
Scientific Tracks & Sessions

May 13, 2019

Addiction 2019



2nd International Conference on
Addiction Research and Therapy
May 13-14, 2019 | Prague, Czech Republic

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The creation of Centers of Excellence (COE) to combat the Opiate crisis in the common wealth of Pennsylvania and in the United States

Scott A Cook

The Travel Doctorx, USA

Centers of Excellence (COE) help ensure that people with Opiate-related substance use disorder stay in treatment to receive follow up care and are supported within their communities. The center is a multi-disciplinary coordinated care model for low-income (Medicaid) individuals at-risk for continued use or relapse into active opiate addiction. The treatment is team-based and whole-person focused with the explicit goal of integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care. This very successful unique model created in Pennsylvania, can be replicated across the U.S. and possibly into other countries. 74% of individuals contacted by the COE end up getting engaged into Medication Assisted Treatment (M.A.T.) for opiate use disorder.

Speaker Biography

Scott A Cook is a board-certified physician, received his medical degree from Drexel University College of medicine and obtained a Master of Public Health degree in health administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He has worked in various fields of medicine but currently mostly practices addiction medicine and health administration. He is currently Chief Medical Officer of Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services (SPHS) and he holds 6 additional medical directorship appointments. He is Medical Director at the SPHS opiate treatment Center of excellence (COE), Mon Valley primary care, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Freedom healthcare, Positive Recovery Solutions (PRS), and Clear Day inpatient drug treatment center. He was previous shareholder partner at Med Express urgent care which now has over 200 urgent care centers in 20 states. He is owner of the Travel Doctorx, a medical consultancy. He is also affiliated with Mon Valley Hospital and The Washington Hospital.

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Integral approaches to Opiate Addiction and its treatment with Ibogaine

Adrian Auler

California Institute of Integral Studies, USA

Opiate addiction is spreading, and its treatment has been a spectacular failure, due to the predictably narrow, incomplete grasp of its character one would expect from the paradigm of scientific materialism. Opiate addiction research conceived within a positivist-reductionist container has focused on the clinical addiction to opiates, as if this were the causal factor rather than a consequence. True, clinical addiction to opiates is an immediate threat to the health and welfare of the individual and must be attended first; but opiate addiction is a mental illness that is exacerbated by sociocultural stigmatization, political and corporate denigration of the individual, and a worldview which maintains that life and the cosmos are meaningless. Opiate addiction is thus a triage response to existential despair, characterized by a sense of hopelessness, and resulting in a kind of Kafkaesque nightmare. The integral philosophy and yoga of Aurobindo Ghose and the Mother contains an inherent whole-person psychology, which I use in conjunction

with Jungian depth psychology to evaluate the personal aspects of opiate addiction. Integral philosophy is a lens I use to consider.

Speaker Biography

Adrian Auler is a doctoral candidate in East-West Psychology (EWP) at the California Institute of Integral Studies. His dissertation topic is opiate addiction and its treatment with the entheogen ibogaine. His real qualification to address the topic is that he was a heroin addict for 22 years and only escaped it using ibogaine. He finished most of his higher education in the 21 years since he got clean. He has also written a book which is a popular treatment of his dissertation topic. He got BA's in anthropology and psychology as they complement each other to produce a comprehensive perspective. He also got an MA, and now ABD, in EWP. His lenses are depth, transpersonal, and integral psychology, psychological and medical anthropology, and autoethnography. He focuses on consciousness studies, including energy medicine and psychedelic research. Integral psychology is a philosophical and spiritual transpersonal psychology, and the "hard problem" of Chalmers is a touchstone in his work.

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Identifying and treating Gambling Disorders in an immersive virtual world city

Dion Croom

Habet Addiction Healthcare Ltd, UK

Gambling Disorder (GD) is the term used to describe an addiction to gambling that may be harmful to the gambler, family and friends, society, or both. With the phenomenal rise in internet usage over the past 20 years, and the resulting ease of access to gambling activity, GD is now recognised as a significant problem in modern society which is demanding the attention of Governments worldwide and in particular healthcare professionals, industry operators and regulators. One of the main problems of treating GD is helping the sufferer to recognise they have an issue and seek assistance for what many regards as a shameful, embarrassing compulsion¹. They may be reluctant to admit the scale of their condition and avoid accessing traditional healthcare routes in an attempt to hide the problem until it is no longer containable, by which time there are often devastating financial, emotional and social consequences.

HABET Addiction Healthcare seeks to explore the benefits and the capabilities of various emerging state-of-the-art interactive 3D and virtual world technologies and investigates how these technologies can be developed to create a more effective technology-supported addiction therapy and treatment solution for GD. As an immersive internet support system, Habet seeks to address the patient's addictive state and situation through the use of avatar-based, audio and physiology-based analysis in this environment while also

offer access to localized health and support services. HABET's innovative virtual reality exposure therapy system is adaptive and customizable to the demands of the in vivo experience and therapeutic progress. HABET follows a gamification approach where rewards and achievements are utilized to motivate the patient to progress in his/her treatment. The HABET research project will outline how HABET could be part of classical cognitive behavioural treatment and how to validate the integration of such an immersive treatment environment.

Speaker Biography

Dion Croom is acknowledged as a social entrepreneur and virtual world pioneer in avatar digital media and avatar brand marketing and its use in translating virtual world branding into real world success within society at large. Bridging the digital divide through the use of immersive technology. Games-based intervention strategies, emergent in-action/on-action models, industry companies, commercial products, and patented communication method and apparatus have evolved from his research. Targeted is societal impact and benefit in respect of future demographics and service industries through applied ICT and optimized motivation of use through inclusive intervention strategies. He originates from Brooklyn, New York and has been instrumental as part of the initial community ICT strategy in the late 1990's into disadvantage community adoption of ICT and is now the current Managing Director of Habet Addiction Healthcare an Immersive Internet intervention virtual city initiative.

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The power of connection and outcome-oriented treatment with Military Adolescents

Cristal Cook

Sterling Medical Corporation, Italy

Adolescence is a critical age for prevention work, which can be accomplished through classroom education and psychotherapy including individual, family, and group work. Gaining skills to overcome risk factors has the power to alter the course of lives. Some of these risk factors include social isolation, difficult home life situations, low self-worth, mental health issues, and peer pressure of social media. One of the most valuable protective factors is human connection. The United States military families experience unique challenges including living in foreign countries, frequent moves, absent parents due to deployments or divorce, separation from extended family, and continuous friend separation. Deployments last between six months to a year and often result in families experiencing more separation than togetherness. The average length of time military families spend at each duty station is three years. This leads to continual relocation adjustment and loss of meaningful relationships. I have worked with teens well into addiction, some flirting with going down that path, and others simply trying their best to manage complicated life issues without turning to unhealthy coping mechanisms. Alcohol and substance abuse are not the only threat to our youth; it is also behavioral addictions such

as self-harm, social media, gaming, pornography and eating disorders. Although I incorporate a variety of modalities, it is the use of outcome informed feedback that is the most integral part of my practice. Measuring the client's distress levels and whether they are improving is invaluable information. Client feedback promotes treatment satisfaction and therapeutic alliance. Research supports that the client/therapist relationship is the number one predictive factor for treatment success, regardless of the treatment modality used. It is my belief that human connection is the most valuable tool for prevention, healing, and recovery. These connections consist of family, friends, community and helping professionals.

Speaker Biography

Cristal Cook is a licensed clinical social worker and a certified addiction specialist with over 17 years of professional counseling experience with adolescents, adults, children, and families in various settings. She has worked in schools, community medical centers, private practice and with the American Military throughout the United States and abroad. She comes from a system's perspective and encourages the involvement of family, school personnel, and supportive community partners to provide quality prevention and direct services to adolescents and their families.

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New age Addictions: A menace in progress

Vijay Bhasker Reddy Yetapu

VChangeU, India

We are living in an information age and technology is invading our lives at every turn. From mobile telecommunications to digital television to the futuristic computer-controlled homes, we deal with new technology every day in our work places and our homes. Yes, smart phones have made our lives easy in doing things at the tap of fingers, but they also made our lives busy in wasting time and disturbing sleep patterns. Today we have smartphones, smart TV, smart homes, smart cars, smart cities, smart gadgets but at the end of the day we are becoming dumb. Technology should be used to the extent that we should become smarter to do multitasking and never become dumb humans. New age addictions come with new age problems and behaviours; human race has never seen such impact before. Mobile phone has become an external organ in our lives and connectivity to internet as a blood stream. The biggest worry is people as young as 5 years are addicted to mobile devices to stream videos, playing games and they are unaware of radiation impact. As tobacco and alcohol industry is leveraging the freedom of social media to influence the youth, pornography is emerging as another threat in creating havoc among young minds. Youth getting access to porn videos are getting addicted to it, which will have serious impact on their behaviours as they grow up. At the dawn of

the next century we must ensure that health issues pertaining to new age addictions emerge and remain as a major area of national and international concern and action. We at VChangeU help young people by educating them what tech addictions really are, how constant use of mobile phone and social media can lead to addiction that can wreak havoc with health and well-being of entire family.

Speaker Biography

Vijay Bhasker Reddy Yetapu is founder and president of a true non-profit organisation VChangeU. His area of expertise is to promote longevity of life through innovative and creative approaches. His research addresses motivational processes involved in healthy living across the life span. Having over 20 years of critical thinking experience in a consulting, management, corporate role in IT and over 10 years in non-profit leadership. Delivered over 2000 sessions on Healthy Living in schools, colleges, universities, industries, companies and conferences. He has received several national and international scholarships for his work on health which includes 2 times scholarship awardee for 15th and 16th "World Conference on Tobacco or Health", "International Conference on Public Health Priorities in the 21st Century: The Endgame for Tobacco!". His paper "A good sleep makes you younger by the day" was selected to present in 3rd International Sleep and Breathing Conference held at Barcelona, Spain.

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Naltrexone for Opioid dependence: Oral, Implantable and Injectable

Evgeny Krupitsky

First St Petersburg Pavlov State Medical University, Russia

Primary Purpose: The presentation will review results of five randomized double-blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trials of different drug formulations of naltrexone we have been doing within the last 12 years: Oral, implantable and injectable.

Experimental design:

1st study: Double blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of oral naltrexone vs placebo. 2nd study: Four cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of combination of naltrexone with fluoxetine vs. naltrexone, fluoxetine and double placebo. 3rd study: Four cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of combination of naltrexone with guanfacine vs. naltrexone, guanfacine and double placebo. 4th study: Three cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of naltrexone implant vs. oral naltrexone and double placebo (oral and implantable). 5th study: Double blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of injectable naltrexone vs. placebo.

Summary of results: Oral naltrexone in Russia is more effective for relapse prevention and abstinence stabilization than placebo basically due to family involvement in the control of compliance. Combining naltrexone with

antidepressants or guanfacine does not improve outcome significantly. Long acting sustained release naltrexone formulations (injectable and implantable) are substantially more effective than oral naltrexone or placebo for relapse prevention in opiate addicts as they make control of compliance easier.

Conclusion: Extended release formulations of naltrexone are the most effective abstinence-oriented pharmacotherapies for opiate dependence.

Speaker Biography

Evgeny Krupitsky is a vice director for Research and a Chief of the Department of Addictions at V.M. Bekhterev National Medical Research Center of Psychiatry and Neurology in St.-Petersburg, and a Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Psychopharmacology of Addictions at St. Petersburg State Pavlov Medical University, Russia. Since 2006 he also holds a position of Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania. Major focus of his research is pharmacotherapy of drug and alcohol dependence. He received several national and international awards including European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Fellowship Award (1997), Heffter Research Institute Award for Outstanding Research in Hallucinogens (2000), National Institute Drug Abuse of National Institute of Health (USA) Award for Excellence in International Leadership (2010), and Galen Prize (Russia) (2016).

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Drug Abuse related risk factors within people subject to probation order due to illicit drug use

Duygu Altin

Ege University, Turkey

Aim: Drug abuse, which is one of the top reasons for mortality in the world is not easily detected and treated. People using and/or possessing drugs are subject to probation order according to related criminal law in Turkey as it is in many countries all around the world. This study aims to find risk factors related to drug abuse within people referred to probation service, which is one of the most important services in related field since it has the longest direct contact with drug users in Turkey.

Method: The sample has been chosen by random sampling method within people under probation order due to Turkish Criminal Law Article 191. The study is performed with 200 participants who are aged 18-55 years and whose age average is 27.51(±7.01), following written permission taken from General Directorate of Prisons And Detention Houses. During face to face individual interviews, the aim of the study is told to individuals and Informed Consent Form is given to individuals who accept to participate. Then, Personal Information Form and ASSIST(Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test) which is developed by WHO and of which reliability and validity of Turkish version is studied by the researcher are applied. Independent sample t tests are performed between possible risk factors which are working status; previous

probation, criminal, treatment, suicide, psychiatric disorder history of the person and his drug abuse risk level(ASSIST total points).


Findings: Statistically significant results are obtained between working status, previous probation, criminal, treatment, suicide, psychiatric disorder history of the person and his drug abuse risk level($p=0.21$; $p=0.17$; $p=0.00$; $p=0.00$; $p=0.01$; $p=0.01$ respectively $p<0.05$).

Results: Above mentioned risk factors provides wider viewpoints not only for further research, but also for intervention and prevention work.

Speaker Biography

Duygu Altin has completed her MSc from Ege University, Turkey in field of drug addiction and studied in collaboration with World Health Organization. She has also completed addiction counseling education at Capa Medical Faculty, Istanbul and advanced addiction counseling education which lasted for 2 years each. She had her B.A. in field of psychology from Bosphorus University which gives 100% education in English. She works as a probation expert/psychologist/addiction counselor since foundation of the probation system in Turkey. As an executive member of Turkish Probation Officers Association and an official trainer for colleagues within Turkish Ministry of Justice, she has attended many international study visits, congresses, EU projects as a speaker.

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Investigation of self-harm behaviour and its relation to several factors in drug users under probation order

Mine Pazarcikci

Ege University, Turkey

Aim: Drug abuse as one of the main important health issues around the world is found to be correlated with several risk factors such as family relations, academic success, psychological disorders like depression etc. As another risk factor that can be evaluated, it is also seen that patients under psychological treatment due to self-harm behaviour show high levels of drug abuse. In this study it is aimed to study the relationship between self-harm behaviour and several other risk factors in a sample from drug users under probation order.

Method: The sample has been chosen by random sampling method within people under probation order due to Turkish Criminal Law Article 191. The study is performed with 500 participants who are aged 18-65 years and whose age average is 28 ± 8 ; following written permission taken from General Directorate of Prisons and Detention Houses. During face to face interviews, the aim of the study is told to individuals and Informed Consent Form is given to individuals who accept to participate. Then, Personal Information Form including related questions within the scope of the study is applied.

Findings: 18% of participants have self-harm behaviour, 7.4% have suicide attempts. Statistically significant results are obtained between types of drugs used, age of starting drug usage, drug use time periods and self-harm behaviour ($p=0.000$ $p<0.05$).

Results: Addiction is a whole and it is important to regard multifactor related to each other and to plan research in that way. Within this perspective, one of those factors to be considered not only in prevention but also in intervention procedures for drug usage is thought to be psychological factors like self-harm behaviour.

Speaker Biography

Mine Pazarcikci completed her sociology degree in Ege University in 2009. She has been working as a sociologist in the probation department since 2013. She has graduated from Ege University Drug Addiction Programme (MSc). The title of her thesis topic is "Research on Cigarette, Alcohol and Pathological Gambling Addiction Comorbid with Illicit Drug Use Within People Subject to Probation Order Due to Illicit Drug Use". She has a certificate in Family Counseling. She has attended trainings like Anger Management, Drug Addiction Training for Adults.

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New age Addictions: A menace in progress

Vijay Bhasker Reddy Yetapu

VChangeU, India

Big Tobacco is always innovative and creative in their approaches and strategies in reaching out to target groups through new age social media platforms. Evaluating the current trends is very crucial for the advocacy of tobacco control in the age of social media. As tobacco industry acts as a global force to influence the younger generation to adopt tobacco products through social media platforms, even though many tobacco-free laws and regulations are enforced, it is difficult to fight the global tobacco epidemic in the age of social media via traditional tobacco control approaches. Surrogacy has come around in a big way to support promotion of tobacco brands suppressing the tobacco control acts and make their way to influence the youth. Students and young people are our target group, they are the active users of social media. To counter big tobacco tactics, we have created multiple social media pages for tobacco control to engage youth in promoting better health and staying out from tobacco forever. We post multiple innovative and creative posters on social media pages related to tobacco control and cessation highlighting how tobacco causes health and environmental damage. We provide support and solutions to tobacco addicts to quit their addictions. A study published in nature journal has listed our work on tobacco control with maximum interactions comparing with other tobacco-

related fan pages such as 'Quitnet' and 'BecomeAnEX'. VChangeU Facebook pages on tobacco control stood in the top 3 most 'liked' Facebook pages in the world. Though we have done little effort in utilizing the power of social media our work got recognized by scientific research agencies. As tobacco industry is leveraging the freedom of social media to influence the youth, we need to equally counter them with powerful anti-tobacco ads and promotions to keep them away from tobacco products.

Speaker Biography

Vijay Bhasker Reddy Yetapu is founder and president of a true non-profit organisation VChangeU. His area of expertise is to promote longevity of life through innovative and creative approaches. His research addresses motivational processes involved in healthy living across the life span. Having over 20 years of critical thinking experience in a consulting, management, corporate role in IT and over 10 years in non-profit leadership. Delivered over 2000 sessions on Healthy Living in schools, colleges, universities, industries, companies and conferences. He has received several national and international scholarships for his work on health which includes 2 times scholarship awardee for 15th and 16th "World Conference on Tobacco or Health", "International Conference on Public Health Priorities in the 21st Century: The Endgame for Tobacco!". His paper "A good sleep makes you younger by the day" was selected to present in 3rd International Sleep and Breathing Conference held at Barcelona, Spain.

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Looking for a solution to a global crisis: Stigmatization of Methadone Maintenance Therapy

Arash Ghodousi

Islamic Azad University, Iran


Methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) starts since 1964 as a medical response to the post-World War II heroin epidemic in New York City. Methadone maintenance reduces and/or eliminates the use of heroin, reduces the death rates and criminality associated with heroin use allows patients to improve their health and social productivity and reduce the transmission of infectious diseases associated with heroin injection, such as hepatitis and HIV. The principal effects of methadone maintenance are to relieve narcotic craving, suppress the abstinence syndrome, and block the euphoric effects associated with heroin. However, stigma, discrimination and bias directed at the programs and the patients have negative effect on delivery of services. Even now, there is not better therapy for many of heroin addict patients. Patients usually reported experiencing stigma and discrimination including blame/judgment, shame, disclosure and the fear of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) transmission by others. Unemployed patients were more likely to experience discrimination. Those who were taking an antiretroviral were more likely to disclose their health status. In addition, a higher likelihood of being blamed/

judged and shamed was associated with those who suffered from anxiety/depression. They reported that stigma resulted in lower self-esteem, relationship conflicts, reluctance to initiate, access, or continue MMT and distrust toward the health care system. Stigma and discrimination lead toward reduce the effectiveness of treatment and reduce the number of patents that wants to start MMT Voluntarily and unemployment of patients under methadone treatment as well. Public awareness campaigns, education of health care workers, family therapy, and community meetings were cited as potential stigma-reduction strategies. Professional community leadership is necessary to educate the general public if these society problems are to be overcome.

Speaker Biography

Arash Ghodousi has completed his specialty in Forensic Medicine and clinical toxicology from Tehran University of Medical science in 2003 and certified in addiction treatment from Iranian National Centre for Addiction Studies (INCAS) in 2005. Now, he is associate professor and Deputy of medical sciences in Isfahan Branch of Islamic Azad University and has a private clinic for addiction treatment.

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A study of utilization of community meeting as an interactive strategy in Drugs Addiction Treatment

Nevin Terry Haa

Centre for Addiction Treatment and Research Vom, Nigeria

People are universally the same however, some peculiarities define their geographical location. In a drug facility in Nigeria community meeting has been an effective strategy in drug addiction treatment for identifying and addressing motivation in the treatment, insight and judgment, self-esteem, psychotic symptoms, readiness for treatment etc. The components of community meeting significantly facilitate effective transition in stages of change, this research gathered information from various meetings. The study also obtained information about substance use from files of 211 participants previously admitted from 2014 - 2018 and descriptive statistics using SPSS version 20 was utilized in the analysis, the analysis show that male were predominant at 91.9% with a mean 1.08, 24.6% primary drugs of abuse is alcohol and the most common substance abused at 29%, clients admitted with psychotic symptoms were 47.9% and 29% common problematic substance is cannabis and 65% of them are within the ages of 21-30 years, while 45% of them have used other psychoactive substances like opioids and cocaine. Finding from this study

is that community meeting gives people living with addiction the opportunity to learn, introspect, express, and adapt to techniques of living a drug free life more effectively. It is the only gathering that allows both psychotic and non-psychotic clients interact freely and respectfully given way to teaching, learning and mentoring. The researchers, therefore, suggest that though drug problems may not vary however, the approach to addressing this problem should be tailored in ways that reflects the people and their culture.

Speaker Biography

Nevin Terry Haa is Clinical Psychologist and an expert on drug addiction counselling with many years of experience working in Centre for Addiction Treatment and Research Vom, He is trained on drug addiction assessment and Management by United Nation Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC). He trains young undergraduate university students on drug addiction. He has presented Papers on drug addiction in different International conferences sponsored by UNODC and published papers in reputable Journals.

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Exposure of African youths to imagery of Addictive Tobacco in musical videos: A five years retrospective review

Adeosun Abayomi

Lighthouse Global Health Initiative, Nigeria

Aim: Tobacco advertisement has been banned in mainstream media, however, contents endorsing smoking are still accessible to people, mostly adolescents, through uncensored online media platforms. This research aimed at evaluating tobacco content in Nigerian musical videos.

Method: Top 50 videos of each year from 2014 to 2018 were reviewed independently by four researchers who checked for parameters including: antismoking message, imagery of male, female or group smoking, and imagery of soft-core sexual content associated with cigarette smoking. A total of 250 videos were reviewed. The videos were sourced from YouTube according to ratings by Africa Charts. Africa Charts rates videos based on TV and radio airplay, record sales, streaming platforms, social media, song and video downloads from top African entertainment sites, as well as YouTube and Dailymotion views.

Results: About 36 (14.40%) and 9 (3.6%) videos, with over 397 million combined views had imagery of male and female smoking respectively. Videos containing male smoking


imagery increased by 150% between 2014 and 2018. Three (1.2%) videos had imagery of smoking associated with sex appeal while 8 (3.2%) videos contained people smoking in groups. Only 2 videos (0.8%) with about 16 million views contained antitobacco smoking message. A female artiste featured smoking imagery the most.

Conclusion: Smoking imagery is contained in few Nigerian musical videos; however, its appearance is on the increase. Given the wide acceptance of Nigerian music among African youths, it may be necessary to regulate smoking imagery content of the musical videos to contain its impact on the youths, who are easily influenced by their celebrity heroes.

Speaker Biography

Adeosun Abayomi is a pharmacist and a public health specialist. His research works span tobacco cessation, global health security, and reproductive health. He is the director of Strategy and Communication for Lighthouse Global Health Initiative. He is presently on a Diploma Course in Basel, Switzerland.

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