

# The International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)

*Verna Felipe*

Global Regional Coordinator





# Content Synopsis

## OVERVIEW OF KEY IDEAS

- Who we are
- Mission, Vision and Value Proposition
- Center for Educational Development
- Center for Research and Fellowships
- Center for Systems Change
- Center for Credentialing and Accreditation
- Membership
- Q & A





# Who We Are

## VISION

ICUDDR envisions a world where people with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and related conditions have access to science-informed prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

## MISSION

To build and support a worldwide network of colleges and universities to improve professional competencies in preventing and treating SUDs and related conditions, increase access to quality services, and reduce global disparities.

To accomplish this, ICUDDR will provide the following:

- Support to expand and improve college and university-based education
- Support to expand research
- Networking and collaborative opportunities
- Advocacy for improved quality and access to services
- Up-to-date science from the field

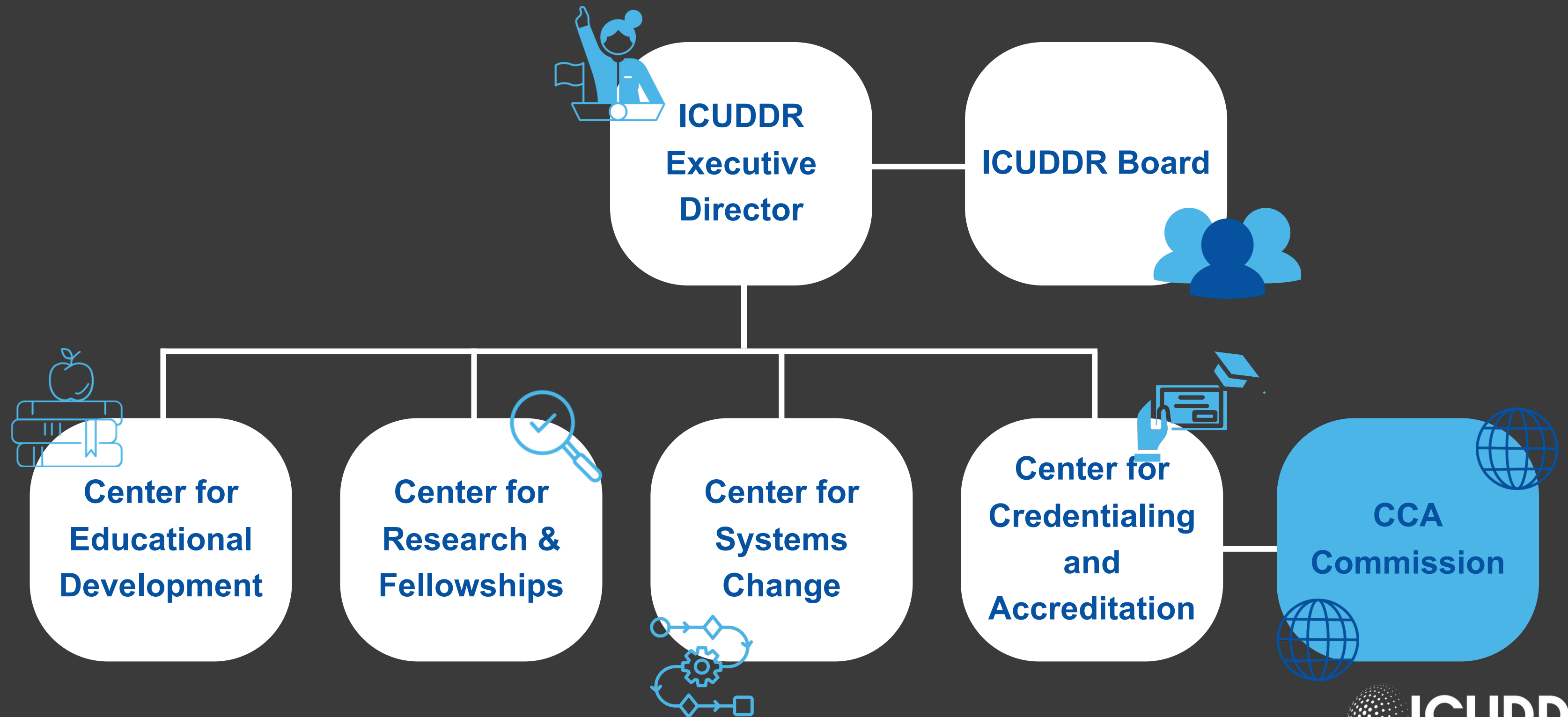


## VALUE PROPOSITION

We are a global consortium of institutes of higher education linking science, policy, education & service to address substance use challenges and strengthen communities.



# Governance Structure





# ICUDDR's 4 Centers: Operationalizing Our Work



International Consortium of Universities  
for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)

## **Center for Educational Development**

Dedicated to expanding the reach and impact of addiction studies programs by facilitating development of programs that meet international standards for training in drug prevention, treatment, and recovery.



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## **Center for Research & Fellowships**

Fostering applied research advancements among ICUDDR members, providing increased support to faculty in research endeavors, and facilitating collaboration through faculty exchange and joining research ventures.



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## **Center for Systems Change**

Highlights the critical role that universities play in advancing the systems involved in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.



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## **Center for Credentialing & Accreditation**

Dedicated to becoming the leading global credentialing organization for substance use professionals, committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.





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# **Center for Educational Development**



# The CED's Purpose

The Center for Educational Development advances education by embedding evidence-based practices into academic curricula, equipping students and faculty with the knowledge to address substance use challenges effectively.

**CED** provides resources, tools, and frameworks to enhance educational programs and encourages members to share and adopt best practices in





# CED's Goals

**Establish substance use education as a core component of health, social work, and public policy curricula globally.**

**Increase the number of academic programs incorporating evidence-based practices in prevention, treatment,**

**Build global networks of educators to exchange best practices and innovations in substance use education.**

ICUDDR made significant strides toward implementing alcohol and drug demand reduction education and training in higher education. It is estimated that over **3,000 students graduate from programs that use the UC materials annually.**





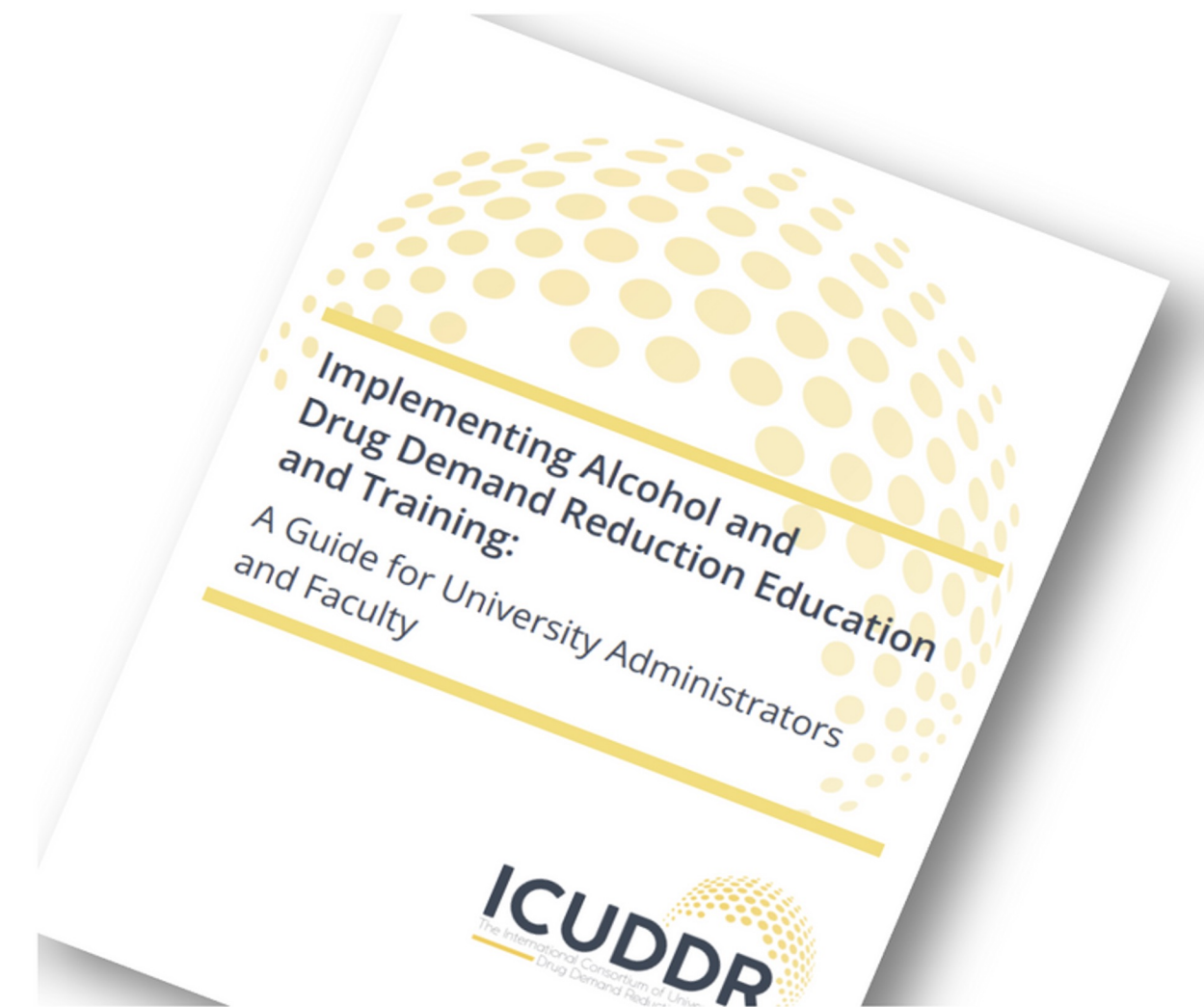
# CED's Activities

## ❑ Curriculum Development

- Assisting higher education institutes (HEIs) in integrating evidence-based substance use curricula.

## ❑ Course Sharing

- Facilitating the exchange of course materials among HEIs.
- Promoting faculty and course mobility.



● ● ● Upcoming FREE Live Webinar

## Quality Assurance & Education Standards for Addiction Studies

Learn competency-based education and identify trends in quality standards for addiction studies.

 **MARCH 17  
MONDAY**

 **8:00 am US EST  
(1:00 pm UTC)**



**Dr. Elizabeth Novakova and Dr. Renáta Habiňáková**  
Founder & Co-Founder, The of Centre for Quality Assurance,  
Department of Addictology, Charles University

# Virtual Mobility Pilot Project

- Refers to students and professors in higher education using another institution outside their own country to study or teach for a limited time, without physically leaving their home.
- Task 1: Review of Initial Data :
  - 22 programmes/courses
  - Six European institutions
  - Five countries
  - Diversity of scientific areas
  - Find matches
- Task 2: Identify Potential Pilot Universities: developing a readiness checklist to determine if the university is ready, in terms of course content and logistical needs.
- Task 3: Recruitment of Universities



# CED's Activities: Conferences

ICUDDR Africa Regional Conference,  
17th Kasr Al Ainy Psychiatry  
Congress & 14th Kasr Al Ainy Child  
Psychiatry Congress



**The Role of Universities in Shaping the Future:  
Advancing Substance Use Education,  
Research, and Policy in Africa**

April 23-24, 2025 • Kasr Al-Ainy Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University

## Nigeria Conference 2024

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, 2024. | 12:00NOON  
(WAT) West African Time

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

*Theme*

**POLICY INTEGRATION FOR ADDRESSING  
MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG-RELATED  
NEEDS IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES.**

### Subthemes:

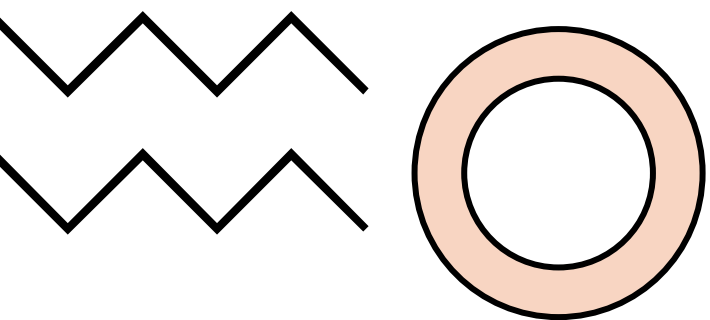
- Academic community's response in addressing students' mental health and drug related issues in Nigeria.
- Collaborative approaches to drug demand reduction in Nigerian universities.
- Promoting evidence- based prevention of drug use among university students in Nigeria.
- Leveraging Technology for Drug Addiction, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery in Nigerian Universities.

|                                                           |                                                                                  |                                                                                           |                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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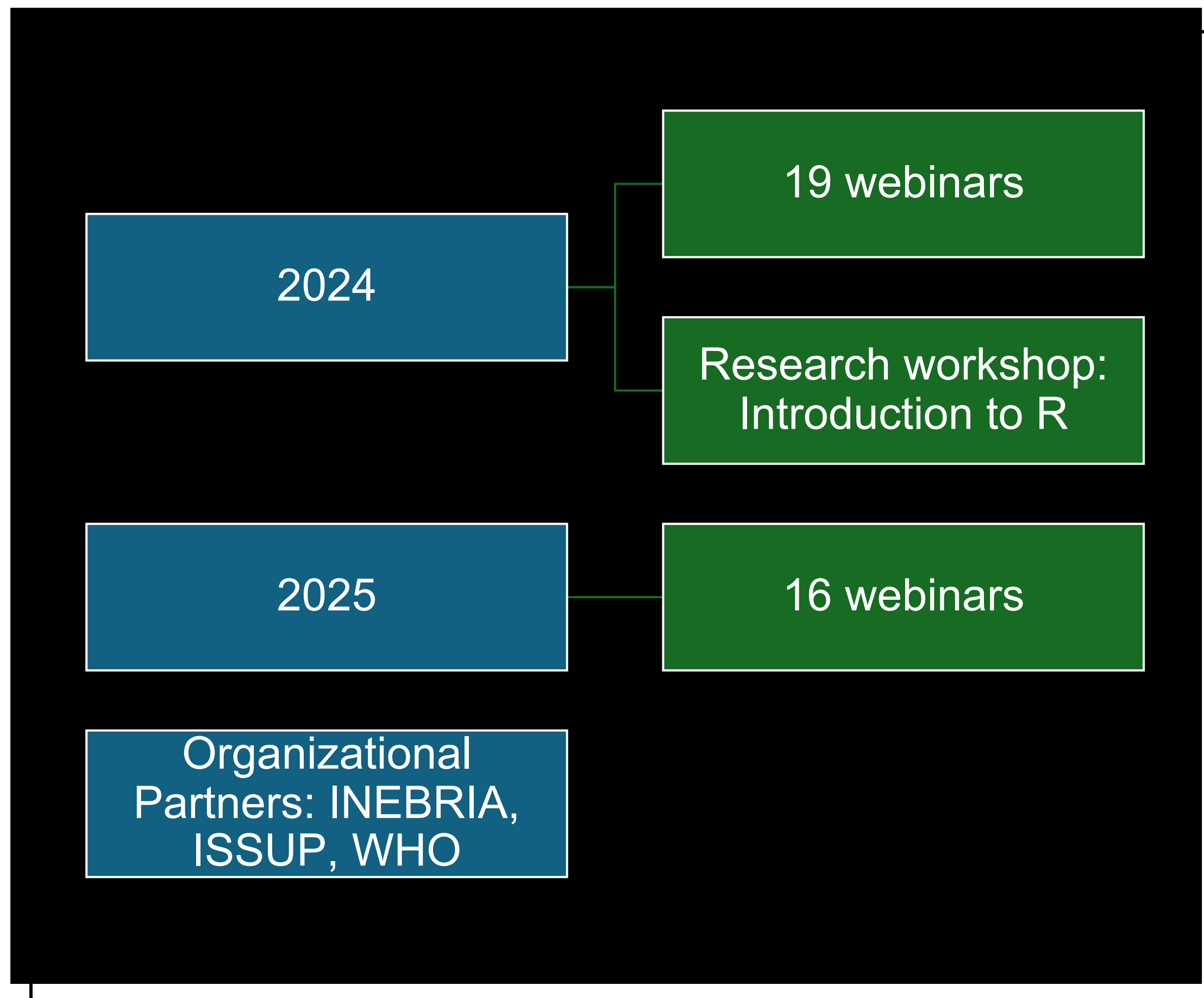
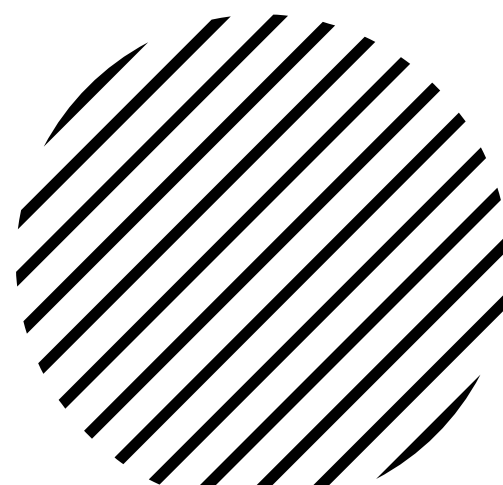
For abstract submission ([icuddrnigeria2024conference@gmail.com](mailto:icuddrnigeria2024conference@gmail.com))  
Closing date for abstract submission: October 31st, 2024







# Webinars & Workshops





Universal Nurses Addiction

Curriculum

ONLINE

Empowering Nurses. Transforming

Care.  
COURSE

APPLY

NOW

CO-DEVELOPED BY

DR. CARMEL CLANCY & DR. CHARON





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**Center for Research &  
Fellowships**



# CRF's Purpose



The Center for Research and Fellowships empowers members to lead research that informs policy and practice, while connecting institutions across regions to address substance use challenges with evidence-based solutions

By supporting joint research initiatives and providing mentorship, and training, we foster impactful and inclusive research efforts.

# CRF's Goals



Build and sustain international research partnerships, emphasizing the inclusion of young investigators and researchers from low- and middle-income countries.

Advance translational research to bridge the gap between evidence and practice in substance use prevention and treatment.

Expand access to funding and mentorship for emerging researchers.

Continuously develop mentorship programs to nurture early-career investigators.



# CRF's Activities

## Research Studies

- Developing collaborative relationships for proposal development

## Research Dissemination

- Securing additional funding
- In Focus articles in the ICUDDR monthly newsletter
- Partnership with the Center for Educational Development on webinars and conferences

## Building Research Skills

- Scholarly writing for publication
- Research methods
- Grant writing

## Mentorship/Fellowship Programs (Projected)

- Mentoring early-career researchers to get the most out of two international scientific conferences
- Piloting a multi-year fellowship with online modules plus an in-person residency



# SUMMARY REPORT: GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG THREATS REGIONAL FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Spring, 2024



Sherry Larkins, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Kevin Mulvey, PhD<sup>2</sup>  
Carly Searcy, MIS, PMP<sup>2</sup>; Verna Felipe, MA<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of California, Los Angeles  
Integrated Substance Use & Addiction Programs (UCLA-ISAP)

<sup>2</sup> International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction (ICUDDR)

<sup>3</sup> Texas Tech University

## Global Synthetic Drugs

- 6 REGIONS: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America
- University Professionals (n=50) & Government & Policy Makers (n=107)
- Findings:
  - Emergence of novel synthetic “mixtures” of multiple substances, and the challenges this presents in identifying substances and their unique effects.
  - Increases in polysubstance use and its complications for clinical care in patient screening, diagnosis, treatment, and harm reduction.
  - Synthetic opioids, alone or in combination with other substances, and their concerning impact on overdose.
- Weaknesses in data capture systems to accurately identify trends in substance use patterns, risks, vulnerable populations, and social and economic consequences of use.
- Need for improved quality of services and access, enhanced workforce development, and efforts to address stigma and policy barriers.



## In Preparation



- Systematic Review on alcohol, drugs, and nicotine use in East and Southeast Asian countries
- Multi-country study on the alcohol consumption of Asian university students.
  - Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, South Korea, and Sri Lanka



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**Center for Systems  
Change**



# CSC'S PURPOSE

The Center for Systems Change drives meaningful policy and systems-level change, helping to build healthier communities.

By providing platforms for engagement with policymakers and stakeholders, we amplify the impact of local, national, and global initiatives.







# CSC'S GOALS

- Strategically work with policymakers, strengthening partnerships between stakeholders to enhance substance use prevention and treatment systems.
- Offer technical assistance and promote technology transfer.
- Promote systems-change frameworks tailored to regional contexts and needs.
- Design and implement initiatives that directly improve access to, and quality of substance use care.



# CSC's Activities

## BUILD AND GROW THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER NETWORK.

- CSC provides funding, technical assistance, and other support to the ITTCs.

- ITTCs are university-based sites that accelerate the diffusion of evidence-based practices and policies through a wide array of strategies grounded in implementation science.
- CSC deepens the impact of ITTC initiatives by providing a platform for communication, coordination, and collaboration within the Network.



ITTC

International Technology Transfer Center  
A program of the International Consortium of Universities  
for Drug Demand Reduction

# CSC's Activities

Strengthen  
relationships  
between  
policymakers  
and  
researchers



**Build policymakers' skills in:**

- Identifying and understanding the evidence for interventions
- Data-informed decision-making
- Understanding change

theories for complex, adaptive



**Build researchers' skills in:**

- Communicating scientific information to non-scientists
- Civic engagement and advocacy
- Designing research for social impact.





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**Center for Credentialing  
& Accreditation**





# CCA's

## Purpose

The Center for Credentialing & Accreditation is committed to

elevating the quality of care in substance use services by ensuring a well-trained, credentialed workforce.

- CCA professionalizes the workforce through credentialing and accreditation programs, fostering higher standards of care worldwide.
- CCA also supports HEIs in influencing workforce development policies and practices.



# CCA's Goals



**Over 2,300 professionals across 80 countries have achieved the ICUDDR ICAP credential.**

Develop global standards for workforce credentialing and organizational accreditation.

Expand access to credentialing programs, especially in underserved regions.

Increase the number of certified professionals globally to enhance the quality of substance use services.

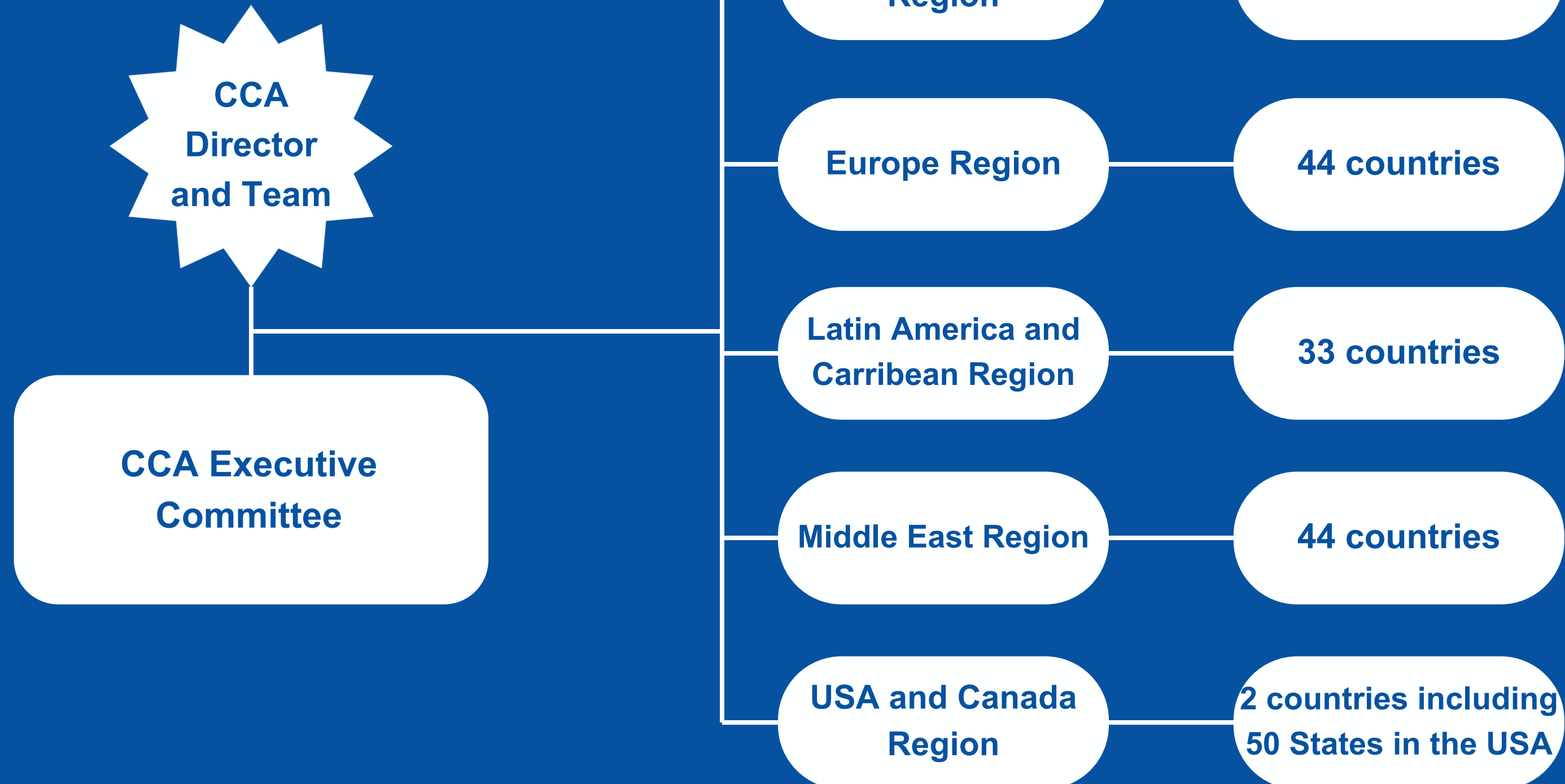
Establish accreditation systems for organizations to ensure adherence to evidence-based practices. Partner with governments and international bodies to make credentialing a policy priority.

# CCA COMMISSION PURPOSE

- **Policy Advocacy**  
Promoting global standards for credentialing addiction professionals.
- **Regulatory Influence**  
Working with governments to develop or amend national policies and regulations.
- **Global Standards**  
Establishing a set of universal criteria or standards for credentialing addiction professionals.
- **Collaboration**  
Encouraging regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing.



# New Structure of the CCA Global Commission Shows Extensive Reach



Given the number of countries in each region, Regional Chairs and their Committees may wish to further divide their geographical areas into sub groups to facilitate collaboration and strategic work.



# CCA's Activities

- **Professional Credentialing for Substance Use Specialists**
- **Providing global standards for substance use professional certification.**  
6 ICAPs + 2 in development
- **Developing endorsements for specific populations.**  
Examples: families, women, children
- **Micro-credentialing for short-term training.**  
Offering stackable credentials for professionals in related fields.

## Credentials Offered:

ICAP-Prevention

ICAP-Treatment I

ICAP-Treatment II

ICAP-Treatment III

ICAP-Treatment IV

ICAP-Recovery Support

ICAP-RN (*piloting in 2026*)

ICAP-Peer Mentor (*in development*)

***All ICAPs are valid for 3 years.***

***Continuing education is required for renewal.***



# 2025 Key Achievements

## Credentials Offered:

ICAP-Prevention

ICAP-Treatment I

ICAP-Treatment II

ICAP-Treatment III

ICAP-Treatment IV

ICAP-Recovery Support

ICAP-RN

ICAP-Peer Mentor (*in development*)



*All ICAPs are valid for 3 years.  
Continuing education is required for  
renewal.*

- Relaunching of the Credentialing Global Commission
  - Addition of ISSUP CEO & African Union Youth Representatives
- Published 10 country profile reports
  - Argentina, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, UAE & Uganda
  - Current labor force overview, workforce development & training, credentialing & certification, future policy directions & trends
- Piloting of ICAP-RN
- Establishments of In-country testing centers

# ICAP Credentialing Process





# CCA's Activities



## Mutual recognition of credentials across regions.

- Developing MOUs and partnerships with NGOs and other credentialing societies.

## Establish ICUDDR ICAPs as the Gold Standard.

- Completing a center audit in preparation for application for ISO Certification 9001
- Integrating outcome and performance data into credentialing reviews
- Using analytics dashboards to monitor trends, highlight areas for improvement, and inform strategic planning
- Positioning CCA as a thought leader through published

## Enhance Exam Process

- Developing exam prep resources, study materials, practice exams, and test prep workshops.
- Establishing in-country examination centers to scale accessibility

## University Program Accreditation Initiative

- Assisting institutions in obtaining accreditation for substance use-related degree programs.
- Establishing a quality assurance framework with guidelines for high-quality education and training in substance use disciplines
- Creating an online hub to showcase accredited online



# Now Live ICAP Register

Access your professional credentials in real time with the ICAP 'Live' Register. Whether you're verifying your own status or checking a candidate's qualifications, it's never been easier to stay on top of your career.



**Center for Credentialing  
& Accreditation**

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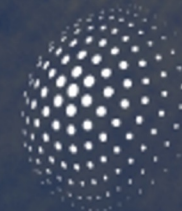


# Time to Renew Your ICAP Credential

Keep your career momentum going strong! If you're an ICAP Credential holder, don't forget to renew your credential and stay at the forefront of the industry.

- ✓ Stay recognized as a certified professional
- ✓ Maintain access to exclusive resources & updates
- ✓ Show your commitment to excellence and lifelong learning

Let your credential keep working for you. Go to: <https://portal.globalccc.org/>.



**Center for Credentialing  
& Accreditation**

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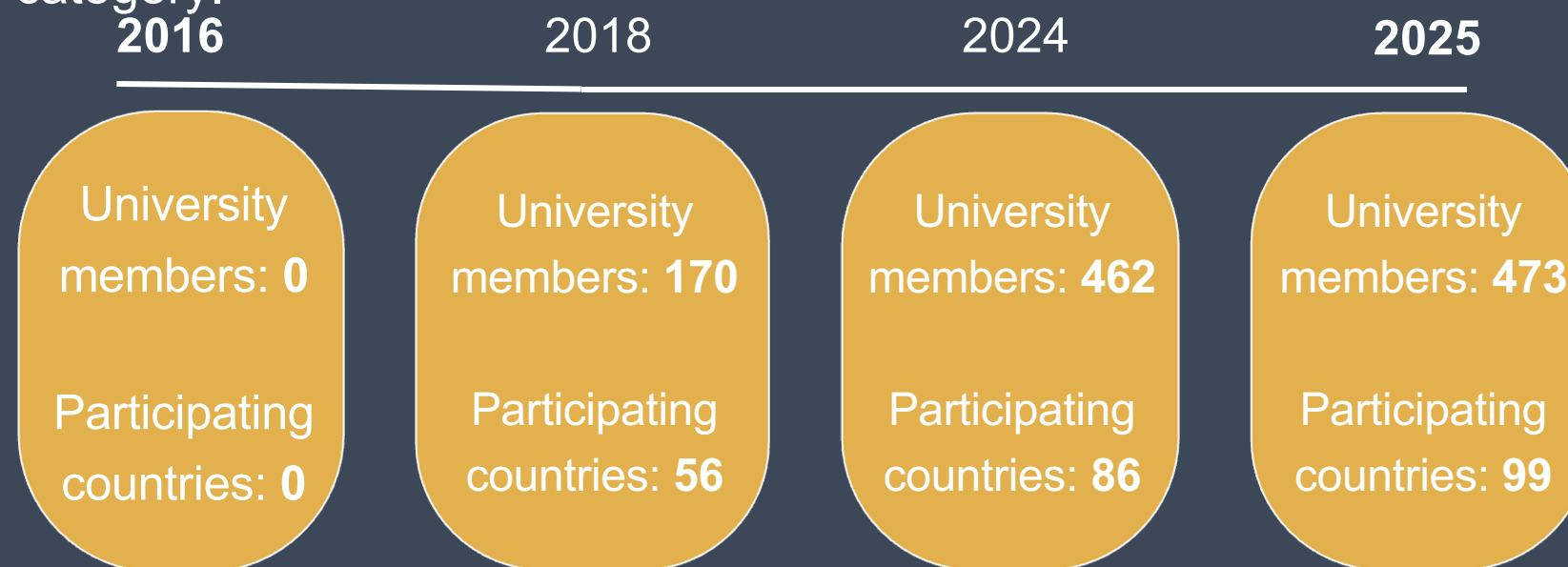


# MEMBERSHIP

Two types of memberships:

- **University or College** - An entire University or college can be a member with individual faculty signing up with their university. University/college members have access to all resources available.
- **Individual Faculty** - Whether or not the university or college is a member, individuals may join.
- Historically, membership has been free. We are now exploring a “**Membership Plus**” model that would provide a paid, premium membership category.

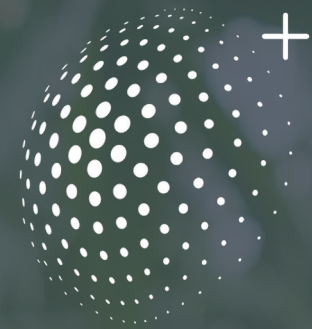
University members have grown rapidly over the last 6 years. With the recent addition of individual membership, the consortium now has 792 individual members from 99 countries.



University membership has grown by **178.2%** from 2018 to 2025. Beginning with a consortium of 56 countries in 2018, we have expanded our membership to 99 countries as of May 2025, an overall **76.79%** increase.







ICUDDR

*COMING SOON*

# MEMBERSHIP PLUS

A new membership model is coming soon to ICUDDR. This will provide both increased benefits for our members and ensures the sustainability of ICUDDR. We are excited to share more soon.

**Stay tuned for a launch date!**





**Website**  
icuddr.org

# Join us!

