



The ICUDDR Vision: Filling the Gap in University-Based Addictions Training

Roger Peters, Ph.D.

University of South Florida

Vice-President of the ICUDDR

Kimberly Johnson, Ph.D.

University of South Florida

Executive Director of the ICUDDR



The Global Context

- Scientific research is being translated to the workforce
- Addiction remains misunderstood, resulting in non-evidence based practices for treatment and prevention
- Failure of non-scientific interventions results in loss of public confidence in the field

Conclusion: *Need enhanced efforts to prepare the addictions workforce*



The Global Context

- Addiction Prevention and Treatment is **not recognized as a unique field**; incorporated within other disciplines:
 - Treatment: psychology, public health, medicine, social work, nursing
 - Prevention: psychology, public health, communications, education
- **Tangential and fragmented focus**; multidisciplinary specialization is lacking
- **University consortium needed** to shape the discipline and advocate for formal academic training programs in addiction studies



Evolution of ICUDDR

- Urgent need to enhance professional workforce in addiction services
- Growing need for advanced/specialized training of addiction professionals
- Lack of addiction studies programs in university settings
 - Undergraduate
 - Graduate



History of ICUDDR

- Key question raised by university partners: **How to develop academic programs in addictions studies?**
 - How to create a new program/field of study?
 - How to create a demand in the marketplace?
- March 2016 - INL engaged Colombo Plan and OAS to organize a meeting of universities from Asia, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and Europe
- At the conclusion of the meeting, participants decided to formalize a network: **International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)**



Goals of ICUDDR

- **Network Development:** Establish a network of universities with academic programs in addiction studies
- **Education:** Engage students in addiction studies programs and continuing education
- **Research:** Advance applied research in addiction prevention and treatment



Goals of ICUDDR

- **Community Outreach:** Enhance university partnerships with addiction professionals, and research and practice communities
- **Advocacy**
 - Within universities to develop academic programs in addiction studies
 - Guidelines and standards for academic programs in addiction studies



Next Steps for ICUDDR

- **Expand network of universities**
 - Those implementing programs
 - Those interested in implementing programs
- **Assess needs of ICUDDR members**
- **Disseminate curricula** (e.g., UPC/UTC) and other information about academic programs
- Host **3rd Annual Conference**: June 4-5, 2018 in San Diego



ICUDDR Partners

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- Colombo Plan
- International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP)
- Other national and international agencies



ICUDDR Website and Membership

- <http://www.icuddr.com/>
- <http://www.icuddr.com/membership/join-us-electronic-form/>



Confronting Challenges from a Regional Perspective: Small Group Discussions

- Africa – Room 2006 (2nd floor)
- North America – Room 4004 (4th floor)
- Asia – Theater (1st floor)
- Europe – Theater (1st floor)
- Latin America and Caribbean (Auditorium)



Confronting Challenges from a Regional Perspective: Small Group Discussions

- What are key issues in your region related to training in addiction studies?
- Strategies/next steps to address these issues
- How can ICUDDR assist in your region?