



Guidelines Development Group

Biographies of proposed members

Guidelines for the psychosocially assisted pharmacological treatment of opioid dependence and community management of opioid overdose

Planned meeting date: October 2025

1. AL AARAJ, Elias

Association Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC) and Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHR)

Eli Aaraj is the founder and former director of the Association Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC), which was established in 1987. He is the Founding President of the Order of Nurses in Lebanon, a council member of the Municipality of Sin El Fil and was President of the Regional/Arab Network Against AIDS- (RANAA) for 10 years. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHR), a regional NGO working towards promoting and advocating for harm reduction within the MENA region. Mr. Aaraj conducts research on HIV, drug use prevention and harm reduction and the role of civil society organizations. Mr. Aaraj is currently a member of the Developing Country NGO Delegation (DCNGO) at the Board of the Global Fund, and a member of the advisory board at the faculty of health sciences at Sagesse University, Lebanon.

2. Assanangkornchai, Sawitri

Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand.

Sawitri Assanangkornchai is a Professor of Psychiatry working in Department of Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University. She is also the Director

of Centre for Alcohol Studies, a national research agency under the support of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, with a mission to promote research and policy development on alcohol control. Dr. Assanangkornchai's research interests include epidemiological and clinical studies on alcohol and substance-related problems, behavioural addiction and mental health problems. Dr. Assanangkornchai is currently the President of the Asia Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR). She is a member of the Workgroup on the Classification of Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders for the ICD-11 Mental and Behavioural Disorders and the Technical Expert Group on Alcohol and Drug Epidemiology of the WHO.

3. BRUNEAU, Julie

Department of Family and Emergency Medicine at Université de Montréal and Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Montreal, Canada

Dr Julie Bruneau holds the Canada Research Chair in Addiction Medicine, is Professor in the Department of Family and Emergency Medicine at Université de Montréal and senior clinical scientist at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) research center. She is the principal investigator of the Quebec node of CRISM, the Canadian Research Initiative on Drug Matters. Dr Bruneau's work centers on advancing best practices to enhance addiction care, wellbeing and prevent harms, including HIV and HCV, among people who use drugs. Her research has contributed to a better understanding of factors impeding and facilitating efforts to reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission in this population and to the implementation and evaluation of novel interventions supporting equitable access to quality health care.

4. COFFIN, Phillip

Center on Substance Use and Health at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, USA

Phillip Coffin MD, MIA, is a board-certified and practicing internist, infectious disease specialist, and addiction medicine specialist. He attended or trained at Brown University, Columbia University, the University of California San Francisco, and the University of Washington. He directs the Center on Substance Use and Health at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, including clinical trials assessing medications for multiple substance use disorders, interventions to reduce for substance use toxicities and related medical sequelae, and substance use epidemiology.

5. DIETZE, Paul

Burnet Institute and National Drug Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia

Paul Dietze, PhD is the co-Director of the Disease Elimination Program at the Burnet Institute and Head of the Melbourne office of the National Drug Research Institute. He has over 25 years' experience in research on alcohol and other drugs that has dramatically enhanced surveillance, epidemiology and responses. He has over 400 peer-reviewed publications and has received in excess of \$40million in competitive grant funding. His work focuses on responses to opioid overdose in particular; he was a member of the Guidelines Development Group for the Community Management of Opioid Overdose Guidelines developed by the WHO and led the WHO/UNODC Stop Overdose Safely study of take-home naloxone implementation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. He is Executive Editor of Drug and Alcohol Review and Vice-President of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors.

6. FIDALGO, Thiago Marques

Drug and Alcohol Outpatient Facility (PROAD) and the General Psychiatry Outpatient Unit, Department of Psychiatry, Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil

Dr Thiago Marques Fidalgo (MD, PhD) is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP). Dr Fidalgo has been involved in the treatment of drug dependent people for 15 years and has completed research on adolescents with substance use disorder and their sexual behaviour. Currently, Dr Fidalgo coordinates the Addiction Outpatient Unit (PROAD) of the university, managing a group of more than 30 professionals with different backgrounds and receiving more than 20 residents each year. He also coordinates the outpatient facility of General Psychiatry at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo and the Psychiatry Residency Program of the university.

7. GAWAD, Tarek

Department of Psychiatry, Kasr Alaini Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt

Prof. Abdel Gawad has been a Professor of Psychiatry at Cairo University, Cairo Egypt since 2001. Internationally, he is a member of the International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (CUDDR) Board of Directors and has served as the past President of the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) as well as the past Chair of the World Psychiatric Association Section of Addiction Psychiatry (WPA). He participated and published numerous research covering a wide array of

psychiatric subjects, notably in addiction. He is primarily interested in comorbidity studies and developing addiction psychiatric services. He is the Co-PI of the Fogarty grant of Addiction Research between Cairo university and UCLA since 2012.

8. IVANCHUK, Iryna

Public Health Center, Ministry of Health, Kyiv, Ukraine

Dr. Iryna Ivanchuk is a public health expert specializing in program management and health policy. Currently, she serves as the Head of the Viral Hepatitis and Opioid Dependence Department at the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Iryna's work focuses on viral hepatitis and opioid dependence, coordinating national procurement, scaling up programs, and developing clinical guidelines for both adults and children (in the field of OST, viral hepatitis B and C, and drug addiction). Since January 2024, she is the National Coordinator for public mental health programs and drug policy. Her previous roles include Senior Project Officer at the Alliance for Public Health and National OST Program Coordinator at the Ukrainian Center for Socially Dangerous Diseases. Her career began with grassroots program management for HIV/AIDS and youth services in Kyiv.

9. KHAZAAL, Yasser

University of Lausanne, Switzerland and Montreal University Canada

Yasser Khazaal is a Professor of Addiction psychiatry at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, University of Lausanne and associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Addictology, Montreal University, Canada. He is member of the board of Addiction medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Lausanne University Hospital. He is involved in the development of recovery-oriented services as well as in studies related to addictive disorders, e-mental health as well as in projects related to the development and assessment of games or digital interventions for different mental health disorders.

10. KORIR, Ruth Jepchumba

Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr. Ruth Jepchumba Korir is a Consultant Psychiatrist with over 10 years of experience in mental health, addiction treatment, and public health policy. Currently, she leads the Addiction Treatment Services and the Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT) Clinic at Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Korir has made significant contributions to national health policy, including the National

Strategy for Prevention and Management of Alcohol Use and the Kenya HIV Prevention and Treatment Guideline 2022. She is also a member of the National Technical Working Group for Alcohol and Substance Use Prevention and Control and Harm Reduction Programme. Dr. Korir's trains healthcare professionals, leading harm reduction programs, and facilitating international study tours on Medically Assisted Therapy.

11. MURTHY, Pratima

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India

Dr Pratima Murthy, Director and Senior Professor of Psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India, has over three decades of experience in the field of addiction and mental health. Dr Murthy's work is in the area of addiction prevention and treatment including clinical care, training, research and policy. She has been involved in developing the national guidelines for tobacco cessation and leading the national guidelines for addiction management. She is an international consultant to the World Health Organization for the MhGAP in mental health and addictions and has been a member of the STAG for MNS conditions. She has provided consultancy to the National Human Rights Commission and been a member of many task forces at the national level. She is presently the director of the WPA collaborating centre at NIMHANS.

12. OMIGBODUN, Olayinka Olusola

College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Olayinka Omigbodun is a Professor of Psychiatry at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan and a Consultant Child and Youth Psychiatrist at the University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria. Privileged to train in the United Kingdom in Psychiatry and Public Health, Olayinka returned to her country, Nigeria, and pioneered child and adolescent mental health (CAMH) research, training, and service development in her context. She led a team of academics to win a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, with which the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CCAMH) at the University of Ibadan was founded. As the pioneer director of CCAMH, over 150 graduates from 14 African countries were trained in a Master of Science leadership programme in CAMH. Her leadership in CAMH was recognised globally, and she was elected President of the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) from 2010 to 2014, the first African to hold this position in the umbrella organisation for CAMH. She received the Leadership Award from the African Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (AACAMH) and the

International Contribution Award of IACAPAP in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the promotion of child and adolescent mental health in the developing world. Professor Omigbodun has held advisory roles for the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Adolescent Health. Olayinka is Nigeria's first female Professor of Psychiatry, and she also served as the 12th and first female Provost of the College of Medicine at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria's premier university. Olayinka also leads several impactful research projects benefiting thousands of children, youth, women, and persons with lived experiences of mental illness in low-income communities, providing them with vital care, support, and empowerment.

13. RAHIMI-MOVAGHAR, Afarin

Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS), Tehran, Iran

Afarin Rahimi-Movaghar has over 25 years of experience in policy-making and research in mental health and substance use. She is primarily interested in health service, clinical, and epidemiology research. Her research experience includes directing several national surveys, such as the two Iranian national mental health and substance use surveys (IranMHS), as well as conducting systematic reviews, clinical trials, and qualitative studies, and developing national or global evidence-based guidelines on mental disorders and substance dependence. She has served as a consultant for various programs in MENA region countries and has been a member of several advisory committees for WHO, including the WHO Advisory Group on Development of ICD-11, and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), such as the Strategic Advisory Committee for World Drug Report. Currently, Afarin Rahimi-Movaghar is the head of the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS), the principal investigator for a large youth cohort study (Persian Youth Cohort), and is conducting the second National Survey for Mental Health (IranMHS-II) in Iran. She also serves as a co-chair of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD).

14. SHELLY, Shaun

University of Pretoria, Department of Family Medicine and Chair of South Africa Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD), South Africa

Shaun Shelly is an independent consultant and was the Drug Policy lead at TB HIV Care, a researcher at the University of Pretoria, Department of Family Medicine and Chair of SANPUD. He is a former Deputy Secretary of the United Nations VNGOC on Narcotic Drugs and Shaun serves on several boards internationally. He studied Addictions and Mental Health at Stellenbosch University and the University of Cape Town's

departments of Psychiatry and has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from police culture to the neurobiology of dependent drug use.

15. SOUTHWELL, Mat

Coact Technical Support, Bath, United Kingdom

Mat Southwell is Managing and Technical Director of Coact Technical Support. Coact is a community-led training and consultancy company that supports harm reduction, drug treatment, and community mobilisation with people who use drugs in international development settings. Mat founded the community-led NHS harm reduction agency called the Healthy Options Team (HOT) which provided OAMT on a shared care basis with general practitioners. Mat coordinated the reconfiguration of drug treatment services in East London when professional head of service in the 1990s. Mat was until recently Project Executive for EuroNPUD - the European Network of People who Use Drugs. Mat drafted the EuroNPUD OAT Client Guide, a resource that sets baseline standards for people with opioid dependence in partnership with service providers and policy makers. Mat has also written technical briefings on peer-to-peer naloxone and peer-to-peer needle and syringe programmes for EuroNPUD. Mat has benefited from methadone treatment and is championing meaningful therapeutic alliances and client centred care planning as strategies to maximise the impact and quality of drug treatment.

16. ZHAO, Min

Shanghai Mental Health Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine and the National Center for Mental Disorders, China.

Zhao Min, M.D., Ph.D., is a consultant psychiatrist and professor. She is the President of Shanghai Mental Health Center, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine and the director of the National Center for Mental Disorders (China). She is a member of International Advisory Group a member of the expert group and Field Studies Coordination Group of the ICD-11, and a member of the Informal Scientific Network of UNODC. She is the Chair of WADD (World Association on Dual Disorders), Member of International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) Global Experts Network (ISAM-GEN) China Chapter, president of the Chinese Psychiatric Hospital Association and vice-president of Chinese Society of Psychiatry. She has also been received more than 20 research grants, published nearly 260 papers, edited and translated nine monographs, co-edited over 40, and patented eight inventions.

