

**REFLECTIONS ON FORTY YEARS
OF DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH
KEY LARGO, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 27-29, 2005**

Epidemiology Panel

Reflections--Sloboda

- Reflections on the past
 - Progress in estimating prevalence, e.g. the New York City Narcotics Register
 - Etiological studies
 - Lack of trained epidemiologists in the area
- Needed areas for future development
 - Link biological to behavioral measures
 - Improved definitions of drug abuse as a public health issue (use vs. abuse/dependence what is the public health burden?)
 - Refinement of etiology/pathways
 - More natural history studies particularly of adolescent drug abusers
 - Definitions of and exploration of “epidemics”/outbreaks—use of SWAT teams and “street” to “lab” research