International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction Newsletter - December 2022

From the Desk of the Executive Director, Kevin P. Mulvey, PhD

Winter has arrived for those in the northern hemisphere and summer in the southern hemisphere. The seasons are changing, and the holiday season has arrived and ICUDDR wishes all our members, partners and their families a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

A few things to look forward to in the new year. We are well underway with planning the ICUDDR Latin America and Caribbean Regional Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This meeting will take place in April before the ISSUP meeting. Additionally, the ICUDDR-Global meeting is also being planned with Mahidol University and Chiang Mai Medical University, our local co-sponsors. It will take place in Chiang Mai in August. Please watch for a call for abstracts in the 1st quarter of 2023.

We are in the coming year looking to our regional coordinators for more of a focus at the regional levels. We are pleased to have upcoming webinars in the areas of prevention and recovery.

Meet an ICUDDR Staff Person:
Business Manager, Dianna Fusco Motel, MPA

Dianna brings with her a master’s degree in Public Administration, from Appalachian State University and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Mountain State University. She has 20 years’ experience in business administration and oversight, with a passion for the nonprofit sector.

Dianna has been involved with economic impact services since 1998, assisting in the development and implementation of a national nonprofit for women.

Many of you who have been consultants or supported travelers for ICUDDR have had email interactions with Dianna. Now you have a face, name and a bit of background on a key member of the ICUDDR staff.

Welcome New Members to the ICUDDR Family:

Today we have 346 University Members in 81 countries from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the United States and Canada.

We welcome 3 new university members since November's newsletter from:

- Kampala International University, Uganda
- Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Philippines
- Hanoi Medical University, Vietnam
Cannabis potency (THC content) is increasing as more states legalize medical and recreational use. Higher potency has been associated with higher rates of cannabis dependence, psychosis, anxiety and depression.

On December 1, Nancy Haug, PhD, Director of the Harm Reduction and Addiction Treatment Laboratory at Palo Alto University, presented information about harm reduction and cannabis usage. Dr. Haugh shared the relationship between cannabis potency and harms, and discussed key issues such as motives for use among medical versus recreational users, gender differences in cannabis use, and response options.

Prevention Education: UPC, Drug Prevention and Risk Behavior Prevention- Webinar

Helena Horálek, Psychologist/Assistant professor, Department of Addictology, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University (CUNI) presented an excellent webinar on December 8, 2022. She presented to participants about prevention curricula, trends in education and training programs in addictions in higher education, and raising the standards for prevention education. Participants asked thought provoking questions about these topics.
ICUDDR Global Office Activities

1. Deputy Director Cary Hopkins Eyles attended the civil society consultation on engagement with the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy on 8 December 2022 in the margins of the reconvened session of the 65th CND and 31st CCPCJ organized by UNODC together with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Alliance) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC). ICUDDR participated in a breakout group public health "Science for Health".

2. ICUDDR participants and presents at the INL Monthly Annual Partners meeting. Ms. Cary Hopkins Eyles, MA, CAP, Deputy Director of ICUDDR presented for the INL Partner call on December 14, 2022. She presented information about the programs and resources available to ICUDDR members. These resources are available in particular to push ahead our mission of easy dissemination of science-based information and research in the field of substance use and related disorders.
Regional Activities - Africa Region

The African Regional Coordinators, Drs Kathungu and Agwogie held a webinar for African university members on December 20th, 2022. The event had over 45 participants from all of the sub-regions of the continent.

The focus was to introduce these members to a model that would enable them to infuse state of the art research and evidence based best practices into college and university addiction science programs.

The presentation was well received and resulted in excellent dialogue on next steps and support the implementation of this model.

UPCOMING ICUDDR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES - JANUARY

- Treating Adolescent with Medication for Opioid Use disorder (MOUD) with Scott Hadland, MD, MPH, MS, Chief, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Mass General for Children / Harvard Medical School January 17, 2023- Webinar OPEN ONLY TO HRSA Grantees.

- Motivational Interviewing for Substance Use Disorders, with Cary Hopkins Eyles, CAP, MA, Deputy Director, ICUDDR January 26, 2023-Webinar OPEN ONLY TO HRSA Grantees.


- ICUDDR Executive Committee Meeting January 26, 2023 Virtual meeting
SAVE THE DATE!

ICUDDR
Conference 2023
Addiction Science, Policy and Education: Growth and progress in a post pandemic world

August 9 - 11, 2023 | Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Co-facilitators: Mahidol University and Chiang Mai University

Watch for the call for papers and presentations.

For questions, contact: conf2023@icuddr.org

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