



# IDARS NEWS



## Letter from the President

A special thanks to Emmanuel Onaivi, who has accepted the Editorship of this newsletter, and it is quite wonderful to be in this first issue! Do we want to name it? Email suggestions to our Editor, Emmanuel Onaivi. And now on to more traditional business.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the new and inaugurating members of our organization, the International Drug Abuse Research Society (IDARS). Our society is special in that it is

committed to being an international organization with an emphasis, but not exclusively so, on basic research. As President for the next year, my hope is that this new society will have a solid foundation, and we have progressed much already. I hope we can attract new members including student members who will continue drug abuse research into the future. The years ahead hold great promise and interesting challenges.

For those of you just joining the society or perhaps seeing our website for the first time, IDARS is a society dedicated to advancing and promoting research and the collaboration among scientists around the world in the area of substances of abuse and addiction. The society will focus on the areas of molecular, cellular and systems neurobiology and will include neuropharmacological, neurobehavioral, neurochemical and neuroanatomical themes as well. This will allow us to inform each other and the public about the results and implications of current research in the addiction sciences.

The leadership of IDARS needs input from all members to allow this new society to organize first-class meetings and other activities, and to enhance our understanding of the issues in research and the clinical implications of drug abuse and addiction. There are many issues, and we need to choose a focus (or more than one) as our organization looks to the future. Certainly we will have regular research meetings, but do we want to start a journal? Can we help our membership address the challenges of maintaining research support? I therefore request your input and time to help IDARS chart a course for the near future. I would encourage our members to make IDARS a first-class, "destination" research society. Therefore we shall call on members not only to help in spreading the word to recruit new members, but also to participate in committee work of the society. Your service on IDARS committees will leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of members now and in the future. This will ensure our vision of a truly global research society that addresses critical aspects of drug abuse and addiction.

I ask that you renew your membership by paying your annual membership dues, as your support is vital to a successful solid foundation for our unique research society. I also ask members to identify and invite corporate support for IDARS.

On behalf of our membership, I want to express thanks to Syed Ali at the IDARS office, who is the behind-the-scenes maestro of our organization and a backbone of IDARS. Thanks again, Syed.

Best regards,

Michael J Kuhar, PhD

President, IDARS



*Michael J. Kuhar*

Newsletter of the International Drug Abuse Research Society

**Volume 1, Issue 1  
Fall 2006**

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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 UPCOMING EVENTS

IDARS satellite meeting at the society for neuroscience is entitled “Advances in Drug Abuse Research” will be held on October 12, 2006 at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

IDARS will have a booth at SFN meeting to be held in October 13-17, 2006, in Atlanta, GA USA.

IDARS First International Meeting in collaboration with ISN/ASN Satellite meeting will be held from August 14-17, 2007 at the Princess Hotel in Belize.

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## **Symposium on Advances in Drug Abuse Research.**

### **An Official Satellite of the Society for Neuroscience Meeting**

**Place:** Emory University Campus  
Yerkes Primate Center Conference Room  
954 Gatewood Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA

**Date:** October 12, 2006

**Time:** 1 – 5 PM

**Sponsors:** International Drug Abuse Research Society (IDARS)  
The Yerkes National Primate Research Center of Emory  
The Center for Behavioral Neuroscience (CBN)

### **Program Speakers:**

Bill Carlezon, USA  
Heather Kimmel, USA  
Francesco Fornai, Italy  
David Weinschenker, USA  
Eric Nestler, USA

**Chairperson and Contact:** Mike Kuhar (mkuhar@emory.edu)

**General Topic:** Molecular and Behavioral Basis of Addiction.

### **Board members:**

**Peter Dodd**  
Brisbane, Australia

**Francesco Fornai**  
Pisa, Italy

**Timothy Maher**  
Boston, MA, USA

**Deborah Mash**  
Miami, FL, USA

**Jerrold Meyer**  
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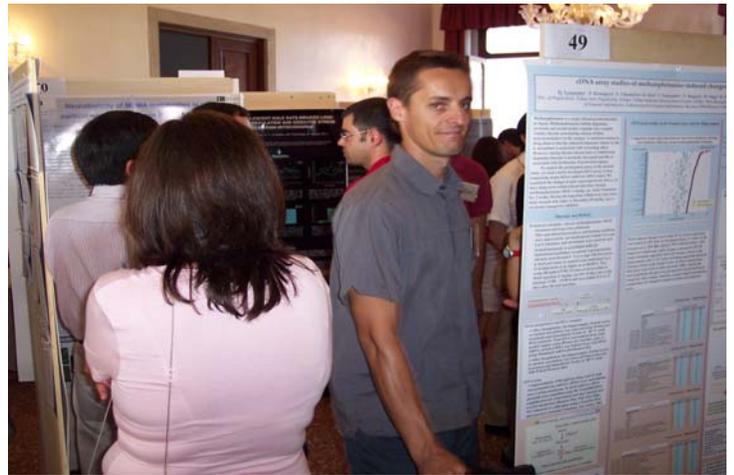
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Izmir, Turkey

**Marcus Rattray**  
London, UK

**Carlos Jimenez-Rivera**  
San Juan,  
Puerto Rico

**George Uhl**  
Baltimore, MD, USA

**Susan Schenk** Wellington,  
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Sample of pictures from the last satellite meeting held in Venice, Italy in summer 2005.