

# IDHDP Newsletter

## Volume 8

## November 12



our aims

increase the participation of  
medical doctors in drug policy reform

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the IDHDP November 2012 newsletter, particular welcome to our new members and readers.

### Highlights:

- Scholarship, fellowship and job vacancy
- Upcoming events
- News
- New publications on the website
- IDHDP forums
- IDHDP communications

### Scholarship, fellowship and job vacancy

#### International AIDS Society (IAS): HIV & DRUG USE FELLOWSHIP

The IAS-NIDA Fellowship Programme aims at contributing to the scientific understanding of drug use and HIV while fostering international research collaborations. The application process opens on 8 December 2012 and closes on 10 February 2013. Further information can be found on the [website](#).

#### Drugs, Security and Democracy Fellowship

The Drugs, Security and Democracy (DSD) fellowship program supports research on drug policy, citizen security and democratic governance, as well as associated topics across the social sciences and related disciplines. The application process is now open and closes on 20 January 2013. Further information can be found on the [website](#).

#### UNODC Cairo

UNODC Regional Office in Cairo and its Programme Office in East Jerusalem are seeking an international consultant to undertake a feasibility study for the introduction of opioid substitution treatment programmes in the Palestinian Authority. This consultancy is home based with two missions to Jerusalem and Ramallah. Further information can be found on the [website](#).

### Upcoming events

*If you would like to introduce IDHDP to fellow delegates at conferences you attend please use the [presentation slide](#) and the [membership flyer](#).*

#### IV Latin American Conference on Drug Policy (5 – 6 December 2012) Bogota, Columbia

The conference is organized by Intercambios Civil Association and ATS Corporación Acción Técnica Social.

**Alert:** Holly Catania is attending the conference and would like to meet with members in the region. If you are attending please contact her at [holly.catania@idhdp.com](mailto:holly.catania@idhdp.com)

### **National Conference on Substitution (12 December 2012) Berlin, Germany**

The objective of this conference, is to work on short and medium term actions to improve the medical treatment of drug dependence in Germany.

### **Global Addiction and Europad Joint Conference 2013 (7-10 May 2013) Pisa, Italy.**

The 7th Global Addiction conference, in conjunction with Europad, will be held at the Palazzo Dei Congressi in Pisa. Registration is for all 4 days of the conference, including the Europad workshop on the first day. Topics to be covered in the conference include all subjects relevant to the understanding and treatment of all addictions.

### **ISSDP seventh conference (15 – 17 May 2013) Bogota, Columbia**

The International Society for the Study of Drug Policy's 2013 conference will focus on "“Collateral costs of illegal drugs and the war on drugs: violence, corruption and institutional instability.”"

Abstract submission is now open.

**Members' meeting alert:** we are planning a doctors' meeting at this event, details will follow in the coming months.

### **7TH IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention (30 June – 3 July 2013) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

The event will be organized by the IAS, in partnership with Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERiA), University of Malaya, a centre established in 2007 to undertake HIV-related research with a particular focus on HIV and substance use and related co-morbidities including tuberculosis and HCV.

**Members' meeting alert:** we are planning a doctors' meeting at this event, details will be forthcoming.

### **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. It will include high profile Keynote speeches, Plenary Sessions, Major Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Workshops and a Film Festival. The Theme of the conference "The Value/s of Harm Reduction"

Abstracts submission closes on **November 30**. You can submit your abstract [here](#)

**Members meeting and session alert:** We have submitted a proposal to present and facilitate a session on HCV titled *"Doctors unite against HCV – the forgotten epidemic"* and we are also planning an IDHDP members' meeting. Details will follow in the coming months.

## **News**

### **Worlds AIDS Day 1 Dec 2012**

World AIDS Day is held on **1 December** each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. Further information on the [website](#)

### **Breaking the taboo**

A global campaign on the War on Drugs will be launched by the screening of the documentary on **7 Dec, 2012**. Further information can be found on the [website](#)

### **What next for drug policy?**

Baroness Meacher (Chair, All Party Group on Drug Policy Reform) speaks about drug policy at the UKDPC conference. Watch the presentation [here](#)

### **Global Declaration on Drug Policy by Families and Family Organisations**

This Declaration is a call for parents, family members and their friends all over the world to come together to insist on better laws and policies to deal with illicit drug issues based on research and evidence. Further information on the [website](#)

## New Publications on the IDHDP website

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

### **Drug treatment reduces criminal behaviour in adults with ADHD by about a third, study shows**

Adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are less likely to commit criminal offences when taking treatment for the condition, research conducted in Sweden has shown.

### **UK Drug Policy Commission 2012**

Presentations from the UKDPC's conference on the future of drug policy, "New generation, new problems, new drugs: time for a different approach?"

### **2012 Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe**

EMCDDA's yearly overview of the state of drug problems in Europe. This is an essential reference book for policymakers, specialists and practitioners in the drugs field or indeed anyone seeking the latest findings on drugs in Europe.

### **The death penalty for drug offences: Global overview 2012 Tipping the Scales for Abolition**

Harm Reduction International's eye-opening report identifies 33 countries or territories that still retain the death penalty for drug offenses, including 13 where the sentence is mandatory, and documents the laws in place as well as how frequently the sanctions are applied.

### **Buprenorphine treatment of opioid-dependent pregnant women: a comprehensive review**

This paper reviews the published literature regarding outcomes following maternal treatment with buprenorphine in five areas: maternal efficacy, fetal effects, neonatal effects, effects on breast milk and longer-term developmental effects.

### **Racial/ethnic disparities in HIV infection among people who inject drugs: an international systematic review and meta-analysis**

The Ethnic Minority Meta-Analysis (EMMA) aims to assess racial/ethnic disparities in HIV infection among people who inject drugs (PWID) across various countries.

### **Healing a Broken System: Veterans and the War on Drugs**

The report examines the plight of veterans struggling with incarceration and psychological wounds of war, such as addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder, and suggests reforms that could improve the health and preserve the freedom of American soldiers transitioning back to civilian life.

### **SMMGP Clinical Update October to November 2012**

Substance Misuse Management in General Practice's up to date resource on current clinical practice.

### **Shooting up: Infections among people who inject drugs in the UK 2011**

This report describes time trends on the extent of infections among PWID in the UK to the end of 2011.

### **Drug law reform when bad policy is good politics**

Commentary by Alex Wodak published in the Lancet, "The need for reform of drug laws is now growing in many countries, but change is slow because bad policy is still good politics. Thus, many political systems are unable to move forward with reform of drug laws, and change seems most likely to happen through pressure from civil society."

### **Effect of hepatitis C virus status on liver enzymes in opioid-dependent pregnant women maintained on opioid-agonist medication**

This study examines hepatic enzyme test results throughout the course of pregnancy in women maintained on methadone or buprenorphine.

### **Tackling the problem of hepatitis C, substance misuse and health inequalities: a consensus for London**

This document by The London Joint Working Group for Substance Misuse and Hepatitis C, "represents a call to action from experts in the fields of addiction and hepatitis in London. It provides a framework with which to address

the epidemiological, clinical and financial challenges presented by current rates of hepatitis C among people who have injected drugs, and sets out solutions in the form of a blueprint for local commissioners”

### **HIV among people who inject drugs in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia: a systematic review with implications for policy**

This paper provides, “A systematic review to identify and synthesise prevalence estimates and risk factors for HIV among people who inject drugs (PWID) in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.”

### **Prisons and Drugs in Europe: The Problem and Responses 2012**

EMCDDA reviews the available data on drug use among prison populations in Europe, focusing on injecting drug use and other health risk behaviours. Major health risks for drug-using prisoners, including blood-borne infections and infections that can affect all prisoners equally, such as tuberculosis, are discussed.

### **Pregnancy, childcare and the family: key issues for Europe’s response to drugs 2012**

EMCDDA’s overview on the extent of, and available responses to, the problems of pregnant drug users and families that are affected by drug use. In the first part of the report, a description of the available data on the extent of drug use during pregnancy and associated risks is followed by a review of responses to drug use among pregnant women across Europe. The second part of the publication focuses on children living in the care of drug users.

## **IDHDP forums**

Hot topic being discussed on the forums:

### **Help expose the scandal of HCV in people who use drugs**

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](http://www.idhdp.com). If you are having trouble logging in to the forums, please contact Rebecca at [Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com](mailto:Rebecca.murchie@idhdp.com)

## **IDHDP communications**

### **Twitter**

Follow us on **Twitter** . **We now have over 500 followers!** If you are a member of Twitter please search for us at [@idhdp](https://twitter.com/idhdp), or if you do not wish to join Twitter, you can check the **IDHDP home page** to read our latest tweets.

### **Facebook**

Like the **IDHDP Facebook page** to receive updates on your Facebook news feed. This is also a great way to share articles and information with your Facebook friends.

### **Newsletter**

Please send the newsletter on to your colleagues and encourage them to **join IDHDP**.

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With best wishes,

Chris, Holly and Rebecca

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