

IDHDP Newsletter

Volume 6

September 12



our aims

increase the participation of
medical doctors in drug policy reform

Dear colleague,

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

Highlights:

- IDHDP workshop and conference presentation
- Upcoming events
- News
- Publications
- Discussion forum
- Communications (Facebook and Twitter)
- Increasing IDHDP membership

IDHDP workshop and conference presentation

IDHDP breakfast workshop at the AMERSA conference: "Building a bridge from practice to policy: what is the role of health practitioners as advocates for structural change?"

Date: November 2, 2012 at 7am

Where: Double Tree Hotel, Bethesda, MD

Presenters:

Daliah Heller, PhD, MPH, Visiting Scholar, Center for Health Media and Policy, City University of New York

Holly Catania, JD, Executive Director, International Doctors for Healthy Drug Policies

IDHDP presentation at the Society for the Study of Addiction 2012 Symposium: "The need for doctors to promote healthy drug policies to improve health and drug treatment"

Date: November 9, 2012 at 9am

Where: Park Inn, York, UK

Presenter: Chris Ford, Clinical Director, International Doctors for Healthy Drug Policies

Upcoming events

ISAM Conference (14 – 18 October), Geneva, Switzerland

The theme of the conference is, "Treatment Delivery Systems: asserting the future."
Please let us know if you are attending and would like to meet other IDHDP members there.

SMMGP 7th National Primary Care Development Conference (25 October) London, UK

The theme of the conference is, "Over to us now - the future of primary care drug and alcohol treatment"

AMERSA - 36th National Conference (1 – 3 November) Washington DC, USA

The conference is notable for its in-depth focus on substance abuse education and the high quality of its workshops and

presentations.

IDHDP workshop: November 2, information above.

Society for the Study of Addiction 2012 Symposium (8 – 9 Nov) York, UK

Themes of the conference include: “Emerging challenges in addiction psychiatry; Alcohol: harms, interventions and policy; The research base for policy and recovery.”

IDHDP presentation: November 9, information above.

54th ICAA International Conference on Alcohol and Addictions (12-16 Nov) Montreal, Canada

The theme of the conference: “Thinking Across Addictions, Acting Across Borders”

9th National Harm Reduction Conference: From Public Health to Social Justice (15-18 Nov) Portland, Washington

The conference is focused on improving the health of drug users. Delegates from around the U.S. will discuss critical issues affecting the drug user community including overdose, HIV, hepatitis, incarceration and stigma.

Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health (21-22 March 2013) Chicago, Illinois

The Correctional Health Conference provides a forum for researchers, clinicians, administrators, educators, policy makers, and grant funding leaders to network, share evidence, and learn about emerging research and relevant policy updates in the field of correctional health care.

International Harm Reduction Conference 2013 (9 – 12 July 2013) Vilnius, Lithuania

This international conference is a key event for all those interested in harm reduction around the world. The 2013 conference will include high profile Keynote speeches, Plenary Sessions, Major Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Workshops and a Film Festival. Abstracts are now being accepted

Members meeting alert: We’re planning an IDHDP members’ meeting at the conference. Further information will follow.

News

Post Graduate Certificate in Harm Reduction, York University, York, UK

The Certificate in Harm Reduction consists of 117-hours of instruction designed to introduce service providers, administrators and policy makers to the principles, concepts and practices of harm reduction, to provide an opportunity to critically examine examples of harm reduction work; and to become familiar with strategies for mobilizing support for and developing harm reduction programs in communities, families and institutions. Registration deadline is Nov. 5, 2012.

Are our drug policies really working?

Article in the Bangkok Post regarding Thailand’s drug policy. Read more and discuss on the forums.

Methadone replacement therapy: tried, tested, effective?

IDHDP member Roy Robertson expertly defends opioid substitution treatment in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Journal.

Victorian GPs back injecting rooms in desperate measure to save lives and clean up crime

Doctors are demanding a trial of safe injecting rooms in Victoria to save lives, clean up the streets and reduce drug crime.

New Publications on the IDHDP website

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

The Alternative World Drug Report: Counting the Costs of the War on Drugs

The Count the Costs initiative aims to highlight the negative impacts of the war on drugs in seven key policy areas: development and security; public health; human rights; stigma and discrimination; crime; the environment; and economics.

EHRN September 2012 newsletter: The voice of harm reduction

This edition of the newsletter is focused on the topic of overdose.

European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction strategy and work programme 2013-2015

The 2013–15 strategy is built around three top-level commitments: (a) providing a relevant, timely and responsive analysis of the drug situation; (b) efficiency: deriving maximum value from activities and investments; (c) communication and a customer-orientated approach.

ANCD Position Statement: Expanding Naloxone Availability

A substantial body of evidence shows that expanding naloxone availability and overdose prevention training to potential overdose witnesses is a remarkably safe and effective intervention for preventing opioid overdose fatalities, with the potential to prevent opioid overdose related injury.

SMMGP Clinical Update August-September 2012

This document produced by SMMGP gives an update on current publications.

Supply, demand and harm reduction in Australian prisons - An update

Australia's prisons currently have a major focus on reducing the supply of drugs with programs that are rarely evaluated and in the end fail to stop the availability or use of drugs in prisons.

The Impact of Harm Reduction Programs on Law Enforcement in Southeast Asia: What Works and What Doesn't

This special issue takes a pragmatic look at opportunities and barriers and it examines some of the factors that have determined the conflictual relationship between law enforcement and the protection of public health, suggesting that policing, when well conceived and implemented, actually constitutes a largely untapped resource in HIV prevention benefiting substance users and the rest of the population.

Chris Ford's review of Release's report, "A Quiet Revolution: drug decriminalisation policies in practice across the globe"

Chris thinks about decriminalisation in response to Release's report: "We know criminalisation of individuals can impact them for the rest of their lives, affecting employment and education, not to mention their health and welfare. It stigmatises people and can push them further into the margins of society. As doctors, many of us may not have thought much about decriminalisation and its potential to improve the health and overall well-being of people who use drugs, but even for those of us who have, read this report" and think about your view -- Please comment with your view of decriminalisation on the [forum](#)

EMCDDA guidelines for reporting data on people entering drug treatment in European countries

The EMCDDA guidelines have been revised to better reflect the realities of today's drug situation and changes in treatment services and data monitoring systems. They follow a three-year revision process involving experts from the EU Member States, Croatia, Turkey, Norway and Switzerland.

Bridging The gap: Why the European Union must address the Global Fund's funding crisis to tackle the escalating HIV and TB epidemics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The report calls on the EU to step in to fill the gaps left by global donors to countries within and neighbouring its borders.

Assessment of Medication Assisted Therapy Program in Kazakhstan

ICAP conducted an assessment on the scale and quality of the existing MAT services for people who inject drugs (PWID) in Kazakhstan, and to identify any gaps in such services.

The economic impact of Hepatitis C in Australia

by Boston Consulting Group and Janssen Australia.

Discussion forums

Hot topics below are being discussed on the forums:

- [Help expose the scandal of HCV in people who use drugs](#)
- [What is your view on decriminalisation?](#)

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 at www.idhdp.com If you are having trouble logging in to the forums please contact Rebecca Murchie at Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com

IDHDP communications

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter . We now have over **400 followers!** 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

Don't forget to like our **Facebook page** and to 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 and every other area. Drug policy affects health. Please help spread the word to your colleagues and direct them to our website for more information and to **register**
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. Get your colleagues in other professions to join the public forums and increase the debate.

IDHDP represents doctors from 54 countries! Click [here](#) to see our map of member countries.

With best wishes,

Chris, Holly and Rebecca

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