

CICAD Meeting with the Universities of the Americas Concerning the Drug Phenomenon Focusing on the Use of Scientific Evidence

Contribution of the Latin American and Caribbean Universities in defining research topics in the 5 programmatic Areas of Drug Demand Reduction

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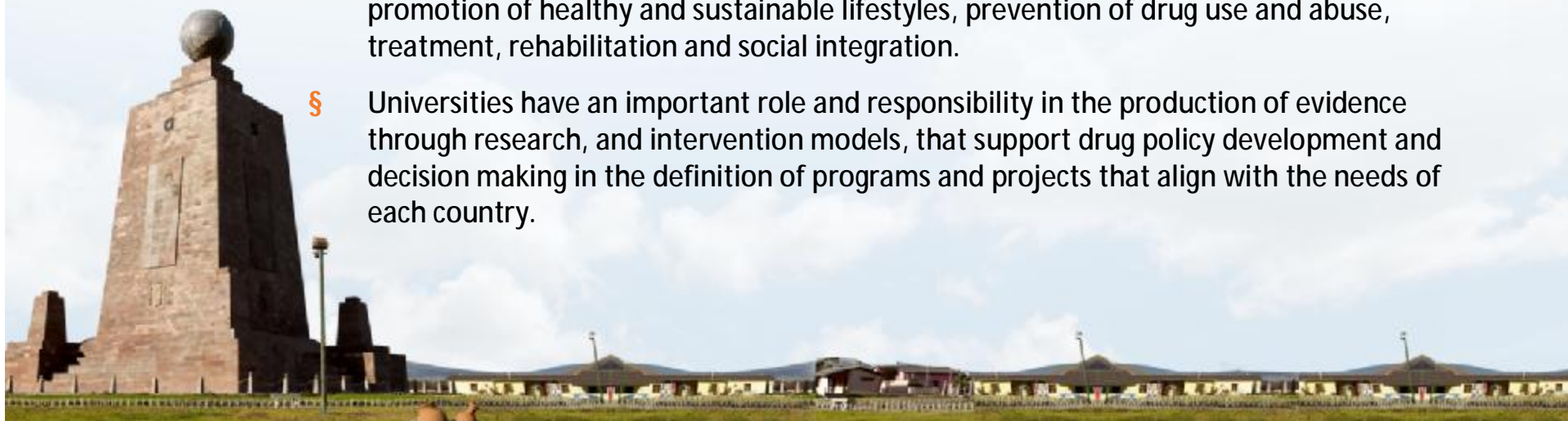


Sept. 12-14, 2012



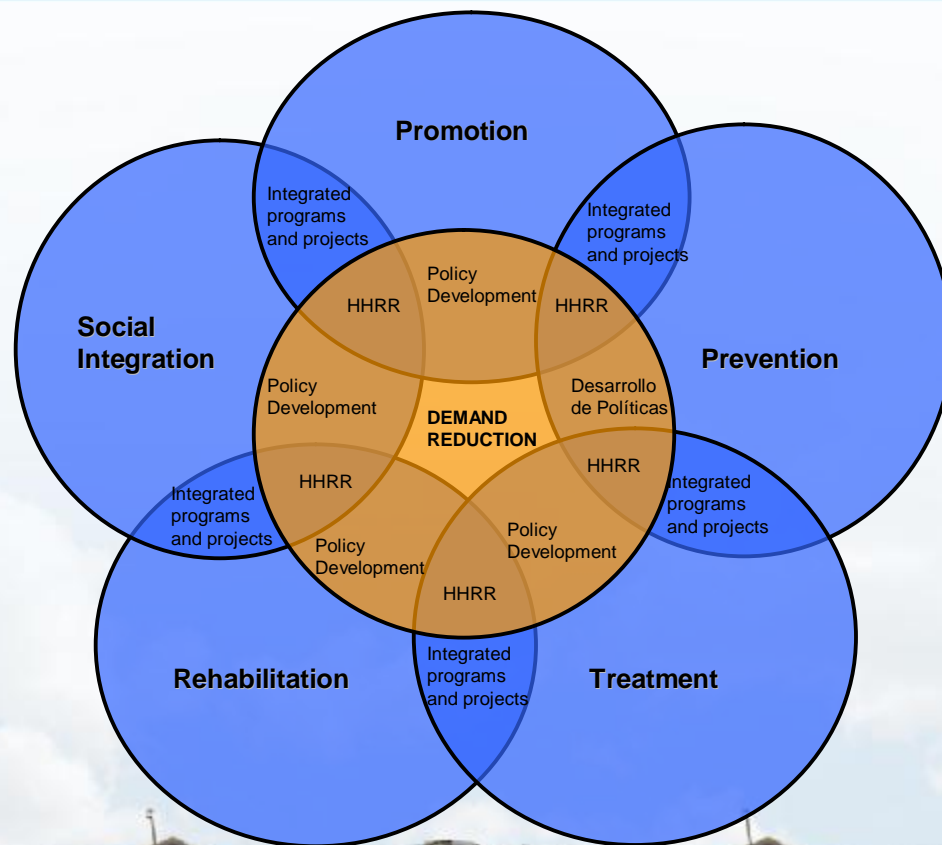
Context

- § The drug phenomenon is a challenge of global dimensions with negative impact on public health, safety and welfare.
- § Demand reduction is a priority component to ensure a comprehensive and balanced approach of the world's drug problem.
- § Policies to reduce demand for drugs should include the five main programmatic areas: promotion of healthy and sustainable lifestyles, prevention of drug use and abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration.
- § Universities have an important role and responsibility in the production of evidence through research, and intervention models, that support drug policy development and decision making in the definition of programs and projects that align with the needs of each country.





Integration of Demand Reduction Programmatic Areas with Demand Reduction's Strategic Components





Educational Development Program (EDP) ES/CICAD

§ The EDP focuses on one of Demand Reduction strategic components, which is Human Resources Development at a university level, including the three university roles:

- Education
- Extension
- Investigation





Educational Development Program EDP-ES/CICAD

- § Education: Training future professionals with the drug content to serve in the area of reducing drug demand;
- § Extension: Development of promotion and prevention activities at the community level with specific groups;
- § Investigation: Implementation of research studies on demand reduction issues in accordance with the priorities of the countries.

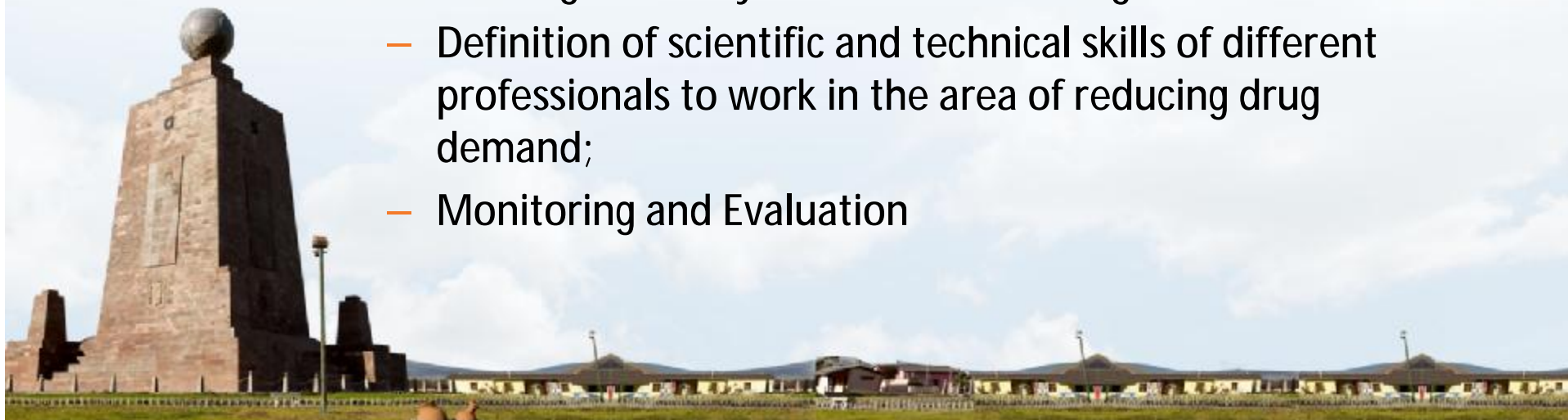




Contribution of the Educational Development Program to Drug Demand Reduction

§ Educational Aspect:

- Development of undergraduate and graduate curricula with drug content;
- Training of faculty in research and drug content;
- Definition of scientific and technical skills of different professionals to work in the area of reducing drug demand;
- Monitoring and Evaluation





Educational Development Program EDP-ES/CICAD

§ Extention Aspect:

- Several activities to promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles developed with specific or high risk groups at the community level.

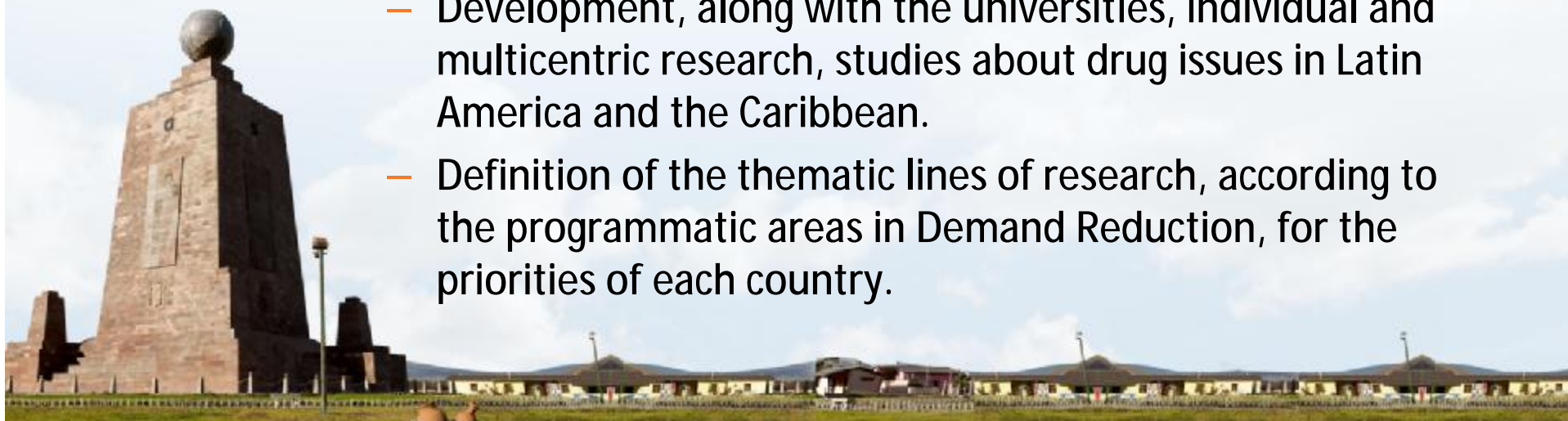




Educational Development Program EDP-ES/CICAD

§ Research Aspect:

- Development of two research training programs for faculty - SE / CICAD-SENAD-USP / EERP / Brazil / CICAD-CAMH-IRCBP-Canada.
- Development, along with the universities, individual and multicentric research, studies about drug issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Definition of the thematic lines of research, according to the programmatic areas in Demand Reduction, for the priorities of each country.





Contribution of the Universities in the definition of the thematic lines of research in Demand Reduction

Methodology:

§ We asked the universities to complete a table of the five programmatic areas of Demand Reduction .

§ The process was done via email which was sent to various academic areas of the Universities that work with CICAD projects.

§ The responses received were from the following academic areas

- Nursing
- Public Health
- Medicine
- Education
- Psychology
- Social work
- Social Communication
- Law

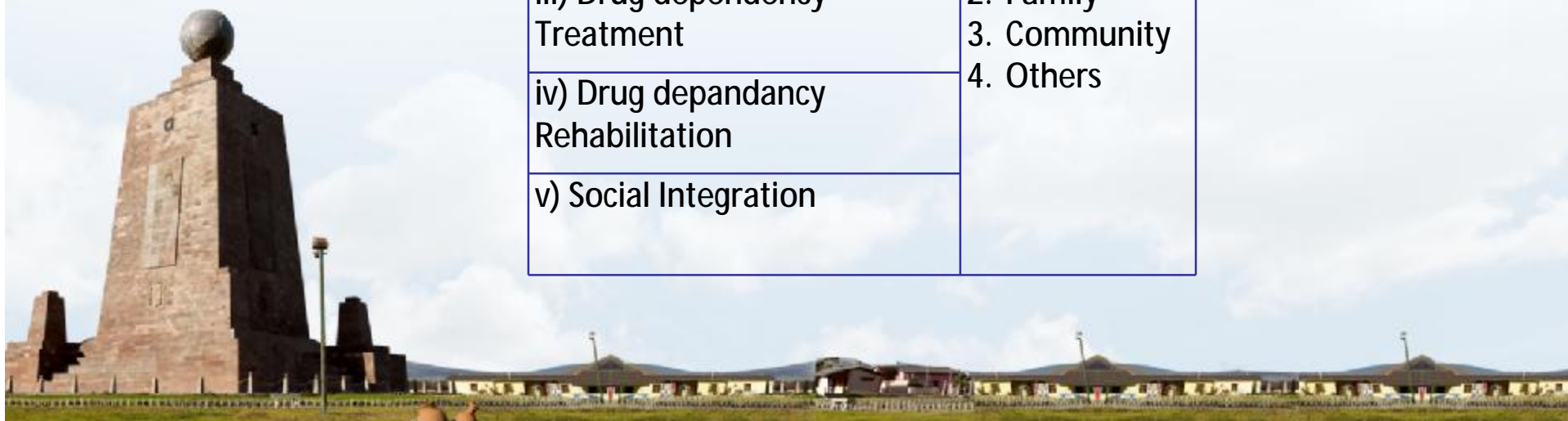
§ The overall response: 42: Latin America 37 and Caribbean 5





Preliminary Results

Programmatic Areas	Population
i) Promotion of Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyles	1. Individual 2. Family 3. Community 4. Others
ii) Prevention of drug Use and Abuse	
iii) Drug dependency Treatment	
iv) Drug dependancy Rehabilitation	
v) Social Integration	





Promotion of Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyles

Identified Themes	Sample of proposed subjects
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervention studies based on evidence for the implementation of programs aimed at promoting healthy and sustainable lifestyles.• Study of the sources of information for the decision making process of young people.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of the family, social support and the elderly in search of wellbeing and happiness.• Study of protective family habits.• Study of the family in strengthening protective factors and development of healthy and sustainable behavior.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on behavioral patterns in the native communities of each country and the needs of protection programs in their languages and culture.• Study on evidence based intervention to train community leaders in promoting healthy and sustainable lifestyles.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of public policies and government programs for health promotion.• Study on the Eco-healthy and sustainable systems for a better quality of life.





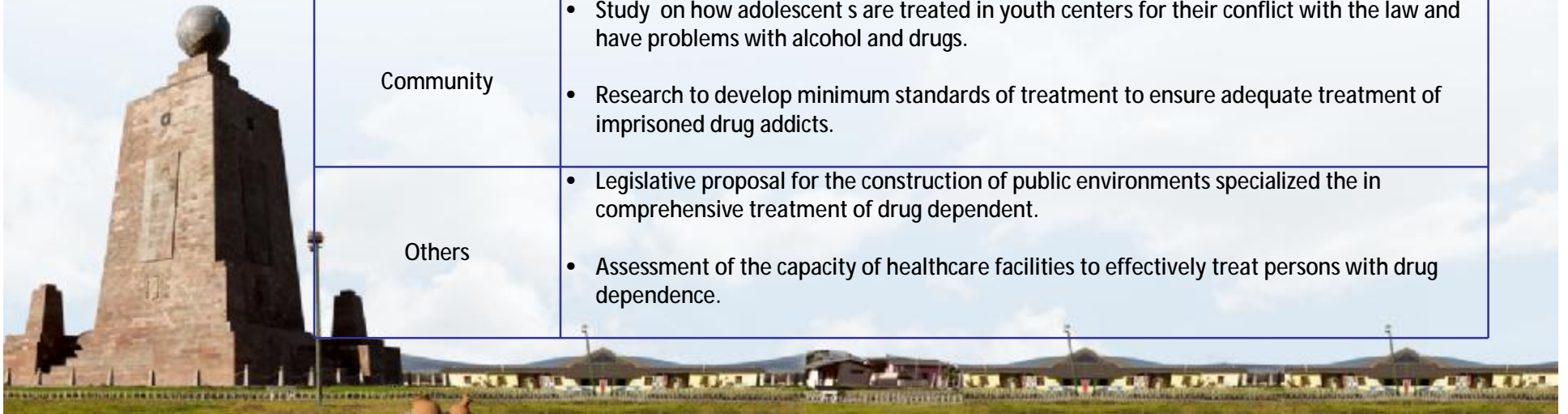
Prevention of drug Use and Abuse

Identified Themes	Sample of proposed subjects
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychopathological profile study of the children of legal and illegal drug users.• Study on the behavioral control of smoking or alcohol use in the elderly.• Preventive interventions based on scientific evidence on the subject of violence and drug use in women.• Relationship between mood disorder and initiation of cannabis use in adolescents and young persons.• Socio-cultural factors that predispose to Drug use/abuse/dependence
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on preventive interventions against domestic violence and drug use
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research-based programs for drug prevention.• Program evaluation of Community-Based prevention/Intervention programs
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study limitations and challenges for the evaluation of drug prevention and dependence programs.• Study of the monitoring and evaluation of prevention programs.• Study of the social and economic impact of preventive drug use and abuse interventions .• Mapping the geographic concentrations of drug/crime related activities



Treatment

Identified Themes	Sample of proposed subjects
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of the effects of the use and abuse of alcohol and marijuana on neuropsychological performance.• Study of alcohol use and suicidal behavior
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study to identify family support perceived by the patient being treated.• An Assessment of the perception of Family members as it relates to their role in ensuring treatment compliance
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on how adolescent s are treated in youth centers for their conflict with the law and have problems with alcohol and drugs.• Research to develop minimum standards of treatment to ensure adequate treatment of imprisoned drug addicts.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative proposal for the construction of public environments specialized the in comprehensive treatment of drug dependent.• Assessment of the capacity of healthcare facilities to effectively treat persons with drug dependence.





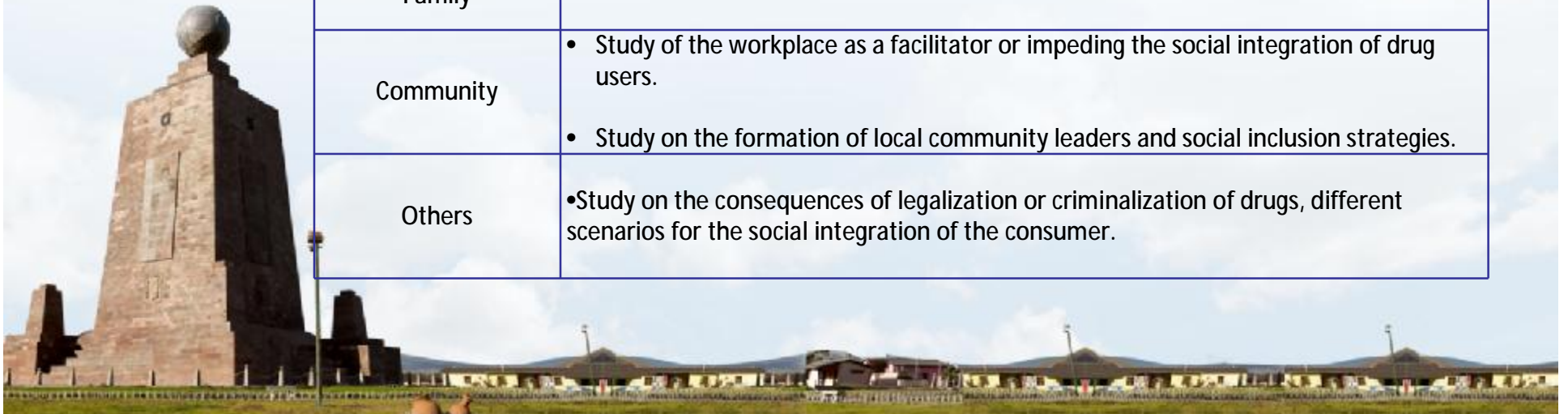
Rehabilitation

Identified Themes	Sample of proposed subjects
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethnographic research on the rehabilitation of drug dependent persons in rehabilitation centers• Study on the rehabilitation process from the patient's perspective.• An assessment of the knowledge of healthcare providers on drug related issues and rehabilitation.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of codependency on the couple and family in the rehabilitation process.• An assessment of the perception of Family members as it relates to their role in the rehabilitation process.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on strategies to strengthen family support networks and strengthen university networks and their links with government organizations for the care and rehabilitation of drug dependents.• Research on how best to meet the needs of women in rehabilitation centers.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative proposal for the construction of public environments specialized in the rehabilitation of drug dependents.• Study of the impact of neuroscience in addiction and rehabilitation.



Social Integration

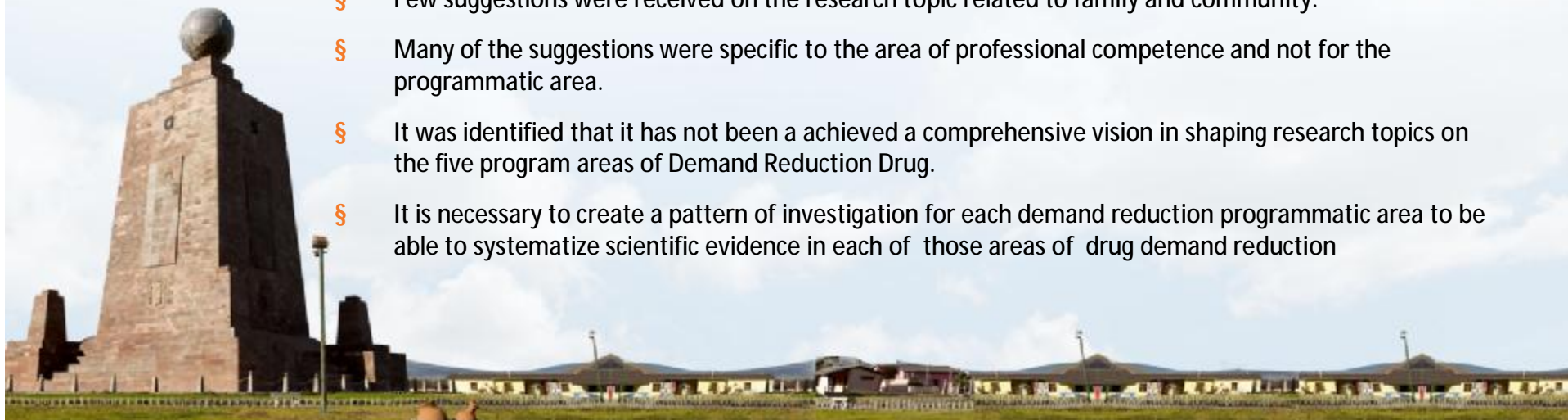
Identified Themes	Sample of proposed subjects
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on the autonomy of the individual in the process of social integration and lifestyles that develops rehabilitated persons.• Study of the social and economic factors affecting social integration of recovered addict.• Assessment of the employer's perception in reintegrating recovering addicts into the workforce.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of the family's role as key to integrating the drug user.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of the workplace as a facilitator or impeding the social integration of drug users.• Study on the formation of local community leaders and social inclusion strategies.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on the consequences of legalization or criminalization of drugs, different scenarios for the social integration of the consumer.





Considerations

- § It is important that those universities that did not send the completed form do so to complete the study and identify possible lines of research recommended by the academic institutions.
- § It is perceived that in some areas, such as treatment, rehabilitation and social integration were not explored in its essence, in regards to their research capabilities.
- § Most of the contributions are still focused on the area of prevention.
- § There is little clarity on the research themes in the differences between the area of promotion and prevention
- § Few suggestions were received on the research topic related to family and community.
- § Many of the suggestions were specific to the area of professional competence and not for the programmatic area.
- § It was identified that it has not been achieved a comprehensive vision in shaping research topics on the five program areas of Demand Reduction Drug.
- § It is necessary to create a pattern of investigation for each demand reduction programmatic area to be able to systematize scientific evidence in each of those areas of drug demand reduction

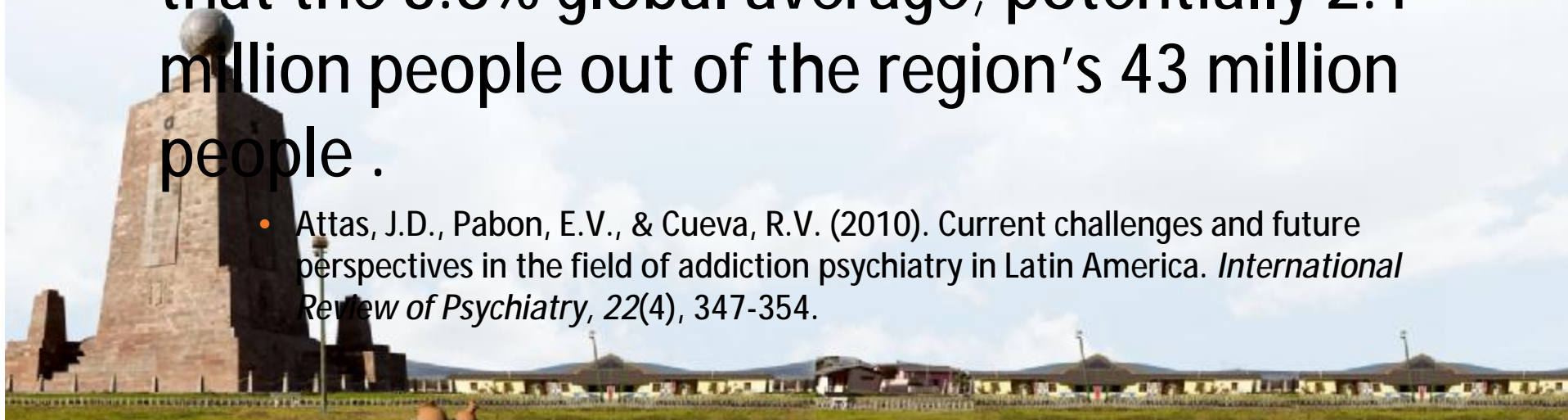




Illicit drug use pose a greater burden to LA & Caribbean region

§ The prevalence for use of illegal drugs in Latin America and Caribbean is at least 1% higher than the 3.8% global average; potentially 2.1 million people out of the region's 43 million people .

- Attas, J.D., Pabon, E.V., & Cueva, R.V. (2010). Current challenges and future perspectives in the field of addiction psychiatry in Latin America. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 22(4), 347-354.





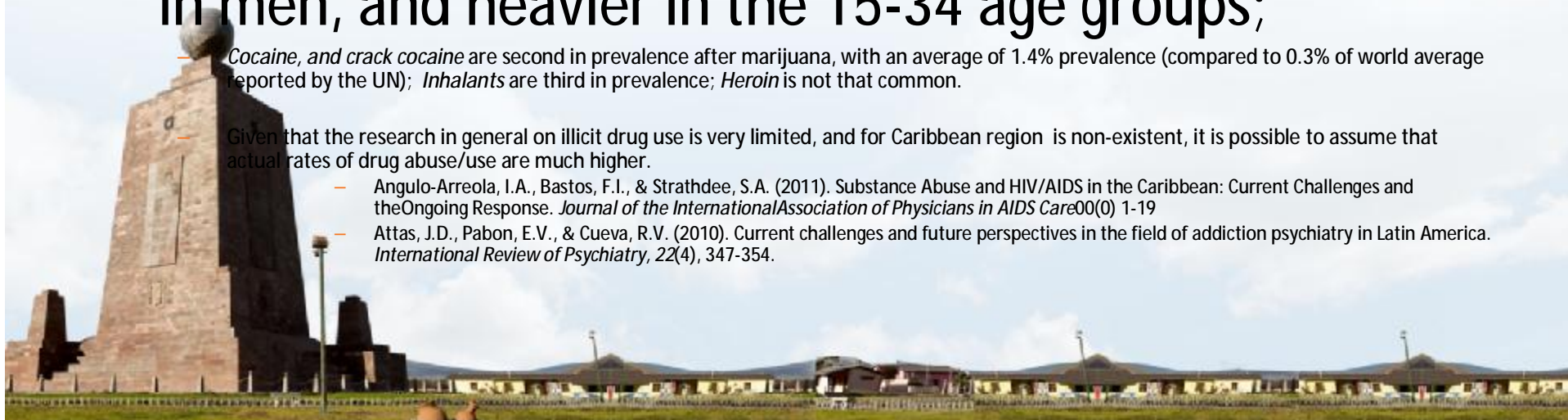
The burden is complex

§ *Marijuana* remains the most prevalent drug of choice (along with alcohol and tobacco) across all Latin American and Caribbean countries (48-79%), higher in men, and heavier in the 15-34 age groups;

— *Cocaine, and crack cocaine* are second in prevalence after marijuana, with an average of 1.4% prevalence (compared to 0.3% of world average reported by the UN); *Inhalants* are third in prevalence; *Heroin* is not that common.

— Given that the research in general on illicit drug use is very limited, and for Caribbean region is non-existent, it is possible to assume that actual rates of drug abuse/use are much higher.

- Angulo-Arreola, I.A., Bastos, F.I., & Strathdee, S.A. (2011). Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean: Current Challenges and the Ongoing Response. *Journal of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care* 00(0) 1-19
- Attas, J.D., Pabon, E.V., & Cueva, R.V. (2010). Current challenges and future perspectives in the field of addiction psychiatry in Latin America. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 22(4), 347-354.

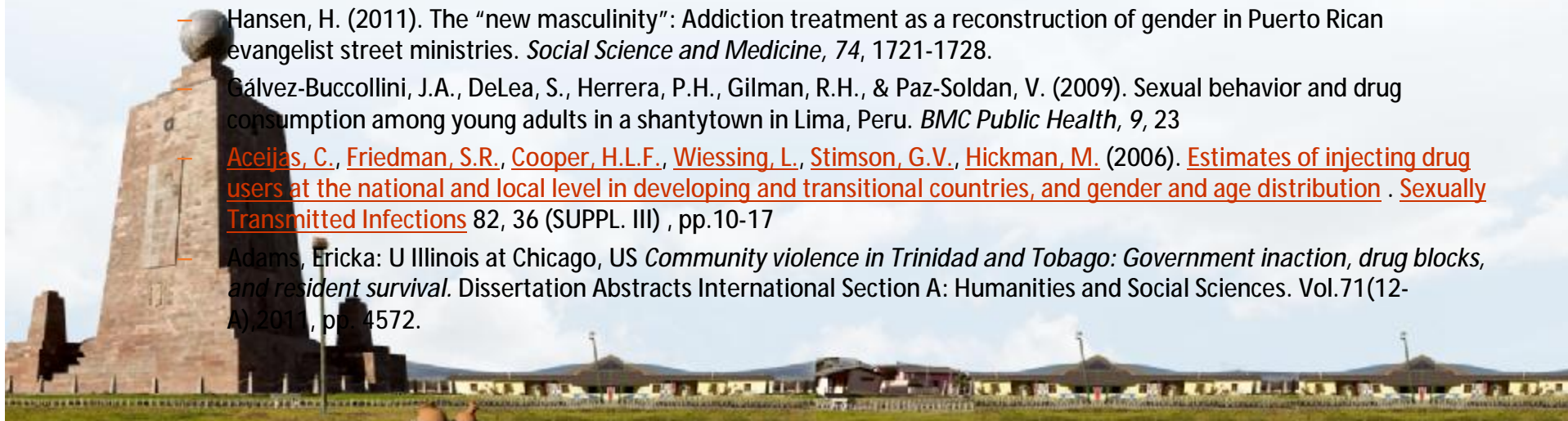




Research suggests gender effects and power inequities

§ Evidence that the political economy of substance use and addiction is heavily gendered and laden with power inequalities

- Hansen, H. (2011). The “new masculinity”: Addiction treatment as a reconstruction of gender in Puerto Rican evangelist street ministries. *Social Science and Medicine*, 74, 1721-1728.
- Gálvez-Buccollini, J.A., DeLea, S., Herrera, P.H., Gilman, R.H., & Paz-Soldan, V. (2009). Sexual behavior and drug consumption among young adults in a shantytown in Lima, Peru. *BMC Public Health*, 9, 23
- [Aceijas, C., Friedman, S.R., Cooper, H.L.F., Wiessing, L., Stimson, G.V., Hickman, M. \(2006\). Estimates of injecting drug users at the national and local level in developing and transitional countries, and gender and age distribution . *Sexually Transmitted Infections* 82, 36 \(SUPPL. III\) , pp.10-17](#)
- Adams, Ericka: U Illinois at Chicago, *US Community violence in Trinidad and Tobago: Government inaction, drug blocks, and resident survival*. Dissertation Abstracts International Section A: Humanities and Social Sciences. Vol.71(12-A), 2011, pp. 4572.

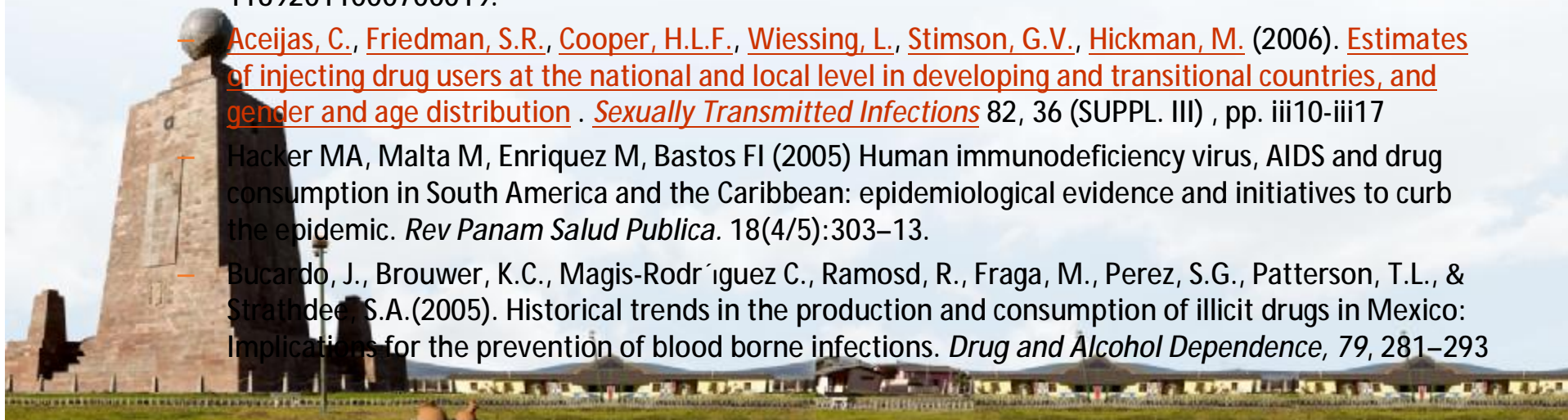




Some evidence of growing injection drug use in specific settings

§ Some evidence that crack cocaine and injected cocaine is spreading in Brazil and the Southern Cone; the problem is also present in Mexico

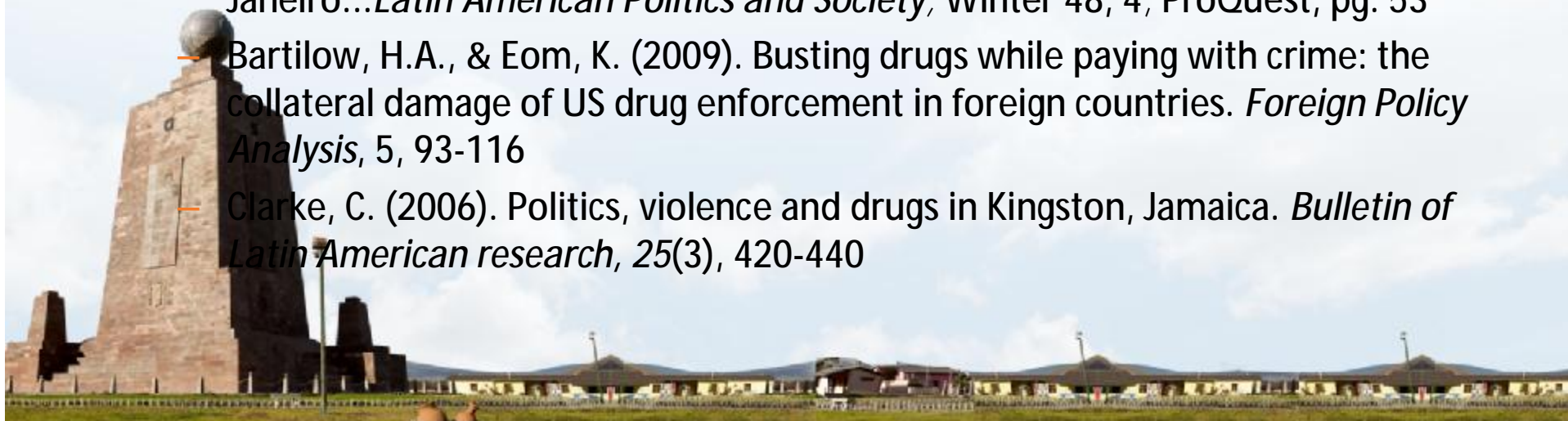
- VARGENS, R.W., CRUZ, M.S., & SANTOS, M.A. (2011) Comparison between crack and other drugs abusers in a specialized outpatient facility of a university hospital. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.19, n.spe, pp. 804-812. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692011000700019>.
- Aceijas, C., Friedman, S.R., Cooper, H.L.F., Wiessing, L., Stimson, G.V., Hickman, M. (2006). Estimates of injecting drug users at the national and local level in developing and transitional countries, and gender and age distribution . *Sexually Transmitted Infections* 82, 36 (SUPPL. III) , pp. iii10-iii17
- Hacker MA, Malta M, Enriquez M, Bastos FI (2005) Human immunodeficiency virus, AIDS and drug consumption in South America and the Caribbean: epidemiological evidence and initiatives to curb the epidemic. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 18(4/5):303–13.
- Bucardo, J., Brouwer, K.C., Magis-Rodríguez C., Ramosd, R., Fraga, M., Perez, S.G., Patterson, T.L., & Strathee, S.A.(2005). Historical trends in the production and consumption of illicit drugs in Mexico: Implications for the prevention of blood borne infections. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 79, 281–293





Research suggests that no political systems are immune from drug trafficking effects

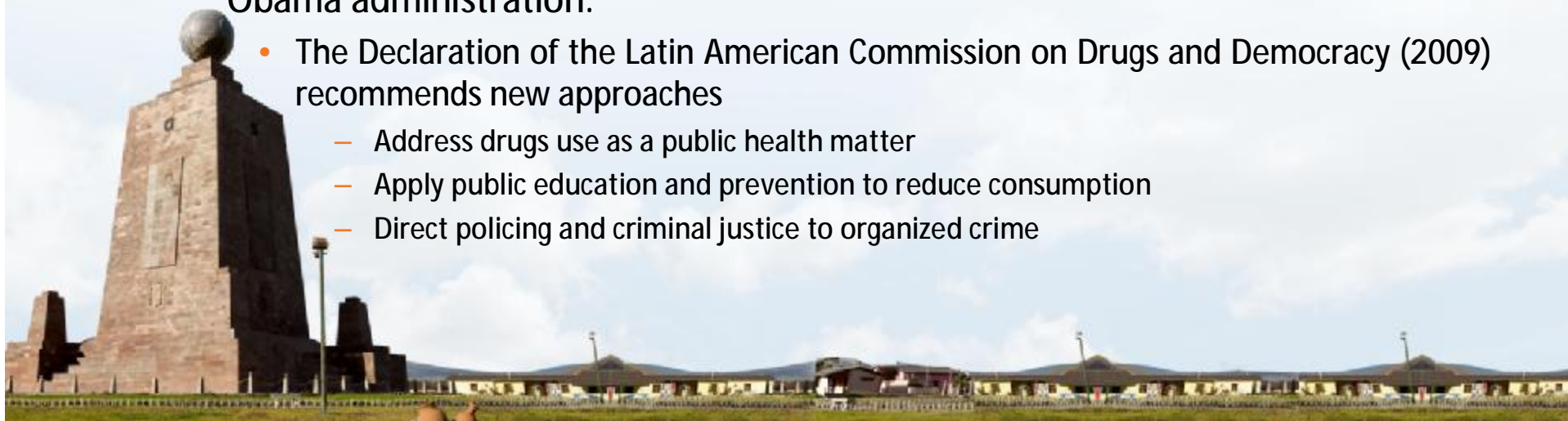
- Graces, L. (2005). Colombia: the link between drugs and terror. *Journal of Drug Issues*,
- Enrique Desmond Arias; Corinne Davis Rodrigues (2006). The Myth of Personal Security: Criminal Gangs, Dispute Resolution, and Identity in Rio de Janeiro... *Latin American Politics and Society*; Winter 48, 4; ProQuest, pg. 53
- Bartilow, H.A., & Eom, K. (2009). Busting drugs while paying with crime: the collateral damage of US drug enforcement in foreign countries. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 5, 93-116
- Clarke, C. (2006). Politics, violence and drugs in Kingston, Jamaica. *Bulletin of Latin American research*, 25(3), 420-440





Research is being harnessed to make the case for decriminalization

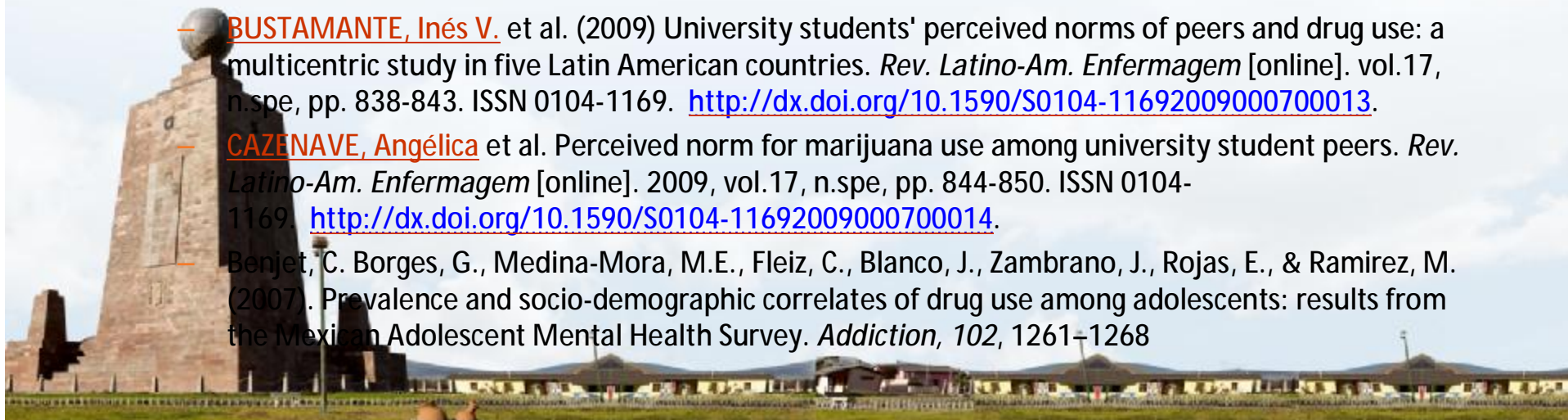
- Tokatlian, Juan Gabriel; Briscoe, Ivan. Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft 3 (2010): Drugs: towards a post-prohibitionist paradigm, 102-110
- Francis, J.N.P., & Mauser, G.A. (2010). Collateral damage: the “war on drugs”, and the Latin America and Caribbean region: policy recommendations for the Obama administration.
 - The Declaration of the Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy (2009) recommends new approaches
 - Address drugs use as a public health matter
 - Apply public education and prevention to reduce consumption
 - Direct policing and criminal justice to organized crime





Some of the strongest findings point to ever-present risk for children and youth

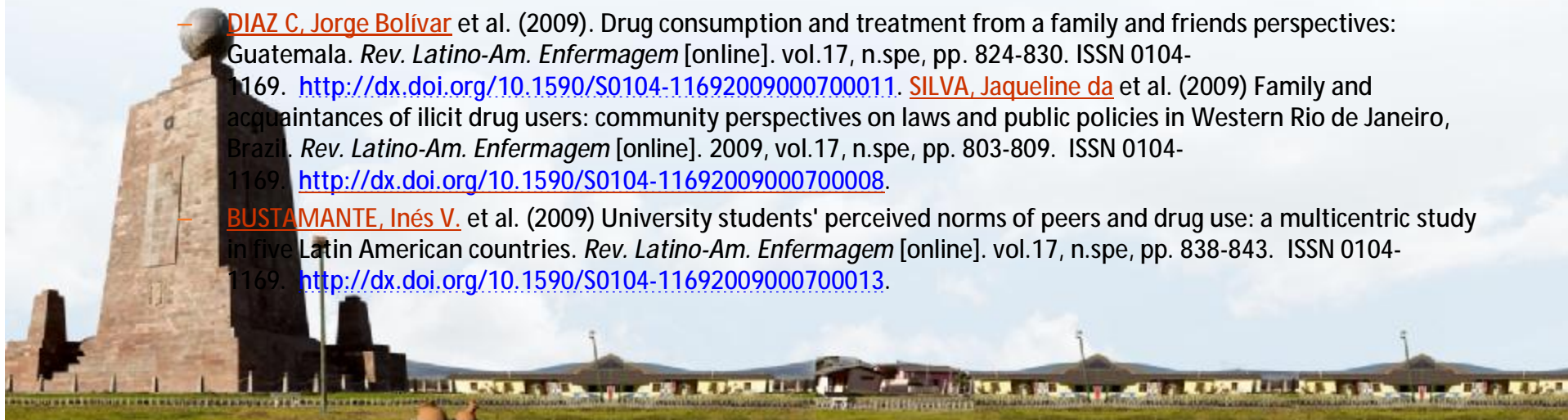
- ORTEGA-PEREZ, C.A.; COSTA-JUNIOR, M. L., & VASTERS, G. P. (2011). Epidemiological profile of drug addiction in college students. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. 2011, vol.19, n.spe, pp. 665-672. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692011000700002>.
- GUZMAN-FACUNDO, F.R. et al.(2011). Drugs use as a cultural practice within gangs. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.19, n.spe, pp. 839-847. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692011000700023>.
- BUSTAMANTE, Inés V. et al. (2009) University students' perceived norms of peers and drug use: a multicentric study in five Latin American countries. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.17, n.spe, pp. 838-843. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700013>.
- CAZENAVE, Angélica et al. Perceived norm for marijuana use among university student peers. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. 2009, vol.17, n.spe, pp. 844-850. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700014>.
- Benjet, C. Borges, G., Medina-Mora, M.E., Fleiz, C., Blanco, J., Zambrano, J., Rojas, E., & Ramirez, M. (2007). Prevalence and socio-demographic correlates of drug use among adolescents: results from the Mexican Adolescent Mental Health Survey. *Addiction*, 102, 1261-1268





Our studies highlighted the need for public policies grounded in evidence and greater understanding

- GRANADOS HERNANDEZ, Mabel et al. (2009) Critical perspective of the family and acquaintances on family and community risk factors in illicit drug use in São Jose, Costa Rica. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.17, n.spe, pp. 770-775.
- RODRIGUEZ FUNES, Gladys Magdalena et al. (2009). Risk factors related to the use of illegal drugs: the critical perspective of drug users' relatives and acquaintances at a public health center in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.17, n.spe, pp. 796-802. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700007>.
- DIAZ C, Jorge Bolívar et al. (2009). Drug consumption and treatment from a family and friends perspectives: Guatemala. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.17, n.spe, pp. 824-830. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700011>. SILVA, Jaqueline da et al. (2009) Family and acquaintances of illicit drug users: community perspectives on laws and public policies in Western Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. 2009, vol.17, n.spe, pp. 803-809. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700008>.
- BUSTAMANTE, Inés V. et al. (2009) University students' perceived norms of peers and drug use: a multicentric study in five Latin American countries. *Rev. Latino-Am. Enfermagem* [online]. vol.17, n.spe, pp. 838-843. ISSN 0104-1169. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0104-11692009000700013>.





There are some key efforts underway to build a base of research

- Latin American Research Network in Drug Addiction
<http://www.larneda.org/organization/council/>
- The Red Latinamericano de Investigaciones en Drogas (known commonly as REDLA:
http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/Template.asp?File=/oid/redla_eng.asp)
- The *International Research Program for Health and Related Areas Professionals to Study the Drug Phenomenon in Latin America and the Caribbean - IRCBP*
 - 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 of - drug demand reduction area;
 - Enable the exchange of Latin America researchers with Canadian researchers in the area of the drug phenomenon.





Where we are....

§ The past six years experience of the research capacity building program that has occurred at CAMH has been very successful

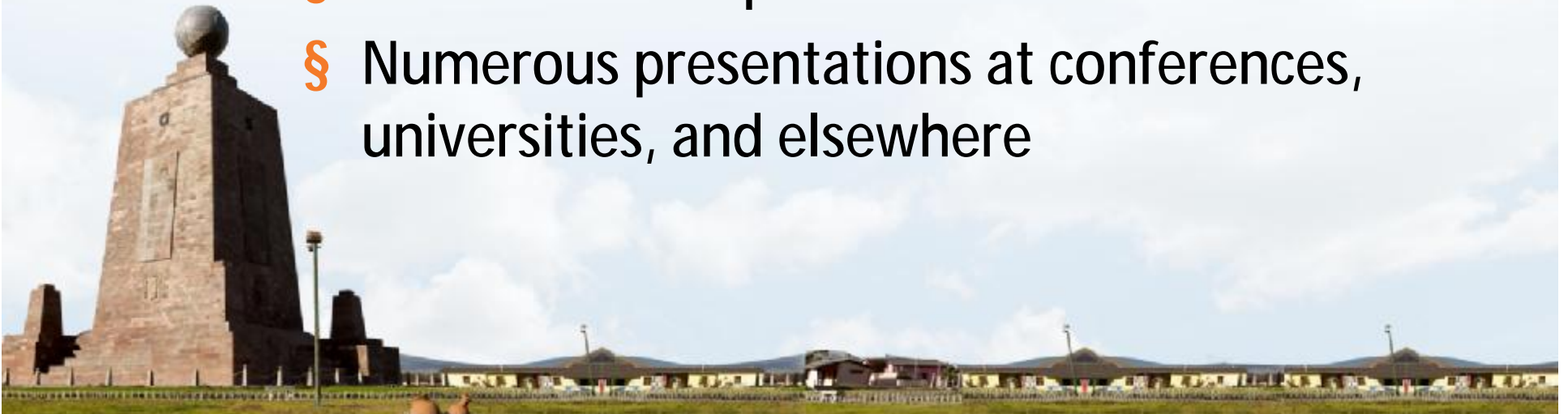




Where we are....

What we have achieved:

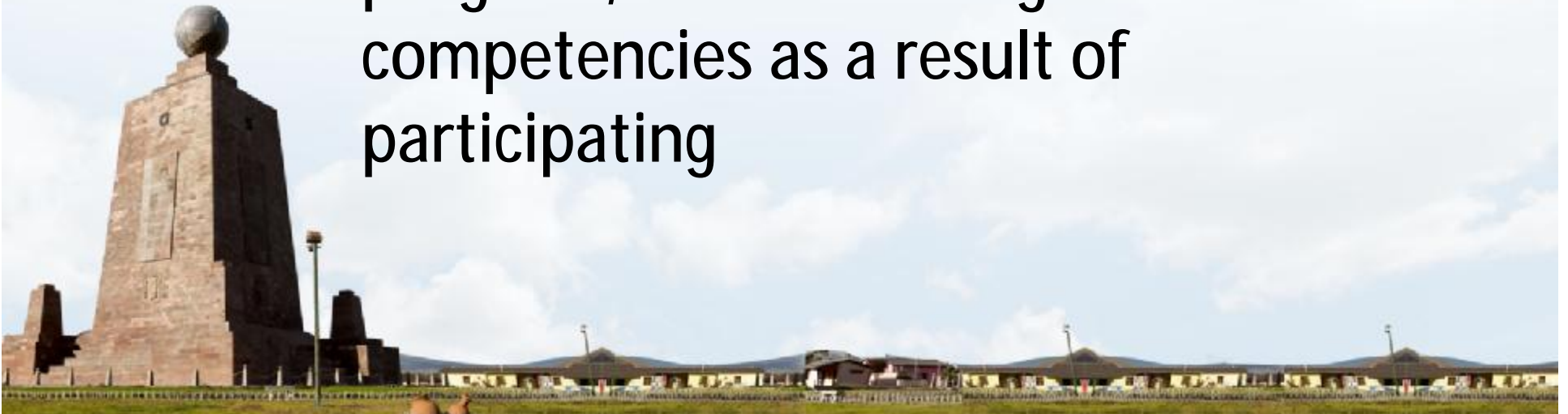
- § 70 graduates
- § More than 240 publications
- § Numerous presentations at conferences, universities, and elsewhere





How can we maintain this momentum...

§ Virtually every participant has made significant contributions to the program, and has strengthened their competencies as a result of participating





How can we maintain this momentum...

Possible directions for consideration.

1) A mentoring program –

§ many participants have expressed an interest in further opportunities to hone their skills in developing their own research ideas and collaborative research networks

§ One possible way to do this would be to expand the program to offer opportunities for advanced fellowships focusing on developing a successful grant application to support an advanced research program





How can we maintain this momentum...

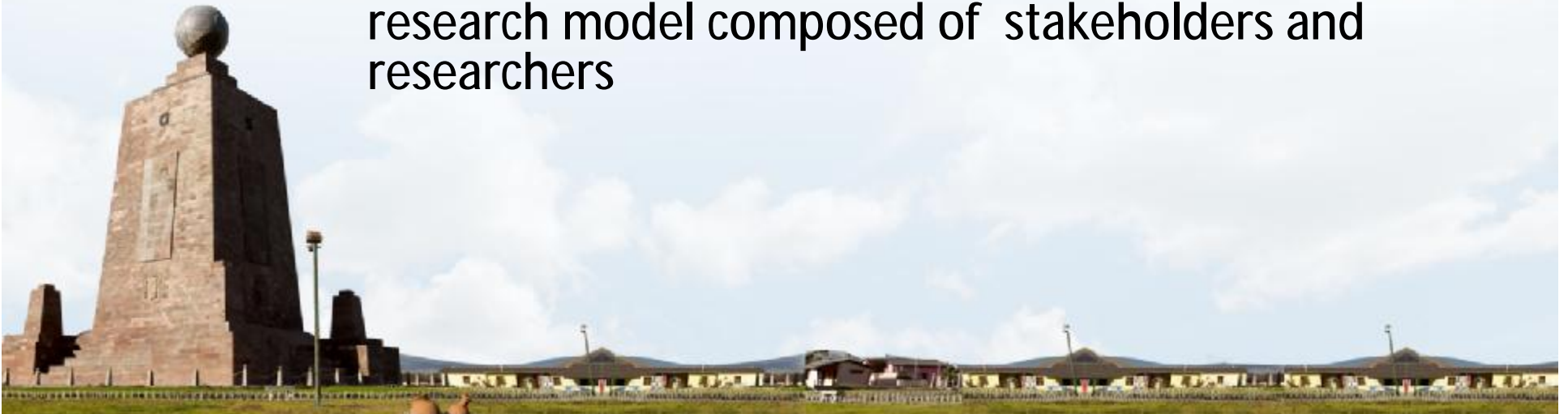
- § A positive outcome would be that the participants in the fellowship program would then act as resources for their colleagues and other researchers in their own institutions or countries





How can we maintain this momentum...

- 2) Develop an organisation of key scientists and policy makers in Latin America and the Caribbean to identify key priorities in their countries and regions on drug research
- § This initiative would involve a collaborative research model composed of stakeholders and researchers





How can we maintain this momentum...

- 3) Create a scientific organization dedicated to the study of drug problems in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - § One example is the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), and another is the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety
 - § Both organizations begin with the goal of promoting scientific research in specific areas, and providing a forum for the sharing of research findings





How can we maintain this momentum...

- § Both organizations have succeeded because they provided researchers with opportunities for effective networking in order to establish collaborative research teams and projects
- § Both provide opportunities for graduate students and new researchers to become engaged with established researchers





How can we maintain this momentum...

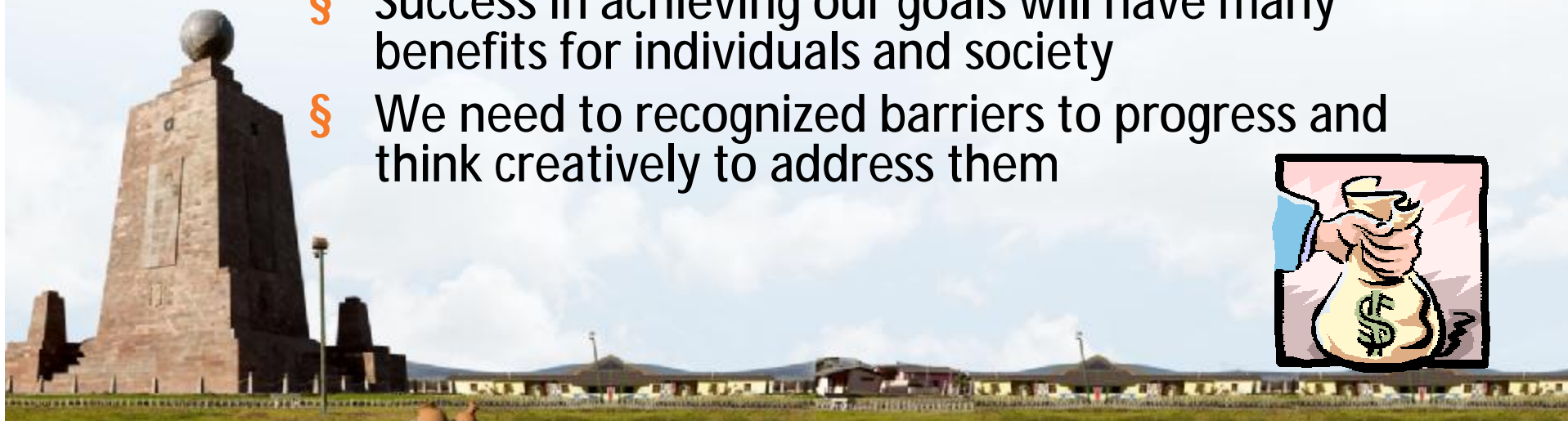
4) Those of us who are involved need to stay involved

§ Effective communication is essential

§ We are dealing with very serious issues and commitment to this area of research is critical

§ Success in achieving our goals will have many benefits for individuals and society

§ We need to recognize barriers to progress and think creatively to address them





We are all overloaded...





But together we can do it...

