Call for Abstracts

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR
SALIS Chair, Samantha Helfert, Row Sciences, Rockville, MD

SALIS acknowledges the tragic events of September 11, 2001 that occurred in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. In the spirit of moving forward and returning to normalcy, we are moving forward with plans for our 24th annual conference to be held in Washington, DC, USA. The conference is scheduled for Tuesday to Saturday, April 16-20, 2002 at the Radisson Barcelo Hotel. The members of the SALIS 2002 Planning Committee are looking forward to the event and will keep members posted of any changes in travel or security that may impact the planning and logistics.

SALIS is currently preparing the program and invites you to make a presentation. Please consider participating in this special event—the theme of which is “Capitalizing on the Value of Knowledge Sharing”—that each year brings together many of the world’s leading authorities on the organization and dissemination of substance abuse information.

Issues of communication, education, and collaboration are central to the 2002 conference. The theme will allow a wide variety of presentation topics and formats, and presenters are encouraged to display the type of creativity and insight that they bring to their work in library and information services. To reflect the conference theme, some suggestions for broad topics include: delivery of information services; software selection, building and marketing web sites, and other technological issues; program evaluation procedures; education, prevention, and harm minimization; copyright issues; the management of electronic and web-disseminated documents; and collection development and organization. We specifically encourage presenters to consider non-traditional deliveries beyond the lecture format, including audience participation workshops and panel presentations.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, November 16, 2001.

Please refer to the SALIS web site http://salis.org for abstract forms and instructions for submission. Please contact SALIS Home at salis@arg.org if you have any difficulties obtaining the abstract submission form from the website.
WEB SIGHTS

By Samantha Heifert, MLS
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This column of Websights provides an overview of web resources provided by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, an initiative funded by the United State's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), under the guiding entity of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The goal of the Network is to enhance substance abuse treatment services through training and education, curriculum development, and systems change assistance. The work towards this goal has resulted in an extensive network of resources on addictions.

The ATTC Network is comprised of 13 independent Regional Centers covering 39 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and a National Office. Contact information and links to each of the Regional Center are available at the National Office web site (www.attec.org). The size and areas of emphasis of the individual Regional Centers vary, but each provide training opportunities for treatment practitioners and other professionals who have the opportunity to intervene in the lives of persons with substance use disorders. Some of the Regional Centers develop their own training programs and materials. Others create partnerships with local universities to enhance current courses or to establish degrees in addictions.

The web sites of each of the Regional Centers also vary. Most include background information on the Regional Centers' projects and offer a calendar of training events in their region. Some of the sites offer extensive information online, including links, documents, and course catalogs. For example, the web site (http://www.attec.ucsd.edu) of the Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PSATTC) based at the University of California, San Diego provides a range of resources for addiction professionals, including a what's new section, information on credentialing, criminal justice issues, social services, and information in Spanish.

A key theme of the ATTC Network is linking research to practice. The National Office distributes Addiction Science Made Easy, a regular feature in its monthly web-based magazine Eye on the Field. It includes summaries written in lay terms of key research articles from the journal, Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research. Many of the Regional Centers also offer resources to bridge research and practice, including:

* The Addiction Messenger, an email newsletter developed by the Northwest Frontier ATTC (http://www.open.org/~nfacf);

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BOOK REVIEW

By Geoffrey P. Hunt
Institute of Scientific Analysis, Alameda, CA

Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World. By David T. Courtwright
Harvard University Press, 2001

The importance of good historical research is aptly exemplified in David Courtwright's book the Forces of Habit. Courtwright has produced a wide-ranging and somewhat broad brush stroke account of the history of drugs. His narrative is supported by a truly impressive collection of historical data. Like Brecher, who also studied both legal and illegal drugs, Courtwright has provided an analysis of the development and expansion of drug use since the beginning of the modern period. He discusses not only the more obvious illegal substances - heroin, cocaine and marijuana - as well as legal drugs - coffee, tea, alcohol and tobacco - but also more unusual substances such as betel, kava, and qat. The aim of the book is to explain why in the early modern period (1500 to 1789) "merchants, planters and other imperial elites succeeded in bringing about the confluence of the world's psychoactive resources," yet in spite of both enormous profits and tax revenues, "their successors changed their minds and restricted or prohibited many - but not all - drugs?"

In order to explain this over-riding question, Courtwright divides the book into three sections. Part one titled "The confluence of psychoactive resources" focuses on the world's principal psychoactive resources, concentrating on alcoholic and caffeinated beverages, tobacco, opiates, cannabis, cocoa, and cocaine. He also discusses sugar, because it is a key ingredient in many drug products. Courtwright traces the development of each of these substances, and the way in which they gradually entered "the stream of global commerce". One fascinating and important question in this part of the book is why is it that certain drugs became global commodities while other regionally popular substances such as kava, betel, qat and peyote failed to do so. In attempting to answer this question he suggests a number of possible explanations. One possible reason for the failure of a substance to become universal is the initial aversion to consuming it. For example, kava has been likened to "chalk swimming in body sweat". This reason although plausible, is insufficient because as Courtwright points out many substances which are now universal are also unpleasant when first consumed. A second possible explanation are the cos-
Hepatitis C: A Viral Mystery

Fanlight Productions
4196 Washington St., Ste 2
Boston, MA 02131
800-937-4113
www.fanlight.com

Ho hum, a documentary videotape about a virus. Surprise, surprise. *Hepatitis C: A Viral Mystery* manages to deliver despite odds that it won’t. The format includes a no-frills talking heads style yet the well-paced editing and comfortable, informative, diverse selection of speakers make for an engaging and thorough video. And the production, which was funded through a grant from Roche, a major pharmaceutical competitor in the hep C world, manages to sidestep any partisan position by providing an unbiased review of current, available treatments.

It asks a lot to respectably explain a disease: to give the facts without being too dry, to describe it without speaking over or down to an audience, to portray the seriousness without overdramatizing, and to depict living with it daily without understatement. *Hepatitis C: A Viral Mystery* takes on this challenge and accomplishes it. The facts about hep C are presented from various individuals with the illness and from medical researchers. It is a pervasive viral disease that affects over 4 million Americans, is primarily spread through contact with blood, is the number one reason for liver transplants in the U.S., has no vaccine or cure and available treatment offers only limited success.

The several individuals profiled are well chosen. Aging hippies, Deadhead fans, or those who simply enjoy any type of celebrity sighting may enjoy hearing from Phil Lesh, onetime member of the Grateful Dead. (And Phil no doubt enjoys that he is still here to be heard from since he almost died of liver failure caused by hep C.) Fan of him or not, he does make a good spokesmen about the disease. Others featured include a nurse (a bit of a celeb herself within the hep C world for her writings on nutrition, the liver, and hep C) and an ex-addict, both who have hep C and together visit schools to educate young people about the disease. While the ex-addict and one of the women included in the film are both people of color, the issue of race, ethnicity and hep C are not specifically addressed. Too bad. The timing would have been just right to make mention since issues of race and treatment, or more specifically the lack of studies looking at race, prevalence and treatment of hep C, are gaining attention.

Drug treatment for hep C is also getting public notice. The video’s copyright is 2000 which means it was made just in time to include the big goings-on about interferon. Interferon has always been part of hep C treatment but a recent change in its composition allows for once/weekly injections. Overall treatment success rates may remain disappointing but the idea of once/weekly injections over the previous standard of 3 or more injections/week could inspire thankfulness in even the most ill tempered interferon injector.

The video’s open style extends to including alternative and complementary treatment options, and suggested activities for improving one’s health. In addition to discussing dietary changes and herbal therapies, the use of meditation, guided imagery and Qi Gong are presented as ways to reduce stress and positively impact one’s overall health. Fanlight Productions, the distributor of this video, is a maverick among substance abuse and healthcare video companies. Like the film director John Sayles, Fanlight is mainstream enough to be easily accessible but independent enough to maintain a distinct voice. *Hepatitis C: A Viral Mystery* is a worthy addition to their collection of creative, high quality videos.

**Postscript:** Hepatitis C, and co-infection of hep C and HIV, will continue to be prominent issues within the alcohol and other drug literature. There is a wealth of information to be found on the Internet for all level audiences, and most sites provide an extensive number of useful links. As with HIV though, some of the best activity is from grassroots organizations. Here are two sites worth mentioning:

[http://www.hevadvocate.org/](http://www.hevadvocate.org/) - Originators of this site began as hep C activists, trained by ACT UP members in ways to build an effective political position among the medical power brokers. As a result they have been instrumental in affecting public policy about hep C. The site is one of the few that provides the most diverse selection of information and links, and is religiously current.

[http://www.hepcassoc.org/](http://www.hepcassoc.org/) - This site stands out not only because it is the product of a friend in New Jersey, but because of its emphasis on educating medical professionals, especially doctors, about hep C. There has always been a lack of informed specialists to treat patients with hep C but the problem will worsen as prevalence rates skyrocket. More of the responsibility for treating hep C will fall on family practitioners who are even less familiar with the disease.
New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA


Szasz, Thomas. Pharmacracy: Medicine and Politics in

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**PERIODICAL NEWS**

By Nancy Sutherland, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, Seattle, Washington

Addictive Disorders & Their Treatment, ed. by Pedro Ruiz, MD. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore MD. Quarterly, ISSN 1531-5754, price $69 (individual) $150 (institutional). Vol. 1 - 2002 - "A quarterly international journal devoted to practical clinical research and treatment issues related to the misuse of alcohol, licit and illicit drugs and the study and treatment of addictive disorders and their behaviors."

Tobacco Induced Diseases is the official journal of the International Society for the Prevention of Tobacco Induced Diseases (PTID). Peer-reviewed, quarterly. For scope and other information, see http://members.aol.com/ptidsociety/home/page8.htm. Subscription for members (50 Euro $); Non-member individuals (125 Euro $); Libraries (250 Euro $).

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metic effects of consuming particular drugs. For example betel stains the teeth and produces streams of red saliva. Cosmetic effects are not solely associated with those drugs which have failed to become global, for example "red-nosed drunks" are not a pleasant sight either. Other possible reasons hindering the globalization of substances may be logistical, for instance qat leaves lose their potency faster than almost any other psychoactive substance. Although examining a series of possible reasons, Courtwright does not attempt to produce a definitive answer but instead notes that his intention is to provide the "broadest of explanatory strokes".

Part two titled "drugs and commerce" deals with the age old tension between drugs as medicinal products versus drugs as recreational products. Courtwright traces the way in which many of our now taken for granted "dangerous" drugs were initially considered medical panaceas. For example tobacco was, in the middle of the 1600's, defined as a "great antidote against all venomous and pestilential diseases". In discussing the efficacy of tobacco's medicinal properties, Courtwright recounts a story of a Spanish doctor who once revived a stillborn child by blowing cigar smoke upon the baby. The infant immediately spluttered and recovered and was later christened Pablo Picasso.

However many drugs, initially defined as possessing therapeutic properties, gradually escape their therapeutic

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realms and become more renowned for their pleasure-giving possibilities. As they enter the realm of popular consumption, their political status alters and more controls are placed on them. A recent example of such a process is that of MDMA which began life in the U.S. as a therapeutic drug used primarily by therapists. Once it became a popularly consumed drug it came under increasing government scrutiny and control.

The final part of the book, titled "drugs and power," explores how drugs have been used by the elites not solely as a way of making a profit but also to control and exploit the lives of workers. Examples of this include the use of alcohol in early trading between Europeans and indigenous people in North America and South Africa as well as the use of opium to keep Chinese laborers in debt and dependent.

Unlike so many accounts in the substance use and abuse fields, Courtwright seeks neither to attack nor to defend the use of drugs, but instead attempts to utilize good historical insights to explain the developments of substances. He utilizes a holistic model in order to compare the similarities and dissimilarities of certain ingested substances. By adopting the notion of career, a concept previously used about drug users (Waldorf, 1973), he explains the way in which drugs move from one sphere of consumption to another and in so doing the power relationships associated with them alter. Whereas previously acceptable substances, when used by elite groups, become unacceptable when adopted by the masses. When this occurs elite groups attempt to ensure that trade and consumption in unacceptable substances is restricted and curtailed, while at the same time allowing continued use of acceptable substances.

Overall this book is both highly enjoyable to read and also informative and instructive. One is reminded as to why research on mind altering substances is so fascinating and why these substances have been so much a part of human life. However, I do have two criticisms. First like many good historical accounts, historians show themselves to be highly competent in bringing together seemingly disparate events and developments in the past, and helping us understand more clearly why these substances occupy the position they do within our society. Unfortunately their ability to stand back and explain more contemporary developments is sometimes less insightful. Courtwright's brief discussion of contemporary developments in the continuing careers of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit and licit drugs is the least satisfying part of the book. On occasions he drops in tantalizing suggestions or comments which are never developed. For example, he states at one point that "psychoactive technology, like military technology, has outstripped natural history", a

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* The Addiction Exchange (http://mid-atcc.org/addex/index.html), a fax or email digest provided by the Mid-Atlantic ATTC;
* Dispatch Fax, a regular summary of key treatment issues developed by the District of Columbia and Delaware ATTC (http://www.dcde-atcc.net/);
* The Mentor, a two-page course summary provided at each training event used by Mid-America ATTC (MATTC) and other Regional Centers; and
* The PSATTC News, an e-mail news and announcement service from PSATTC.

Many of the Regional Centers network with a variety of organizations in their region to facilitate training and to support addictions research. Information on these initiatives is available at the Regional Center's web sites. For example:

* The MATTC receives funding from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to enhance substance abuse services in Missouri's juvenile justice systems through its ATTC Youth Project (http://www.matte.org/MATTC2/juvenileJustice/index.htm).
* The PSATTC has a number of training resources for the criminal justice community resulting from its work providing support to correctional agencies in within its region.
* The Southeast ATTC (http://www.matte-cork.org/) has linked with the Historically Black College and the University National Substance Abuse Consortium to assist in a national survey to assess the use and perceptions of substance abuse among first year college students.

When looking for training activities in a specific area of the country, the Regional Centers' web sites are the place to go. However to find comprehensive training resources, check out the web site for the ATTC National Office (www.nattc.org). This web resource highlights documents and initiatives developed by CSAT. Resources are available on:

* Addictions treatment: including CSAT's National Treatment Plan and guides from the Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIPS) and Technical Assistance Publication (TAPS) series;
* Technology transfer: including the Change Book: A Blue Print for Technology Transfer and links to organizations and documents; and
* The use of the web: including Untangling the Web: A Guide for Treatment Programs developed for the ATTC initiative Online Ontime, an initiative dedicated to helping substance abuse treatment and prevention programs in the U.S. obtain Internet access in the workplace for frontline counselors and practitioners.

The National Office web site also maintains a number of

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databases that compile together resources developed at the regional level but are of relevancy across the country. For example, the Regional Centers share their training resources through the ATTIC Product Database. The database includes all types of training resources, including curricula, audiotapes, videotapes, and self-study material. The content of the materials cut across treatment issues, but the majority focus on co-occurring disorders, criminal justice issues, cultural diversity, health care professionals, and addiction counseling skills. One can search by keyword, topic area, or by medium type. Each record provides description, cost (if applicable), medium type, and link to resource. Each Regional Center supplies information on its products for the database.

In addition to the product database, the National Office maintains the following resources:

* The Credentialing Database provides licensure and certification requirements for a variety of state, national, and some international bodies that offer credentialing for drug and alcohol counselors.

* Distance Learning Database (AddictionEd.org) is a searchable database of distance learning opportunities in the treatment field. The database includes online courses, audio/video/teleconferences, correspondence/email courses, and CD-ROM courses. The courses listed in the database are sponsored by the Regional Centers, as well as by other educational institutions and continuing education providers. Each of the courses offers academic or continuing education credits.

CSAT has established an impressive network of resources through the ATTIC initiative. Looking into the future, the next round of funding for ATTIC projects begins October 1, 2001, and will encompass all 50 states and US Territories as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Let's hope the next round of funding brings continued and expanded resources for the addictions treatment field.

point that could have been developed but is left hanging. Or to use a second example, in the conclusion he notes that because the notion of pleasure is central to consumerism, a central contradiction exists in contemporary U.S. drugs policy. An understanding of such contradictions may be vitally important in explaining why the U.S. has such a particularly draconian form of drug policy. This point is again, unfortunately, not developed.

A second criticism of the book is that Courtwright, unlike other historians such as William Sewell (1999), fails to examine the importance of cultural practices. For example, in the final chapter he notes merely in passing that U.S. drug policy may be the "hostage of its culture war". This provocative and fascinating point reminds one of the seminal work of the anthropologist Howard Stein and his discussion on alcoholism as metaphor in U.S. culture.

Unfortunately the point is never developed. Neither of these criticisms lessened my admiration for this book and both of the criticisms may be considered a little unfair given what he set out to do. For why should a historian consider the contemporary period or examine notions of culture? And yet it is precisely because his book is so good that the reader begins to expect even more. Therefore in conclusion I can merely repeat one of Courtwright's own sentences which I suppose goes some way to explain why many of us are in this particular field of research and why it remains a fascinating realm of research, exploration and discovery: "Drugs...are a kind of perpetual motion machine, providing steady work for everyone from peasants to lawyers to drug historians". Undoubtedly, it is an area that will keep interests stimulated for a time, as well.
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