



# Annual Report

## 2022 / 2023

July 2022 – June 2023

Photo taken as part of Connecting with Care Iran.



Nurse Harold Cook provides basic primary health care to a community member in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. As a street nurse working in the Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) van, Harold is able to provide a wide range of support and services. Photo taken as part of our Connecting with Care film project.

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# Who is INHSU

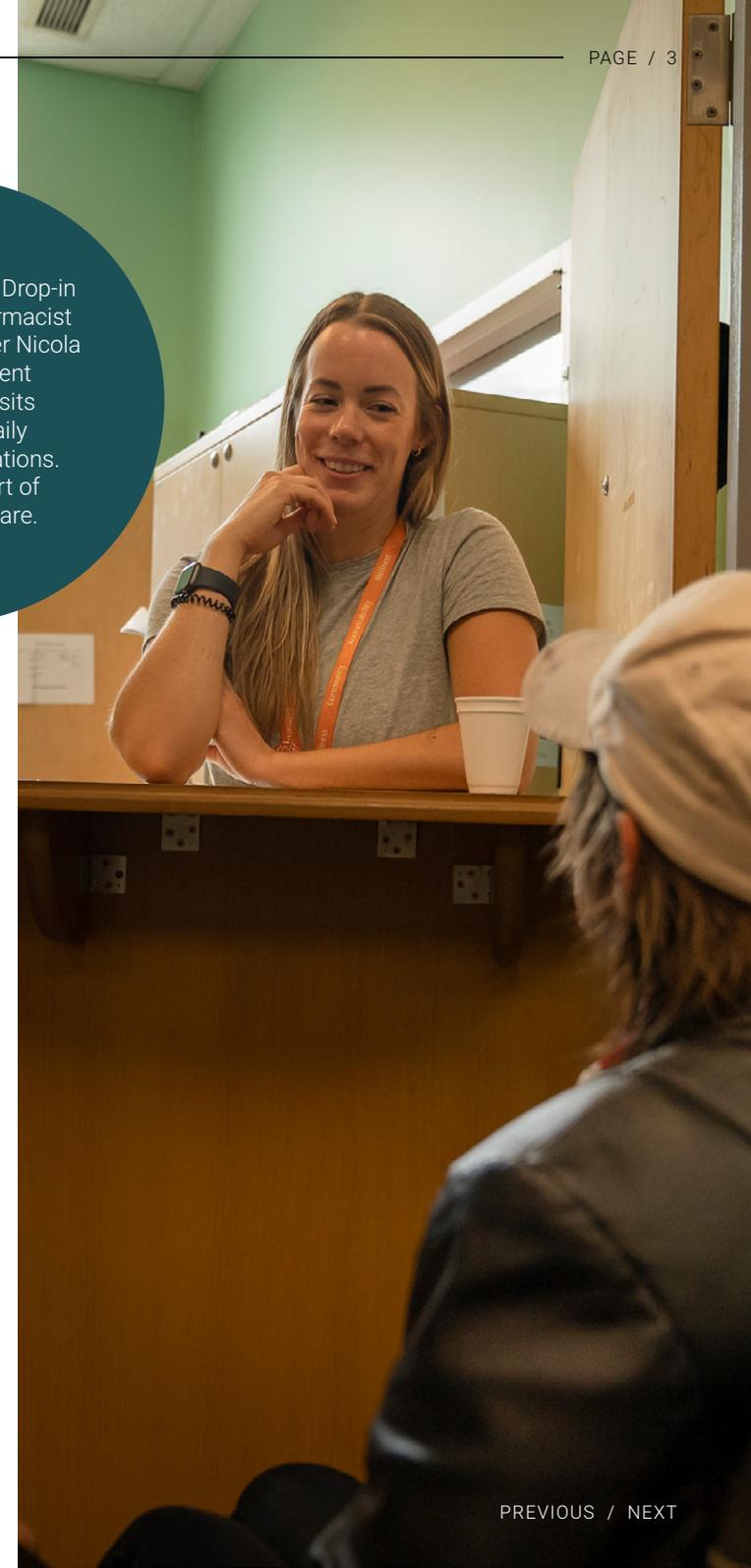
We are the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU).

Our vision is a world where people who use drugs have equitable access to the evidence-based services, treatment, and support needed to improve health and live well.

We focus on hepatitis C, other infectious diseases, and harms that may occur from drug use.



Inside the Calgary Drop-in Centre, CUPS pharmacist and DAA prescriber Nicola Gale chats with client Donnie when he visits the clinic for his daily hepatitis C medications. Photo taken as part of Connecting with Care.



# What we do

Through evidence-based knowledge exchange, education programs and advocacy projects we aim to improve the health of people who use drugs.



Knowledge Exchange



Education & Training



Advocacy

# 2022 - 2023 at a glance

**442**

members representing



**40**

countries around the world

(a 46% increase on the previous year)

**210**

attendees at

**3**

virtual events



**49**

members from

**17**

low- and middle-income countries



**809**

registrations for **INHSU 2022** conference from



**83**

countries - more on page 10 >

**347**

abstracts submitted to **INHSU 2022**

**60**

scholarships awarded to attend



**11**

board members from **7** countries - read more on page 26 >

**256**

steering committee members across

**29**

countries and

**21**

committees



**2**

new education and training programs launched - **Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia** and **Drug Treatment and Harm Reduction Modules** - read more about these on page 15 >

**459**

clinicians, peer workers, program managers, and other stakeholders educated across

**6**

countries and

**15**

training sessions



**7**

new Connecting with Care films released, profiling innovative models of hepatitis C care globally. More on page 18 >

**2**

international awards

for Connecting with Care films



## Special Interest Groups

○ Launched **INHSU EMCR** (Early-mid-career researchers) group with **64** members



○ **INHSU Prisons** continues to grow with **190** members



# Key achievements



# 1

## INHSU 2022

Held in Glasgow, Scotland, INHSU 2022 was our largest, most diverse, and most successful conference to date welcoming over 800 people in person and online. The pre-conference events; Policy Day, Community Day, INHSU Prisons workshop and new EMCR/Community networking event were all highly attended and regarded.

# 2

## Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia

Our new education program focusses on the practical implementation of evidence-based interventions for hepatitis C such as point-of-care testing, dried blood spot testing, peer support, care navigation, reflex testing and medical record auditing. Four pilot symposia took place in 22/23 with more events now planned in the future.

# 3

## Point-of-Care Testing Forum Paris

A collaboration between INHSU, Global Hepatitis Summit organisers, the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE), FIND, The Kirby Institute, UNSW, Treatment Action Group (TAG), and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), the Hepatitis C Point-of-Care Testing Forum brought together leading experts to develop recommendations for increasing implementation of HCV point-of-care testing globally.



INHSU 2022 conference in Glasgow, Scotland was our largest event to date, welcoming over 800 delegates.

# President's report



2022/23 has been an exceptional year. INHSU has continued its growth as an internationally recognised network and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved over the past 12 months.

We have continued to strengthen our program of activities related to knowledge translation, education and training, policy and advocacy, and membership development.

Our annual conference was a highlight of the year. INHSU 2022 was our first in-person conference following the COVID-19 pandemic and was our largest conference ever, attracting 800 people. Our friends in Glasgow, Scotland were exceptional hosts. It was an amazing opportunity to connect with old colleagues and friends and make new connections.

I was also very proud of our first HCV Point-of-Care Testing Forum, which was held prior to the Global Hepatitis Summit in Paris, France.

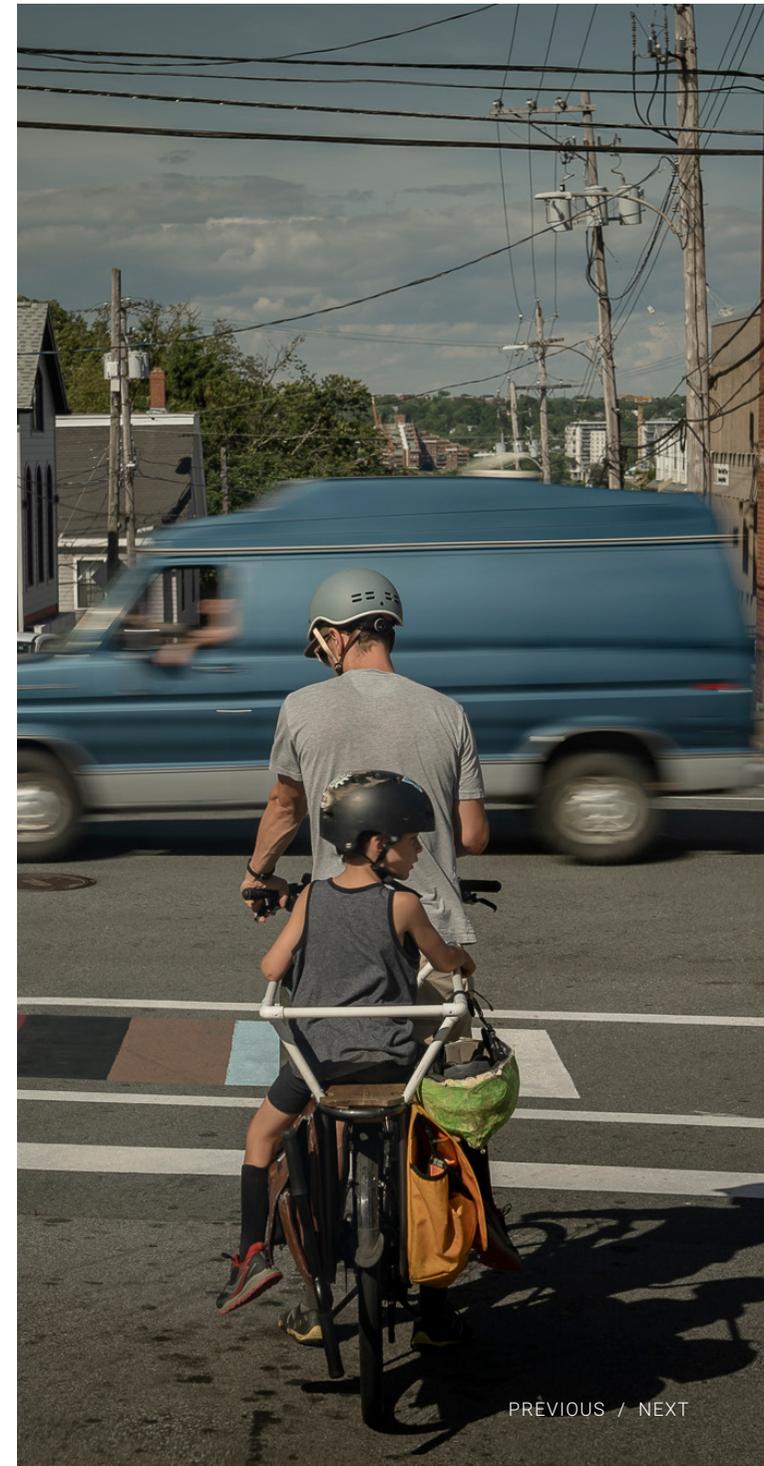
This forum brought together global leaders to discuss lessons learned in the implementation of point-of-care HCV testing and identify ways to address remaining barriers for achieving broader scale-up.

INHSU also made major contributions as a Co-Producer for the Lisbon Addictions 22 Conference in Lisbon, Portugal and Organising Partner for the Harm Reduction International Conference in Melbourne, Australia.

We also piloted our education activities into two new areas this year. First, we developed and launched the Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This training program seeks to enhance the implementation and scale up of interventions to support HCV testing and linkage to care (utilising the materials we have developed as part of the INHSU Intervention Toolkit). Second, we developed and launched a new education and training program focused on Drug Treatment and Harm Reduction.

In terms of policy and advocacy, INHSU developed seven new Connecting with Care films in Canada, Iran, Greece, Scotland, and Switzerland led by digital storyteller Conor Ashleigh. Connecting with Care films from South Africa and Canada also won two international awards.

Photo taken as part of the Connecting with Care film project. All photos taken by Conor Ashleigh.



# President's report continued



INHSU has grown the diversity of its board, with 11 members from seven countries.

Our membership has grown by 46%, with an expanded presence of members from low- and middle-income countries, people from affected communities, and early- and mid-career researchers.

Our newly established Early- and Mid-Career Researcher Group has thrived. The group has over 60 members and has led a series of activities which have strengthened networking between academics and the affected community (including peer-mentoring) and encouraged knowledge exchange through a range of seminars. It was wonderful to see

two new winners of the Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award.

INHSU Prisons has also made considerable achievements including a pre-INHSU 2023 workshop and subsequent report in collaboration with the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE), a series of seminars, work on the upcoming INHSU Prisons Advocacy Toolkit, and Prisons Viral Hepatitis Elimination Toolkit (in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Control, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the University of Pisa)

I am pleased to note that the organisation has once again posted a modest surplus. This provides protection against financial shocks and the capacity to invest in strategic projects.

I thank the board for their commitment, support, and guidance. I particularly welcome our two new board members; Peter Vickerman from the University of Bristol in

England and Mercy Nyakowa from the National AIDS and STI Control Program, Kenya, each bringing valuable experience to the board and are very welcome additions. I would like to especially thank Emma Day, our Executive Director, and the amazing team at INHSU (Nikitah Habraken, Olivia Dawson, and Brooke Nolan) who have worked tirelessly in their efforts to continue to drive forward innovation and excellence within the organisation.

Looking forward to 2023-24, I hope that INHSU will continue to be a valued resource and network for our members and that we continue to come together, both in-person and virtually, to share ideas and support each other in our efforts to improve the health of people who use drugs.

Best wishes,

**Jason Grebely,**  
INHSU PRESIDENT



**Jason Grebely,**  
INHSU PRESIDENT

“

INHSU has continued its growth as an internationally recognised network and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved over the past 12 months.

”

# Executive Director's report



I am honoured to share our work over the past year.

Firstly, I acknowledge INHSU's members, partners, and supporters. Being a network that is founded on facilitation and connection building, our relationships with our members and fellow sector partners are incredibly valuable and help us achieve our mission. Thank you.

Our vision is to increase access to evidence-based services, treatment and support for people who use drugs and there are many highlights from our work this year that aim to do just that. Our commitment to evidence-based global knowledge exchange is perhaps best illustrated by our annual conference, which continues to grow each year and 2022 was no different with a record 83 countries in attendance.

This year we launched a major education program on interventions to enhance the HCV care cascade, delivering programs in

three countries and effectively upskilling practitioners on practical interventions to enhance care. I look forward to expanding our delivery of this work in 23/24.

We have produced some outstanding resources to influence policy and advocacy efforts in the field, namely the INHSU Prisons and Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination collaborative report on Expanding access to hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment in prisons, and our Supervised Consumption Room Policy Brief designed to contribute to increasing safer consumption sites globally.

Our Connecting with Care film series continues to expand with a record seven new films released this year. We are incredibly grateful to all involved for sharing their stories.

INHSU's financial performance remains stable. Staffing and operational expenses have remained steady however program

funding allocation has increased which reflects the increase in programmatic work this year.

Working in the not-for-profit sector has its difficulties, and this year was no different. Securing funding for programmatic work and operational overheads remains a challenge and I commend the INHSU team for their tenacity. We are a small team with a huge output and willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure the work we produce is world leading and impactful. We will continue to pursue opportunities for longer term funding and hope to grow the team to be able to create more impact globally.

We have an exciting year ahead as we develop our next strategic plan which will shape the organisation's vision and goals for the next 5-10 years. Other areas of focus include broadening our work in low- and middle-income countries, continuing to enhance the diversity of the INHSU conference, and strengthening the on-going

delivery of our core education programs.

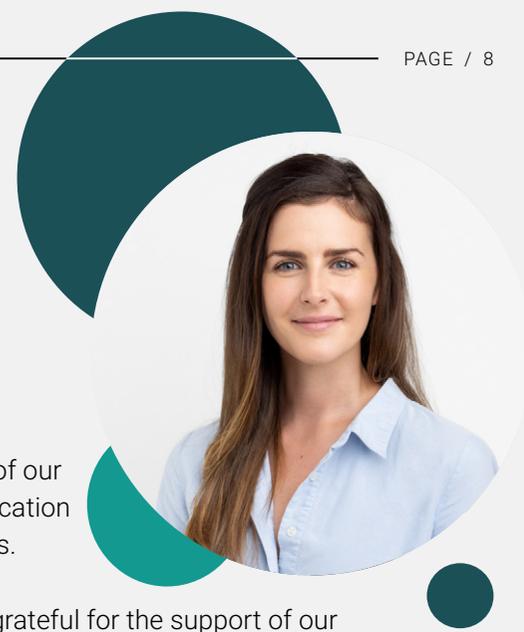
I am so grateful for the support of our Board, our members, our funders, and the incredible INHSU staff team for their unwavering commitment and contributions. INHSU's work is a collective effort and it's the devotion to collaboration that makes our work possible.

INHSU remains committed to providing a dynamic and engaging network of those dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. I encourage all members and stakeholders to stay connected and get involved with INHSU activities as we continue to create a positive impact.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our vision. Together, we can make a difference and create a better future for all.

Warm regards,

**Emma Day,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# In detail...

## Knowledge exchange



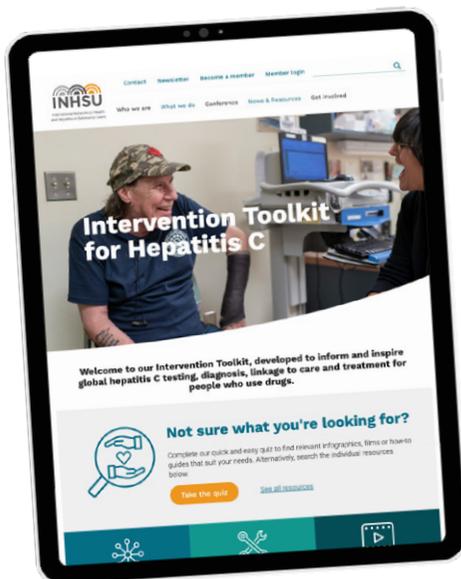
We support and facilitate research, scientific exchange, and the dissemination of knowledge to improve the health of people who use drugs across the world.

### Hepatitis C Intervention Toolkit

Our [Intervention Toolkit](#) was developed to inform and inspire global hepatitis C testing, diagnosis, linkage to care and treatment for people who use drugs. The interactive online toolkit includes peer-reviewed how-to guides, best practice infographics and video case studies of innovative models of HCV care.

During 22/23 we expanded the toolkit with seven new films and three new how-to-guides. The toolkit now includes:

- Dried Blood Spot (DBS) Testing for Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis C Care Navigation
- Medical Record Auditing for Hepatitis C
- Peer Support for Hepatitis C
- Point-of-Care Antibody Testing for Hepatitis C
- Point-of-Care RNA Testing for Hepatitis C



An email series promoting the [toolkit](#) has been subscribed to by **110** people from various public health and community organisations globally, there have been over **14,000** views of website content and the videos have been viewed **10,000** times and counting.

### Promoting the Toolkit at Sector Events

INHSU representatives presented the toolkit throughout the year at various sector events, advocating for improved testing and linkage to care for hepatitis C. These events included:

- 'Reaching the Undiagnosed', a virtual event with CATIE (Canada's source for HIV and hepatitis C information) attended by **199** people
- The National Australian Point-of-Care Testing Forum webinar, attended by nearly **50** people
- INHSU's ongoing Intervention Symposia series ([read more](#))

For World Hepatitis Day 2022, we also launched an online campaign sharing the toolkit and encouraging downloads and shares.



Taken as part of our Connecting with Care film project, in this photo Sherry is pictured smiling during a hepatitis C education session with nurse Tracey Preece, from CUPS Liver Clinic in Calgary, Canada. Sherry met the CUPS team doing a testing blitz at her housing site in 2022, where her status was confirmed. She has since begun treatment.

# Knowledge exchange continued



## Partnering on Sector Events

During 22/23 we partnered on three sector events, including:

### Hepatitis C Point-of-Care Testing Forum

Held adjacent to the Global Hepatitis Summit in Paris in April 2023, in collaboration with the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE), FIND, The Kirby Institute, UNSW, Treatment Action Group (TAG), and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), we convened a roundtable meeting of international experts working in HCV point-of-care research, development and implementation, to discuss the practicalities of point-of-care testing rollout, the key components required for enhancing point-of-care testing delivery, and the barriers and facilitators for the implementation and scale-up of HCV point-of-care testing globally. There were **63** attendees representing research institutes, health departments, community organisations, funding

bodies, industry, NGOs, and multilateral organisations. A report from the forum is in development.

### Co-Producer at Lx Addictions 2022

INHSU produced a thematic track within the Lisbon Addictions 2022 conference showcasing the latest evidence and global examples of service delivery and interventions that improve the health of people who use drugs, with a specific focus on hepatitis C, infectious diseases, and harms that can occur from drug use including soft tissue infections and overdose. The INHSU track included **two** major sessions (on improving global coverage of interventions to reduce drug-related harms and HCV prevention and treatment among people who use drugs), **nine** abstract driven sessions, and **53** presentations.

### Partner on Harm Reduction International Conference 2023

We collaborated with HRI, local Australian, and international organisations to help develop the HRI conference in Melbourne.

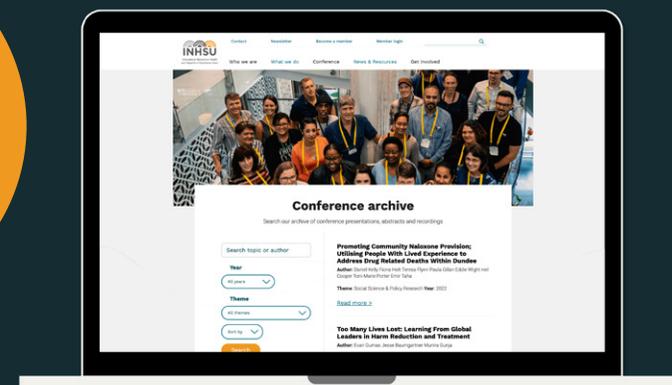
## Conference Archive

The annual INHSU conference promotes leading science related to the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. The [conference archive](#) is a searchable database of all abstracts, recorded sessions and poster presentations. In 22/23 it was updated with over **100** records.

## INHSU News & Resources

Disseminating key findings from events and sharing the latest news, are core objectives of INHSU's knowledge dissemination activities. In 22/23 **31** articles were added to the INSHU website, including:

- [Key takeaways from the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis](#)
- [Overdose prevention in Europe – where are we and what's next?](#)
- [Harm Reduction in Australian Prisons – key takeaways from HR23](#)
- [Harm reduction intervention case studies – key takeaways from INHSU 2022](#)
- [Safe supply as a healthcare intervention for people who use drugs – key takeaways from INHSU 2022](#)
- [5 tips for meaningfully involving community in research \(a write-up of an event by our early-mid career researchers' group, INHSU EMCR\)](#)
- [Reaching the undiagnosed – advances in hepatitis C testing in Canada](#)



# INHSU 2022 conference



For the first time since 2019, we bought our network back together in person. INHSU 2022 took place in Glasgow, Scotland from 19-21 October. The conference was hybrid in format, with virtual tickets available for those who were unable to attend in person.

## INHSU 2022 in numbers



**809**

registrations from **83** countries

This included **662** in person registrations and **147** virtual. There were **29** delegates from low-middle income countries (LMIC), **15** of which were virtual registrations. There were **12** LMIC countries represented.



**93%**

of delegates were very satisfied or satisfied with the conference program



**45%**

average open rate on the daily news

With an average click through of **35%** (industry benchmark is 6-17%). The daily news was an email which recapped the previous day's research and highlighted key sessions for the day ahead. You can read them [here](#).



**170,000**

impressions on Twitter

During the conference, with over **445** mentions and tags from conference attendees.



“

The poster tours were a very good addition. It was great to be able to interact 1-to-1 with so many passionate researchers.

”

INHSU 2022 DELEGATE

Delegates browse INHSU's My Choice exhibition during INHSU 2022. The exhibition tells the stories of people accessing different forms of drug treatment in Australia, and perspectives on choice.



**4**

poster tours

Throughout INHSU 2022, INHSU EMCR members hosted poster tours and held takeovers of the INHSU Twitter channel [@inHepSU](#), disseminating valuable insights from the conference live to a global audience.

# INHSU 2022 conference



**24** invited speakers

Including **nine** from the Americas, **10** from Western Pacific Region and **five** from Europe.



**1,172** viewers online

In total, the conference content attracted **801** live views and **371** on-demand, with **157** On-Demand Abstract Presentations and **132** On-demand Poster Presentations.



**60** full/partial scholarships awarded

These were provided under the New Investigator, Prisons, Policy Program and Practitioner, and Community scholarship categories. Successful scholarships came from **20** different countries globally.

*"INHSU 2022 was an amazing experience. I learnt heaps, felt like part of something incredible, and met some awesome people. It really opened my eyes to what people who use drugs can achieve."*

BONNIE JEFFRIES, PEER WORKER AND INHSU COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

*"I really wanted to attend and I knew I needed financial assistance to get there (working for a public hospital funds are tight). The benefits of attending were the connections made and also understanding how others are doing similar nursing roles, in many different places, in many different ways."*

ANNE CRAGIE, HEPATOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER AND PROGRAM AND POLICY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Bonnie Jeffries



Anne Cragie



INHSU 2022 featured over 100 sessions dedicated to the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs, with tracks on epidemiology, public health and clinical research.



**349** submitted abstracts.



**83%** found value in the networking events

Networking and engagement opportunities scored **83%** compared to **45%** in 2021 when the event was virtual. Face-to-face opportunities to engage are invaluable to our network.



I loved the variety of topics covered and the range of international speakers. The conference was extremely organised and ran seamlessly.



INHSU 2022 DELEGATE

# INHSU 2022 conference



 **40+**  
partner organisations

Co-conveners and conference program committees resulted in a robust, evidence-based program that engaged on conference program committees. In 2022, we collaborated with over **40** organisations across the core committee, scientific committee, and international program committee.

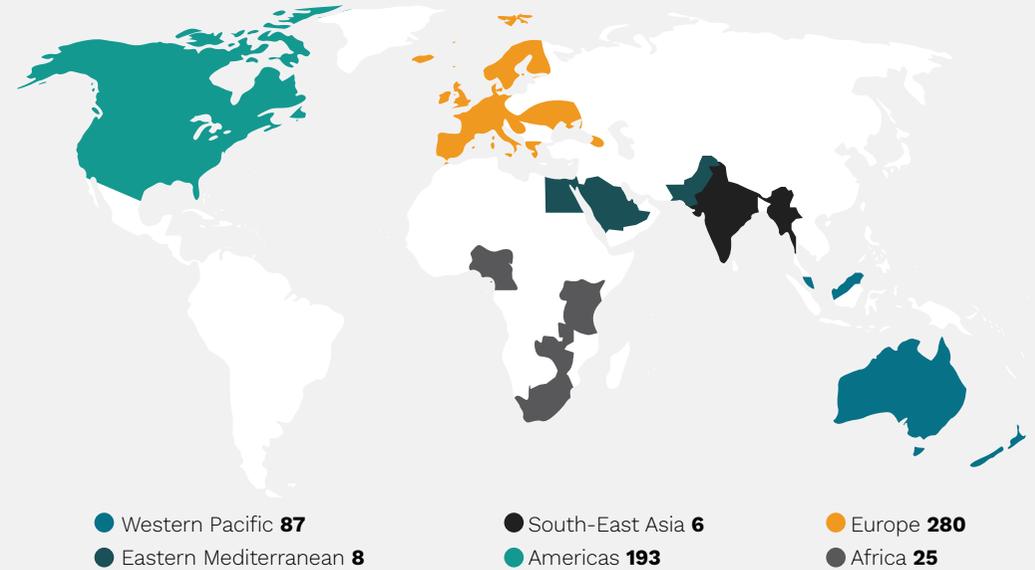
 **4** subject-specific committees

Committees of nurses and community members with lived or living experience were formed ahead of INHSU 2022, to help ensure that conference content was relevant and reflective of their needs.

 **57%**  
first-time attendees

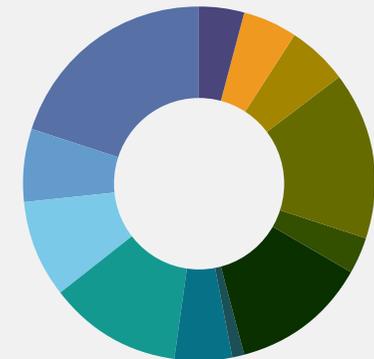
Nearly **8%** of the delegation have attended an INHSU conference **five** times or more, with **18.4%** attending once previously.

## Representation from WHO regions



## Professional affiliation

INHSU conferences are unique due to the cross collaboration between different stakeholders dedicated to the health of people who use drugs.



People who use drugs, people living with viral hepatitis, advocates, health care providers, program managers, harm reduction experts, researchers, and policymakers each have an equal voice, and this is represented in our delegates.



*Note: professional affiliation data is not available for some group bookings.*

# Pre-conference events



Each year, we host pre-conference events to bring together the network and focus on specific areas. At INHSU 2022, this included:

## Prisons Pre-Conference Workshop Event

Our Special Interest Group INHSU Prisons partnered with the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE) for a half-day event focusing on global prison-based testing and treatment for hepatitis C.

The workshop was attended by **58** people, and post-event, a paper was co-authored between INHSU Prisons and CGHE summarising findings and making practical recommendations for the improvement of hepatitis C testing and treatment in custodial settings.

## Community Day

The Community Day is a vital part of the INHSU Conference, bringing together people with lived/living experience of using drugs and ensuring their voice is amplified during the conference and beyond.

Each year the Community Day is organised by the community for people with lived or living experience of drug use/HCV/HIV from around the globe, in collaboration with local and international harm reduction and community-based organisations.

In 2022, **58** people attended. The program included discussions on; peers as leaders and why pay is important, living versus lived experience and why we need both, grass roots movements – why they matter and how to mobilise networks.

## Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia

The first event in our new education series started in Glasgow. Visit the [education section](#) of this report for more information.



The INHSU Community Day is organised by the INHSU Community Committee, a group of experts with lived or living experience.



This event has challenged my own beliefs, thinking and biases. I am more open minded to ways of working with both lived and living experiences and see the value in both. Feeling uncomfortable and changing my thinking and opinions. Growth for me really!



COMMUNITY DAY  
ATTENDEE



I most enjoyed hearing from people working in different community settings and meeting people from other places from all around the world.



COMMUNITY DAY  
ATTENDEE

# Pre-conference events



## Community and EMCR networking event

The Community and EMCR Networking event aimed to build connections between early-mid career researchers and people with lived/living experience of drug use, breaking down barriers between the two groups. **65** people attended the event including approximately **35** people from the community and **30** early- and mid-career researchers.

“  
Enlightening,  
interesting, hopeful.  
I loved the concept  
and would encourage  
a replication.”

” NETWORKING EVENT  
ATTENDEE

“  
Although awkward  
and out of my comfort  
zone, it was actually a  
great way to speak to  
people and connect.”

” NETWORKING EVENT  
ATTENDEE

## Policy Day

The Policy Day brought together over **100** policymakers, health and social care practitioners, police, researchers, advocates, and community groups from around the world to focus on innovations for tackling drug related harms, specifically approaches to drug consumption room implementation.

The Policy Day was developed by INHSU in collaboration with the Scottish Drugs Forum, Glasgow City Alcohol and Drug Partnership, and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.

Post-event, a policy brief was released (find out more [here](#)).



Image taken at Policy Day 2022.



# In detail... Education



We educate healthcare providers, program managers, harm reduction experts, researchers, policymakers, and others to improve their knowledge, confidence and skills around key issues impacting people who use drugs.

## Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia Series

An exciting new education program introduced in the 22/23 financial year, the [Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia Series](#) focuses on translating evidence-based hepatitis C interventions into practical actions. These in-person events showcase successful interventions for testing and treatment, including point-of-care testing, dried blood spot testing, peer support, and more.

Attendees are highly multidisciplinary and include nurses, social workers, physicians, medical directors, health educators, nurse practitioners and policymakers. All attendees have the chance to engage in interactive discussions to learn, discuss challenges, and refine and enhance their hepatitis C models of care.

The symposia leverages the interactive Hepatitis C Intervention Toolkit (see [Knowledge Exchange](#)



section for details) as the foundation, facilitates hands-on learning, and offers ongoing support through post-training webinars and resources.

In each location, program development and delivery is undertaken with local experts experienced in intervention implementation, and in collaboration with local partner organisations so that we can be sure that content is always highly relevant and locally tailored.

Lexus has blood taken by nurse practitioner Lauren Tastad inside the nursing room inside Prairie Harm Reduction's drop-in centre located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Lexus accesses services and has recently begun completing shifts on the naloxone training team. Nurse practitioner Lauren Tastad works at Saskatoon Sexual Health Service and also provides a clinic one day a week inside Prairie Harm Reduction's drop-in centre. As a nurse practitioner, Lauren is able to prescribe hepatitis C Direct Acting Antiviral medication to clients, ensuring that they can easily access treatment in a space they feel comfortable in. Photo taken as part of the Connecting with Care project.

“

This was my first time experiencing something like this and I left feeling encouraged by what others are doing in the field and their passion for their work.

”

SPEAKER,  
SOUTH CAROLINA

“

This symposium was incredible. The content was person-centred, compassionate, and non-stigmatising. The speakers were there to share a message of support and not judgement toward people who use drugs or providers who were there to learn more. Very well done!

”

PARTICIPANT,  
SOUTH CAROLINA

# Education continued



## 1 US Symposium

The first of four planned US events (the rest taking place in 23/24 financial year), this symposium was attended by **49** people and held adjacent to ‘Harm Reduction and Syringe Service Programs in South Carolina – The Beginning of the Continuum of Care’.

The US Symposia Series is co-chaired by the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE), the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), with local partners including University of South Carolina, Prisma Health Clemson University, University of Kansas City Missouri, Hep Free NYC and End Hep C SF.



## 1 UK Symposium

This took place in Glasgow, Scotland during the INHSU 2022 conference and was attended by approximately **40** people in total.



## 2 Canada Symposium

In collaboration with CATIE and CanHepC, these took place in Saskatoon and Vancouver and were attended by **80** people across both events.

### Drug Treatment and Harm Reduction Modules

In collaboration with an expert steering committee, we have developed a new training program designed to enhance understanding of the drug treatment and harm reduction landscape.

The program covers themes including global drug use trends, innovative harm reduction strategies, opioid agonist treatment insights, and effective drug treatment delivery models. Delivered through interactive online modules, participants engage at their own pace, and have access to downloadable resources for future learning.

A pharmacist assistant prepares medications for clients in the pharmacy section of a building in downtown Zurich, Switzerland. Photo taken as part of Connecting with Care.



Complementing this, virtual and in-person workshops facilitate dynamic discussions, hands-on application, and collaborative learning. We are currently working to adapt the program for applicability in a variety of settings.

# Education continued



“

This training has been very enriching. The topic was presented in a concrete manner with helpful case studies, and the discussions flowed smoothly. The speakers were highly approachable and accessible.

”

DELEGATE IN FRANCE

## Hepatitis C in Primary Care and Drug and Alcohol Settings Education Program

Our flagship education program continued in 22/23, with a mixture of online and in-person courses being held globally. Both formats include three parts – online learning modules, interactive workshops, and a hepatitis C capacity building toolkit.



**10** courses across **5** countries

This included **seven** online and **three** face-to-face.



**84%**

increase in confidence screening for hepatitis C  
Attendees who felt confident to conduct regular screenings for individuals at risk of hepatitis C increased from **44%** pre-course to **81%** post-course.



**150** practitioners trained

Across **five** countries – Canada, UK, France, Germany and Italy.



**125%**

increase in confidence to present risk factors  
Attendees who felt confident educating patients about hepatitis C risk factors and prevention increased from **36%** pre-course to a **81%** post-course.

Maria (right), a social worker who works in OKANA'S harm reduction team in Thessaloniki, Greece embraces a colleague. Photo taken as part of the Connecting with Care film project.

“

I feel more comfortable in conducting hepatitis C screenings.

”

DELEGATE IN FRANCE

# In detail... Advocacy



Our advocacy work aims to highlight the voices of people who use drugs, profile effective care models, present the evidence base to inform policy, and support emerging leaders in the sector.

## Connecting with Care Films

Created with visual storyteller Connor Ashleigh, the ongoing Connecting with Care film series profiles innovative models of hepatitis C care from around the world. In 22/23 we released seven new films featuring Iran, Greece, Switzerland, Scotland and three focused on Canada. In total, all films have garnered over **10,000** views to date.

*"In Switzerland we have a great healthcare system and very liberal drug policy. But still, we have a big issue when it comes to the HCV care cascade. Because OAT is prescribed*

*by more than 50% of GPs there is no integrated care, and that means that we have a lot of people still not tested. We have all the instruments ready to eliminate hepatitis C in our country, but there is still a lot of work to do."*

DR PHILLIP BRUGGMAN FEATURED IN THE CONNECTING WITH CARE SWITZERLAND FILM

*"When a society is threatened by a destructive disease like HIV or hepatitis C we have to do our best to prevent the damage, and as an entrepreneur, I have the responsibility to act too."*

DR IRANMANESH, BUSINESS OWNER AND PHILANTHROPIST FEATURED IN THE CONNECTING WITH CARE IRAN FILM

*"To be Hep C free, it is a real bonus. Everybody needs your liver because your liver's important to you. It's almost like you can almost feel a smile in there now. It's kind of nice."*

COMMUNITY MEMBER FEATURED IN THE CONNECTING WITH CARE VICTORIA, CANADA FILM

Dr Maryam Alavi and two peer workers visit a makeshift home on the outskirts of Rafsanjan in south-west Iran to meet a community of drug users and invite them to a mobile hepatitis C testing van. Taken as part of Connecting with Care.



## Award winning films

Two Connecting with Care films received awards at the Inter-GLAM video contest held at Lisbon Addictions Conference (LxAddictions22) in late 2022. Connecting with Care Toronto won third prize and Connecting with Care South Africa received a special 'Impact Award'.

# Advocacy continued



## World Hepatitis Day webinar

Hosted to coincide with World Hepatitis Day 2022, and attended by 100 people, this webinar brought together organisations from across Kenya and South Africa including Ministry of Health, Kenya, The National Department of Health, South Africa, The South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD), Support for Addiction Prevention and Treatment in Africa (SAPTA), TB HIV Care, plus medical professionals and local South African storytelling experts.

During the event, we discussed the power of storytelling and how it can be used to help advocate for better hepatitis C testing, treatment, and care. We also hosted presentations from people with lived experience of using drugs or hepatitis C, who had taken part in our Storytelling for Advocacy Mentor program.

## Storytelling for Advocacy Program Kenya

Following a successful pilot in South Africa, in 22/23 we took the Storytelling for Advocacy program to Kenya. Collaborating closely with the National AIDS and STIs Control Programme (NAS COP), this mentoring program was developed to empower people with lived experience of hepatitis C and/or using drugs to use their voices to create change.

We employed a local Kenyan storytelling consultant to deliver a three-month virtual program to six community members across Kenya, increasing confidence and skills whilst advocating for the role of storytelling in influencing policy.

Re-watch the Storytelling for Advocacy Program Kenya session on demand [here](#).

“

I liked hearing my peers share... they expressed themselves and that made me hopeful that I am not alone.”

”

MENTOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

“

I can give myself a 5 out of 5 [in confidence when storytelling] because right now I am now more open. The storytelling program has enabled me to open up. I used to hide myself but now I have accepted myself.

”

MENTOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

## The Digital Storytelling Conference in Washington D.C

An abstract for the Storytelling for Advocacy program was successfully submitted to the 11th International Digital Storytelling Conference held in the Washington,

D.C. INHSU communications manager Brooke Nolan presented virtually at the event, which had the theme 'Radical Listening: Storytelling for a just future'.

# Advocacy continued



## The second Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award

In June 2023, we announced the recipients of the second annual Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award for 2023 - Jessica Morales from Guatemala and Kira Watson from Scotland. The award is dedicated to honouring the memory of Jude Byrne – a fearless drug user activist who fought tirelessly for the rights of people who use drugs.

The award is a joint initiative with INHSU and the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD). Each recipient receives a full scholarship to the INHSU 2023 conference in Geneva and a nine-month, tailored mentoring program with INPUD.

### Jessica Morales, Guatemala

*“My ultimate goal is to establish a community-based organisation in Guatemala that will strengthen advocacy efforts related to drug policy and the rights of people who use drugs. I firmly believe in the power of partnerships and aim to expand relationships, particularly*

*with women’s organisations, and create a network of feminist anti-prohibitionists throughout Latin America.”*

### Kira Watson, Scotland

*“I am eager to learn more about policy and advocacy work from the mentors and gain new skills in community consultation and co-production. I ultimately aspire to develop a specific service for women who use drugs, inspired by the remarkable work of projects like Metzineres in Spain and Chemical Sisters in Italy.”*

### Language Matters: Conversations about alcohol and other drugs

In this [short film](#), we delve into the topic of stigma and discrimination and discuss the important role of language. Thank you to Matthew Bonn, Louise Hansford, and Annie Madden for taking part in this project and sharing their views as community members. The film was developed as part of the Drug Treatment and Harm Reduction Modules.



Jessica Morales

Kira Watson

## Supervised Consumption Sites Policy brief

At the INHSU 2022 Policy Day, international policymakers gathered to discuss the global overdose crisis and the role that supervised consumption sites can play in helping end these preventable deaths.

Following the day, a policy brief was developed and disseminated which summarises the day’s discussions and provides a starting point for those wanting to know more about supervised consumption rooms and their impact. The brief includes evidence of successes, global case studies, evaluation models, and implementation considerations. It was disseminated via various communication channels including via a promotional partnership with the UNITE Parliamentarians Network.

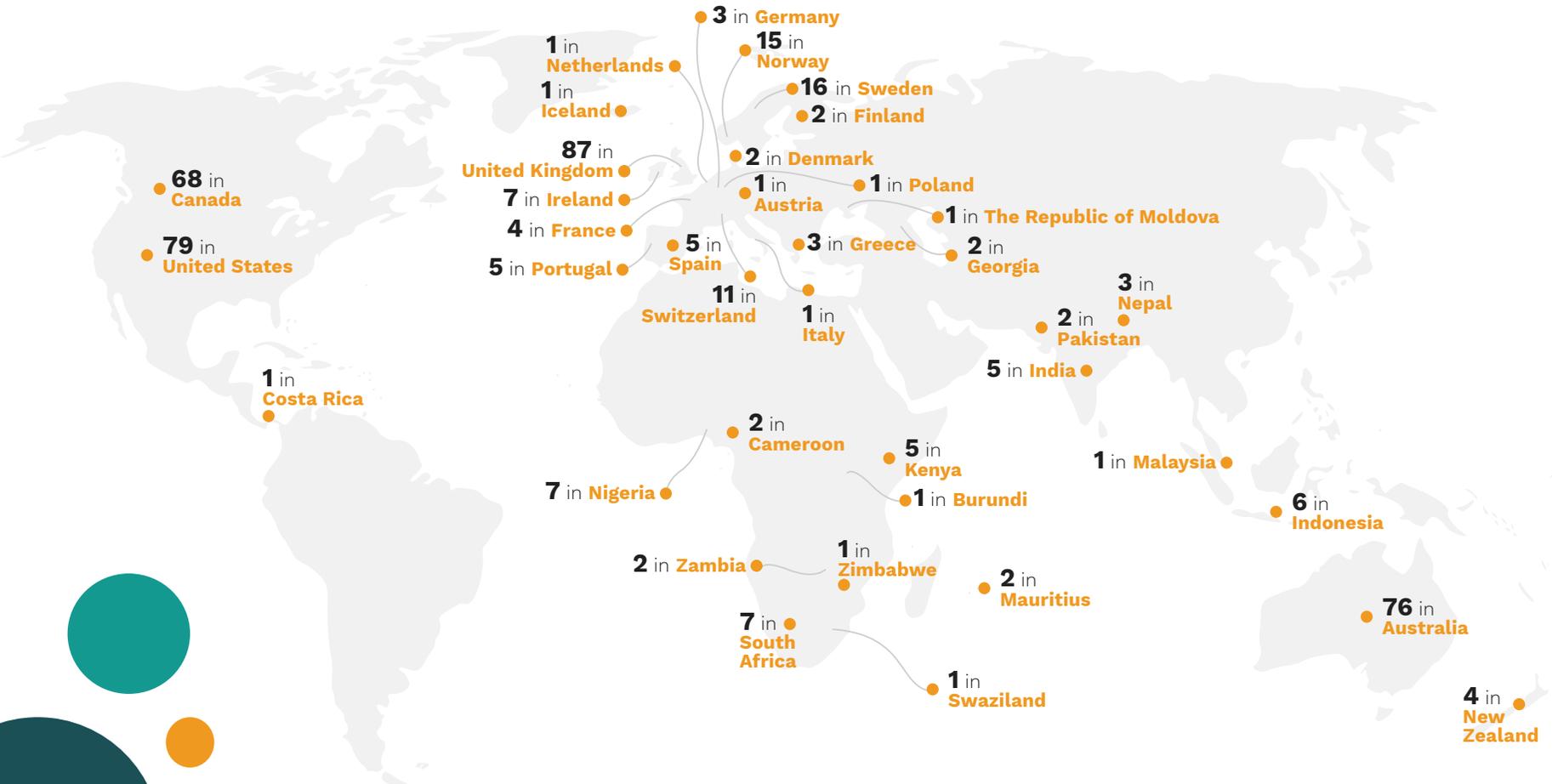


As part of Connecting with Care, Guiliano sits for a portrait after a FibroScan to check on his liver during an appointment with Dr Claudia Bernadini. Guiliano successfully cleared his hepatitis C with DAA medications recently and is now working with Dr Bernadini to address other health needs including continuing to taper down off methadone.

# Global network



We believe the most powerful impact is achieved when researchers, clinicians, advocates, and communities of people who use drugs come together to share knowledge, learn from each other, and put those insights into action. Our global membership and project activities make this happen.



**442**  
members  
representing

**40** countries  
around the world



“

I am always open to new ways of working and looking for faster pathways to treatment and **being an INHSU member connects me on a global scale** and gives me the opportunity to see best practice shared from around the world that I wouldn't usually get to see.

This is inspiring and helps me to feel part of a bigger picture. So many different people, from different backgrounds and professions all working towards one goal – elimination.

”

JULIA SHEEHAN

*National Women's Criminal Justice Manager at The Hepatitis C Trust.*

“

I've been involved in INHSU since 2012, and I've been with the family ever since.

I think **INHSU is the only international conference that brings together all the different disciplines.** Not only is it the leading conference on viral hepatitis and the health of people who use drugs, but it has a cross disciplinary profile that is unique. And a very strong community presence too.

”

HÅVARD MIDGARD

*PHD, Department Of Gastroenterology at Oslo University Hospital.*



“

I am a member of INHSU because it provides a forum for researchers and clinicians to meet and work with members of the affected community and policy makers.

Collaborative approaches are critical to identify and solve the key issues impacting on the health of people who use drugs.

”

PROFESSOR MARGARET HELLARD AM  
Deputy Director at the Burnet Institute.



“

I have had an opportunity to exchange ideas, build connections with notable research experts and keep abreast of the current developments in health and hepatitis among people who use drugs. Being a member of the INHSU Early and Mid-Career Researchers Special Interest Group (INHSU EMCR SIG), I have had engagements and interactions that have expanded my knowledge base on hepatitis, HIV, homelessness, and mental health, etc., among people who use drugs. I am actively rallying more EMCRs from low-middle-income countries to join INHSU – come one, come all, and let’s join INHSU!

”

KENNEDY KIPKOECH MUTAI  
final year cotutelle (dual) PhD student in Infectious Disease Mathematical Modelling at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom and the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

# INHSU Prisons Special Interest Group



The INHSU Prisons special interest group continues to grow.

 **190** members from **34** countries

 **780** subscribers to INHSU Prisons news

 **1** annual bibliography published

Each year, INHSU Prisons Executive Committee puts together a list of outstanding publications for those interested in hepatitis C elimination in correctional settings.

 **1** virtual event with **50** registrations

Giving a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the highest ranking papers in the bibliography.

 **1** report developed with the Coalition for Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE).

The report has been downloaded nearly **250** times from **39** countries.

 **2** media appearances promoting the report

Including an op-ed in Filter magazine and an appearance on the ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) podcast.

INHSU Prisons workshop at INHSU 2022.

“ INHSU Prisons aims to support a growing recognition globally that hepatitis C testing, treatment and prevention in the prison sector is key achieving national and global elimination efforts. Currently, the custodial sector is significantly ignored and largely under-resourced, but awareness is steadily improving.

”

INHSU PRISONS CHAIR,  
ANDREW LLOYD



# INHSU EMCR Special Interest Group



In 22/23 we launched our second official Special Interest group, INHSU EMCR. The group brings together Early-Mid-Career Researchers from across the globe who are interested in the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs.

The group meets regularly throughout the year to collaborate, share knowledge, and address challenges facing early-mid-career researchers. So far, activities have included:

 **4** collaborative research opportunities launched, which provide EMCRs a chance to share ideas and knowledge, and collaborate with others on projects.

 **64** members from **14** countries

 **1** virtual event with **60** registrations, focussed on how to meaningfully involve community in research.

 **1** networking event at INHSU 2022, which brought together EMCRs and community members to foster connection and break down barriers.

 **1** INHSU 2022 conference session focussed on tips for getting your research published.

Throughout INHSU 2022, EMCR members hosted poster tours and held takeovers of the INHSU Twitter channel @inHepSU, disseminating valuable insights from the conference live to a global audience.

Many INHSU EMCR members participated as mentors in our first official mentoring program, helping people with their abstract submissions and scholarship applications.

“

Our aim is to bring as many EMCRs from across the globe together, to collaborate, share learnings and ideas, and work together to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. The cross sector and cross-country learnings are invaluable and we're looking forward to seeing our membership base grow.

”

INHSU EMCR CHAIR,  
ADELINA ARTENIE



INHSU EMCR's first in-person activities took place at the INHSU 2022 conference in Scotland.

# A thank you to our board

Following the 2023 General Annual Meeting, we welcomed four new board members: Peter Vickerman, Ernesto Cortes, Mercy Nyakowa and Angela McBride. Alongside welcoming our new board members we would like to thank Julie Bruneau, Matt Hickman and Margaret Hellard, who have stepped down from the board, for their tireless contribution to INHSU. We look forward to continued collaboration in the future.



**Jason Grebely**  
PRESIDENT

Head of the Hepatitis C and Drug Use Group at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney and Senior Editor for the International Journal of Drug Policy.



**Natasha Martin**  
VICE PRESIDENT

Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health in the Department of Medicine at the University of California and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol.



**Matthew Bonn**  
BOARD MEMBER

Program Coordinator with the Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs, a National Board member with Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy and a freelance journalist.



**Ernesto Cortés**  
BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director of the Costa Rican Association on Drug Studies and Interventions (ACEID), member of the Costa Rican Association of Families of Incarcerated People (FPU) and secretariat of the Latin American Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD).



**Ann Eriksen**  
BOARD MEMBER

Formerly NHS Tayside's Executive Lead for sexual health and blood-borne virus. NHS Tayside's governance includes three major hospitals alongside a number of community hospitals and 60 GPs.



**Oluwaseun Falade-Nwulia**  
BOARD MEMBER

Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Falade-Nwulia's clinical focus is on care of patients with infectious diseases such as HIV, HCV and substance use.



**Angela McBride**  
BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director for the South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD). Angela has worked in the field of harm reduction for over 7 years, with lived experience working and participating in abstinence programs and centres.



**Mercy Nyakowa**  
BOARD MEMBER

The Viral Hepatitis lead for the People Who Use/ Inject Drugs at the National AIDS and STI Control Program (NAS COP) within the Kenyan Ministry of Health. She is a certified implementation Scientist with the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington.

**Tracy Swan**

BOARD MEMBER

Consultant and Hepatitis C activist Tracy has been an outreach worker, run HIV counselling and testing programs, designed HCV education programs and worked for Treatment Action Group among others.

**Andrew Scheibe**

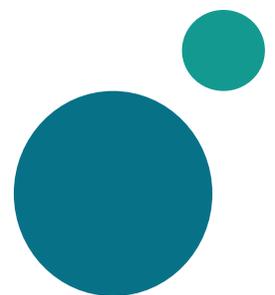
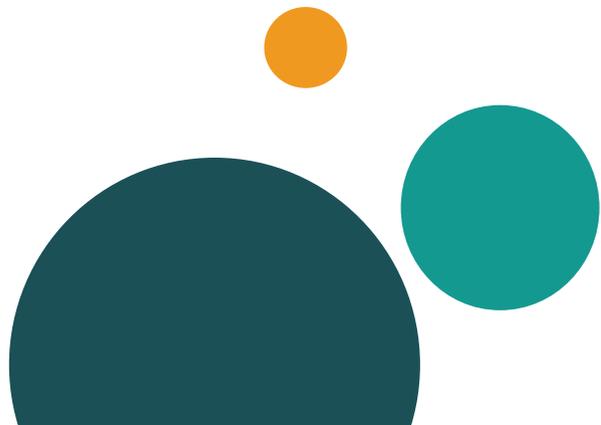
BOARD MEMBER

Medical doctor working in harm reduction research, technical advisor for TB HIV Care and a researcher at the University of Pretoria. Focuses on the intersections between infectious diseases, determinants of health and human rights.

**Peter Vickerman**

BOARD MEMBER

Professor in infectious disease modelling at the University of Bristol. He has 25 years experience in infectious disease modelling. He has contributed to numerous international advisory groups (including WHO, U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. National Institute of Health, NICE Public Health guidance committees and Public Health England).



# The INHSU secretariat



**Emma Day**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Responsible for overseeing the operational management, programmatic work and strategic direction of the organisation.



**Nikitah Habraken**  
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Oversees programs, project business development, stakeholder engagement and partnership building.



**Olivia Dawson**  
PROGRAM MANAGER

Responsible for leading the development, delivery and monitoring and evaluation of INHSU programs.



**Brooke Nolan**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
MARKETING MANAGER

Oversees communications activities for the INHSU organisation and all projects. Also manages INHSU membership.

# 2022/2023

## INHSU Financial Report

### Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2023

Account	30 Jun 2023	30 Jun 2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
INHSU bank	748,583	659,368
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>748,583</b>	<b>659,368</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	63,218	28,721
Accrue membership income	2,340	0
Conference seed funding receivable	30,009	30,009
Prepayments	2,678	844
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>98,245</b>	<b>59,573</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>846,828</b>	<b>718,941</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	47,159	87,963
Accrue wages and super	10,903	7,138
Accrued expense	0	6,000
Income in advance	291,446	243,573
Provision for annual leave	13,633	10,942
Provision for LSL	17,526	9,996
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>380,667</b>	<b>365,613</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>380,667</b>	<b>365,613</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
	<b>466,161</b>	<b>353,328</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Profit / (loss) of the period	112,833	42,456
Balance carried forward	353,328	310,872
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>466,161</b>	<b>353,328</b>

# 2022/2023

## INHSU Financial Report

### Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 EUR	01.07.2021 to 30.06.2022 EUR
<b>Trading Income</b>		
<b>Membership</b>	17,130	18,301
Project Funding	841,511	152,333
Management fee	2,397	47,393
Conference Sponsorship	413,319	346,041
Conference Registrations	356,381	112,714
Other income	0	0
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>1,630,737</b>	<b>676,783</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Administration expenses	35,404	37,304
Other Operating expenses	415,526	54,168
Conference expenses	740,158	251,306
Staff costs	311,307	286,561
Financial costs	15,509	4,988
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,517,904</b>	<b>634,327</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>112,833</b>	<b>42,456</b>

# Thank you



[www.inhsu.org](http://www.inhsu.org)