciplines within the field of drug abuse research, 3) integrating drug abuse research directed at all levels of biological organization to improve prevention and treatment efforts, 4) promoting education in the addiction sciences, 5) informing the general public about the results and implications of current research in the addiction sciences.

### Who are the members of IDARS?

Members of IDARS are research scientists and clinicians from around the world. The current president of IDARS is Dr. Michael J. Kuhar, Professor of Pharmacology, at the Yerkes National Primate Center of Emory University, in Atlanta, GA. The Chief Executive Officer is Dr. Syed F. Ali, Head, Neurochemistry Laboratory, Division of Neurotoxicology, at the National Toxicological Research Center, Food and Drug Administration, in Jefferson, AR.

### IDARS has 3 categories of membership.

- *Regular Members:* Any credentialed research scientist or health professional working in the field of substance abuse may be considered for Regular Membership. Annual dues are \$50.
- *Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Members:* Any post-baccalaureate student matriculated in an advanced degree program, or anyone participating in a post-doctoral training program, in a field related to drug abuse research, may be considered for this category of membership. Annual dues are \$20.
- *Emeritus Members:* Upon retirement, any member of IDARS may apply for Emeritus status. In some cases, distinguished scientists will be nominated for Emeritus membership. There are no annual dues for Emeritus members.

### IDARS RECENT EVENTS

- IDARS had a poster at the NIDA International poster session at the CPDD meeting in Phoenix, AZ in 2006.
- IDARS held its first Satellite Meeting at the Society For Neuroscience meeting in October 12, 2006 in Atlanta GA and had a booth at the meeting.
- IDARS had a poster at the ICRS meeting in Tiffany, Hungary in June 2006.
- IDARS had a poster at the IUPHAR meeting, China in July 2006.
- IDARS had a booth at JPS meeting March 14-17, 2007 in Nagoya, Japan.

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### *Research Highlights* *Marijuana*

- *Cannabis: Most commonly used illicit drug world wide.*
- *Endocannabinoids: The brain and body makes its own marijuana that are called endocannabinoids.*
- *Medicinal use of Marijuana in Cancer, AIDS, Pain, Glaucoma, MS and more.*



**IDARS Society for Neuroscience Satellite Symposium on Advances in Drug Abuse was held at the Emory University Campus in Atlanta, GA in 2006.**



**Top left panel are the speakers at the satellite symposium and top right panel is the President of IDARS Dr. Kuhar with Dr. Carlezon a participant in the symposium. Others are members of IDARS.**





Left panel from top to bottom shows Dr. Eric Nestler, Dr. David Weinshenker and others lower left panel at the 2006 IDARS Society for Neuroscience Satellite meeting. Right panel shows IDARS exhibition stand at the 2006 Society for Neuroscience meeting where Dr. Syed Ali, Executive Officer of IDARS and other members took turns to introduce IDARS to members of the Society for Neuroscience. Top shows Dr. Ali at the stand.

**IDARS exhibition stand at the 2006 Society for Neuroscience meeting**



**IDARS welcomes young and aspiring scientists to become members. Above is Jerry and Syed's daughter on the left and Jerry with Syed Ali on the right at IDARS exhibition stand in Atlanta, GA.**

# Addiction

## WHY CAN'T

## THEY JUST STOP?

The Addiction campaign produced by HBO, in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) provides new knowledge, new treatments and key messages about Addiction: Here are some of the key messages-

- Addiction is brain disease and that relapse is a part of the disease.
- Addiction is NOT a moral failure.
- The risk factors for addiction may include genetic and environmental factors such as stress and availability of abused substances.
- Addiction is treatable by combining behavioral therapy with medication
- For more information visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com).

**Board members:**

**Peter Dodd**

Brisbane, Australia

**Francesco Fornai**

Pisa, Italy

**Timothy Maher**

Boston, MA, USA

**Deborah Mash**

Miami, FL, USA

**Jerrold Meyer**

Amherst, MA, USA

**Sakire Pogun**

Izmir, Turkey

**Marcus Rattray**

London, UK

**Carlos Jimenez-Rivera**

San Juan,  
Puerto Rico

**George Uhl**

Baltimore, MD, USA

**Susan Schenk** Wellington,  
New Zealand

- **Date:** August 14-17, 2007
- **Venue:** Hyatt Regency Mérida, Merida, México
- **Chairperson:** Syed F. Ali (USA)
- **Organizers:** Syed F. Ali (USA) ([syed.ali@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:syed.ali@fda.hhs.gov)), Michael Kuhar (USA), Yossef Itzhak (USA), Francesco Fornai (Italy), and Abel Santamaria (Mexico)
- **Website:** [www.isnsatellite.org](http://www.isnsatellite.org)

### Format

This satellite meeting will bring together basic scientists and clinical investigators from the international community to provide in-depth understanding and current knowledge concerning new conceptual insights into the CNS acting drugs and drugs of abuse and treatment of drug addiction. Methamphetamine, MDMA, PMA and different solvents are the most widely abused drugs in the Europe, United States, Central America, South America and Asian Countries and their use has dramatically increased over the last two decades. These drugs of abuse are known to cause neurotoxicity in several species including not only rodents, dogs and nonhuman primates, but also humans. However, precise neurochemical mechanisms underlying this drug-induced neurotoxicity remain unclear. This meeting will address the following: 1) Role of Genomics, Proteomics and Metabonomics in Drug-induced Neurotoxicity, 2) Drugs of Abuse and Medication Development, 3) Molecular Biology and Free Radicals in Drugs of Abuse-induced neurotoxicity 4) Substituted Amphetamines-induced Neurochemical Changes and Relationship to Neurotoxicity 5) Drug of Abuse and Imaging Brain Structure and Function, 6) GHB/Volatile Solvent/Inhalant Neurotoxicity. The format of the meeting will result in a useful exchange of information not only for neurochemists but also investigators from other disciplines.

### Six Sessions are planned

Six sessions will accommodate 5-6 speakers, 20-30 minutes per presentation. The seventh session will be an open poster session followed by poster discussion. The poster session and discussion is designed for other investigators to participate and hopefully to introduce a "Workshop" atmosphere to the session.

### Partial List of Speakers/Attendees

G. Hanson, M. Kuhar, G. Uhl, J. Cadet, J. Angulo, M. Baumann, R.B. Rothman, Y. Itzhak, J.P. O'Callaghan, D. Miller, E. French, D. Mash, Y. Yanai, Z. Binienda, A. Virmani, H. Basalingappa, P. Dodd, A. Stadlin, T.J. Maher, T. Macedo, D.E. Dluzen, K. Akiyama, K. Yui, N. Banik, M. Klein, Y. Numachi, J. Banken, H. Ujike, R. de la Torre, T. Nishikawa, V. Bashkatova, T. Omori, H. C. Kim, N. Ozaki, M. Sasa, J. Meyer, F.S. Hall, E. Onaivi, K. Ikeda, T. Nakagawa, H. Ueda, M. Sato, T. Suzuki, K. Yamada, T. Yanagita, Y. Takahashi, T. Nabeshima, J. Zwiller, A. Santamaria, F. Fornai, and S.F. Ali.

### Session Topics

- Role of Genomic, Proteomics & Metabonomics in Drug abuse-induced Neurotoxicity.
- Drugs of Abuse and Medication Development: Current Status of Dependence/Abuse Studies.
- Molecular Mechanism and Free Radicals in Drugs of Abuse-induced Neurotoxicity.
- Substituted Amphetamines-induced neurochemical changes and relationship to neurotoxicity.
- Drug of Abuse and Imaging Brain Structure and Function.
- GHB/Volatile Solvent/Inhalant Neurotoxicity.