

# October 2024

## The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction

# NEWSLETTER



### From the Desk of Executive Director:

Kevin P. Mulvey, PhD

Dear Members: You may recall from our last newsletter that I shared details as to how ICUDDR has developed over the course of the last two years. ICUDDR now has four pillars of focus within the following frame:

**ICUDDR is a global consortium of Institutes of Higher Education linking science, policy education, and service, to address substance use challenges and strengthen communities.** This is accomplished by the work of our four centers:

#### **Center for Educational Program Development:**

The Center for Educational Program Development at ICUDDR is dedicated to expanding the reach and impact of addiction studies programs. As a global consortium, ICUDDR serves as a hub for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among researchers, faculty, and institutions working in drug demand reduction through its membership, regional coordinating centers, and no-cost, accessible educational events, and resources.

#### **Center for Research Development and Fellowships:**

The Center for Research Development within ICUDDR has a multifaceted role. Its primary focus is fostering applied research advancements among ICUDDR members, providing increased support to faculty in research endeavors, and facilitating collaboration through faculty exchange and joint research ventures. Additionally, the center extends its support to young and emerging researchers in low-middle-income countries engaged in drug demand reduction efforts.

#### **Center for Systems Change:**

The Center for Systems Change within ICUDDR highlights the critical role that universities play in advancing the systems involved in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, ensuring that those systems are grounded in research, human rights, and international standards. The vision and mission of the Center for Systems Change are operationalized through its programs, one such program is the International Technology Transfer Center (ITTC) Network.

#### **Center for Credentialing and Accreditation:**

ICUDDR-GCCC, a program by ICUDDR envisions becoming the leading global credentialing organization for substance use professionals, dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Their mission is to train, professionalize, and expand the substance use workforce in the region, providing experience verification and appropriate exams to ensure that governments and other employers hire and utilize the most qualified professionals.

#### **The Coming Year (2024-2025):**

ICUDDR is pleased to announce that we have been awarded two grants from the Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement to support the work of the Centers. We have also been successful in receiving a continuation sub-award from the University of Wisconsin. We are continuing to look for other funding opportunities to enable the development of programs across our four centers. If you, in the course of your work, become aware of a grant or contract funding opportunity that you would like us to partner on we are always happy to develop joint proposals. This year will be exciting with important initiatives in support of the Substance Use Harm Reduction, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery landscape. One such initiative is the design and implementation of three regional conferences. Please keep reading our newsletter and monitor our website ([www.ICUDDR.org](http://www.ICUDDR.org)) for coming information and events.

*Kevin Mulvey*

### What you'll find:

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Meet ICUDDR Regional Coordinators:

**Dr. Beatrice Kathungu & Dr. Martin Agwogie** 

New ICUDDR Members

Meet ICUDDR Staff Member: **Anna Fuchs**

Upcoming Training: November 27 Webinar

**In Focus: Addiction Research:** Changing the Narrative: The Essential Role of Language in Addiction Research

Regional Activities

ITTC Update

GCCC Updates

October Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

Things to Share

2024 Global Conference: Recordings Available

New Resources added to the ICUDDR Website

Connect with ICUDDR



# Welcome!

## New members of the ICUDDR Family:

As of October 24, we have **461 Member Institutions** consisting of **791 Faculty Members** from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, the United States, and Canada.

This month, we welcome four new University members:

Kwame Nkrumah  
University of Science  
and Technology  
Ghana



University of  
Delhi  
India



Universidad  
Autónoma de  
Chiriquí  
Panama

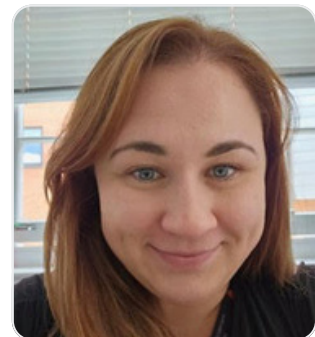


Valencian  
International  
University  
Spain



## Meet ICUDDR Staff Member: **Anna Fuchs**

Anna Fuchs joined ICUDDR as an Administrative and Financial Assistant in October 2024. She holds a Master of Science in Strategic Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts in International Tourism Management. Before assuming her current role, Anna gained substantial administrative experience in higher education, where she supported the Academic Dean and Faculty Leadership Team for the Health, Social Care, and Education faculty at Middlesex University.



In her previous position, Anna excelled in coordinating schedules, managing correspondence, and organizing travel for senior executives, highlighting her strong skills in executive coordination and project management. Her diverse experience across the higher education and hospitality sectors has further developed her expertise in business management, strategic planning, and problem-solving.

Anna brings a wealth of experience in administrative support and project management to her role at ICUDDR. She is currently based in London.

*We're grateful to have you on the team, Anna!*



# Upcoming Trainings & Events

*Free Live Webinar*

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



**Dr. Carmel Clancy, PhD, RGN,  
RMN, PGCertHE, FPH, ICAP III,  
Dean Emeritus**

Associate Director of ICUDDR  
Global Center for Credentialing  
and Certification (ICUDDR-GCCC)

We are pleased to announce that we are hosting the webinar on "Building a Competent Addiction Workforce: The Significance of International Certified Addiction Professionals (ICAP) Certification". ICUDDR's Associate Director for Credentialing and Certification, Dr. Carmel Clancy, will present the needs of the addiction workforce, the benefits for career development, and the value of ICAP certification. GCCC updates particularly on how ICAP sets professional standards and the certification process will be discussed.

**Wednesday, November 27, 2024**

7:00-8:30 am US Eastern Time (12:00 pm UTC)

**[Register Here to Attend](#)**



Check your time zone [here](#)

# In Focus: Addiction Research

ICUDDR's Scientific Column



## Changing the Narrative: The Essential Role of Language in Addiction Research

By Hala Najm

 Listen to the article here



The language used in addiction research significantly affects societal perceptions and the efficacy of treatment outcomes. Stigmatizing terminology can perpetuate negative stereotypes and discourage individuals from seeking help. This article examines the implications of such language and underscores the responsibility of researchers and educators to adopt inclusive terminology, as outlined by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) (NIDA, 2023). By advocating for person-first language and addressing the consequences of stigmatizing terms, we can foster a more compassionate and effective discourse surrounding addiction.

Stigmatizing language around addiction extends beyond shaping perceptions and has direct consequences on health outcomes. The language that labels individuals as "addicts" or characterizes addiction as a moral failing can result in discriminatory attitudes from healthcare professionals, reducing the quality of care for those with substance use disorders. This stigma can discourage individuals from seeking treatment, leading to worsening health conditions and lower engagement in recovery programs. Furthermore, stigma not only affects individual behavior but also reinforces structural barriers in healthcare, limiting access to essential services like

substance use disorder treatment and harm reduction programs (Livingston, 2020). As a result, stigmatizing language perpetuates a cycle of untreated illness and poor health outcomes, making it imperative to address language usage in addiction-related discussions.

### NIDA's Guidelines on Language

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) encourages us to reevaluate the language we use, providing alternatives that promote a more compassionate dialogue.

According to NIDA (2023), terms that label individuals based on their addiction, such as "addict" or "alcoholic," can lead to feelings of "I am the problem" rather than "I have a problem." By adopting person-first language—such as "person with a substance use disorder"—we can help destigmatize addiction, focusing on the individual rather than their condition. This approach promotes dignity and respect, encouraging those affected to seek help without the fear of judgement.

Additionally, instead of using the term "abuse," which is often associated with negative judgments and punishment, it is recommended to use "use" for illicit drugs and "misuse" for prescription medications. This shift in language can help reduce the association with negative judgments and punishment. While "medication-assisted therapy" (MAT) is a widely recognized term, it may imply that medication is a secondary treatment option. NIDA suggests using "medications for substance use disorders"—e.g. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder known as MOUD- to emphasize the integral role these medications play in a comprehensive recovery plan.

When discussing recovery, we should also reconsider terms like "sober" and "clean," as these can create feelings of exclusion and imply moral judgement. Instead, using terms like "abstinent" and "testing negative" provides a more clinically accurate description. Phrases such as "in recovery" or "in remission" acknowledge the ongoing journey individuals experience,

fostering a more inclusive understanding of their situations.

For more on terminology, please visit the NIDA article: [Words Matter - Terms to Use and Avoid When Talking About Addiction](#).

### Recommendations for Change

To mitigate stigma in addiction research and practice, several key recommendations are proposed:

#### 1. Adopt Person-First Language:

Emphasize the individual over the condition in both research and clinical environments to uphold dignity.

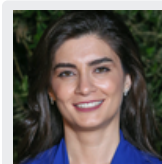
2. **Educate Stakeholders:** Implement training sessions for faculty, researchers, healthcare professionals, and students on the significance of language and the importance of utilizing non-stigmatizing terms.

#### 3. Revise Research Publications:

Encourage academic journals and institutions to establish guidelines that advocate for respectful language in all published materials related to addiction.

### Conclusion

The language used in addiction research has profound implications for individuals, communities, and the healthcare system. Transitioning to non-stigmatizing terminology empowers researchers and educators to reshape the narrative surrounding addiction. This linguistic change is not merely a matter of preference; it is a critical step towards fostering empathy, enhancing treatment outcomes, and reducing stigma. By adopting inclusive language, we can cultivate a more compassionate approach to the understanding and treatment of addiction.



#### By Hala Najm

Program Manager for Research, International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)

Hala Najm is a registered pharmacist with a master's degree in public health and a Fullbright Humphrey fellowship in SUD prevention, treatment and recovery at Virginia Commonwealth University.

#### References

- 1 National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2023). Words matter: Terms to use and avoid when talking about addiction. <https://nida.nih.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/health-professionals-education/words-matter-terms-to-use-avoid-when-talking-about-addiction>
- 2 Livingston, J. D. (2020). Structural stigma in health-care contexts for people with mental health and substance use issues: A literature review. Ottawa: Mental Health Commission of Canada. <https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/media/3477>

# Regional Activities

## Europe

The next virtual meeting of the Europe Regional Group will be held on **Thursday, November 7th at 3:00PM CET (Central European Time) UTC/GMT +1 hour**. If you are an ICUDDR Member in Europe and would like to attend, please contact Kaleb Brooks at [brooksk@icuddr.org](mailto:brooksk@icuddr.org).

## Africa

**Congratulations** to Dr. Martin Agwogie (Nigeria), Dr. Rogers Kasirye (Uganda), Rogers Mutaawe (Uganda) and Mawouena K Bohm David (Togo) on receiving a grant from the Institute of International Education (IIE) for their Collaborative Alumni Project, "Addressing Synthetic Drug Threats in Three African Countries." The Collaborative Alumni Project (CAP) aimed to address the rising challenges posed by synthetic drug use in Nigeria, Uganda, and Togo. Synthetic drugs have become a significant public health concern, and the project seek to mitigate this threat by enhancing local capacities and fostering collaborative knowledge-sharing among key stakeholders.



The primary objectives of this project are to conduct a rapid assessment on the knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to synthetic drugs to help understand the current trends in synthetic drug use, production and trafficking across the three countries and to develop evidence-based interventions. In addition, raise awareness, engage key stakeholders through educational and outreach activities, including webinars, media discussions and the dissemination of findings through policy briefs.

Grantees are Alumni of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a 10-month leadership and professional development program sponsored by the United States government through the Institute of International Education (IIE).

# Regional Activities

## Africa Cont...

A virtual conference with the theme **“Policy Integration for Addressing Mental Health and Drugs Related Needs in Nigerian Universities”** will be held on **November 13, 2024**, from **12:00 PM to 5:00 PM West Africa Time (WAT)**.

We invite ICUDDR members from the region to join and register [here](#).



**Nigeria**  
**Conference**  
**2024**  
WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, 2024. | 12:00NOON  
(WAT) West African Time  
CALL FOR ABSTRACT

*The*  
**POLICY INTEGRATION FOR ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG-RELATED NEEDS IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES.**

**Subthemes:**

- Academic community's response in addressing students' mental health and drug related issues in Nigeria.
- Collaborative approaches to drug demand reduction in Nigerian universities.
- Promoting evidence- based prevention of drug use among university students in Nigeria.
- Leveraging Technology for Drug Addiction, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery in Nigerian Universities.

**KEVIN P. MULVEY, PhD** (Executive Director, ICUDDR)  
**PROF MICHAEL EZENWA** (Coordinator, ICUDDR Nigeria)  
**DR KEHINDE ODERINDE** (Chairman, Local Organizing Committee)  
**ANGELA BEKEDEREMO** (Secretary, Local Organizing Committee)

For abstract submission (icuddrnigeria2024conference@gmail.com)  
Closing date for abstract submission: October 31st, 2024

## Asia Pacific

Dr. Dorothy Joann Lei Labrador, ICUDDR's focal person at Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Philippines, has been selected to participate in the 2025 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Education in the Digital Age Multi-Regional Project. IVLP is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program wherein emerging leaders conduct short-term visits to the United States. Participants are nominated and selected annually by US Embassies. Dr. Labrador is a UPC Global Master Trainer in School-based Prevention and Monitoring and Evaluation of Prevention Interventions.





## Official Launch of the Spain ITTC

The Spain ITTC officially launched during a dedicated session at the **6th International Congress – 51 Jornadas Nacionales de Socidroalcohol** in Valencia, Spain.

Dr. Antonio Vidal, co-director of ITTC Spain, introduced the center’s mission and outlined their planned contributions to advancing evidence-based approaches in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. The ITTC Network Global Office team also provided additional insights into the overall objectives of the Network. The ITTC was fortunate to have ICUDDR Board Member, Dr. Xavier Ferrer, in attendance. The launch was part of a four-day visit, during which ITTC leaders met with key Spanish partners, government entities, and officials to discuss collaborative opportunities.



## 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)







## GCCC Credentialing Update

Congratulations to all 78 professionals from Pakistan on your ICAP achievements! 🎉

Specifically, 51 of you earned the ICAP I Credential, with an additional 6 passing the ICAP I Exam. Another 13 attained the ICAP II Credential, while 7 secured the ICAP III Credential, and 1 reached the esteemed ICAP IV Credential. Keep up the outstanding work! 💪🌟

These online remote-proctored examinations were sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Pakistan.

## GCCC Annual Report

The GCCC Commission Annual Report highlights the organization's significant achievements and progress over the past year.

**The report is available in English, French & Spanish.**

It provides a comprehensive overview of the certification processes, key milestones, and strategic initiatives undertaken to enhance credentialing standards globally. The report also includes detailed financial statements, governance updates, and future plans aimed at maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and integrity in certification. This document serves as a testament to GCCC's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in the field of certification and credentialing.

## ICAP Exam Update

### In-person Proctored

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 11: Doha, Qatar
- December 13: Cairo, Egypt

January

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

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

### Online Remote Proctored

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!

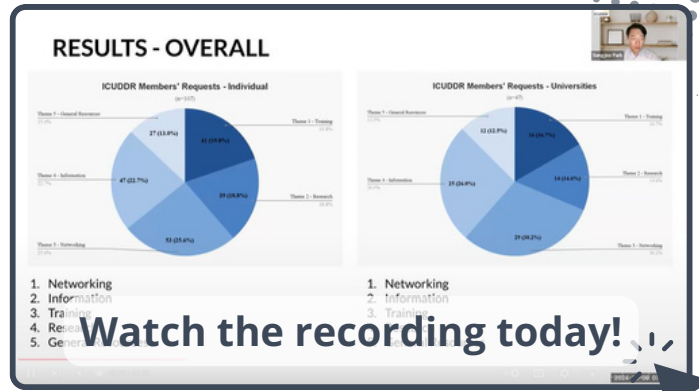
The ICAP-renewal application is now available on the GCCC portal, providing a streamlined process for professionals to renew their International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP) credentials. To renew, users need to log in to the portal, select their existing credential, and update their contact 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.](#)

# October Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

## ICUDDR Members' Requests: Data Analysis Report & Discussion

**Presented By:** Mr. Sungjoo Park  
Program Officer, ICUDDR Global Center for Credentialing and Certification



Mr. Park reviewed the findings from ICUDDR member registration data with a focus on ICUDDR's regions and services. Members attending the session shared their feedback, insights and ideas to achieve our common goals.

## Lisbon Addictions 2024 Conference



Kevin Mulvey and Kaleb Brooks recently attended Lisbon Addictions 2024. It was a great time of learning and collaboration with professionals from across the globe. Dr. Mulvey presented as part of a panel discussion on work being done in the Africa region on workforce development. Several ICUDDR Members presented as well, including Susana Henriques, of Universidade Aberta in Lisbon. Dr. Henriques presented her work, "Risk and protective factors in adolescents: adapting Communities that Care Youth Survey for Portuguese context".



# October Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

## International Freemind 2024 Congress



ICUDDR's Kevin Mulvey & Carly Searcy are attending the 9th International Freemind 2024 Congress held October 29 through November 1 in Serra Negra, Brazil. The conference has been live streamed via the [Freemind YouTube channel](#) in 3 languages!



Carly Searcy with the ICUDDR Booth

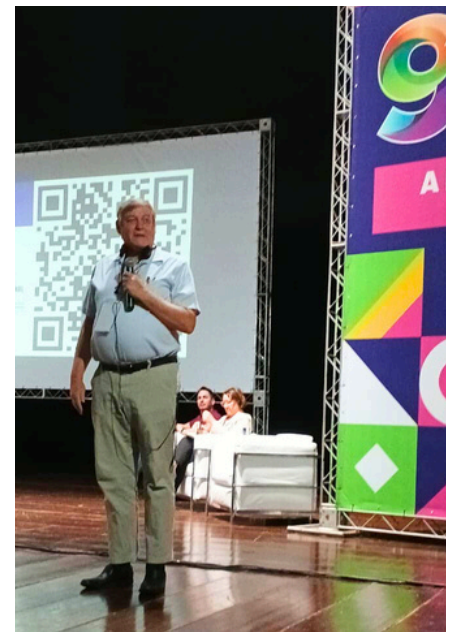


Kevin Mulvey and Carly Searcy with María Verónica Brasesco from palestrante internacional.



Kevin Mulvey and Carly Searcy with our newest ICUDDR member, Denis Moreira!

Carly and Kevin presented in the Universities: Education & Research session which discussed the central role of universities in conducting research on addiction prevention and treatment, as well as their responsibility in training a qualified workforce to face these challenges.



# October Review: Education, Trainings & Conferences

## Training of Trainers in Peer-to-Peer Treatment of Psychological Trauma and Co-occurring Disorders

ICUDDR Board member and ITTC Ukraine Director, Dr. Irina Pinchuk, and colleagues shared highlights from a training of trainers held in Uzhgorod on October 15-17. The training of trainers in Peer-to-Peer Treatment of Psychological Trauma and Co-Occurring Disorders was made up of participants of 20 trainers from Ukraine, who themselves have combat experience who can now scale up the acquired knowledge in a "peer-to-peer" format. There were representatives of various departments: non-governmental sector, field of mental health care, and in particular - military psychologists who work in hospitals, including prisoners of war, psychologists of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Guard, the State Emergency Service, rehabilitation centers, and representatives of departments of relevant ministries.

The course was taught by American experts who specialize in working with people with combat experience.

You can look through the agenda [here](#).



**Project Disclaimer:** Training took place within the framework of the All-Ukrainian mental health program, which is being implemented at the initiative of First Lady Olena Zelenska. The project is implemented in partnership with the University of California in San Diego, Charles University in Prague, the International Technology Transfer Center in Ukraine (ITTC), the Institute of Psychiatry of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University in cooperation with the Coordination Center for Mental Health of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and with the support of the US State Department.

# Things to Share

## ISAM Global Congress Abstract Submission

The Annual ISAM Conference is scheduled for May 26-28, 2025 in Hamburg, Germany. This global event is dedicated to providing world-class addiction medicine education and provides an exceptional opportunity to highlight new research, innovative practices, sociopolitical ideas and new approaches to treatment.



## Fogarty to accept applications for Emerging Global Leader Award

The John E. Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), along with several other NIH institutes, will begin accepting applications for the Emerging Global Leader Award (K43) on November 3, 2024.



The goal of the Fogarty Emerging Global Leader Award is to provide research support and protected time (three to five years) to a low- or middle-income country (LMIC) early career research scientist who holds a junior faculty position at an LMIC academic or research institution, as defined by the World Bank.

- Earliest submission date: November 3, 2024
- First deadline for submission: December 3, 2024
- [K43 Independent Clinical Trial Required](#) (PAR-24-295)
- [K43 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed](#) (PAR-24-296)

# Things to Share

## IntNSA: International Nurses Society on Addictions 47th Annual Education Conference



IntNSA is excited to announce the International Nurses Society on Addictions 47th Annual Conference, March 11-14, 2025 at the Renaissance Hotel at Disney Springs in Orlando, Florida.

Conference Website:  
[www.IntNSA.org/conference](http://www.IntNSA.org/conference)

More conference information  
and Sponsorship Opportunities

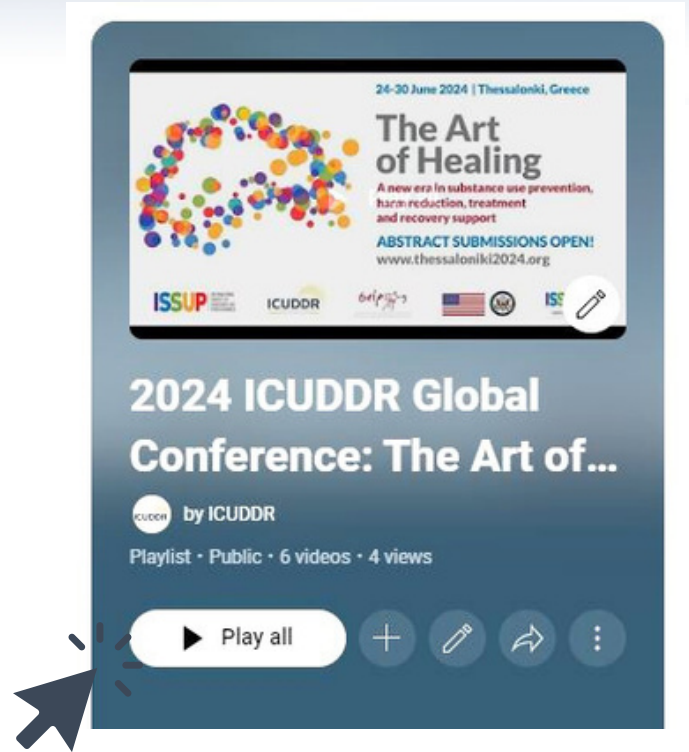


# 2024 Global Conference

## The Art of Healing

A new era in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support

ICUDDR Sessions recordings are now available on our YouTube Channel!



## 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 Resource

## Public Domain Photos from The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has published a database of public domain photos related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. These photos avoid the inadvertent glorification of drug and alcohol use, and could be used in social media postings, news articles, websites, etc.

[Click here to view the resource](#)



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Info@icuddr.org). We will help promote your work.

# Connect with ICUDDR



[info@icuddr.org](mailto:info@icuddr.org)



[www.icuddr.org](http://www.icuddr.org)

