

Biosketch

Dr. Sandra Comer is Professor of Neurobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Research Scientist VI at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Following Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan and post-doctoral research at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Comer joined Columbia University in 1993, where her research focus has been on the development and testing of novel approaches to the treatment of opioid use disorder. She is Director of the Opioid Laboratory in the Division on Substance Use Disorders and runs a very active research program devoted to examining various aspects of the abuse liability of opioids. Dr. Comer served on the Institutional Review Board at NYSPI for 10 years, so she is familiar with the regulatory requirements of research with human volunteers. In addition, she is an active member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the longest standing group in the United States addressing problems of drug dependence and abuse. She served as Chair of the Program Committee, was elected President in 2015-2016, and currently serves as the Public Policy Officer of CPDD. She currently is a member of the World Health Organization Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence, gives lectures and presentations to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, reviews grant applications for the National Institutes of Health, and mentors both pre- and post-doctoral students. She has been continuously funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse for over 2 decades to conduct studies designed to elucidate the neurobiology of opioid use disorder and how to most effectively treat it. In addition, she has published over 150 papers, chapters, and books on issues related to substance use disorders.