

WHO 45th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD)

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45th ECDD Committee Member Biographies

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Please send any comments to ecddsecretariat@who.int

Surname, first name(s) and initial Beardsley, Patrick

Institutional affiliation(s) Virginia Commonwealth University

City and country of primary residence Richmond, United States of America

Professor Beardsley received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and completed postdoctoral training at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto and at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. He was subsequently recruited by G.D. Searle & Co., Skokie, IL, as a senior scientist in CNS drug development, and later by Glaxo, S.p.A., Verona, Italy, where he led research efforts for developing medications for treating drug abuse disorders. He returned to the Virginia Commonwealth University in 1992 where he is now a tenured Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Professor Beardsley's research has spanned across almost all classes of abused drugs emphasizing abuse liability evaluation and medication development for drug abuse disorders. He is past president of the International Study Group Investigating Drugs as Reinforcers (ISGIDAR), and past awardee of The Young Psychopharmacologist Award by the American Psychological Association. He was a Charter member of National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)'s medication grant review committee (NIDA-L), and serves as a Special Government Employee for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He currently is Chair of the Committee on the Abuse Liability of Drugs for the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the largest scientific organization whose focus is the drugs of abuse, and is a member of its Board of Directors.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Best, Wim

Institutional affiliation(s) Utrecht University

City and country of primary residence Utrecht, Netherlands

Dr Wim Best is a pharmacist and toxicologist by training and honorary lecturer at Utrecht University and Maastricht University. Dr Best is a leading expert on narcotic and psychotropic drugs. He gained experience in quality affairs, clinical research, drug safety and scientific evaluation of medicinal and healthcare products in the pharmaceutical industry. Thereafter, in 1998, he was appointed as Senior-Inspector for Healthcare at the Healthcare Inspectorate. Since 2002 he is Chair of the Department of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs at the Health and Youth Care Inspectorate, where he is responsible for legal aspects and policies concerning narcotic and psychotropic drugs. He is also a member of international committees and working groups for risk assessment and drugs monitoring. From 2009 on he is also active as consultant in forensic and behavioral toxicology.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Comer, Sandra

Institutional affiliation(s) Columbia University

City and country of primary residence New York, United States of America

Dr Sandra Comer is Professor of Neurobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University. She received her BS at Vanderbilt University and PhD at the University of Michigan for her research on the effects of drugs using preclinical models. Dr Comer is Director of the



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Opioid Laboratory in the Division on Substance Use Disorders and her current research focus is on the clinical testing of medications for treating opioid use disorder, methods to maximize the use of naloxone by opioid users, and evaluations of the comparative abuse liability of prescribed pain medications. Dr Comer served as President of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the longest standing scholarly society in the U.S. devoted to research on substance use disorders, and currently is the Public Policy Officer for CPDD. Dr Comer is a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Dependence for the World Health Organization and has over 160 publications on substance use disorders.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Ekwere, Ifeoma

Institutional affiliation(s) University of Benin Teaching Hospital

City and country of primary residence Benin, Nigeria

Dr Ifeoma Toyin Ekwere is a senior Consultant Anaesthesiologist with the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Nigeria. She is also a Lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesiology, School of Medicine, University of Benin. She obtained a degree in Medicine from the University of Nigeria and a Postgraduate Diploma in Anaesthesia from University of Benin. She did her residency training in Anaesthesia in UBTH and obtained Fellowships from the West African College of Surgeons, the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and is a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons. She also obtained a diploma in Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia/Intensive care from the Edith Wolfson Hospital in Israel.

Dr Ifeoma Ekwere is involved in research focused on pain medicine, anaesthesia and intensive care. She has scientific publications in various peer-reviewed medical journals and has supervised many postgraduate dissertations. She is currently an examiner for postgraduate examinations with the West African College of Surgeons and the National Postgraduate Medical College (Faculty of Anaesthesia). She is also a member of different learned societies, a member of the Ethics/Research Committee in UBTH and an Executive council member of the Nigerian Society of anaesthetists. She is a recipient of various Awards/Prizes.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Elliott, Simon

Institutional affiliation(s) Elliott Forensic Consulting Ltd

City and country of primary residence Birmingham, United Kingdom

Dr Simon Elliott is a Consultant Forensic Toxicologist and Director of Elliott Forensic Consulting as well as being a Visiting Professor in Forensic Toxicology at King's College London. He was previously the Director of Global Forensics at Alere (now Abbott) having also been the Managing Director of Forensics Ltd (Alere Forensics, formerly ROAR Forensics) in Malvern, Worcestershire 2008-2017. He has previously worked as a Clinical Scientist in the NHS for over 10 years specifically involved in clinical and forensic toxicology as Section Head of Forensic Toxicology. He holds a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Bath and a PhD in Biochemical Toxicology from the University of Birmingham. He is a Chartered Scientist and European Registered Toxicologist as well as being a member of a number of professional organisations, including LTG, TIAFT, SOFT, the Chartered Society for Forensic Science and Royal Society of Chemistry in addition to being a founding council member and Vice-Chair of the UK & Ireland Association of Forensic Toxicologists (UKIAFT). He is the author of over 60 scientific publications, articles and

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book chapters and has presented at many international meetings as well as presenting evidence for many years in Coronial, Civil and Criminal Court. He advises the World Health Organisation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, especially regarding new psychoactive substances.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Jain, Raka

Institutional affiliation(s) All India Institute of Medical Sciences

City and country of primary residence New Delhi, India

Professor Raka Jain joined the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi as an Assistant Professor Chemistry in 1988. Currently, her position is Professor (2005-till date) and Officer In Charge of De-addiction laboratories. Professor Jain has planned and established NDDTC's Drug Abuse Testing Laboratory (1989) and Pre-clinical Behaviour Laboratory (1994). Her research focuses on drug addiction, primarily drug analysis (Toxicology), neuro-psychopharmacology (Behavioral, Biochemical, Molecular studies), abuse liability of psychotropic drugs, tobacco cessation, validity and pattern of drug abuse among drug users. Professor Jain is actively involved in post graduate teaching of medical students and the training of Drug Testing to health professionals of the country.

Professor Jain has been the recipient of professional honours and awards including: UNDCP fellowship, NIDA INVEST and DISCA award, NIDA international travel awards for presenting research papers in NIDA International forum meetings, USA. She has received advance training in 'Analytical' Methods of Body Fluid Analysis in (1990-1991) at Institute of Legal Medicine, Forensic Toxicology Laboratory, University of Padova, Italy under UNDCP Fellowship. Professor Jain received Postdoctoral training in "Behaviour Pharmacology" at Emory University, Atlanta, USA as NIDA INVEST fellow (1996-1997) and also at NIDA IRP, NIH, DHHS, Hopkins Bayview Campus, Baltimore, MD, USA (2006) as a NIDA, DISCA Fellow.

Professor Jain is a peer reviewer for National and International Journals and member of national and international societies and advisory committees. Publication records include 99 research papers, 16 chapters in Books/report/Manual/monograph and she has presented research work in national and international meetings. She has also received many research grants funded by international and national bodies. Professor Jain has also served as Chief Supervisor for many Postgraduate Medical Students M.D. Thesis and Ph.D. students (Addiction Psychiatry).

Surname, first name(s) and initial Kaduri, Pamela

Institutional affiliation(s) University of Toronto /Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

City and country of primary residence Toronto, Canada / Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Dr Pamela Kaduri (MD, Mmed, MscCH) is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto (UoT), and a staff Psychiatrist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada. She is also a recognized Addiction Psychiatrist in Tanzania and a honorary lecturer with the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Tanzania.

Dr Kaduri has extensive experience in training, research, policy development and clinical care provision to patients suffering from mental health and or addictions in both developed and

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developing countries. Dr Kaduri is among the pioneers in the development, implementation and expansion of the methadone maintenance programs in the United Republic of Tanzania. She has served as a member in various advisory committees in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has conducted tobacco and alcohol interventions, worked in areas of injection drug use and HIV including drug dependence treatment and mental health. She has peer reviewed publications on public health, policy, and treatment in substance use. Dr Kaduri is a member of various local and international professional bodies.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Kitanaka, Junichi

Institutional affiliation(s) Hyogo Medical University

City and country of primary residence Kobe, Japan

Dr. Junichi Kitanaka is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the Hyogo College of Medicine in Nishinomiya, Hyogo, Japan. He received his PhDs in Pharmacology from Osaka University and from Hyogo College of Medicine. Dr. Kitanaka completed his post-doctoral fellowship from the Intramural Research Program, National Institute on Drug Abuse-NIH, USA, under the supervision of Dr. George Uhl. His research focuses on signs and symptoms of methamphetamine abuse and addiction. This includes research on behavioral analyses under acute methamphetamine overdose; studies of pharmacotherapy on methamphetamine abuse; and research on pathophysiological association of methamphetamine effects with brain monoaminergic and histaminergic neuronal systems. He also serves on the DAD editorial board since 2012.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Pascale Prieto, Antonio

Institutional affiliation(s) Center of Biomedical Sciences, University of Montevideo.

City and country of primary residence Montevideo, Uruguay

Dr Pascale obtained his professional degree of medical toxicologist from the University of the Republic, and he is current Professor of the Center of Biomedical Sciences, University of Montevideo. His academic appointments include being Associate Professor of Clinical Toxicology at the School of Medicine, University of the Republic, in Montevideo, Uruguay between May 2013 and February 2021. He is the Director of the National Center for Information and Reference of the Drug Network (National Drug Treatment Center in Montevideo) since October 2020 and Director of the Toxicology Service of the National Direction of Police Health, Ministry of Interior, since September 2014. He has participated in several research studies that have examined clinical features and toxicology aspects of drugs overdose and withdrawal syndrome. Dr Pascale is member of the Latin American Network of Drug Research, integrated by recognized experts on drug dependence and coordinated by the Inter-American Drug Observatory of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, and also member of the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists. He is a recognized reviewer for several national and international journals and served as consultant on prevention programs for youth and pregnant women. He has authored a significant number of publications in peer reviewed journals and he has participated as speaker in several international conferences and meetings in United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin American countries.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Rahimi-Movaghar, Afarin
Institutional affiliation(s) Tehran University of Medical Sciences
City and country of primary residence Tehran, Iran

Dr Afarin Rahimi-Movaghar has more than 20 years of experience in policy-making and research in the fields of substance use and mental health. She has served in several national level positions, including as the director of the offices on mental health and substance use services in the Iranian Ministry of Health, as well as director of the national mental health research department.

Her research experiences consist of directing several national surveys including Iranian national Mental Health survey, qualitative studies, scientometric studies as well as systematic reviews. Dr Rahimi-Movaghar's main interests are in the fields of health service research and epidemiology. She has numerous publications in these fields. She has been a member or principal investigator for developing several national or global evidence-based guidelines on mental disorders and substance dependence.

Dr Rahimi-Movaghar has done three reviews on substance use situation and interventions in the Middle East and North Africa in the years 2002, 2008 and 2012. She has been a consultant for several programs for MENA region countries and member of several advisory committees for the WHO headquarter and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

At the time being, Dr Rahimi-Movaghar is head of the Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies (INCAS) and the principal investigator for a large youth cohort study in Iran.

Surname, first name(s) and initial Thanoi, Sutisa
Institutional affiliation(s) Naresuan University
City and country of primary residence Phitsanulok, Thailand

Sutisa Nudmamud Thanoi is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medical Science at Naresuan University, where she has been a Faculty member since 2001. She is now also working as a director of Excellence Centre in Medial Biotechnology, Naresuan University.

Sutisa completed her Ph.D in Neuroscience at Sheffield University, UK, which her project focused on the abnormalities of glutamate neurotransmitter in Schizophrenia. She has continued her research on drug addiction especially methamphetamine, which it is dramatically increasing in Thailand and become a critical problem in the world. Her research interests focus on neurobiology in drug dependence including methamphetamine, ecstasy, pseudoephedrine, and dextromethorphan. She is a peer reviewer for national and international journals and has published many research and review articles regarding to drug dependence. She has also written a book entitled "Brain and Neurotransmitters : Abnormalities in Drug Addiction".

Currently, Sutisa is a committee in Anatomy Association of Thailand and Thai Neuroscience Society. She has worked as a chair of scientific committee in national and international conferences. In addition, she has been invited to give plenary lectures in both national and international conferences regarding the effect of drug addiction to the brain. She has received



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several research grants funded by national and international organizations. She had been awarded a funding from the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) for organizing an Associate School of Neuroscience in 2016, which the main objective of the meeting was to provide a platform for postgraduate students to expand their knowledge on neuroscience. Moreover, she had been awarded the PMI2 Connect-Research Co-operation and Newton Fund from British Council, which those grants provided her an opportunity for conducting the research collaboration with the researchers in UK.

Surname, first name(s) and initial White, Jason

Institutional affiliation(s) University of South Australia

City and country of primary residence Adelaide, Australia

Professor Jason White is Professor of Pharmacology and Head, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, University of South Australia. He qualified from the University of Adelaide with a BSc (Hons) and a PhD. He received post-doctoral training in pharmacology at Emory University and has subsequently held academic positions at Monash University, the University of Adelaide and currently at the University of South Australia. He has wide-ranging teaching experience in neuroscience, pharmacology, behaviour analysis and the management of alcohol and drug problems.

Professor White has published extensively in the pharmacology of addictive drugs and in the treatment of drug and alcohol dependence; his publication record includes 200 papers, book chapters and books and he has supervised 24 PhD theses. He has attracted numerous research grants and contracts from governments, government agencies and from industry. He is a past President of the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs and the inaugural winner of their Senior Scientist Award.

Professor White has over 20 years' experience in the treatment of people with alcohol and drug problems and in the management of clinics providing such treatment, and has served as a Director of Drug & Alcohol Services South Australia. He also has extensive experience in the provision of expert evidence related to drug effects in civil and criminal matters.