

INVITED SPEAKERS

Strengthening poisoning reporting system in Malaysia: Working together for a safer nation



Dr. Rebecca McDonald

is a researcher at the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the University of Oslo. The aim of her work is to study strategies for the prevention of drug-related morbidity and mortality, with focus on access to essential medicines. She previously served as consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

Community-based naloxone access — how to measure effect?

The opioid overdose crisis is an escalating global health challenge, claiming more than 125,000 lives annually. In response, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends community-based naloxone distribution as a key intervention to reverse opioid overdoses and reduce mortality. As already outlined in our 2016 systematic review, which evaluated the effectiveness of naloxone distribution programs, the continued absence of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) in this domain underscores the ethical and logistical complexities of conducting such studies. Instead, available evidence primarily derives from observational studies, which pose challenges in measuring the direct impact of naloxone distribution on overdose mortality. By examining examples of observational studies, this talk will explore both the successes and limitations of community-based naloxone programs, shedding light on methodological difficulties.