

## **The Ethics of Addiction Research**

Concepts, research and policy

Symposium at Brocher's Foundation, near Geneva, Switzerland (1.5 days)

**Monday September 7- Tuesday September 8, 2015**

### **Organizers:**

Susanne Uusitalo [susuus@utu.fi](mailto:susuus@utu.fi)

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### **Objective of the meeting:**

Substance use is among the leading conditions that impact on health, people and societies. The vast amount of money, time and skill consumed to research to prevent and govern substance use and disorders seem not to produce the desired effects and results. The Ethics of Addiction Research is a symposium that discusses the ethical, legal and social issues concerning this observation. Are the research agendas of individual researchers, institutions, pharmaceutical companies so flawed that we are actually looking for answers to questions that are not the right questions in tackling the problems? Is there a tunnel vision of addiction? Does the policy-making rest on assumptions that promote prejudices and do not question their scientific or conceptual validity?

### **Organization of the meeting:**

The symposium will be organized as a 1.5 days meetings with maximum 40 participants from different disciplines, at the Brocher Foundation, ideally located in Hermance at Geneva Lake south shore (10 km from Geneva).

For more information on the Brocher Foundation: [www.brocher.ch](http://www.brocher.ch)

## Symposium at Brocher Foundation, near Geneva, Switzerland (1.5 days)

### Monday September 7, 2015

**8.30 to 9.30: Registration**

**9.30-10: Welcome and introduction: Susanne Uusitalo, Barbara Broers**

**First leg of workshop: Conceptual issues:**

***Question: where should addiction research look at?***

**10-10.45:** Carl Hart: How and why addiction research is biased

**10.45-11.30:** Nick Heather: Addiction as a disorder of choice

**11.30-11.45:** break

**11.45-12.30:** Wim van den Brink: Addiction research on legal and illegal substances: the role of outcome parameters

**12.30-13.30:** Lunch

**13.30-14.15:** Sandro Cattacin: Where should addiction research look at? A sociologist's viewpoint

**14.15-14.45:** Susanne Uusitalo: The ethics of theoretical frameworks: a case of informed consent in heroin trials

**14.45-15:** break

**Second leg of workshop: from conceptions to research**

***Question: who should addiction research look at, and how?***

**15-15.45:** Peggy van der Pol: Problematic cannabis use

**15.45-16.45:** Samia Hurst and Mauro Guarinieri: What makes addicts participating in addiction research vulnerable: a dialogue

**16.45-17:** break

**17-17.45:** Abha Saxena: The ethics of addiction research – going beyond vulnerability

**17.45-18.30** Juho Saari: Always look on the dark side of life – The worst off in the best country in the world

**Tuesday September 8, 2015**

**Third leg of workshop: from research to policy**

***Question: How can research and policy issues better be integrated?***

**8.30-9:** Morning event

**9-9.45:** Vladimir Poznyak: International aspects of addiction research: from development to implementation

**9.45-10.30:** Lula Beatty: Research in addiction, policies and funding

**10.30-11:** break

**11-11.45:** Joanne Csete: Research in addiction: policies and the role of NGO's

**11.45-12.15:** Ruth Dreifuss: Integration of research and policy issues: discussion, summary and conclusions.

**12.15-12.30:** Closing remarks: Barbara Broers

**12.30-13.30:** Lunch