2010 CSDP Year in Review

Another successful year has passed for the Chicago Social Drinking Project. Thanks to everyone for your continued dedication. Below are some highlights of 2010:

Enrollment
We now have a total of 273 participants in the study. We have enrolled 83 new participants in the past two years and we will continue to enroll 27 more participants in 2011 to reach our goal of 300 total CSDP participants. If you know of someone who is a social drinker between ages 23-29 and might be interested, please have him or her contact us soon!

Follow-up
We have participants who live down the street to across the world who are continuing in the long-term follow-up phase of CSDP. The study still maintains over a ~98% success rate for participants completing quarterly and annual follow-up interviews. The study remains successful due to the dedication of all of its participants maintaining contact and completing these interviews, and we can not thank you enough for this.

In addition, we have enjoyed seeing so many of you return to the University of Chicago for two additional sessions at your 5-year anniversary mark of enrollment. Thus far, about 85% of you who have been invited back (# 401– ~#570) have been able to make it back to the lab for these sessions. We will continue to invite back participants this year for their 5-year anniversary sessions. As always, we will do our best to provide accommodations and transportation for those of you in the area as well as those from across the United States and in other countries. In 2010, we enjoyed bringing back participants from across the U.S. (New York, Oregon, Arizona, Florida, etc.) and as far away as France.

Conferences and Travels
Finally, several of the CSDP staff traveled to national scientific meetings in Baltimore and San Antonio to present some early study findings. Dr. King traveled as far as China in August 2010 to present the study to clinical researchers. CSDP was quite successful in 2010. Our study continues to be historic and we’ll continue to keep you updated on progress!

Lab Spotlight: Mike Palmeri

The Chicago Social Drinking Project is excited to welcome Mike Palmeri to our full-time staff!

Mike is a 2010 graduate of Loyola University Chicago where he majored in psychology, played on the club soccer team and coordinated the student Ambassador Program. He comes to us with experience in both developmental neurobiology and social psychology research. For the CSDP, Mike is currently in charge of recruiting new participants, completing screening and experimental sessions, and data management and verification. Welcome Mike!

Director's Note

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you warm as the winter is well underway. In this issue of What's On Tap? we recount a busy 2010 at CSDP and introduce you to Mike Palmeri, who joined us a few months ago.

We also announce winners from our October 2010 lottery, provide recent research findings on addiction and attention, and have a puzzle. Best to all in 2011!

Dr. Andrea King
Principal Investigator
Here is a word puzzle for those of you with cabin fever!
Unscramble each of the winter-themed clue words on the left. Use the letters in the numbered cells to complete the last line of the poem (blue cells) at the bottom. Enjoy!

omswnan
iterwn aewldonnrd
tho aooclhtec
imtnes
alwsfkone
eic ikatsgn

All the complicated details of the attiring and the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon moves gently among the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds against a sure winter

—William Carlos Williams

Addiction and Attention

It’s often assumed that smokers are more likely to attend to smoking cues (i.e., pictures of cigarettes or lighters, seeing other’s smoke, etc.) than non-smokers. However, is it simple familiarity or something else going on with smokers which make them more attuned to drug cues?

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill sought to test this by rapidly presenting pictures of neutral, smoking and sports images to smokers and sports fans. Results showed that smokers detected smoking cues better than sports fans detected sports images1. The study provides interesting clues that more is going on in addiction than attentional bias to familiar cues. Other brain mechanisms may be involved. A study by our own Dr. King2 showed that smokers responded more to smoking cues after drinking an alcohol vs non-alcohol beverage. So, responses to cues may also be situational and involve brain reward pathways.