

**IDHDP Newsletter**  
**Volume 4**  
**June 12**



our aims

increase the participation of  
medical doctors in drug policy reform

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the IDHDP June 2012 newsletter, particular welcome to our new members.

Highlights:

- AIDS 2012 Conference - IDHDP events
- Upcoming conferences
- IDHDP discussion forums
- New publications
- Items in the News
- Communications (Facebook and Twitter)
- Increasing IDHDP membership

**AIDS 2012 Conference, Washington, DC, July 22 – 26, 2012 - IDHDP events**

**Monday 23rd July, 2012, 6:15 -7:30 PM, Global Village - Harm Reduction/Drug Policy Zone.**

IDHDP is partnering with the Harm Reduction Coalition and the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy to co-host a reception to bring doctors attending the AIDS conference to the Harm Reduction/Drug Policy Zone in the Global Village. It will be a great opportunity to meet with other colleagues and enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Come, bring some other doctors and help spread the word about why it is important for doctors to be involved in promoting healthy drug policies.

The event will feature the following confirmed speakers:

- Dr Chris Beyrer, Director, Center for Public Health and Human Rights
- Dr Chris Ford, Clinical Director, IDHDP
- Dr Evan Wood, Director, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
- Allan Clear, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Coalition

**IDHDP members meeting**

**Wednesday 25th July 2012 from 2pm – 4pm, Walter E Washington Convention Center (main convention center).**

All members are invited. Please contact Rebecca if you are able to attend. The room number and agenda will be circulated in due course.

## Members' sessions at the conference

If you are presenting at the conference please send the title of your talk and the date, time and place to Rebecca so that we can include it in a listing of members' presentations as well as share it with our partner organizations to include in their drug treatment, harm reduction and human rights roadmaps.

And please consider mentioning IDHDP and the need for doctors to be involved in promoting healthy drug policies in your talk. Here is a short slide you can include in your presentations: [click here](#) to access the slide.

## IDHDP Booth

IDHDP will be in the Harm Reduction/Drug Policy Zone in the Global Village throughout the conference. Please visit us there. We are sharing a booth with the Harm Reduction Coalition.

## Upcoming conferences

### **Albania - 20 Jun 2012 - 23 Jun 2012 - 6th SEEA Net Adriatic Drug Addiction Treatment Conference**

The main conference topics are treatment of young drug users, patients with co morbidity and cooperation with existent drug prevention and treatment services, medical, social and other services and NGOs in the region, treatment of Hepatitis C, and treatment in custodial settings.

### **Nigeria - 11 Jul 2012 - CRISA's tenth biennial international conference on drugs, alcohol and society in Africa**

The African Centre for Research and Information on Substance Abuse (CRISA) announces the Tenth in its series of highly regarded biennial international conference on drugs in Africa scheduled to take place in Abuja, Nigeria, in July 2012. The conference focuses attention on the social and cultural determinants of substance use and abuse in different African societies.

### **Geneva - 14 Oct 2012 - 18 Oct 2012 - ISAM Conference**

The theme of the conference is Treatment Delivery Systems: asserting the future, is somewhat of a natural selection.

### **London - 22 Oct 2012 - 23 Oct 2012 - City Health 2012: Creating Healthy Opportunities in the 21st Century**

The London Drug and Alcohol Policy Forum has a special focus on health behaviours - including diet, alcohol, sex, drugs, smoking as well as nightlife, tourism, mental and physical well-being, and health emergencies.

## Discuss hot topics on IDHDP forums

### **New topics on the forums:**

Opioid Analgesia Deaths: In the US - more opioid analgesia deaths than driving deaths, in the UK - opioid analgesia risen - What's happening elsewhere & why? [read more and discuss](#)

What is recovery and who defines it for whom? [read more and discuss](#)

A new tool to assess human rights in compulsory drug detention centers - [read more and discuss](#)

We would like to encourage our members to use the discussion forums to communicate with other members. Discuss hot topics, share new information, clinical issues and publications on the forums. If you are having trouble logging in to the forums please contact Rebecca.

## **New Publications on the IDHDP website**

New documents uploaded this month (click on the document title to read the full publication)

**Defining dosing pattern characteristics of successful tapers following methadone maintenance treatment: results from a population-based retrospective cohort study** - This study aims to identify dose-tapering strategies associated with sustained success following methadone maintenance treatment (MMT).

**U.S. v Cameron Douglas - Amicus Brief** - IDHDP joins other medical experts and advocates in filing this Amici Curiae brief in U.S. Federal Court to help call attention to the neglect of prisoners' addiction treatment needs in U.S. prisons.

**HIV, drug use and the Global Fund: Don't Stop Now!** - This report produced by International HIV/AIDS Alliance. The purpose of this report is to demonstrate that a crisis in the Global Fund is a crisis for harm reduction, as the Global Fund has become the largest funder of global HIV and harm reduction programmes targeting people who use drugs. The report includes a set of recommendations, most prominent of which is a call to the Global Fund to ensure that it continues to support HIV and harm reduction programmes, so that global commitments to reduce HIV transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50% by 2015 can be met.

**The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Support for Middle Income Countries** - This report highlights why the International HIV/AIDS Alliance urges the Global Fund Board to revoke the 55% rule immediately and therefore stop its application to existing grants, grant renewals and future new grants.

**Human Rights and Drugs** - International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy. Articles in this volume address coerced drug treatment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the INCB and ayahuasca, and the death penalty for drug in China. There are also two case summaries on the Canadian Supreme Court decision on Insite, and on the Irish Press Ombudsman decision against an Irish newspaper for hate speech against people who are drug dependent.

**EU Drugs Strategy Taking a Step in the Right Direction** International Doctors for Healthy Drug Policies (IDHDP) comment on the European Union Committee's Twenty-Sixth Report, EU Drugs Strategy.

## **Items in the News**

**KENYA: Needles to be distributed to injecting drug users** - The Kenyan government will begin distributing free syringes and needles to more than 50,000 injecting drug users (IDUs) across the country in the next month. Read more here

**Unholy Alliance: How a US-Russian Partnership Undermines Good Drug Policy** - Excellent editorial by Daniel Wolfe of the International Harm Reduction Development Program on why the US-Russian drug policy partnership is bad for public health in both nations: read more and discuss on the forums

**Western banks 'reaping billions from Colombian cocaine trade** - This study claims that the vast profits made from drug production and trafficking are overwhelmingly reaped in rich "consuming" countries. read more and discuss on the forums

## IDHDP communications

### Twitter

Follow IDHDP on Twitter - if you are a member of Twitter please search for us at @idhdp, or if you do not wish to join Twitter you can check the IDHDP home page to read our latest tweets.

### Facebook

IDHDP has launched a new **Facebook page** - please like us and share the link with your colleagues.

## Increasing IDHDP membership

### We're looking for:

- 1. More individual doctors to join us.** Don't restrict yourself to colleagues working in drug treatment but talk about drug policy issues to others working in related areas such as HIV and AIDS, pain and palliative care, and primary care. Please help spread the word to your colleagues and direct them to our website for more information and to register, <http://idhdp.com/forums/register.aspx>
- 2. National and Regional Groups:** Think about arranging a network / meeting for your country or region. We can put you in touch with other members if you don't know them and we may be able to help with arrangements and networking with other organizations that may be able to help.
3. Encourage your colleagues in other professions to join the public forums and increase the debate

For further information contact Rebecca Murchie at [Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com](mailto:Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com)

IDHDP represents doctors from 49 countries! Click [here](#) to see our map of member countries.

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With best wishes,

Chris, Holly and Rebecca

IDHDP team

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