Insight Seminar Series - Semester 2, 2020

FREE – Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:00am (AEST)
Insight - 4th Floor, Biala, 270 Roma Street, Brisbane. (07) 3837 5655 insight@health.qld.gov.au

**July 15**
Australians Drug Users and the Dark Web.
Dr James Martin
Discipline Convener, Criminology, Swinburne University of Technology

This presentation will cover how Australians use the dark web to facilitate illicit drug use. Issues covered will include the extent and composition of drugs purchased via the dark web, and the potential harm-reduction implications of buying online.

**July 22**
Associate Professor Genevieve Dingle
Affiliate of the UQ Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research

Loneliness can affect people of all ages and circumstances and it has strong links with longevity, mental health and wellbeing. This webinar will present findings of a systematic review of studies on loneliness and SUD, and introduces two approaches to addressing loneliness and building recovery supportive social networks: the Groups 4 Belonging program, and social prescribing to community groups.

**July 29**
Designer Benzodiazepines in Queensland: What’s in fake Xanax.
Karen Blakey, Andrew Griffiths and Mark Daglish
Senior Chemist, Illicit Drug Group, Forensic Chemistry

There has been a recent increase in the prevalence and use of designer benzodiazepines in Queensland. This presentation will discuss the wide range of formulations and dosage encountered, the prevalence of these drugs in forensic cases, the coadministration with other drugs, and the potential short and long-term impact on users and the wider Queensland community.

**August 05**
Empowering Strong Families 4077 (ESF 4077) and Trauma Informed Care.
Leigh-Anne Pokino & Michelle Combo
Case Manager & Team Leader ESF 4077 - SG-CEOI-ATSI-PHC MSHHS

A project that began as an initiative for pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to reduce their tobacco use, uncovered deeper issues associated with multiple stressors and trauma lowering the priority of smoking cessation. This webinar will explore the project and the strategies utilized to empower these women.

**August 12**
Psychedelics : Past, present and future.
Dr Jonathan Brett
Staff specialist in clinical pharmacology, toxicology and addiction medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital

Several commentaries have described a current renaissance in psychedelic research. This presentation will cover the colourful past of psychedelic research in medicine which is intertwined with personal, professional and political themes as well as the present of psychedelic research in mental health and addiction worldwide and in Australia. The presentation will end with a discussion around possible future directions for research and clinical treatments using psychedelics.

**August 19**
Through a shot glass darkly: Understanding youth substance use through targeted assessment.
Associate Professor Matthew Gullo
MRFF Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Principal Research Fellow

Best practice in the treatment of substance use problems involves a comprehensive initial assessment and ongoing monitoring of treatment progress with standardized measures (e.g., validated questionnaire, interview schedule). However, the use of such measures is not always feasible in the question of what should be measured to best guide treatment. This presentation will provide an overview of how theoretically-driven assessment can be harnessed to better personalize treatment and enhance clinical outcomes.

**August 26**
Celebrating Multicultural Month: A panel discussion on the impacts of COVID-19 on CALD clients.
Lily Zwetsloot
Psychologist, Bila Alcohol and Drug Service

In order to commemorate Multicultural Month (August), the Metro North Alcohol and Drug Service - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Working Group presents a panel discussion with CALD representatives on the impact of COVID-19 on CALD clients accessing their services. The discussion will explore how the Drug and Alcohol Service can improve their services for CALD clients who have been affected disproportionately by COVID-19.

**September 02**
GHB: Harms and trends in use in Australia.
Dr Cheneal Puljевич
Research Fellow, Centre for Health Services Research

Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) is an illicit drug commonly used in music festival and party settings. While most people who use GHB do so occasionally, without experiencing harms, a minority of users experience harms such as unconsciousness and respiratory collapse in overdose. This presentation will briefly cover GHB-related harms using international literature, and will then cover trends in use among Australians using recent, unpublished data from the Global Drug Survey.

**September 09**
Do Ask, Do Tell: navigating long-term use of opioids in chronic pain.
Nicolette Ellis
Advanced Pharmacist Advisor, Queensland Health

Despite the limited evidence for long-term use of opioid in chronic pain and its associated harms - this topic is not black and white. Managing pain requires time and effort to attend to its biopsychosocial characteristics. For some patients living with pain, opioids remain an essential therapeutic option to improve their quality of life (QOL). This presentation will provide a deep dive into the long-term adverse effects of opioids - how to screen, monitor, and manage these adverse effects in practice. Importantly, we will cover how to engage patients in meaningful conversations about challenging the continued use of opioid.

**September 16**
Tracey Veitch and Peter Cochrane
Clinical Nurse Consultants, Metro North Mental Health – Alcohol and Drug Service

The Shared Care for Opioid Treatment (SCOT) Project has developed a model of service for the shared care of opioid dependence treatment. The model seeks to enable alcohol and drug services to provide timely access to tertiary care for complex and high-risk patients. The presentation will cover a range of topics including the implementation of the Shared Care for Opioid Treatment Model, and ways that these services can best be treated.

**October 07**
Codeine dependence and treatment - More than meets the eye.
Dr Sarah Reilly
Advanced Trainee in Addiction Psychiatry, Metro North Mental Health

Presentation of two locally run codeine studies completed with the aim of optimizing our understanding of factors for becoming dependent on codeine and how this group can best be treated.

**October 14**
Cannabis related deaths in Australia.
Emma Zahra
Research officer, NDARC

This presentation will explore the findings of a national level study that investigated cannabis-related deaths through the National Coronial Information System. A total of 599 cases were identified with accidental injury the most common manner of death, followed by suicide (15%) and suicide (15%) and accidental (15%) and accidental (15%) and natural (15%) and natural (15%) and natural (15%).

**October 21**
ROOM to improve? New tools for Routing Opioid Outcome Monitoring for people prescribed opioids for chronic pain.
Associate Professor Suzanne Nielsen
Deputy Director, Monash Addiction Research Centre

This webinar will provide an overview of new screening tools that have been developed and validated for use in Australian populations prescribed opioids for chronic pain. The tools were developed to assist with monitoring for outcomes with prescribed opioids including assessing pain, side effects and problems that may emerge for people that are prescribed opioids.

**November 04**
SMART Recovery: a summary of the research.
Dr Peter Kelly
Head of Research, School of Psychology

SMART Recovery is a mutual support group for people impacted by addictive behaviours. It is widely used in Australia and internationally, with over 3000 groups run each week across 23 countries. The presentation will provide an overview of the research that is being conducted examining SMART Recovery.

**November 11**
New Psychoactive Substances in the Queensland Drug Market.
Karen Blakey
Senior Chemist, Illicit Drug Group, Forensic Chemistry

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the major classes of NPS identified in seized drugs in Queensland and will outline how these different classes have emerged over the past ten years. Current NPS trends in the Queensland drug market, including synthetic cathinones and designer benzodiazepines, will also be discussed.

**November 18**
Bringing Trauma Informed Care to Working with Men: A Practice Conversation.
James Hoey
Advanced Clinical Educator (Psychologist), Insight

The relationship between problematic substance use and exposure to adverse life events is profound. Thankfully through the trauma-informed care practice movement, there has been renewed focus on ensuring services and health care professionals adopt approaches which recognize and promote understanding on the negative ways that trauma impacts on the lives of so many. This webinar aims to build on this growing focus through a conversation on how trauma-informed care principles may be of help and what steps can be taken towards the work of supporting men.

**November 25**
Shame about the Smile... how substance use affects oral health.
Alison Dickinson
Senior Chemist, Illicit Drug Group, Forensic Chemistry

This presentation will aim to explain why substance misuse impacts on oral health, the actual effects of substances on teeth, and what care providers can advise patients to assist them with oral health care and how to access free care in Metro North.