



【35th Edition】

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The 2019 International Seminar on Juvenile Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling Brings to a Successful Close

Dear scholars and experts:

The Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse Crime Research Center National Chung Cheng University and the Taiwan Society for Substance Abuse Research, under the support of Department of Student Affairs and Special Education, Ministry of Education, co-organized the “2019 International Seminar on Juvenile Drug Abuse Prevention and Counseling” held at the NCC International Conference Hall on October 8th, 2019 and October 9th 2019 (Tuesday and Wednesday) in response to the development of juvenile drug abuse problems.

This conference invites experts from U.S.A, Japan, Australia and others countries to share international academic knowledge. as well as drug abuse and juvenile drug prevention and control experts from Taiwan were invited to attend the seminar. Through the brainstorming and experience sharing at the conference, effective strategies for preventing juvenile drug abuse intended to reduce drug related harms were proposed. In addition to inviting domestic and foreign scholars to the venue to share new knowledge from the international academia, the seminar also invited many domestic scholars from the field of drug abuse prevention and practical experts to organize comprehensive workshops in order to explore juvenile drug abuse issues from multiple perspectives, thereby serving as a reference for relevant domestic government sectors endeavoring to perfect the existing response measures.

To register for this event, please visit: <http://tasar.ccu.edu.tw>

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UNODC Reports

UNODC convenes national experts to re-design global drug information system and improve countries' reporting on drug matters

➤ Editorial Office

Vienna, 3 September 2019 - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) gathered around 100 drug statistics experts from 60 countries in Vienna from 28 to 30 August to discuss the update of a key international drug-data collection tool, the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ), as well as priorities for related capacity building.

The meeting explored how to modernize the ARQ in view of the fast-changing nature of the drug problem. It considered issues such as the diversification of drugs and the implications for health, prevention and treatment, as well as new trafficking modes and increasing demand of the international community to better understand the links between drugs, corruption and illicit financial flows..

During the intense technical consultations experts provided critical suggestions for constructing an improved and streamlined questionnaire. Together with the identification of practical steps to support countries' capacities to report on their drug situation, the meeting will help UNODC to finalize a solid proposal on a new ARQ and a list of priorities for capacity building to present to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for its consideration.

When celebrating the successful conclusion of the meeting, Angela Me, Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC, said that "experts provided important insights on how to improve evidence on drug-related matters. The mission of UNODC research is to provide the best possible evidence to support decision making, a goal that can be achieved only with the support and contribution



of national experts on drug information systems. Meetings like this one helps us to build a strong community of national experts which can provide the impartial information the world is asking for."

The process of developing a new ARQ started at the end of 2017 with a global e-consultation on the status of the current ARQ involving Member States, civil society and international organizations. This was followed by a first Expert Working Group meeting in January 2018. Another global e-consultation involving Member states, civil society and international organizations on the newly developed draft ARQ was then conducted in August 2019, after which the second Expert Working Group meeting was held in August 2019.

Some activities are still needed to finalise the ARQ, including a pilot exercise. A new ARQ is scheduled to be submitted to the CND in 2020. If approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the new ARQ is expected to go live and be used for data collection in April 2021.



This paper is from: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2019/September/unodc-convenes-national-experts-to-re-design-global-drug-information-system-and-improve-countries-reporting-on-drug-matters.html>



NIDA Reports

Measuring sleep challenges in opioid use disorder patients

➤ Editorial Office

Healthy sleep is an important aspect of successful treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD). Opioids can disrupt sleep, and OUD patients have shown problems with sleep quality. Scientists at NIDA’s Intramural Research Program (IRP) wanted to learn more about how illicit opioid use affects sleep in OUD patients treated with opioid agonist medications. They were also interested in understanding if changing clinic appointment hours would affect their sleep.

For 16 weeks, OUD patients being treated at the IRP on an outpatient basis with methadone or buprenorphine were assigned to attend the clinic in either the early morning (7-9 a.m.) or the early afternoon (12-1 p.m.) for four weeks each. They attended the clinic during normal operating hours (7-11 a.m.) for the remainder of the study. They were also asked to answer questions about their previous night’s sleep on their smartphone every morning and to wear a device on their wrist, similar to a common electronic fitness watch, which measured their sleep by their





body movements during the night. Possible illicit drug use was assessed by urinalysis.

The investigators found that on days when participants used illicit opioids and/or cocaine, they slept less, went to bed later, and woke up later than on non-using days. In addition, participants slept less and woke earlier when assigned to the early clinic hours. This study extends findings from inpatient studies regarding the sleep-disrupting effects of illicit opioid use into the outpatient setting. It also suggests that to maximize treatment outcomes, care providers should consider the effects of clinic attendance requirements on patients' sleep.

This paper is from: National Institute on Drug Abuse

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/measuring-sleep-challenges-in-opioid-use-disorder-patients>



Taiwan Research News

The neural mechanism of amphetamine abusers: a resting-state functional MRI study

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Drug addiction is a serious public social and health problem around the world. Previous studies have suggested that drug users are significantly different from healthy controls in behavioral performance and brain regions related to inhibitory control. Resting-state functional MRI (rsfMRI) is a method for indirectly assessing neural circuitry function through analysis of blood oxygen-level dependent (BOLD) signals. Here, this method was used to investigate differences in brain regions between amphetamine users (AMP) and healthy controls (CN), and find out the reasons. Twenty amphetamine users and twenty-three healthy controls were recruited in this study. Participants were asked to fill out Raven's progressive matrices, the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale and Behavioral Inhibition Scale, and MRI scans were obtained while they were at rest. Six brain regions related to inhibition control were selected as seeds for the resting-state functional connectivity (rsFC) analysis.

The questionnaire results showed that AMP had higher scores in three dimensions of the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale. rsFC results showed the rsFC between left lateral orbital frontal cortex and middle temporal gyrus, prefrontal cortex were stronger in CN than AMP. On the other hand, the rsFC between right inferior frontal gyrus and visual cortex, and between dorsal anterior cingulate cortex and medial prefrontal cortex, and between right dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and bilateral angular gyrus, premotor supplementary motor area were stronger in AMP than CN. The questionnaire results suggested that AMP



acted impulsively and without planning and the imaging results showed rsFC of the brain regions related to inhibition control in AMP were stronger than CN. These finding might result from the poor inhibition ability in AMP so that they recruited more resources from other brain regions when required to engage inhibitory control, leading to changes in these pathway. Additionally, it is possible the results are related to addiction treatment increasing the rsFC. To date, there are few studies investigating the rsFC in AMP, and there is no consistent pattern of results. The findings of the different rsFC strength between AMP and CN in this study could indicate how the brains of AMP adapt to compensate for less effective typical inhibitory control.

Key words: drug addiction, functional magnetic resonance imaging, resting-state functional connectivity



A comparison between persistent/desisted drug abusers during the period of deferred prosecution in Taiwan

Yung-Lien Lai,

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In 2017, while the Taiwanese government proposed a “New Generational Anti-Drug Policy”, specifically in terms of detoxification, how to enhance the effectiveness of drug abusers’ treatment via a deferred prosecution period comes to a challenging issue for medial and justice departments. The previous research on detoxification and treatment of drug abusers overwhelmingly emphasized a cross-sectional method to investigate the influences of recidivism after institutional treatment, whereas a longitudinal study has been largely overlooked. Moreover, from the perspective of a life-course theory, many offenders have desisted their criminal behaviors while meeting significant turning points (e.g., marriage, job, etc.) upon reentry a society.

Unfortunately, a similar pattern failed to be found yet among those drug abusers while after releasing from the prison-based treatment. Using partial data drawn from a government-supported project (ndc106060) in 2017, a comparison study has been designed. The samples are those drug abusers who participated in a deferred prosecution when they violated the “Statute for Narcotics Hazard Control” and have been sent to the prosecutor offices. The quasi-experimental design and a convenient sampling method have employed in this regard, suggesting a target group consisted of 206 drug abusers who have successfully completed a period of deferred prosecution in community (i.e., probationers), whereas a control group consisted of 207 drug abusers who have failed to complete the deferred prosecution and been sent to prisons for recidivating drug offenses (i.e., prisoners). The perceptions of lifestyle, family interaction, peer’s association, job status, and their interactions between probation officers, medical staff, and counselors during the deferred prosecution of each participant have been collected via a questionnaire



to identify if there are significant differences between the target and control groups.

The results from bivariate analyses (e.g., chi-square test, t-test) indicated, those drug abusers who failed to complete deferred prosecution reported a higher level of association with deviant family members and deviant peers, a variety of risk lifestyle, an unstable job status, a lower level of association with probation officers, and a higher level of absent attendance in required treatment courses compared to their counterparts. Some policy implications have been proposed to medial and justice departments in final.

Keywords: detoxification treatment via deferred prosecution, life-course, drug abusers, recidivism, probation



Latest Conferences Information

➤ 編輯組

Conference	Host Organization	Date	Location
2019 International Conference on Prevention and Counseling of Adolescent's Substance Abuse	Education Center for Prevention of Drug Abuse, National Chung Cheng University	October 08-09 2019	Chiayi, Taiwan Contact: deptcrc@ccu.edu.tw
Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction: Issues of Substance 2019	Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction(CCSA)	November 25-27 2019	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry	American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry(AAAP)	December 5-8 2019	San Diego, California Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	January 30 2020	Rockville, MD Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)/National Leadership Forum	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)	February 3-6 2020	National Harbor, Maryland, USA Contact: media@nida.nih.gov
Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT)	Society For Research On Nicotine and Tobacco(SRNT)	March 11-14 2020	New Orleans, Louisiana, USA Contact: media@nida.nih.gov