


EDCS-NC 2024
**Panel on Effective Drug Control Strategies in Northern Cyprus:
Challenges and Opportunities in 2024**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Kültegin Ögel (a)*
*Corresponding author

(a) Istanbul Kent University, Istanbul, Türkiye, ogelk.net@gmail.com

From the Desk of Dr. Kültegin Ögel

I am pleased to present the proceedings of the panel on "Effective Drug Control Strategies in Northern Cyprus: Challenges and Opportunities in 2024." Held from April 15-17, 2024, in Kyrenia, Cyprus, this significant event brought together experts from Türkiye and Cyprus to explore and develop innovative strategies for combating addiction and substance abuse.

This volume, comprising selected and rigorously peer-reviewed papers, upholds the highest standards of academic excellence and relevance. The careful selection process ensures that the included research addresses critical contemporary challenges and offers valuable insights into effective drug control strategies, highlighting the real-world impact of the research and addressing pressing issues in drug control and addiction.

About the Editor

As the editor, my career has been dedicated to advancing research in addiction and substance abuse. With advanced degrees in psychiatry and affiliations with leading academic institutions, I have committed my professional life to understanding and mitigating the impact of addiction on individuals and society. My notable publications include:

- "Why Do Adolescents Relapse? A Multicenter, Cross-sectional Study" (2023) - This study identifies factors impacting relapse duration in adolescents, addressing a critical issue in addiction treatment.
- "Life Chart of Substance Use Career: A Clinical Profile Study from Turkey" (2023) - Examines the complex patterns of substance use careers and their implications for treatment.

- "Behavioral Changes Observed in Substance Users in Turkey During the COVID-19 Pandemic" (2023) - Investigates how substance use behaviors were affected by pandemic-related regulations.
- "Predictors of Relapse to Alcohol and Substance Use: Differences Between 3 and 12 Months After Inpatient Treatment" (2022) - Explores factors predicting relapse at different intervals post-treatment.
- "The Needs of Patients with Substance Use Disorder Who Presented at Treatment Centers (AMATEM)" (2022) - Identifies the comprehensive needs of patients at addiction treatment centers.

These works demonstrate my unwavering commitment to advancing our understanding of addiction and developing effective strategies for prevention and treatment.

Conference Overview

The panel on "Effective Drug Control Strategies in Northern Cyprus: Challenges and Opportunities in 2024" was a groundbreaking event supported by the Prime Minister's Office of Northern Cyprus, the Northern Cyprus Anti-Drug Commission, Ankara University, and the International Cognitive and Behavioural Psychotherapies Society. It brought together leading experts from Türkiye and Cyprus to share their insights and strategies.

1. Wastewater Analysis of Illicit Substances: Analyzing wastewater to detect substance abuse trends.
2. Controlled Psychoactive Substances and Workplace Drug Testing: Discussing drug testing and the management of psychoactive substances in the workplace.
3. The Relationship Between Drug Addiction and Significant Infectious Diseases: Examining how drug addiction is linked to diseases like Hepatitis C and HIV.
4. National Drug Policy Coordination: Highlighting the importance of national coordination mechanisms in drug policy.
5. Anti-Drug Supply Policies: Discussing inter-institutional coordination and action plans in combating drug supply.
6. Anti-Drug Strategies in Türkiye: Sharing the experiences and strategies of the Counter Narcotics Department in Türkiye.
7. Türkiye's Role in the International Drug Control System: Exploring Türkiye's involvement in international drug control efforts.
8. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Substance Misuse Addiction: Reviewing the principles and innovative approaches of CBT in treating substance misuse.
9. Psychosocial Interventions in Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders: Exploring the role of psychosocial interventions, such as Motivational Interviewing and Group Psychotherapies, in treating alcohol and substance use disorders.

In total, 19 papers were presented during the panel, all of which were literature review papers aimed at guiding policymakers in Northern Cyprus. These papers were meticulously selected to ensure they provide the best outcomes from global research, with a particular focus on insights from Turkey, the closest political ally of Northern Cyprus. Of the 19 papers, 13 were subjected to a single-blind review process, with 9 papers accepted for publication.

Structure and Organization

The proceedings are organized into thematic sections, each introduced with a summary of key insights and contributions. This structured approach ensures clarity and coherence, making it easy for readers to navigate the volume and identify relevant research.

Sections include:

1. Introduction: An overview of the themes and objectives of the proceedings.
2. Thematic Papers: Grouped by topic, each paper includes an abstract and keywords for easy reference.
3. Conclusions and Future Directions: Summarizes the main findings and suggests areas for future research.

Quality and Relevance

Each paper in this volume has been selected through a rigorous peer review process, ensuring the highest standards of quality and relevance. The diversity of topics covered reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the panel discussions and the broad scope of research areas within addiction studies. The peer review process was transparent and rigorous, with clear criteria for selection and the involvement of expert reviewers. This adherence to international standards for scholarly publishing maintains the quality and integrity of the research presented.

Key Themes and Topics

- Innovative Research: Papers presenting groundbreaking findings in drug control and addiction treatment.
- Interdisciplinary Approaches: Research integrating multiple disciplines to provide comprehensive insights.
- Practical Implications: Studies addressing current challenges and proposing actionable solutions for policymakers and practitioners.

Conclusion

I am confident that this proceedings volume will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. The selected papers document significant contributions to the field of drug control and addiction research, providing insights and strategies that can be applied to real-world

challenges. The meticulous editorial and review processes ensure that the volume is both credible and impactful, contributing to the advancement of knowledge and practice in the field.

By maintaining rigorous standards and a high level of scholarly excellence, this volume is poised to make a significant impact on the academic community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Kulteğin Ögel

Editor, Proceedings of the Panel on "Effective Drug Control Strategies in Northern Cyprus: Challenges and Opportunities in 2024"

Istanbul Kent University, Istanbul, Türkiye