

Launch of INEBRIA

Following on from Phase IV of the WHO Collaborative Project on Identification and Management of Alcohol-related Problems in Primary Health Care and related projects, a group of researchers have got together to form an international network of people interested in promoting alcohol screening and brief interventions across the world. It is called INEBRIA (International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol Problems) and is supported by WHO and the Health Department of the Government of Catalonia in Barcelona.

The overall aim is: “To promote wide implementation of brief interventions in a variety of settings for hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption at local, national and international levels.”

Specific objectives are:

to share information, experiences, research findings and expertise in the area of alcohol brief interventions;

to facilitate training on brief interventions and provide assistance to countries and institutions to adapt and implement brief interventions, particularly with regard to the transfer of knowledge and technology from high income to low income countries; to promote best practice and develop guidelines for the wide dissemination and implementation of brief interventions; to identify gaps and needs for research in the field of alcohol brief interventions, promote international research co-operation and set standards for research in this field; to integrate the study of brief interventions with the wider context of measures to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm; and to pay particular attention to the needs of young people in relation to alcohol brief interventions. As this demonstrates, the remit of the network extends beyond primary health care to brief interventions in other medical and non-medical settings.

Membership is open to any individual with demonstrated experience in the area of brief interventions for alcohol problems, either from undertaking research or having implemented interventions in one or more settings.

INEBRIA hold its inaugural conference in Barcelona on 20-21 October 2004.

Speakers included Peter Anderson, Javier Ballesteros, Kristen Barry, Mats Berglund, Cheryl Cherpitel, Joan Colom, Antoni Gual, Nick Heather, Stuart Linke, Leo Pas, Jim McCambridge, Isidore Obot, Alicia Rodriguez Martos and Kaija Seppa. There was a business meeting with election of officers and a discussion of how best to take the network forward.

For further information about INEBRIA you can contact Dr. Peter Anderson Peteranderson.mail@gmail.com or the INEBRIA Secretariat inebria@gencat.net