

# November 2024

## The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

# NEWSLETTER

### From the Desk of the Inaugural Director of the Center for Systems Change:

Dr. Laurie Krom

I am honored to introduce myself as the inaugural Director of the Center for Systems Change, a newly established branch within ICUDDR.



This new center reflects ICUDDR's commitment to fostering innovative, systemic approaches to addressing global challenges in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery.

The flagship program of the Center for Systems Change is the International Technology Transfer Center (ITTC) Network, which continues to be a cornerstone of ICUDDR's mission. The ITTC Network has made tremendous strides in transforming systems by bridging science, policy, education, and service to build capacity in countries around the world.

While the ITTC Network is our cornerstone, the Center for Systems Change is also looking ahead. We are excited to explore new initiatives to enhance and promote the critical role that institutions of higher education play in driving systems change globally, including advocacy for policy changes. Our aim is to support innovative models and foster partnerships that address complex challenges and create meaningful, sustainable change.

I invite you to join me for a [webinar](#) on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 7:00 AM EDT (Washington, DC time), where I will share more about the vision for the Center for Systems Change and opportunities for collaboration. I look forward to engaging with you and learning how we can collectively strengthen our efforts to transform systems worldwide.

Together, we have a unique opportunity to empower the next generation of professionals and researchers to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. Thank you for being part of this journey, and I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goals.



### What you'll find:

From the Desk of the Director of the Center for Systems Change

New ICUDDR Members

Meet ICUDDR Regional Coordinators:

**Dr. Prapapun Chucharoen**

**Upcoming Webinar on December 11**

Meet ICUDDR Staff Member: **Dr. Laurie Krom**

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# Welcome!

## New members of the ICUDDR Family:

As of November 26, we have **469 Member Institutions** consisting of **816 Faculty Members** from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, the United States, and Canada.

This month, we welcome six new University members:



**Universidade  
Deferal de  
Aldenas  
(UNIFAL)**  
Brazil



**The  
University  
of Jordan**  
Jordan



**Saveetha Dental  
College and  
Hospitals  
(SIMATS)**  
India



**University of  
Health  
Sciences**  
Lao People's  
Democratic  
Republic



**Syrif  
Hidayatullah  
State Islamic  
University**  
Indonesia



**University  
of Abuja**  
Nigeria

## Introducing ICUDDR's Regional Coordinator: Asia-Pacific



### **Dr. Prapapun Chucharoen**

Assistant Prof., Addiction Studies Department, ASEAN Institute for Health Development, Mahidol University

ICUDDR's Asia-Pacific Regional Coordinator, Dr. Prapapun Chucharoen is a recipient of the National Academic Excellence Award from the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand. Dr. Prapapun's contributions go beyond managing a successful master's degree program in Addiction

Studies at Mahidol University and being the Chief of ISSUP Thailand National Chapter. In her over 20 years of experience as a substance use disorder specialist, she has served in various capacities in the global drug demand reduction arena including Vice-Chairmanship of the Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification and ICUDDR Board of Directors. A woman of many talents, she is active in academic development, community engagement, policy advocacy, and research. She strongly believes in unity in diversity and considers ICUDDR as one family.

*Thank you for all that you do for ICUDDR and the Asia-Pacific Region, Dr. Chucharoen!*

# Upcoming Trainings & Events

**Free Live Webinar**

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

We are very pleased to invite all of you to next month's webinar on "Higher Education in Action: ITTCs Driving Evidence-Based Substance Use Practices Worldwide". This will be held on Dec 11, 2024, 7:00 AM US Eastern Time.

Our speaker, ICUDDR's very own Dr. Laurie Krom, the Director of the Center for System Change, will present how university-based International Technology Transfer Centers (ITTCs) connect science with practice and policy to strengthen national systems for substance use prevention and treatment, advancing universities' mission to serve communities for the greater good.

**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

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

**Presented by Dr. Laurie Krom**

Director, Center for Systems Change,  
ICUDDR

**Register Here to Attend**

Check your time zone [here](#)



### Meet ICUDDR Staff Member: **Dr. Laurie Krom**

Dr. Laurie Krom, EdD, serves as the Director of the Center for Systems Change within the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR). In this role, she leads international initiatives to enhance substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services through the integration of systems thinking and sustainable practices. Dr. Krom oversees the Global Office for the International Technology Transfer Center (ITTC) Network, where she fosters global collaboration across 12 country-specific centers, driving evidence-based, culturally relevant approaches to drug demand reduction. With over 20 years of experience in grant development and health services leadership, Dr. Krom previously co-founded the Collaborative Center to Advance Health Services at UMKC, where she guided innovative federal projects to strengthen public health outcomes across the United States. An expert in grant writing and network-building, Dr. Krom has been recognized for securing significant federal awards and advancing interorganizational networks in substance use and health care services. Dr. Krom holds degrees from Vassar College, Kansas State University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Missouri.

***We're so glad you've joined the ICUDDR team, Laurie!***

## Transforming Addiction Education Through Global Collaboration: The IPAS Experience

Dr. Anna V. Williams, Professor Mary Loos,  
Dr. Andrea Gordon



### Introduction

Addiction has emerged as a global public health challenge, requiring advanced education in addiction science to address its complexities. However, the dissemination of addiction research and evidence-based practices remains limited, especially in developing regions. In 2005, addiction researchers and policy specialists from three leading universities—King's College London, the University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University—initiated a collaboration to create an innovative distance-learning postgraduate programme aimed at bridging the global gap in addiction training.

The result was the International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS), a unique postgraduate programme offering a globally focused education in addiction science through distance learning. Its mission is to provide students with cross-cultural exposure to key issues in prevention, treatment, research,

and policy through advanced distance-learning technologies. This column examines the origins, curriculum, structure and global impact of IPAS in equipping addiction professionals to lead transformative change.

### Programme Origins

In the early 2000s, advances in addiction science, treatment, and policy showed potential to significantly improve approaches to substance use disorders. However, access to this knowledge was often limited to high-income countries, such as those in Western Europe, Australia, and the United States. In contrast, developing nations faced difficulties integrating scientific advancements into clinical and policy frameworks due to a lack of local expertise and resources.

Existing addiction studies programmes were also limited, often focusing narrowly on clinical counselling or offering only a few electives modules on addiction. IPAS was created to address these challenges by integrating perspectives from policy, public health, treatment approaches, and biological basis of addiction. This interdisciplinary approach aims to prepare professionals to address global addiction challenges through evidence-based knowledge.

IPAS's development began with meetings in 2005 and 2006, leading to a memorandum of understanding among the three universities. In 2008, a formal memorandum of agreement was signed, solidifying the programme's objectives. Since then, the agreement has been renewed three times, reflecting the universities' continued commitment.

### Programme Structure and Curriculum

Initially, IPAS offered an MSc programme with a 180 UK credits curriculum (90 ECTS), which could be completed full-time in 12 months or part-time in 24 months. In 2014, the programme expanded to include a Postgraduate Diploma (ECTS 60), and a Postgraduate Certificate (ECTS 30).

The complete IPAS curriculum comprises six content-focused modules and two research-oriented modules, delivered within a semester-based structure. Most learning activities and assessments are conducted asynchronously; however, all modules include scheduled synchronous online sessions.

Students benefit from access to the virtual libraries and resources of all three partner universities, including the IPAS International Library—a unique resource collaboratively developed by reference librarians from all three universities. This platform provides seamless access to scholarly databases focused on addiction science literature.

Administrative responsibilities are managed by the host university, currently Virginia Commonwealth University, which oversees admissions, fees, and the virtual learning platform, ensuring smooth delivery.

IPAS undergoes rigorous reviews by the three partner universities to ensure academic standards are met. External examiners and student representatives provide valuable feedback on assessments, teaching quality, and the overall experience.

*Continued on the next page...*

## Transforming Addiction Education Through Global Collaboration: The IPAS Experience Cont...

Student feedback, including data from the UK Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), has been overwhelmingly positive. In several years, IPAS achieved 100% overall student satisfaction, reflecting its commitment to continuous improvement and excellence.

### Global Reach and Impact

Since its inception, IPAS taught more than 200 individuals from 32 countries across six continents. While most students come from high-income countries, the programme increasingly focuses on expanding access for learners in low- and middle-income regions.

To support this, the programme has sought to offer partial scholarships, including one funded by co-founder Professor Robert Balster. However, more resources are needed to

provide broader financial support and to fully achieve the programme's mission of disseminating addiction science globally, particularly to remote areas.

Initially designed for mid-career professionals, IPAS now also attracts younger students, including recent graduates and individuals with lived experience of addiction. This shift reflects the rising popularity of undergraduate addiction programmes and highlights IPAS as a steppingstone for doctoral studies, advocacy, and leadership roles in addiction-related fields.

Alumni surveys show that many IPAS graduates hold influential positions in research, policy, and clinical practice, contributing to advancements in their regions. Several alumni have published in scientific journals, while others have pursued doctoral studies, further extending IPAS's global impact.

### Conclusion

The International Programme in Addiction Studies exemplifies the transformative potential of global academic collaboration. By combining

the strengths of King's College London, the University of Adelaide, and Virginia Commonwealth University, IPAS has created a pioneering platform for advancing addiction education.

Its international character, flexible online delivery, and triple-badged diploma make IPAS a unique and valuable educational offering. Through its interdisciplinary curriculum, cross-cultural learning, and focus on evidence-based practices, the programme equips students to address the complex challenges of addiction in diverse settings. However, to further fulfil its mission, additional resources are needed to provide more scholarships for students from low- and middle-income countries.

As addiction continues to challenge global health systems, IPAS remains committed to equipping professionals with the critical and comprehensive evidence-based knowledge and skills they need to lead transformative change in addiction prevention, treatment, policy and science.

For further information please visit the IPAS website: [www.ipas.vcu.edu/](http://www.ipas.vcu.edu/)



**Anna V. Williams, PhD**  
Program Director,  
International Master of Science  
in Addiction Studies (IPAS),  
King's College London



**Mary Loos, PhD**  
Program Director,  
International Master of Science in  
Addiction Studies (IPAS)  
Virginia Commonwealth University



**Dr. Andrea Gordon**  
Program Director,  
International Master of Science  
in Addiction Studies (IPAS)  
The University of Adelaide



# November Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

## Visit to Charles University

ICUDDR's Carly Searcy and Kevin Mulvey had the opportunity to attend and present at the Charles University Conference, "Trends in Addictology", in Prague on November 24, 2024. Kevin and Carly presented, "Developing the Global Substance Use Workforce".



ICUDDR's Executive Committee members also presented:

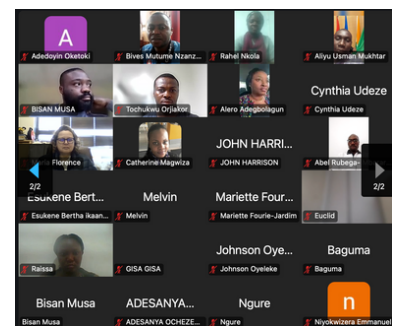
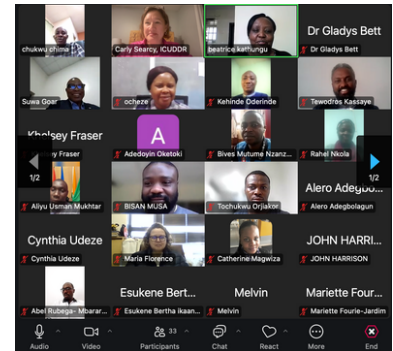
- Dr. Roger Peters: "Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches with Prisons and the Criminal Justice System: Challenges and Opportunities."
- Igor Koutsenok presented "Prison-Based SUD Treatment: How to Make it Work."

While visiting the university, Carly and Kevin were able to meet with a group of PhD students from and talk about developing the global workforce as well as visit the Czech prison, and meet with the executive committee.



**It was a productive visit filled with many opportunities to learn and reinforce the work being done to develop the global workforce!**

On November 13th, our colleagues in Nigeria held a virtual conference with the theme **“Policy Integration for Addressing Mental Health and Drug Related Needs in Nigerian Universities”**. Nearly 100 attendees were present, and heard from ICUDDR Executive Director Dr. Kevin Mulvey, ICUDDR Regional Coordinators for the Africa Region Dr. Beatrice Kathungu and Dr. Martin Agwogie, and others, including many informative paper presentations. It was encouraging to hear all of the great work being done across Nigeria. We appreciate all of the hard work done by the local organizing committee to make this a successful event!



### **Empowering Recovery: An Exchange Program on Evidence-Based Treatment Practices Between Nigeria and Ghana**

The Sound Mind Initiative, one of the training providers of the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme, recently hosted an exchange program between Nigeria and Ghana. This one-week program, conducted at the Iris Place Rehabilitation Centre in Accra, Ghana, provided a platform for professionals from both countries to engage in theoretical and practical training, leading to knowledge sharing and collaboration.

The program highlighted evidence-based treatment practices in recovery management and relapse prevention, focusing on actionable strategies to combat stigma and improve community responses towards individuals struggling with SUD and mental health challenges. Participants engaged in discussions, workshops, and hands-on exercises.

Peter Adenibuyan, the coordinator of the program, emphasized the urgent need for collaboration among Nigerians to foster a supportive environment for individuals battling substance use disorders and mental illnesses: "We aspire to create a sustainable, evidence-based framework for recovery management that not only aids individuals in their journey but also works towards reducing societal stigma surrounding these issues."

# Regional Activities

## Europe

ICUDDR Europe, led by Dr. Michal Miovsky, held a quarterly regional meeting via Zoom on November 7th. The discussion focused largely on quality standards. Dr. Miovsky and other members recently published a paper on the topic, "Quality Standards and Competencies for University and Higher Education Addiction Study Programs."

*Please find the full text of the publication [here](#).*

## Latin America and the Caribbean

### Launch of the Spanish edition of the book: "Implementation Practice & Science"

Temuco Catholic University - Chile

The objective of this event is to promote implementation science among Spanish-speaking professionals, through the launch of the Spanish edition of the book "Implementation Practice & Science" by authors Fixse, Blase and Van Dyke. It was translated by Sergio Chacón (GIS-Latam HUB | Universidad Católica de Temuco) and Jorge Vásquez (National Youth Social Reintegration Service-Chile). We will have the opportunity to meet and talk with the authors and those who attend will be given the book in its digital format.







## 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 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](http://www.ittcnetwork.org)



## Thailand ITTC Hosts Important Workshop: Korea ITTC Attends & Presents

Thailand ITTC, Chiang Mai University and the Substance Abuse Academic Foundation have recently formed the Addiction Family Medicine and Correction Health Academic Network (ACHAN). This network, composed of family physicians and family care teams responsible for prison healthcare services in their catchment areas, aims to improve continuous care for individuals after their release from prison in upper northern Thailand.

In collaboration with the Bridging Group based in Oakland, California, USA, Thailand ITTC and ACHAN co-organized a training workshop titled "After Prison Release Linkage to Community-Based Care" from 11-15 November 2024 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The event was supported by the Office of Narcotic Control Board, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Family Medicine Academic Center, The Royal College of Family Physicians of Thailand, and the Southeast Asia Harm Reduction Association.

The training focused on establishing an effective system for continuous care after prison release, tailored to the socio-cultural context of upper northern Thailand. The primary participants were family physicians and their associates who provide primary care and prison health services in their catchment areas.

Partners and stakeholders from the public health, correctional facilities, academia, and community-based agencies were invited to contribute. Regional participants – the Korean ITTC and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, also joined the workshop to share insights and experiences.



## Argentina ITTC Hosts Spain ITTC for Collaborative Meetings

In mid-November members of the Spain ITTC team traveled to Buenos Aires for a series of meetings with the Argentina ITTC team. Planned activities for the week included seminars at the Universidad del Museo Social Argentino (UMSA), exchanges with substance use treatment centers, discussions with the addiction team from the San Isidro Hospital, participation in the Mendoza Mental Health Congress, and a visit to a workplace substance use prevention program. The ITTC Global Office is excited to see the outcomes of the visit. We know that this is the continuation of a fruitful collaboration.



## Ukraine ITTC Publishes Article

The Ukraine ITTC team's article, "Risk Factors for Substance Use among University Students in Ukraine during Wartime," was published in the latest issue of *Addictology*. Read about their original research, which included a survey of 2,364 students from 17 higher education institutions located across Ukraine.

Myshakivska, O., Polyvianaia, M., Yachnik, Y., & Pinchuk, I. (2024). Risk factors of substance use among university students in Ukraine during wartime. *Addictologie*, 24(2), 119-129. <https://doi.org/10.35198/01-2024-002-0001>

[Read the Article Here](#)



## Credentialing Updates .....

**Congratulations to the 29 professionals from South Africa who participated in the ICAP exams on October 2, 2024, and achieved outstanding results!** 🇿🇦

A special congratulations to the 21 candidates who earned the **ICAP I Credential**. Additionally, 5 candidates successfully passed the ICAP I exam and, upon completing their required practice hours, will soon be eligible to receive their credential.

For the **ICAP II** and **ICAP III** exams, three candidates achieved passing results. 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 **Department of Social Development of South Africa**, 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 November 2024 .....



On November 20, 2024, in Accra, Ghana, and November 22, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya, the Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification (GCCC) successfully administered the International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) Treatment and Prevention examinations.

In Accra, 27 candidates – 16 in Treatment and 11 in Prevention – sat for the exams at St. Thomas Aquinas Senior High School. This event was held in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Commission of Ghana. In Nairobi, 45 candidates – 29 in Treatment and 16 in Prevention – participated in the exams at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, with support from the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) in Kenya.

The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme, with funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State, generously sponsored the examination fees for both events.

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

## We're Excited to Launch the ICAP Awareness Survey - Your Voice Matters! .....

This month, we're rolling out the ICAP Awareness Survey, and we'd love to hear from you! Your feedback will help us establish a baseline understanding of ICAP's presence and impact in the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) field. The insights you provide will play a vital role in enhancing the quality of our services, improving our marketing efforts, and ensuring the continued value of the ICAP credential.

If you've been selected to complete the survey, we kindly ask that you take a few moments to share your thoughts. Your honest opinions are invaluable to us as we work to grow and strengthen the ICAP program.

Thank you in advance for your participation – together, we can make a meaningful difference!

## ICAP Exam Update

### In-person Proctored Exams

In-Person ICAP exams in Treatment, Prevention, & Recovery Support are scheduled in the following locations:

#### December

- December 11: Doha, Qatar
- December 12: Abu Dhabi, UAE

#### January

- January 15: Hanoi, Vietnam
- January 17: Manila, Philippines

*\*These exams are sponsored/closed registration.*

## Applications open in Pakistan

Applications are now open for treatment professionals in Pakistan to register for the in-person ICAP Treatment Examinations scheduled for April 2025. Candidates can submit their applications through the provided links, selecting their preferred examination venue.

The deadline for application submissions is Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

[Islamabad](#)

[Karachi](#)

[Lahore](#)



## GCCC Commission Update .....

The new GCCC Commission is currently undergoing a critical review of its role and responsibilities in light of GCCC's transition to ICUDDR. These are exciting times, but the challenges ahead are significant. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the Commission is "fit for purpose," empowering GCCC to meet its ambitious targets in supporting the professionalization of the addiction workforce globally. Following the Commissioner's meeting in Greece in June, work has continued on evaluating the Commission's evolving role. The first follow-up meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2024, with additional meetings planned for December and January. These discussions will focus on shaping the future of the Commission, including what a new Commission might look like and the evolving role of Commissioners within it. This process is key to ensuring the Commission's effectiveness in this new phase of growth and impact. The outcome of this review will be shared early 2025.

In addition to the Commission meetings, **Dr. Carmel Clancy**, GCCC Director, has scheduled a series of one-on-one meetings with In-Country Commissioners to review their progress, assess ongoing needs, and ensure continued support. Dr. Clancy is deeply grateful for the time and insights shared by the commissioners who met with her in October and looks forward to the upcoming sessions. These personalized discussions are an invaluable part of the process, helping to foster collaboration and ensure that each commissioner has the resources and guidance needed to succeed in their roles. Dr. Clancy is excited to continue these conversations and strengthen the collective efforts of the GCCC and its partners.

## 3rd Fakeeh Care Annual Congress in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, November 5-7, 2024 .....

Dr. Clancy was honored to participate in the Addiction & Rehabilitation Seminar at the 3rd Fakeeh Care Annual Congress, held at the Ritz-Carlton in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on November 6, 2024. Organized by the renowned Fakeeh Care Group, the congress celebrated 47 years of excellence in healthcare and brought together international experts for cutting-edge scientific presentations, specialized workshops, and discussions aimed at advancing healthcare through innovation and collaboration. Dr. Clancy's presentation, titled *"Building a Qualified Future: Credentialing & Certification for the Addiction Workforce,"* focused on the critical role of credentialing and certification in enhancing the quality and effectiveness of addiction treatment services. It was an incredible opportunity to share insights, exchange ideas, and connect with professionals dedicated to advancing the field of addiction and rehabilitation.



Fakeeh Care Group

## ICAP Exam Update Cont...

### 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.

**To apply, go to:**

<https://portal.globalccc.org/>

### 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](https://portal.globalccc.org/).**



## Dr. Clancy's Visit to Nairobi, Kenya on Nov. 20-24 2024

Dr. Clancy was delighted to join the GCCC Examination Team in Nairobi and meet with key ICUDDR-GCCC stakeholders to gain insights into Kenya's efforts in drug demand reduction and workforce capacity building. The purpose of these meetings was to update stakeholders on the role of the Global Center for Credentialing and Certification (GCCC) in supporting in-country initiatives to expand access to credentialing opportunities and encourage more individuals to pursue the International Credentialing for Addiction Professionals (ICAP) certification. Dr. Clancy emphasized the value of collaborating with local government agencies, educational institutions, and professional organizations, ensuring that GCCC's efforts are tailored to regional needs, while offering support, resources, and raising awareness about the benefits of ICAP certification. Through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and advocacy, GCCC aims to increase the reach and impact of credentialing programs, helping to build a more skilled and globally recognized addiction workforce.

### The following meetings were held with key stakeholders:

- Dr. Yvonne Olando, Director for Public Education at the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA), who provided insights into NACADA's strategic direction and shared updates on their [Strategic Plan 2023-2027](#). This plan focuses on three pillars: Public Education and Advocacy, Research, Standards and Licensing, and Compliance and Enforcement, with a strong emphasis on workforce development and capacity building within the addictions sector.
- Ms. Ann Waigwa, Deputy Secretary of ISSUP Kenya, Ms. Grace Wanjiku, GCCC Kenyan Commissioner, and Dr. Catherine Gachutha, Director at Kenya Institute of Business & Counselling Studies (formerly Maranatha College), who discussed workforce development challenges and ongoing initiatives in their respective roles.
- Ms. Catherine Muthiani, Head of Training at SAPTA (Support for Addictions Prevention and Treatment in Africa), shared her perspectives on workforce training and development in the region.
- Dr. Beatrice Kathungu, ICUDDR Regional Coordinator and Faculty Member at the Department of Psychology, Kenyatta University, who spoke about the regional efforts in addiction education and professional development.

These productive conversations highlighted the strong commitment to building a skilled workforce and advancing the field of addiction treatment and prevention in Kenya.

In addition to the above meetings, Dr. Clancy and the GCCC team visited with the Kenya School of Government to explore their examination facilities including remote proctoring services.



Ms Ann Waigwa, Deputy Secretary ISSUP Kenya, Ms Grace Wanjiku, GCCC Commissioner in Kenya, Dr Carmel Clancy, GCCC Director & Dr. Catherine Gachutha Director at Kenya Institute of Business & Counselling Studies former Maranatha College



Ms Samitha Gunasekera, GCCC Sr Program Officer, Dr Carmel Clancy GCCC Director, Dr Yvonne Olando, Director for Public Education, NACADA & Ms Ashley Becker, GCCC Program Officer



Dr Carmel Clancy, GCCC Director & Dr Beatrice Kathungu, Department of Psychology, Kenyatta University



Dr Carmel Clancy GCCC Director, Ms Catherine Muthiani, Training Manager Training Manager Support for Addictions Prevention and Treatment in Africa (SAPTA) & Ms Samitha Gunaseker, GCCC Senior Program Officer

# Things to Share

## GIVING TUESDAY

ICUDDR is now accepting donations to help support the important work of drug demand reduction.

### Your donation will:

1. Support professionals to register and sit for ICAP (International Certified Addiction Professional) exams and receive professional substance use prevention, treatment, and/or recovery credentials.
2. Help establish and sustain capacity for local trainings in treatment, prevention of substance use disorders.
3. Support early-career research professionals receive support to develop substance use disorder research skills.

There are two ways you can donate this Giving Tuesday (December 3, 2024):

US Federal Employees/Retirees, can give through the CFC:

- [www.GiveCFC.org](http://www.GiveCFC.org)
- ICUDDR charity code 16832



All others can use our direct donation link, here.

Thank you for supporting our mission and vision!

## WHO Job Posting: Technical Officer (Substance Use Disorders)

### Requisition 2408816: Technical Officer (Substance Use Disorders) at P4, NMH, EMRO in Cairo

The application window closes December 1 @ 4 pm. Interested candidates are kindly requested and strongly encouraged to apply on-line.

You may access through QR Code or click the link below:

- Career portal (WHO staff/internal): <https://careers.who.int/careersection/in/jobsearch.ftl>
- Career portal (external candidates): <https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl?lang=en&portal=101430233>



## DID YOU KNOW?

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

Visit our resource  
webpage 

## New Resources

### Rapid Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Relating to Synthetic Drugs In Nigeria

This report highlights the findings of a rapid assessment conducted to explore the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) concerning synthetic drugs among three key groups: people who use drugs (PWUD), law enforcement personnel (LEP), and public health professionals (PHP) in Nigeria.

The study, spanning six states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), sheds light on the alarming trends and challenges posed by synthetic drug use (SDU) in Nigeria. Among the key findings, methamphetamine, Colorado (spice), tramadol, and benzodiazepines emerged as the most used synthetic drugs. Poly-drug use is widespread, with 83% of users combining multiple substances. The majority of users are young adults aged 16–30, many of whom are literate and employed part-time or full-time, highlighting the broad societal reach of this issue. Accessibility remains a significant problem, with synthetic drugs readily available through dealers, friends, and on the streets. Despite the prevalence of SDU, users often face severe consequences, yet only half seek treatment. Knowledge gaps among LEPs and PHP persist, though over 70% demonstrate awareness of synthetic drug laws. Interestingly, most LEP and PHP oppose legalization, yet acknowledge potential medicinal and recreational uses of synthetic drugs. Encouragingly, over 95% of LEP and PHP expressed a desire for training and resources to prevent synthetic drug use and to better educate the public.

These findings underscore an urgent need for innovative strategies, stricter enforcement, and community-focused interventions to tackle this growing crisis in Nigeria.

For more information or to access the full report, [visit ICUDDR's website](#) 

### Relapse Prevention Group Therapy in Indonesia Involving Peers via Videoconferencing for Substance Use Disorder: Development and Feasibility Study

This study, led by Dr. Kristiana Siste, had two aims: (1) to describe the development of a new group psychotherapy co-provided by a health care worker and a peer and (2) to evaluate the acceptability, practicality, and preliminary outcomes of the program delivered via videoconferencing in Indonesia. Conclusions: Group psychotherapy via videoconferencing co-provided by health care workers and peers was acceptable and practical for participants with SUD and service providers in this study. A large-scale study is warranted to examine the effectiveness of the newly developed module in Indonesia.

*Thank you to Dr. Kristiana Siste for sharing this publication*

Click here to view  
the resource 



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

# 2024 Global Conference: Session Highlights

## Systems Change & the Role of the University Through the Lens of the ITTC Network Part 1: Laying the Foundation

This session highlighted how universities serve as a dynamic hub of knowledge creation and dissemination and wield significant influence in shaping the future of societies. Presenters discussed the connection between universities and systems change. Click the button to watch and enjoy the session!

*Presented by: Dr. Joy Osagiator Ariyo, Dr. Bawo James, Dr. Laurie Krom, Ms. Jairat Gina Jaturapataraporn*



[Click here to watch the recording](#)



## Quality standards for Prevention Challenges in Latin America & Caribbean (CICAD)

The presenters in this session shared their experiences in research and academic programs in prevention at Universities that follow the quality standards. Their experiences could guide policymakers and contribute to adjusting the ongoing interventions to be more effective and generate the needed evidence to make information-based decisions in drug demand reduction. It could also allow academia to approach government decision-makers, and possibly, articulate efforts and science-informed decisions between these two areas. Click the button below to watch the session!

*Presented by: Dr. Fernando Salazar, Dr. Silvia Morales-Chainé, Dr. Andreas Alexander Hein Willius*



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## Contextual & Higher Education Challenges in the Field of Harm Reduction

This session focused on harm reduction (HR) in drug use, highlighting the crucial role of universities in this area. Presenters underlined the necessity of integrating HR into university programs and the transformative potential of academic institutions in addressing drug-related inequities. Practical experiences from European universities were shared to tackle systemic challenges in drug policies. Click the button below to watch the session!

*Presented by: Dr. Xavier Ferrer, Dr. Roberto Perez Gayo, Dr. Jallal Toufiq*

[Click here to watch the recording](#)



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