December 2024



The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

NEWSLETTER





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

Dear Members of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug **Demand Reduction.**

As we reflect on the year past, we are filled with gratitude for the dedication and tireless efforts each of you (both staff and members) have contributed to the mission of reducing drug demand worldwide. We have made meaningful strides in education, research, and support, community fostering healthier and more informed global a brighter future for drug demand society.

During this holiday season, we extend our warmest wishes for peace, joy, and rejuvenation. May this time offer you a well-deserved respite and renewed energy for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Looking forward to 2025, we remain optimistic about the power collaboration and innovation further our shared mission. Let us enter the new year with hope, determination, and the unwavering belief that our collective work will continue to create lasting, positive change in the lives of individuals and communities around the world.

Together, we will continue to shape reduction. We look forward to the incredible accomplishments we will achieve in the year ahead.

inspire Warm regards,

Kevin Mulvey

What you'll find:

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Save-the-Date for the upcoming Africa Regional Conference

Upcoming Webinar on January 27th, 2025

December's edition of In **Focus: Addiction Research**

December Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

ITTC Update

GCCC Updates

Regional Activities

Giving Tuesday -Thank you!

New Resources added to the ICUDDR Website

2024 Global Conference: Session Highlights

Connect with ICUDDR

Regional Conference: Save the Date

There will be 3 regional conferences in 2025. The first will be the Africa Regional Conference held at the University of Cairo in Egypt.

Please save the date and watch for future communication regarding registration and abstract submissions!

ICUDDR Africa Regional Conference, 17th Kasr Al Ainy Psychiatry Congress & 14th Kasr Al Ainy Child Psychiatry Congress







The Role of Universities in Shaping the Future:
Advancing Substance Use Education,
Research, and Policy in Africa

April 23-25, 2025

Kasr Al-Ainy Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University











Upcoming Trainings & Events

Free Live Webinar

The Essentials of Scoping and Systematic Reviews



Presented by
Dr. Nepthaly Joel Botor
Assistant Professor, Department of Human and Family Development Studies
College of Human Ecology, University of the

ICUDDR invites you to a scheduled webinar on **The Essentials of Scoping and Systematic Reviews**. The webinar will be held on *January 27, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 8:15 AM US Eastern Time*. In this webinar, Dr. Nepthaly Joel Botor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños will discuss two established approaches to evidence synthesis: scoping and systematic reviews. Learn about its processes from conceptualization to publication.

Monday, January 27th, 2025

7:00-8:15 am US Eastern Time (12:00 pm UTC)

Register Here to Attend



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In Focus: Addiction Research

ICUDDR's Scientific Column

Doctorate in Addiction Psychiatry in India: Building Expertise to Address a Growing Need

Dr. Shalini Singh & Dr. Yatan Pal Singh Balhara



Fritz, Tadar Fra Jungi Daimate, Fritz, Astimani misma Lett fo Right (Upper Row): Dr Shaini Singh, Dr. Piyali Mandal, Dr. Rizwana Quralshi, Dr. Roshan Bhad, Prof. Prabhu Dayal, Dr. Siddharth Sarkar Dr. Alok Agrawal, Prof. Gaurishanker Kaloiya, Dr. Biswadip Chatterjee, (Dated 23.07.2024 at NDDTC, Ghaziabad)

A Growing Demand and Program Overview

With substance use and substance use disorders emerging as a major public health problem in India(1), there's an urgent need for specialized addiction psychiatry training. The DM (Doctor of Medicine) Addiction Psychiatry program, recognized by India's National Medical Council, is helping to address this need by equipping psychiatrists with the skills to treat and manage substance use disorders. Offered at three premier institutions— (1) the National Drug Dependence Treatment Center (NDDTC) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi, (2) the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bangaluru, and (3) the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh. [HN3]. This program provides in-depth clinical theoretical training to develop expertise in addiction psychiatry.

Key Training Components

The DM Addiction Psychiatry program combines rigorous clinical rotations with comprehensive

theoretical education, giving trainees extensive exposure to diverse addiction cases and settings.

Specialized clinics, including child and adolescent, tobacco cessation, women's clinic, and behavioral addiction clinics, provide targeted treatment experiences. In community clinics, trainees work directly with underserved populations, gaining insights into socio-economic influences on addiction and learning to navigate barriers like low health literacy and language differences.

1. Advanced Clinical Exposure: Clinical rotations are the cornerstone of the program, where trainees spend substantial time in addiction psychiatry units managing patients with severe substance use disorders. Working in a multidisciplinary team with psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and nurses, they handle cases involving comorbid psychiatric conditions and complex socio-cultural factors. Trainees work across outpatient and inpatient services, handling high patient loads typical in India's public hospitals, which enhances their practical skills.

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- **2. Comprehensive Theoretical Knowledge:** The curriculum covers the neurobiology and psychology of addiction, evidence-based pharmacological and psychosocial treatments, and the legal and ethical aspects of substance use. Learning occurs through structured rounds, case presentations, and written assessments that emphasize knowledge application. Weekly journal clubs and academic seminars further enrich the trainees' understanding, encouraging them to stay current with the latest research and clinical practices.
- **3. Training in Specialized Interventions:** Exposure to specialized treatments is a core feature. Trainees learn pharmacotherapies such as opioid agonist treatment, as well as behavioral interventions that address addiction's psychological facets. Programs at PGIMER and NIMHANS integrate with local self-help groups like Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, while the NDDTC program includes community posting. These experiences offer valuable perspectives on both medical and psychosocial approaches to recovery.
- **4. Dissertation and Research:** All three DM programs require a research thesis to be submitted by the end of the program.
- **5. Public Health, Policy and Advocacy:** DM residents are also trained to understand the public health implications of substance use disorders, including the formulation and implementation of policies at local and national levels. Residents are expected to take leadership roles in advocating for better addiction treatment infrastructure and services in India after they complete the course.

Challenges in Program Implementation

While the DM addiction psychiatry program are a significant progress in developing training opportunities for addiction psychiatry in India, several challenges remain:

Continued on the next page...

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In Focus: Addiction Research

ICUDDR's Scientific Column

Doctorate in Addiction Psychiatry in India: Building Expertise to Address a Growing Need continued...

- Limited Training Institutions: Currently, only a few institutions in India offer the DM program, resulting in limited availability of addiction specialists. With only 4-7 residents graduating each year, the field struggles to meet the rising demand for skilled professionals. Expanding the program to more institutions could alleviate this shortage.
- Lack of standardization: Differences in training experiences between institutions impact program consistency. For instance, some institutions provide extensive extramural rotations and community-based care, while others have limited exposure to such settings. Standardizing training modules and ensuring uniform clinical exposure across all programs could improve overall quality..
- Need for global collaboration: The global substance use patterns are dynamic, and many unique treatment styles have evolved in institutions around the world (2). Addiction trends and treatment methodologies vary globally, and there is a strong case for partnerships between Indian and international institutions. Collaborative exchange programs would allow trainees to learn about diverse treatment approaches. Currently, there is an opt-in exchange program between NIMHANS and NDDTC which increases exposure.
- **Stigma and Low Priority:** Despite the high demand for treatment. substance use disorders still face

- stigma in clinical and academic settings. This can limit interest in addiction psychiatry as a specialty, though this may change as demand and awareness grow (3).
- **Need for Primary Care Training:** Given the high prevalence of substance use in rural India, primary care based training in addiction psychiatry needs to be made compulsory. The trainees needs to learn how to integrate addiction services into primary care (resource limited) settings. They must also be given more teaching opportunities so that they can design locally relevant and culturally adaptable training programs for healthcare workers at the grassroots level.
- Enhanced Research **Opportunities:** Although addiction research is gaining momentum, there is still a significant gap in India-specific studies. Allowing trainees dedicated research time and encouraging projects on topics like substance use epidemiology dedicated research time and encouraging projects on topics like substance use epidemiology and culturally tailored interventions could foster evidence-based approaches in addiction psychiatry.

Conclusion and Future Direction

Training in addiction psychiatry in India has made significant strides in recent years with introduction of DM Addiction Psychiatry training program. challenges However. remain expanding the availability specialized training, improving the consistency of clinical exposure, and

addressing the stigma surrounding addiction. By strengthening this training pathway, India can build a workforce of addiction psychiatrists and trained medical professionals equipped to meet the growing burden of substance use disorders and lead the way in delivering evidence-based care to individuals struggling with addiction.

Efforts to improve training should be complemented by ongoing policy advocacy, public health initiatives, and a commitment to expanding addiction services across the country, particularly in underserved areas. multifaceted approach ensure that addiction psychiatry training in India not only meets current demands but also paves the way for future developments in the prevention treatment and substance use disorders.

Through these efforts, the DM Addiction Psychiatry program can evolve into a globally relevant model, producing experts equipped to advance addiction treatment and care in India and beyond.



Dr. Shalini Singh Associate Professor of Psychiatry, national Drug Dependence Treatment Center, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi



Dr. Yatan Pal Singh Balhara Professor of Psychiatry, National Drug Dependence Treatment Center, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Director, International **Technology Transfer Cetner** (ITTC), India

^{1.} Balhara YPS, Sarkar S, Ghosh A, Mahadevan J. Perspectives on addiction-related problems in India. Addiction. 2024 Nov 6. doi: 10.1111/add.16711. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39505321

^{1.} Labilitary 17. Sarkari 3, Gilosin A, Mariadevari J, Perspectives on addiction-related problems in india. Addiction. 2024 Nov 6. doi: 10.1117/adu.16711. Epub affead of printip PMID: 35905321.

2. Lossowá, A., Searcy, C. M., Volf, O., Volfová, A., Mulvey, K. P., & Miovský, M. (2024). Global addiction university education: a survey of members of International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR). Journal of Substance Use, 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1080/14659891.2024.2378748

3. Tripathi R, Singh S, Bhad R. The need, scope, challenges, and potential solutions for enhancing addiction psychiatry training in India. Indian J Psychiatry. 2020 Nov-Dec;62(6):728-731. doi: 10.4103/psychiatry.lndianJPsychiatry.355_19. Epub 2020 Dec 12. PMID: 33896982; PMCID:

December Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

Recording now available

Building a Competent Addiction Workforce: The Significance of International Certified Addiction Professionals (ICAP) Certification

On November 27th, Dr. Carmel Clancy presented on the fantastic work being done by ICUDDR's Center for Credentialing and Accreditation (formerly GCCC). Dr. Clancy has been

the Director of this center since June of this year. n this webinar, Dr. Clancy introduced the GCCC team, explained the ICAP examination process, and led a robust Q&A discussion. If you missed it, you can find the recording below.

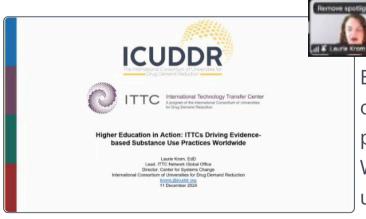


Watch the recording here



Recording now available

Higher Education in Action: ITTCs Driving Evidence-Based Substance Use Practices Worldwide



Earlier this month, Dr. Laurie Krom, Director of ICUDDR's Center for Systems Change, presented on the work of the ITTC Network. We learned about the "Third Mission" of universities, why it's important, and how ITTCs can align with that goal. If you missed it, you can find the recording below.

Watch the recording here



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ITTC Update

Argentina and Spain ITTCs

Last month we reported about members of the Spain ITTC visiting the Argentina ITTC. This month the ITTCs have submitted a report of all of their activities, including visits to specialty treatment centers, working meetings, and conference presentations. We look forward to continued collaboration between these ITTCs!

While in Argentina, Dr. Juan Carlos Valderrama, Co-director, Spain ITTC, received exciting news. He has been <u>appointed to serve as the Minister of Emergencies and the Interior</u> for the Valencian Generalitat in the wake of the devastating floods experienced in that part of Spain earlier this autumn. We wish Dr. Valderrama well in his new role and we are confident that he will serve his community admirably. Dr. Antonio Vidal will continue to serve as the Spain ITTC director.

Peru ITTC

The Peru ITTC recently launched three brief videos highlighting the importance and success of their course on systematic literature reviews for policy development. In the first video, ITTC co-director Dr. Marina Piazza explains how the course helps policy makers identify evidence-based interventions. In the second and third videos, international students share their experiences taking the course. All three videos are offered in Spanish on the Peru ITTC Facebook page.

On December 5, 2024, the Peru ITTC hosted a webinar about fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in Latin America. Presenters

included Dr. Yuri Cutipé
Cárdenas from the Office of
Research Support and
Specialized Teaching, National
Institute of Mental Health of
Peru, and Brian Morales, Chief
of the Counternarcotics Branch,
Bureau of International
Narcotics and Law Enforcement
Affairs, U.S. Department of
State.





Connect with the ITTC Global 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 International Consortium of
Universities on Drug Demand
Reduction (ICUDDR), works in
partnership with each Center to
unite and produce 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







ITTC Update

Thailand ITTC

On November 28, 2024, Pol. Col. Thavee Sodsong, Minister of Justice, and Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board leaders met with members of the Thailand ITTC from Chiang Mai University and representatives from Thanyarak Chiang Mai Hospital to outline a new MOU for academic collaboration. Key focus areas include drug monitoring, prevention, treatment, capacity building, and research innovation. The

Meeting with

Minister of Justice
on academic collaboration
ONCB – CMU –
Thailand ITTC





initiative aims to strengthen national efforts in drug prevention, suppression, and rehabilitation by fostering partnerships with academic institutions, civil society, and community organizations.

Annual supervision – summarizing 2024





















Ukraine ITTC

Four new residential facilities for people with co-occurring trauma and substance use disorders were opened in Ukraine. All four are run by the peer mentors that the Ukraine ITTC trained in Prague in 2023 and Ukraine in 2024. These mentors receive monthly supervision from Ukraine ITTC subject matter experts who are faculty at the University of California San Diego.

Good Luck

Kudos to the members of the ITTC Network who applied to a funding opportunity from the Brandeis-Harvard SPIRE Center on SUD Systems Performance Improvement Research and Engagement for mentored pilot papers. Decisions will be made by the end of February. If awarded, individuals will receive mentoring from a senior researcher who will provide guidance on completing a paper and submitting it to a journal for scholarly publication.

Best of luck to all that applied!

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GCCC Update

Credentialing Updates

Congratulations to the 12 professionals from Ghana who participated in the ICAP exams on November 20, 2024 and the 36 professionals from Kenya who participated in the ICAP Exam on November 22, 2024 and achieved outstanding results!

A special congratulations to the candidates from Ghana: 5 candidates who earned the ICAP I Credential, I candidate ICAP II, 2 candidates who earned ICAP III, 1 candidate who earned ICAP IV and 2 candidates that earned ICAP-Prevention, for the ICAP III exams, one candidate achieved passing results. For the candidates from Kenya: 12 candidates successfully passed the ICAP I exam, 4 candidates for ICAP II, 1 Candidates for ICAP IV and 12 candidates for ICAP Prevention. This milestone reflects your dedication and commitment to professional growth in the field of addiction treatment and prevention.

This examination was conducted in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Commission in Accra, Ghana and NACADA in Nairobi, Kenya sponsored by Colombo Plan-DAP, and represents an important step toward advancing the professionalism of the addiction workforce in the region. We applaud your hard work and look forward to your continued success!

ICAP Examinations in December 2024

On December 11, 2024 in Doha, Qatar and on December 12 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, GCCC successfully administered the International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) Treatment and Recovery Support examinations.

In Doha, 31 candidates – 29 in Treatment and 2 in Recovery Support – sat for the exams at NAUFAR. In Abu Dhabi, 25 candidates – 25 in Treatment participated in the exams at the National Rehabilitation Center.

NAUFAR and the National Rehabilitation Center generously sponsored the examination fees for their respective countries.

These examinations represent a key milestone in the ongoing efforts to professionalize the drug demand reduction workforce. By earning globally recognized certifications, practitioners are further equipped to address the challenges of addiction treatment and prevention in their communities.



ICAP Exam Updates

ICAP Exams
-Upcoming Schedule-

The next **In-Person ICAP** Exams in Treatment are scheduled on January 17, 2025 in Manila, Philippines.

The application deadline for treatment professionals in Pakistan to submit their applications for the in-person ICAP Treatment Examinations has been extended until Tuesday, December 31, 2024. These examinations are scheduled to take place in April 2025. Candidates may submit their applications through the provided links and select their preferred examination venue.



Online Remote Proctored Exams

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.



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GCCC Update



Credentialing Updates Continued...

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.



Thank You for the Overwhelming Response on the ICAP Awareness Survey!



Using the results of the survey, we will be creating a baseline understanding of ICAP's presence and impact in the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field. The insights we gained will be instrumental in enhancing the quality of our services, improving our marketing efforts, and ensuring the continued value of the ICAP credential. We look forward to sharing our findings next month!

Thank you once again for your participation!

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Regional Activities

Asia Pacific

ICUDDR university members from Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand are working together to conduct a study on alcohol use among Asian university students. The target commencement for data gathering is in March 2025. Those who are interested in participating can contact Verna Felipe at *felipev@icuddr.org*.

ICUUDR Executive Director, Dr. Kevin Mulvey, and the Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator, Dr. Prapapun Chuchareon visited the Office of Educational Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy. Washington DC. Dr. Pajita Diskul Na Ayudhya, Minister of Education welcomed them and discussed possible collaboration for Thai students to study in Addiction Programs through internship, research scholarships, and non-degree training programs.

Giving Tuesday - Thank you!





ICUDDR

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Thank You for Your Generosity this Giving Tuesday!

On behalf of the ICUDDR team, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported us this #GivingTuesday. Your generous donations are empowering us to continue our mission of helping train addiction professionals worldwide, ensuring equitable access to science-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Together, we're helping to create opportunities for universities in low- and middle-income countries to conduct groundbreaking research on addiction and helping to ensure that science doesn't stay in journals and that its applied to real-world substance use systems to save lives. Your support makes a difference in the lives of countless individuals.

Did you miss your chance to give or want to donate again? It's never too late to make an impact!

Donate here



All US Federal Employees or Retirees, can give through the CFC. Go to www.GiveCFC.org and use ICUDDR's charity code 16832



Thank you for believing in our mission and for being a part of the ICUDDR community.

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Resources added to ICUDDR Website

ICUDDR has 350+ resources in its collection of resources including:

journal articles, curricula, brochures, tools, webinars and more.



Visit our resources here

New Resource

Workforce outcomes among substance use peer supports and their contextual determinants: A scoping review protocol

Authors: Justin S. Bell, Tina Griffin, Sierra Castedo de Martell, Emma Sophia Kay, Mary Hawk, Michelle Hudson, Bradley Ray, and Dennis P. Watson

This article outlines a scoping review protocol regarding workforce outcomes for peer recovery support staff. Specifically, the proposed review aims to look at what is known about these outcomes, how the outcomes may be impacted by the structure of work, and how they may differ by service setting.

View the Resource Here



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The Art of Healing A new era in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support

2024 Global Conference: Session Highlights

University ICUDDR Needs Assessment Survey

The "University ICUDDR Needs Assessment Survey" session featured three key presentations: Dr. Rehana Kader discussed Africa's curriculum development for addiction science, Dr. Samuel Dakwak addressed the challenges of implementing addiction courses in Nigerian universities, and Dr. Rania Mamdouh explored the educational needs for developing a universal addiction curriculum in Egypt.

Presented by: Dr. Rehana Kader, Dr. Samuel Dakwak, & Dr. Rania Mamdouh



Click here to watch the recording

Global Developments in Addiction Studies

The "Global Developments in Addiction Studies" session featured Mrs. Amalie Lososová on insights from the ICUDDR 2023 survey, Dr. Maria Fernandez on Uruguay's Drug Reduction University Diploma, Ms. Elizabeth Nováková on quality assurance in addiction education, and Dr. Anna Tsiboukli on lessons and future prospects for drug addiction programs in Greece.

Presented by: Mrs. Amalie Lososová, Dr. Maria Fernandez, Ms. Elizabeth Nováková, & Dr. Anna Tsiboukli



Click here to watch the recording 2



Special Focus: Adolescents & Emerging Adults

The "Special Focus: Adolescents & Emerging Adults" session included Dr. Carmen Orte's youth prevention training, Prof. Salman Shazad's "Healthy Minds" intervention in Pakistan, Mrs. Malsha Muneer's youth cannabis recovery stories, Ms. Minh Nguyen's drug prevention policy in Vietnam, and Dr. Silvia Morales-Chainé's study on alcohol, drug use, and mental health among young Mexicans during COVID-19.

Presented by: Dr. Carmen Orte, Prof. Salman Shazad, Mrs. Malsha Muneer, Ms. Minh Nguyen, & Dr. Silvia Morales-Chainé



Click here to watch the recording 💥

Systems Change & the Role of the University Through the Lens of ITTC Network Part 2: Sample ITTC Initiatives in South Africa, Vietnam, and Peru

The "Systems Change & the Role of the University" session featured Dr. Trang Nguyen Thu on community reintegration for individuals with substance use history in Vietnam, Dr. Goodman Sibeko on the Web App ASSIST for systems change, and Dr. Marina Piazza on the role of universities in systems change through ITTC Peru's cascade training model.

Presented by: Dr. Trang Nguyen Thu, Dr. Goodman Sibeko, Dr. Cecilia Chau, & Dr. Marina Piazza



Click here to watch the recording $\frac{1}{2}$



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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:

<u>Consultant Registry Form</u>

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

















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