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◆ INTRODUCTION

The International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) is a non-profit, global membership organisation that was formally established in 2016. ISSUP currently has over 21,000 members from more than 190 nations and territories. ISSUP links and supports the individuals working in the field of drug demand reduction across the world.

The opportunity for ISSUP to build a partnership with Addictology to progress the strong relationship with Charles University in Prague offers great potential to provide a unique contribution to the field of drug demand reduction that will present real value to researcher, policy makers and practitioners. ISSUP welcomes this opportunity to work together to grow and develop an international journal devoted to publishing peer-reviewed interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary scientific reports on psychoactive substance use. ISSUP seeks to become a significant stakeholder and an official strategic partner in the provision of the Addictology Journal.

Each edition of the Journal will have a section from ISSUP to keep readers informed about its events, scientific contributions, conferences, trainings, news, membership, and National Chapters. In this issue we present information on recent and forthcoming remarkable events and contributions by ISSUP:

- **Homelessness and Substance use: a disturbing link around the world: an ISSUP Webinar Series**
- **ISSUP 2022 Conference and Workshop: Uniting the global community to face the challenge of addiction**
- **Connecting the workforce with ISSUP Networks**
- **Become an ISSUP member**

ISSUP thanks those who have made it possible to collaborate on this important initiative of Addictology becoming one of the major journals for those working in the drug demand reduction field. We hope our readers will feel able to provide feedback on what we provide – or ought to provide – and of course that they find the material presented in the Journal relevant, accessible, and informative in progressing their professional contributions to this vital area of work.

For further information about ISSUP please visit www.issup.net

◆ HOMELESSNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE: A DISTURBING LINK AROUND THE WORLD

ISSUP Webinar Series

The connection between homelessness and substance use is well recognised and an issue that impacts countries around the world. People who experience substance use related issues and homelessness are extremely vulnerable to a range of harms and can find it challenging to access appropriate support that will adequately meet their needs.

In order to address the often-complex issues this population experience, it is important the workforce has appropriate knowledge about the challenges people are facing, the different forms of support and

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targeted interventions that are available, and means of developing supportive and compassionate organisational systems, which are sensitive to the challenging nature of this kind of work. ISSUP is currently hosting a series of webinars focusing on the topic of substance use and homelessness. The aim of the three-part series is to explore the latest perspectives from research and practice on this issue.

The first webinar in the series was delivered at the end of January by Lili Lemieux-Cumberlege from Edinburgh University. The presentation, entitled 'Activated Threat Systems: The Intersection of Homelessness, Trauma, and Substance Use' explored trauma, homelessness, and substance use through a personal, interpersonal, and systemic lens. Lili shared the latest research on the often-overlapping nature of substance use, trauma and homelessness and the challenges this can present for practitioners working in the field. She then shared her latest research, which focuses on the notion of secondary traumatic stress and burnout, which is frequently present among workers. Using ideas from within compassion focused theory and practice, Lili describes ways in which organisations and wider systems can become "trauma-organised" in order to protect staff and service users. You can view a recording of the webinar through the [ISSUP website](#) and read the related reading list [here](#).

The second webinar in the series was presented by Dr Hannah Carver from the University of Stirling. It explored the barriers to support people experiencing problem substance use and homelessness. These barriers, that people experience when trying to access support, were described such as the lack of appropriate services, the service environment, the length of treatment, and COVID-19 pandemic consequences as well as healthcare costs and other barriers.

Drawing on evidence gathered from a range of primary research and systematic reviews, Hannah discussed the interventions to address these barriers. She highlighted diverse evidence-based interventions to address these barriers, such as services and interventions to meet people's need, integrated care, peer support and COVID-19 related service changes.

At the end of the webinar, key recommendations for policy, practice and research were shared and presented to the audience.

You can read the related reading list [here](#) and view a recording of the webinar [on ISSUP website](#).

The final webinar will focus in on the situation in India and will highlight the latest research from the country on substance use, homelessness, and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide a broad overview of the past and current situation in India and will explore the challenges that people are facing and the unique support systems that are in place to support this group of people.

The webinar will be presented by Dr. Alok Agrawal, an assistant professor at "All India Institute of Medical Sciences" in New Delhi. An overview of the past and the current situation in India and homelessness vulnerabilities will be discussed. Alok will share different types of support and services that people in India have access to, as well as the epidemiology of substance use among homeless populations. He will also communicate the challenges in providing treatment for substance use disorders to homeless substance users as well as the Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can find out more, register for the webinars [here](#).

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ISSUP 2022 CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP: UNITING THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF ADDICTION

ISSUP, ICUDDR, INL and NRC are partnering to provide this opportunity for our international network to come together online and in-person for networking, training, and discussion from the 11th to 16th of May 2022 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Connecting peers and learning from the best in drug demand reduction

The 2022 Annual Conference will deliver the latest learning from the fields of substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support under the theme of *Uniting the global community to face the challenge of addiction*. Keynote speakers and sub-plenaries will share new research findings on topics of relevance and pertinence to current and future challenges faced by the global drug demand reduction workforce.

Hosting on-site and virtual attendees at the same time

The conference will follow an in-person and online format with the main event taking place at the ADNEC in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Our aim is to widen participation to include those who might not be able to attend. View the event programme [here](#).

To make the event more inclusive and to allow international speakers and delegates to contribute to the conference remotely, a week-long stream of online sessions will provide virtual presentations and updates on substance use situations and initiatives from around the world.

Training and professional development

In common with previous ISSUP workshops, there will be a programme of trainings, including the exam for International Certified Addiction Professional (ICAP).

Celebrating excellence

ISSUP is proud to celebrate and honour the work of individuals, organisations, projects, and initiatives in the drug demand reduction field. A special ISSUP Awards event will highlight the exceptional contributions to the field made by ISSUP members.

Register

Visit the [event page](#) for more information and details of how to register as an in-person attendee.



Abu Dhabi online | in person 12 - 16 May
UNITING *the* GLOBAL COMMUNITY
TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF ADDICTION
conference | trainings | workshops

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CONNECTING THE WORKFORCE WITH ISSUP NETWORKS

ISSUP members benefit from joining a global community that provides guidance, training, resources, and opportunities to collaborate. As such, interactions between members can develop in various forms.

One of ISSUP's main aims is to facilitate collaboration and communication between members in the digital space. Digital technologies have a central role to play here by transforming how substance use professionals connect, communicate, and collaborate.

To enable collaboration in the digital space, ISSUP's website acts as a focal point to connect the global substance use workforce. As an integral part of the ISSUP website, our [Networks](#) facilitate communication and the sharing of knowledge between ISSUP members in a virtual setting.

How they work

Networks are online defined groups designed to allow professionals with a common interest to share information and interact with one another. Members can share links, upload files, comment, like and start discussions within each network. ISSUP has three main categories of network:

- **Organised private groups.** These are invitation-only and provide a collaboration space for identified groups of individuals.
- **Self-organising interest groups.** These are publicly browsable and provide a space for ISSUP members to share and discuss aspects of their work in prevention, treatment, and recovery support. Anyone can create or join one of these networks.
- **Official networks for geographic regions.** These serve to provide spaces for discussion of region-specific issues and developments at the country-level. ISSUP also provides dedicated networks for its National Chapters.

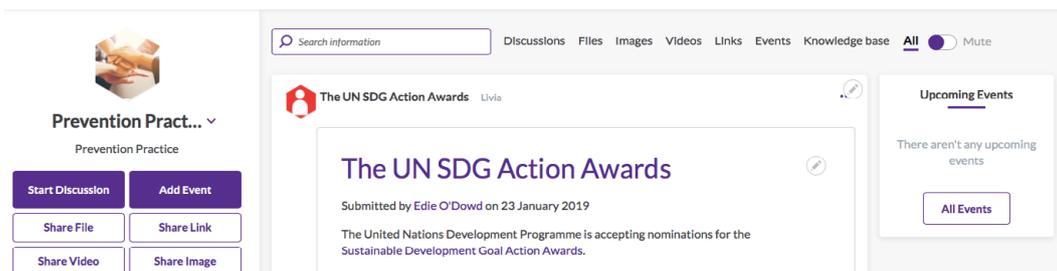
ISSUP members can join existing networks or create new networks covering a topic of their choice. If you create a network, you automatically become the moderator for that group.

You can also choose to receive a weekly email update of the events, resources, research, and discussions that have been added to the networks you have joined.

Getting started

Learn more about the Networks section of the ISSUP website by reading our user guide [here](#).

Figure 1 | The Prevention Practice Network is an example of a self-organising interest group



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◆ BECOME AN ISSUP MEMBER

ISSUP provides access to a wide range of benefits that can help develop your knowledge and career. Membership is free and we have a range of grades that suit everyone from experienced prevention, treatment, and recovery support professionals and researchers to students, volunteers, or anyone with an active interest in this field.

Benefits of joining

Join an international network of substance use prevention, treatment and recovery professionals undertaking and promoting high-quality, evidence based, and ethical practice. We are always refining features and adding to the benefits available to our members. ISSUP membership enables you to:

- ◆ Take courses (face-to-face and online) developed by our partners and gain qualifications through the ISSUP Professional Development Hub.
- ◆ Create your own member profile and share your work, projects, and events via our website.
- ◆ Join regional and topic focused discussion groups.
- ◆ Receive our twice monthly Newsletter and event notifications.
- ◆ Find national and international networking opportunities.
- ◆ Attend annual ISSUP workshops with benefits for members.
- ◆ Contact other members using the ISSUP Member Directory.
- ◆ Sign up to a code of ethics.
- ◆ Get information and resources for students and early career professionals.

Individual Membership Categories

We offer a choice of four categories of membership:

Drug Demand Reduction Professional Membership

for those who have specific qualifications, expertise and experience directly linked to the drug demand reduction field.

Professional Membership

for those that are undertaking a role that contributes to the drug demand reduction field, even if not necessarily a specialist.

Regular Membership

for interested, non-professional applicants (can include volunteers, family members or non-accredited community members).

Student Membership

for those attending an educational institution or attending training (in any field) containing a drug demand reduction component.

Apply Online

For more information and to submit an online application please see our [membership guide](#).

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◆ THE IMMORTAL IRISHMAN: TOM MCGOVERN

The world of addiction studies has been diminished in incalculable ways by the passing of Tom McGovern, a man of unbounded empathy, energy and erudition. Although he was well known as a Professor of Psychiatry at Texas Tech University, the Founding Director of the Center for Ethics, Humanities and Spirituality and Editor of the *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, the highlights of his professional career do not come close to telling the story of his life and the influence he had on others.

Early life and education

Tom was born in Cashel County, Tipperary, Ireland. The second-born of ten children, he considered himself to be fortunate to have received even a secondary education. He spent six years in a Catholic seminary, where he benefited enormously from a classical education that was taught mostly in Latin. After being ordained, he was sent to Texas to minister to Irish immigrants. As a parish priest, he continued his education at Texas Tech University, eventually receiving his Ed.D. in counselling psychology.

Road to recovery

According to an interview with Bill White in 2014, Tom's father had a significant alcohol problem, which persuaded him initially to abstain: "I was 23 before I ever had alcohol and I remember first drinking sherry at a little reception in honor of my ordination. I still recall that wonderful first euphoria of my first drink." Nevertheless, after he moved to Texas, he began to drink and by age 40 his heavy drinking led to an existential crisis that forced him in 1975 to seek treatment for alcohol dependence. A few years later, he resigned from the active priesthood. As he described it: "My parish communities were always supportive of me when I struggled with my disease, and they rejoiced at my recovery. And in that transition period, I met Toni, and we married a year after I had resigned" (quoted from White, 2014).

Contributions to addiction science

Tom's unique combination of personal experiences, formal education and professional transitions, plus the force of his engaging personality, allowed him to become an influential contributor to the emerging field of alcoholism treatment. He was involved in the early stages of alcoholism counseling as a profession, moving from local work with organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous to involvement at a national level with the national Association for Addiction Professionals (NADAAC). In the emerging movement to professionalize addiction counseling, he was one of the first "bridge professionals" who were also in recovery, which earned him a seat on an important Institute of Medicine Committee (1990) that produced the seminal work, *Broadening the Base of Treatment for Alcohol Problems*. As Editor of the *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, he made the journal a forum for ideas and research at the interface of science, clinical practice, spirituality and recovery. His skills as a bioethicist and an editor made him an influential member of the International Society of Addiction Editors, where he was a champion of journal policies dealing with conflict of interest and ethical decision-making, not only for scientists but also for editors (McGovern et al., 2017).



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Impact

For more than 40 years Tom McGovern served as a voice of compassion and concern for the most vulnerable people affected by addiction. From his experiences as a priest, alcoholism counsellor and person in recovery, one can find the roots of his appreciation for cultural diversity, and his understanding of systemic racism and social stigma. As a medical educator, he impacted the attitudes and skills of successive generations of physicians and physician scientists who came under his tutelage.

Although he had a profound influence on the professionalization of addiction counseling and the larger area of addiction treatment, he once lamented that: “Our professionalization has brought us the science and all kinds of new knowledge, but perhaps as a field, we have lost something of that ability to connect, to share stories, to offer living proof of long-term recovery and to show what a life in recovery can look like” (White, 2014, p. 4).

Conclusion

Not only did he have the “gift of gab,” Tom epitomized the eloquence and compassion of the Irish he so proudly represented.

For more than a decade, he closed the Texas Tech School of Medicine commencement ceremony with the following Irish prayer:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
the rain fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

In his own inimitable way, Tom once said that “the good we do lives on in the people whose lives we’ve touched.” On behalf of the many people whose lives he touched, we can rest assured that God continues to hold him in the palm of her hand.

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- Institute of Medicine. (1990). *Broadening the base of treatment for alcohol problems*. National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/1341>
- McGovern, T., Babor, T. F., & Stenius, K. (2017). The road to paradise: Moral reasoning in addiction publishing. In T. F. Babor, K., Stenius, R. Pates, M. Miovský, J. O’Reilly, & P. Candon (Eds), *Publishing addiction science: A guide for the perplexed* (3rd ed., pp. 299–322). Ubiquity Press.
- White, W. L. (2014). *A life of humble service: An interview with Dr. Tom McGovern*. www.williamwhitepapers.com.

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◆ IN MEMORIAM

Rowdy Yates

Rowdy Yates passed away on 14th February 2022 at the age of 71.

Rowdy Yates had been a professional in the field of addiction science since 1971. During his more than 50-year career, he became a respected drug rehabilitation expert and activist.

He was a co-founder and counsellor of a self-help support community for ex-addicts known as the Lifeline Project in Manchester, United Kingdom. He worked as a senior researcher and lecturer at the University of Stirling, Scotland. He was Executive Director of the European Working Group on Drugs Oriented Research (EWODOR) and President (later Honorary Vice-President) of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (EFTC). He was also a passionate musician and singer.

He died from Covid in the Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, surrounded by his family.

◆ IN MEMORIAM

Richard Saitz, MD, MPH

Richard Saitz passed away from pancreatic cancer on 15th January 2022 at the age of 58.

Richard Saitz was an internationally respected researcher in alcohol and drug addiction research. He was a professor, mentor, and lecturer at Boston University (BU) Schools of Medicine and Public Health. He was a director of the Clinical Addiction Research and Education (CARE) Unit at Boston Medical Center and President of the Association for the Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA), and chaired the Treatment and Services review committee in the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). He was also editor-in-chief of the Journal of Addiction Medicine, associate editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, editor of Evidence-Based Medicine, founder and editor emeritus of Addiction Science and Clinical Practice, and a member of several editorial boards.

He was a president and member of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE). He was keen on improving the quality and accessibility of addiction research and led international training on publishing addiction science worldwide. Messages and photos from some of the ISAJE members: <https://www.isaje.net/in-memoriam.html>.