


August 2024

The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

NEWSLETTER



From the Desk of the Associate Director of
Global Centre for Credentialing and
Certification (GCCC):

**Carmel Clancy, PhD, RGN, RMN, PGCertHE,
FPH, ICAP III**

I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Kevin Mulvey for providing me the opportunity to utilize the "From the Desk of the Executive Director" space to formally introduce myself as the newly appointed Associate Director for the Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification (GCCC). It is a privilege to share with our partners, stakeholders, and colleagues some exciting developments of GCCC. Colombo Plan has graciously trusted the management of the GCCC program to the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR). This milestone builds upon the remarkable work of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program (DAP), which plays a pivotal role in credentialing the global addiction workforce.

For years, the Colombo Plan DAP, has been a pioneering force, championing the professionalization of those working in drug demand reduction and addiction treatment. Their efforts to credential the workforce have been invaluable, creating pathways for addiction professionals to be recognized for their skills, knowledge, and commitment to addressing substance use challenges. Thanks to their work, the global addiction workforce is better equipped than ever before, empowered with the tools and standards needed to

make a lasting impact. However, as the world continues to grapple with the prevalence and transnational spread of problematic substance use, significant efforts are still required.

Therefore, we are excited to announce that GCCC, alongside fellow ICUDDR members, will be presenting at the upcoming ISAM Congress, "Building Bridges: Addiction and Recovery," in Istanbul, Turkey, from September 5-8. This event highlights the crucial collaboration between medicine, psychiatry, and other disciplines, and we look forward during congress to explore new opportunities for advancing credentialing in specific fields of medicine and other disciplines.

This new phase for GCCC, under the ICUDDR framework, comes at a pivotal time, offering an opportunity to reinvigorate energies, expand partnerships, and engage deeply with the academic community that is training the addiction professionals of the future. We at ICUDDR are excited to support this important work. Please stay tuned to future newsletter articles on the GCCC as we move forward.



Carmel Clancy

What you'll find:

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Welcome!

New members of the ICUDDR Family:

As of August 27, we have **455 Member Institutions** consisting of **769 Faculty Members** from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, the United States, and Canada.

This month, we welcome two new University members:

**Mongolian University of
Science and Technology,
Mongolia**



&

**University Jean
Lorougnon Guede,
Côte d'Ivoire**



Meet ICUDDR Staff Member:

Mr. Sungjoo Park

Sungjoo Park is a Project Officer for ICUDDR-GCCC. He interned for ICUDDR this past summer, and recently joined full-time in August 2024. He has a master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Global Health from George Mason University. He also has a dual Bachelor of Science in Public Health and Human Development from Virginia Tech.



Prior to his current role, he has had clinical experience in a pediatric primary care setting as a Medical Assistant. Sungjoo currently lives in Northern Virginia about 20 minutes from Washington, D.C. in the United States.

The Cultural Adaptation of Evidence-Based Drug Use Prevention Programs: Is It Necessary?

By Favio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.



The use and misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs among preadolescents and adolescents is of universal concern. In the prevention field, there is consensus about the severity of the problem and about the paucity of evidence-based programs to address it (Liu, Guo & Wang, 2023). Designing and evaluating the efficacy of prevention interventions requires methodological capacity and other resources that often are not accessible to preventionists in many parts of the world. Evidence-based drug use prevention programs overwhelmingly tend to originate in the USA, selected European countries, and other highly developed nations and regions of the world and the proven interventions rarely reach middle and low-income countries (Rabadán-Diehl, 2024). Access to evidence-based interventions (EBIs) that are culturally congruent is not only uncommon in low-and-middle income countries but if it happens, it is not equitably distributed (Momanyi, 2023).

To increase access to EBIs, a limited number of programs are being implemented in low- and middle-income countries. Although commendable for their effects in increasing access, they generate ethical and methodological questions. For example, does the urgency of the matter justify the transfer of an EBI into a new sociocultural context without adapting it first? A possible answer is that, in a globalized world, cultural differences are not so conspicuous as they were in decades past. Others may say that implementing an unadapted intervention is better than not implementing an intervention at

all. The lack of equity in accessing prevention science can lead some countries to import efficacious prevention interventions without considering their cultural appropriateness. This type of rushed implementation could compromise the same effectiveness that they are seeking to achieve.

Cultural adaptation is an emerging science defined as the “systematic modification of an evidence-based treatment or intervention protocol to consider language, culture, and context in such a way that is compatible with the participants’ cultural patterns, meanings, and values” (Bernal et al. 2009, p. 362). Although there is a need for more efficacy and effectiveness investigations on culturally adapted EBIs (Castro, Barrera & Holleran, 2010), there is sufficient evidence supporting it, especially about its effects on increasing the acceptability and feasibility of EBIs (Li et al., 2024).

Conducting a cultural adaptation is costly and time-consuming; it can significantly delay implementation, and in some cases, it can make the implementation unfeasible. Not doing it can have negative consequences for the end-users (often children and youth). For example, low levels of identification with the program (i.e., it is not about me or for me, it is for other children). Such a lack of identification can make the program ineffective, or worse it can produce iatrogenic (adverse) effects (Marsiglia & Booth, 2015). Thus, a rushed technological transfer is methodologically and ethically questionable.

We propose that the transfer of EBIs follow certain basic protocols. **First**, assess the cultural appropriateness of the prevention program in the new sociocultural context. **Second**, if cultural adaptation is needed, conduct the adaptation with local implementors and participants as they are the experts in their own culture. **Third**, test its efficacy through a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT), comparing the adapted version of the program and to a control condition. Fourth, assess the value added of the culturally adapted version and the feasibility of taking the modified version of the program to scale.

The optimal implementation of the described steps necessitates research infrastructure, methodological know-how, and financial

resources. In-country academic partners and their international collaborators can provide the needed scientific back-up. Local governments, international organizations, foundations and research award granting organizations can provide the funding. Initially, the process might feel overwhelming but taking small steps and having a clear sense of direction and a long-term goal will help.

Our team’s experience in conducting a comprehensive cultural adaptation of keeping it REAL in partnership with schools and investigators

in the three largest cities in Mexico offers an example of such process (e.g., Marsiglia et al, 2019; Kulis et al, 2021). In other countries, we have conducted smaller cultural adaptation studies, gathering the necessary evidence to inform larger studies (e.g. Cutrin et al, 2023; Marsiglia et al, 2018). These examples provide support to the popular Spanish language saying: “si se puede” (yes, it is possible).

Acknowledging the need to assess cultural appropriateness is an important first step. The participants and the implementers in the field are the best source of knowledge about what feels comfortable, natural and useful. Cultural adaptation is all about listening. Participants at times may not communicate perceived cultural mismatches verbally, but dropping out from a program or exhibiting a passive attitude can be louder than words. Let’s listen.



By Favio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.
Arizona State University
Regents Professor &
Director, Global Center for
Applied Health Research

Dr. Flavio F. Marsiglia is director of the Global Center for Applied Health Research (GCAHR) at the ASU School of Social Work. GCAHR conducts substance use prevention research in partnership with universities and communities in Australia, China, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Spain, and Uruguay. He is also the Principal Investigator of the U54 Specialized Center health disparities research at the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC).

[Bio](#)

Bernal, G., Jiménez-Chafey, M. I., & Domenech Rodríguez, M. M. (2009). [Cultural adaptation of treatments: A resource for considering culture in evidence-based practice](#). *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 40(4), 361–368.

Castro, F. G., Barrera Jr, M., & Holleran Steiker, L. K. (2010). [Issues and challenges in the design of culturally adapted evidence-based interventions](#). *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 6(1), 213-239.

Cutrin, O., MacFadden, I., Marsiglia, F. F., & Kulis, S. S. (2023). [Social validity in Spain of the Mantente REAL prevention program for early adolescents](#). *Journal of Prevention*, 44(2), 143-164.

Kulis, S. S., Marsiglia, F. F., Medina-Mora, M. E., Nuño-Gutiérrez, B. L., Corona, M. D., & Ayers, S. L. (2021). [Keepin’ it REAL – Mantente REAL in Mexico: A cluster randomized controlled trial of a culturally adapted substance use prevention curriculum for early adolescents](#). *Prevention Science*, 22 (5), 645-657.

Liu, X. Q., Guo, Y. X., & Wang, X. (2023). [Delivering substance use prevention interventions for adolescents in educational settings: A scoping review](#). *World Journal of Psychiatry*, 13(7), 409

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Marsiglia, F. F., Medina-Mora, M. E., González, A., Alderson, G., Harthun, M., Ayers, S., Nuño Gutiérrez, B., Corona, M. D., Mendoza Melendez, M. A., & Kulis, S. (2019). [Binational cultural adaptation of the keepin’ it REAL substance use prevention program for adolescents in Mexico](#). *Prevention Science*, 20, 1125-1135.

Marsiglia, F. F., Kiehne, E., Ayers, E., Libisch Recalde, C., & Barros Sulca, L. (2018). [Adolescent substance use prevention and legalization of Marijuana in Uruguay: A feasibility trial of the keepin’ it REAL prevention program](#). *Journal of Substance Use*, 23(5), 457-465.

Marsiglia, F. F. & Booth, J. (2015). [Cultural adaptation of interventions in real practice settings](#). *Research on Social Work Practice*, 25, 423-432.

Momanyi, A. (2023). [Effectiveness of School-Based Health Education Programs in Preventing Substance Abuse among Adolescents](#). *International Journal of Public Health Studies*, 1(1), 45-57

Rabadán-Diehl, C. (2024). [Public health approaches to address substance use: An urgent need for multisectoral engagement](#). In *Principles and Application of Evidence-based Public Health Practice* (pp. 165-185). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Academic Press.

Upcoming Trainings & Events

Live 2-Part Webinar

Examining Mechanisms and Conditional Processes: An Introduction to Moderation and Mediation

In line with ICUDDR's goal of capacity building in research, a two-part webinar on the fundamentals of mediation, moderation, and conditional processes will be held on September 9 and 16, from 8:00 to 9:30 AM US Eastern Time.



Dr. Nephtaly Joel Botor

Assistant Professor, Department of Human and Family Development Studies,
College of Human Ecology,
University of the Philippines Los Baños

Dr. Nephtaly Botor from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños will discuss the purposes, processes, and interpretations of moderation and mediation to maximize its use for Social Sciences research. The generation of theoretical models in consideration of mechanisms brought about by individual differences and contexts through conditional processes will also be presented. We hope to see you there.

Part 1: Monday, September 2, 2024 at 8:00 am US Eastern Time

Part 2: Monday, September 16, 2024 at 8:00 am US Eastern Time

Check your time zone [here](#).

[Register Here to Attend](#)



Upcoming Trainings & Events Cont...

Live Webinar

Community Mobilisation, Co-Development, and Program Evaluation: Experiences from STAD's Community-Based Interventions

Join ICUDDR, in collaboration with ISSUP, for the free live webinar, Community Mobilisation, Co-Development, and Program Evaluation: Experiences from STAD's (Stockholm Prevents Alcohol and Drug Problems) Community-Based Interventions, on Wednesday, September 25th @ 8 am EST.

Check your time zone [here](#).



Community Mobilisation, Co-Development, and Program Evaluation: Experiences from STAD's Community-Based Interventions



Johanna Gripenberg
Associate Professor
Director at STAD, Centre for Psychiatry Research, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet & Region Stockholm, Sweden.



Tobias Elgán
Associate Professor
Researcher at STAD, Centre for Psychiatry Research, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet & Region Stockholm, Sweden.



Wednesday, 25th September 2024



2 PM CET | 1 PM UK



<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/545879377256620893>

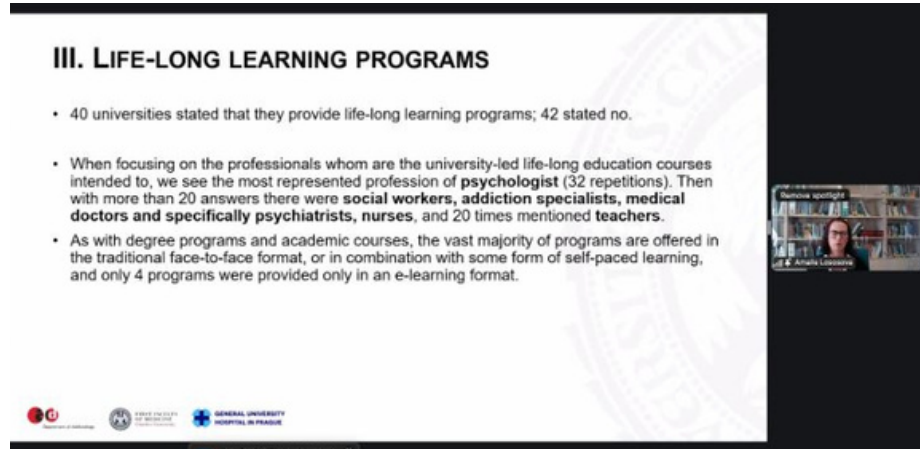
[Register Here](#)



August Review: Education & Trainings

Insights to Global Addiction Education

On August 21st, we heard from Dr. Amalie Lososová, faculty member and researcher at the Department of Addictology, First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. She reviewed the results from the 2023 ICUDDR Survey, which looked at existing addiction studies programs around the world. At the end of the webinar, there was a great discussion about next steps in the field of global addiction education.



III. LIFE-LONG LEARNING PROGRAMS

- 40 universities stated that they provide life-long learning programs; 42 stated no.
- When focusing on the professionals whom are the university-led life-long education courses intended to, we see the most represented profession of **psychologist** (32 repetitions). Then with more than 20 answers there were **social workers, addiction specialists, medical doctors and specifically psychiatrists, nurses, and 20 times mentioned teachers.**
- As with degree programs and academic courses, the vast majority of programs are offered in the traditional face-to-face format, or in combination with some form of self-paced learning, and only 4 programs were provided only in an e-learning format.

Logos at the bottom: ICUDDR, First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, General University Hospital in Prague.

If you were unable to attend, you can view the [recording here](#)

Introduction to R-Studio and Hypotheses Testing

We recently concluded an R workshop series on the statistical software R! This was ICUDDR's first series diving deeper into statistical methods, and it was very insightful. Thank you to Dr. Janaka Kosgolla for all of the time and work spent on this series!

One member wrote,

“

“The R workshop we had was incredibly helpful, as I had limited hands-on experience with R for data analysis. As a PhD candidate ... the workshop has equipped me with the confidence to handle my data analysis more independently, with minimal supervision from my supervisor.”

”

Recordings available:

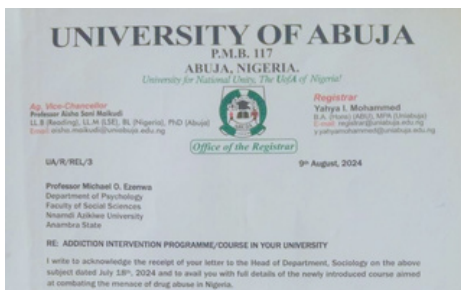
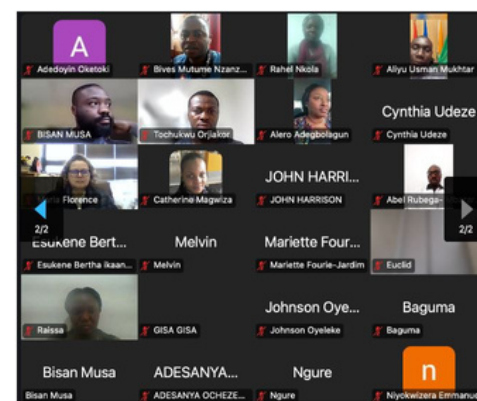
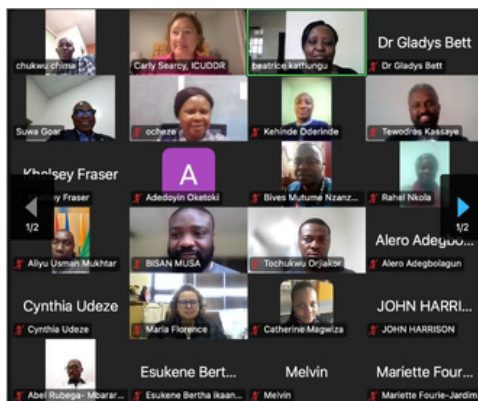
- Session 1: Introduction to R-Studio
- Session 2: Data Manipulation and Cleaning
- Session 3: Exploratory Data Analysis
- Session 4: Statistical Analysis
- Session 5: Practical Applications
- Session 6: Building Simple Predictive Models

If you were unable to attend, you can view the [recordings here](#)

Regional Activities

Africa

The Africa Regional Coordinating Center, led by Dr. Beatrice Kathungu and Dr. Martin Agwogie, are hosting a Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) overview for selected faculty members in Africa. This series is presented by Dr. Kathungu, Dr. Suwa Goar, and Dr. Morekwe Selemogwe, and is designed to prepare faculty to use the UTC in a university setting.



University of Abuja, Nigeria has introduced an addiction study course to be taught to sociology students at the university. This is a wonderful step of progress for substance use prevention education in the federal capital territory. Congratulations to the University of Abuja for this important effort to promote the ideals of substance use reduction, intervention, and rehabilitation through capacity building.

The following article is authored by many of ICUDDRs key partners in Africa including ICUDDR Board Member, Dr. Rehana Kader, South Africa ITTC Director, Dr. Goodman Sibeko, and Dr. Nadine Harker.

[Survive or suffer: sustainability of addiction care curriculum/training in South African Universities](#)

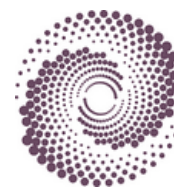
Authors: Nadine Harker, Lize Weich, Goodman Sibeko, Fergus Ashburner, Shaheema Allie, and Rehana Kader

This article discusses the successes, challenges, and possible next steps regarding the implementation of a post-graduate diploma in addictions (PGDIP) and the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch. Though the program has been successful, financial constraints have led to sustainability issues. The authors urge the universities and government to prioritize and fund evidence-based training for the addiction workforce.

Asia Pacific



On Aug 3, 2024, the Asia Pacific ICUDDR held a meeting with researchers from Rishso University, Japan, Sahmyook University, South Korea, Myanmar and Mahidol University, Thailand. We are developing the research and submit for grant support by National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) and Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS).



Colombia Adolescent Panel

ITTC Colombia recently participated in a [virtual symposium](#) organized by CES University and the Mayor's Office of Medellín. The event, aimed at parents, caregivers, and teachers, focused on important issues such as adolescent development, parenting, relationship conflicts, conversations about sexuality, and bullying.

Ovidio Muñoz, Director of ITTC Colombia, along with Dr. Marie Claire Berruete, highlighted the growing concern over psychoactive substances in the country and discussed strategies for identifying and addressing these issues in adolescents.

To read more about ITTC Colombia's activities with their newsletter, [Click Here](#)



Connect with the ITTC's Network Coordinating Office

The International Technology Transfer Center (ITTC) Network for Drug Demand Reduction develops and strengthens the workforce, organizations, and systems that provide substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

Based in universities and research centers, ITTCs utilize a variety of strategies to accelerate the use of scientifically-based and culturally appropriate practices.

The ITTC Network Coordinating Office based at the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC) works in partnership with the International Consortium of Universities on Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR) to unite the Centers into a mutually supportive network. Some benefits of being an ITTC are the connections to a strong network of drug demand reduction experts and the opportunity to collaborate closely with professionals around the world. The ITTC Network provides ongoing development opportunities for its members through various modalities.

www.ittcnetwork.org



Thailand's Work in Post-Release Populations

ITTC Thailand joined the Addiction Family Medicine and Correctional Health Academic (ACHAN) Network on July 4th and 5th in a workshop on handbook development for continuity of care after incarceration. Transitioning from prison to community life can be challenging, making this work crucial for supporting individuals recently released from prison. The workshop focused on bridging gaps in care between prison and primary care services, while addressing post-release needs and support systems.

Congratulations to ITTC Thailand on the success of this significant workshop!



ICAP Exam Update

The next in-person ICAP exams in Treatment, Prevention, & Recovery Support are scheduled in the following locations:

October

- October 2: Johannesburg, South Africa

November

- November 5: Abu Dhabi, UAE
- November 20: Accra, Ghana
- November 22: Nairobi, Kenya

December

- December 13: Cairo, Egypt

**These exams are sponsored/closed registration.*

GCCC also has online remote proctored exams that have open registration. Participants who apply for/are approved can schedule these exams to fit their own schedule.

To apply,
[click here.](#)

GCCC Commissioners' Response to Survey - Next Steps with Commissioners



Thank you to all the Commissioners for successfully completing the GCCC Commission Meeting Survey! We have received a lot of positive and helpful feedback. Over the next few weeks, the GCCC team will be analyzing the responses to plan the next steps of "renewing" the Commission. We are excited for the journey ahead, and very grateful for the Commissioners' continued commitment.

Renew Online!

The ICAP-renewal application is now available on the GCCC portal, providing a streamlined process for professionals to renew their International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) credentials. To renew, users need to log in to the portal, select their existing credential, and update their contact information. The application requires evidence of career progression and continuing education or training undertaken in the past three years. This renewal process ensures that professionals maintain their certification and stay current with industry standards.

For more details,
[visit the GCCC portal.](#)

Things to Share

Funding Opportunity: National Institutes of Health - Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health

This funding opportunity is looking to support programs that will identify, develop, and/or test strategies related to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions. This grant is up to \$50,000 per year for a maximum of 2 years. Non-US institutions are eligible to apply. The application for the next cycle is **due October 16th, 2024 at 5:00 PM** US Eastern Time.

For a full description and criteria for the grant, please review the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

Call for Applications to Attend: Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research 2025

The Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health is hosting the Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research in Nairobi, Kenya, this upcoming May 2025. This year's theme is Health Research at the Nexus of Humanitarian Crises and Climate Change. Any case studies that discuss health research in the context of an ongoing humanitarian crisis and the impact of climate change are welcome to apply for funding to attend. **Please apply by October 7th, 2024.**

For more information, criteria, and a list of sub-themes, [please review the full Call for Applications](#). In addition, [interested applicants can attend a public webinar series](#), beginning August 28th at 9:00AM ET.

Program Proposal Submissions: CPDD Annual Meeting Submissions Now Open

Join CPDD (College on Problems of Drug Dependence) in New Orleans! The Program Committee welcomes proposals for symposia (full & mini), forums, and workshops for the 87th Annual Scientific Meeting taking place June 14-18, 2025, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Symposia presentations are in-person only, and no digital presenter options will be offered. (e.g., pre-recorded talks or live streams).

[Click here to see the deadlines and submission guidelines.](#)

Deadline for proposals: **Friday, October 18, 2024**

Link to Submit: <https://cpdd.societyconference.com/v2/>



Resources added to ICUDDR Website

DID YOU KNOW?

ICUDDR has 350+ resources in its collection of journal articles, curricula, brochures, tools, webinars and more. The list can be filtered by resource type and/or topic.

[Visit our resource webpage](#)

New Journal Articles

Psychological well-being of Ukrainian students three months after the emerge of full-scale war

Irina Pinchuk, Andrii Solonskyi, Yuliaya Yachnik, Oksana Kopchak, Katarzyna Klasa, Jerzy A. Sobański, Tetiana Odintsova

This study demonstrated the high prevalence of mental health symptoms among university students in Ukraine during the first months of the full-scale war. The psychological well-being pre-war was the strongest predictor of depressive symptoms in the model.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Survive or suffer: sustainability of addiction care curriculum/training in South African Universities

Nadine Harker, Lize Weich, Goodman Sibeko, Fergus Ashburner, Shaheema Allie & Rehana Kader

This article discusses the successes, challenges, and possible next steps regarding the implementation of a post-graduate diploma in addictions (PGDIP) and the Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch. Though the program has been successful, financial constraints have led to sustainability issues. The authors urge the universities and government to prioritize and fund evidence-based training for the addiction workforce.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Do you want to join the ICUDDR Consultant Registry?

If you have expertise to share and are interested in consulting opportunities with ICUDDR, please complete our short form at:

<https://forms.gle/PqKXK1jnE2heXikKA>

Call for Teaching Manual Resources

Do you have course materials including syllabi, assignments, and worksheets that you'd be willing to share? Submit your materials for review and potential compilation into a resource manual for members by course.

Send them to info@icuddr.org

Did you publish a journal article?

**Did you publish a journal article in the field of
Prevention, Treatment, or Recovery?**

If you published an article in an addiction medicine or substance use disorder journal, please share it with us by emailing it to Info@icuddr.org.

We will help promote your work.

Connect with ICUDDR



info@icuddr.org



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