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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION
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THE CICAD-CAMH PARTNERSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CAPACITY-BUILDING
AKWATU KENTHI, CAMH, CANADA



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Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

**The Executive Secretariat of
CICAD-CAMH Partnership
Experience:**
*An International Research Capacity Building
Program for Health Related Professionals to
Study the Drug Phenomenon in Latin America
and the Caribbean*

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Context



- § The current global context requires specialized professionals able to analyze problems and propose solutions and/or strategies with national and international perspectives based on scientific data.
- § Most OAS member states do not have a cadre of professionals with scientific knowledge and research experience on drugs and related problems to work at national drug commissions, research centers, or academia.
- § Generally, countries have not established programs or long-term plans to do research on the drug phenomenon. There are few initiatives to manage the incorporation of research findings into national drug control policies.

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Context (2)



- § To alleviate the problem, developing countries have partnered with developed countries to design strategies for scientific advancement in the study of the drug phenomenon. OAS/Executive Secretariat of CICAD has been developing strategies to assist OAS member states to strengthen institutional capacity and human resources related to security, money-laundering and drug demand reduction.
- § The ***“International Research Program for Health and Related Areas Professionals to Study the Drug Phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean - IRCBP”*** is an initiative of OAS/Executive Secretariat of CICAD in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Toronto/Canada, to train professionals and address this problem.

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Center for Addiction and Mental Health - CAMH



Area of expertise

BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL MODEL IN A HARM REDUCTION CONTEXT
Treatment is offered as outpatient services, non-medical detoxification, inpatient medical detoxification and residential substance use treatment. Substance-specific treatment includes treatment for cocaine, methadone, opioids, nicotine and alcohol problems. Also offered is gambling addiction treatment.

Treatment is offered in hospital, in the community, and in outpatient offices. CAMH's addiction treatment is based on a harm reduction philosophy, an approach that focuses on decreasing adverse health, social and economic consequences of substance use. Clients' goals range from reduced use to total abstinence. We match clients with the least intrusive and most effective treatment service that will meet their needs.



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CAMH areas of specific expertise



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§ School Curriculum

§ Web based curriculum resource for teachers of Grades 1 to 12 with lessons plans and support materials for Health and Physical Education expectations related to substance use (grades 1 to 10) and mental health (grades 11 & 12)

§ Talking about Mental Illness (TAMI)

§ An anti-stigma program for secondary school students

§ Youth & Drugs & Mental Health Educational Package

§ Educational Package for working with diverse youth who present concurrent mental health and substance use concerns.

§ School Policy Work related to:

§ Curriculum development and teacher training, student support and campus policies for drugs, alcohol, and violence

§ Ontario Student Drug Use Survey (OSDUS)

§ Every 2 years this report describes the rates and patterns of drug use among students grades 7 to 13 in Ontario and documents changes in both since 1977.

§ Preventing Substance Use Problems Among Young People: A Compendium of Best Practices

§ A document by CAMH, the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse and the Canadian Association for School Health that features effective substance abuse prevention programs for youth.

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Other CAMH collaborations



- § 1997 - CARIAD - CAMH annual 2-week basic training in alcohol and other drug treatment for health and allied professionals in English Caribbean region + advanced courses for specialized topics
- § 2003 - Primary Care Capacity Building: Mexico, Nicaragua, Brazil, Chile
- § 2008 - Evaluation Capacity Building (Chile, Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico)
- § 2009 - PAHO-CAMH Leadership capacity building program.

Others:

- Collaboration on Alcohol Policy Development (Chile), Drug research (Brazil)
- Evaluation of Youth Addiction Treatment Services (Chile)
- 2010: Haiti needs assessment and program planning

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International Research Program for Health and Related Areas Professionals to Study the Drug Phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Program Objectives



Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

- § Create a cadre of health and related areas professionals with scientific and technical research knowledge to enable scientific advances in the field of the drug phenomenon - drug demand reduction area;
- § Support with scientific evidence the development of public policy, decision-making, management and evaluation of programs and projects;
- § Enable the exchange of Latin America researchers with Canadian researchers in the area of the drug phenomenon.

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General characteristics



Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

Number of Hours	466 hours (Part I) 650 hours (Part II) Total: 1116 hours
Typo of Program	Post-doctorate (participants with PhD) Specialization (participants with MSc)
Length	1 year, divided as follows: Part I Theory and Practice of Program's Content Part II Distance Learning Tutorial (country of origin)
Faculty	CAMH, University of Toronto, and Executive Secretariat of CICAD/OEA
Target	Health and related areas professionals
Language	English
Typo of research	Multicentric based in a central drug theme chosen with the group, along with Inter-American Drug Control Commission's priorities, countries priorities and interest of participants
Funding	Government of Canada
Association	Executive Secretariat of CICAD and the University of Alberta/Canada (first edition); subsequent editions with the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health-CAMH /Toronto/Canada

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Curriculum



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Modules	Themes	Hours
Pre-Module	(i) English language and cultural aspects of Canadian society;	80
	(ii) Seminar for selection of central research theme for the multicentric drug research proposal	30
I	Drug problems in the Americas and the World	20
II	International Health and Drug Phenomenon in the Americas and the World	20
III	Research Methodology (qualitative and quantitative)	120
IV	Creation and management of research groups and exchange programs in the Americas	20
V	Communication and dissemination of multicentric research results	16
VI	Multicentric drug research proposal	160
VII	Implementation of the multicentric research project in the country of origin	650
Total		1116

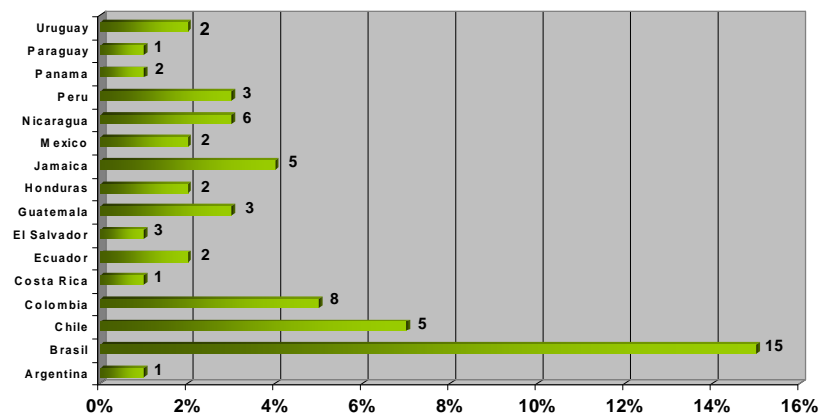
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Participants per countries during 2003-2010

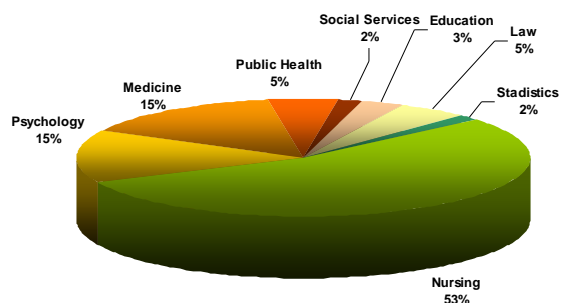


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Academic areas represented during 2003-2010



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Considerations about multicentric studies

Characteristics	
Definition	Controlled studies, carried out in cooperation among a number of countries and/or organizations to reach specific variables, results and comparisons.
General Coordination	Generally carried out by a central organization (international or national)
Ethical Committee	Presentation of the study proposal for approval by the respective Ethical Committee.
Management and monitoring	National, regional and local levels
Activities	Administrative, training, data collection, statistics, technical reports, publication and dissemination of results.
Funding	Cooperation agreements signing among participant organizations
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Relevant thematic for several countries and region. § Collaboration among researchers through design, implementation, publication and dissemination. § Cooperation among participant countries and organizations. § Transfer/exchange of resources and mutual accountability. § Foster the set up of researchers network. § Allow the use of data for dissertations (masters and doctorates)

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Multicentric studies



Program Studies	Program Studies
2003-2004. "Women, Drugs and Violence in Latin America" (Exploratory Study I).	2010-2011. "Drug Use Among Students and Its Relationship with Maltreatment During Childhood in Seven Universities in Latin America and the Caribbean."
2006-2007. "Illicit Drug Use in Seven Latin American Countries: Critical Perspectives of Family and Familiars".	
2007-2008. "University Student's Perceived Norms about Peers and Drug Use: A Multicentric Study from Five Latin America Countries".	
2008-2009. "Simultaneous Poly-Drug Consumption among Undergraduate University Students in Six Latin American Countries and in One Caribbean Country: Gender, Legal and Social Implications".	Other Studies
2009-2010. "A Multicentric Study of Co-morbidity Between Psychological Distress and Drug use among Patients in Treatment Centers, in Seven Countries of Latin America and One Country in the Caribbean: Policy and Program Implications"	2005-2007. "Drugs, Women and Violence in 12 Countries of the Americas". CICAD/SENAD/Brazil. (Exploratory Study II).
	2009-2012. "The Nexus between Drugs and Violence in the Americas: A Gender Perspective" (CICAD/CAMH/10 countries. (final study).
	2006-Present. "Illicit Drug Use in Canada-Toronto: Critical Perspectives of Family and Familiars".

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Program's results and products



Results		Products
Group 2003-2004	11 graduates	Three first groups have already published 35 articles in an international journal
Group 2006-2007	10 graduates	
Group 2007-2008	10 graduates	31 posters were presented at OAS/CICAD University Meetings
Group 2008-2009	10 graduates	
Group 2009-2010	10 graduates	4 posters were presented at NIDA/NIH International Research Forum (2008 – 2 posters; 2009 – 2 posters).
Sub-Total	51 Graduates	
Group 2010-2011	10 in process of data collection and analysis for starting preparing reports and papers for publication	
Total Participants	61 Graduates	

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Challenges



- § The annually request for financial support to the Canadian Government prevent a long-term programming. The request should be made for a longer period, for example 5 years;
- § Latin American university faculty experience with multicentric research is limited;
- § When participants return to their country they must face a workload that might cause conflicts with the multicentric research implementation;
- § In several Latin American universities the Ethics Committee approval process is very slow, delaying the start of the research data collection.

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Program's impact



- § **Professional development:**
 - § Post-doctoral degree for participants with PhD and specialist degree for participants with master;
 - § Presentation of poster and other results of the multicentric research at national and international conferences and OAS/CICAD meetings;
 - § Publication of scientific articles on the multicentric research results in international and national journals;
 - § Some participants have become members of the Latin America Network of Researchers on Drugs;
 - § Point of reference in the country to participate in future national studies on drug led by Executive Secretariat of CICAD/OID;
 - § Some participants have became leaders in the drug field, at universities and to their respective national drug commission;

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Program's impact (2)



§ University:

- § Postgraduate and undergraduate strengthened;
- § Creation of drug research groups at the universities;
- § Opportunities for exchange faculty, researchers and graduate students among participating countries of the program and also with Canada.

§ Drug Demand Reduction:

- § Increase of scientific production of research studies in the area of drug demand reduction;
- § Research findings provide support for evidence practice and policy development.

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Perspectives



- § The Government of Canada should support for an additional 5 years the Executive Secretariat of CICAD-CAMH International Research Program in order to consolidate a group of researches in participating countries;
- § Creation of an alumni association to support new opportunities for research exchange programs and future multicentric drug studies;
- § Program alumni should continue to publish results of their multicentric study carried out during the Program;
- § New multicentric drug studies should be proposed by Executive Secretariat of CICAD-CAMH researchers and Program alumni;
- § Every 5 years Executive Secretariat of CICAD-CAMH should have an external auditing to estimate the Program's impact on the scientific advance of the area of drug reduction in Latin America.

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THANKS!

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