

**BC KT CoP Meeting
January 16, 2013
Blusson Spinal Cord Centre
818 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1M9
1st Floor Lecture Hall**

AGENDA

3:30 - 3:40 - Introductions
3:40 - 3:55 - Introduce KT Definition Discussion and Brainstorm Session
4:00 - 4:20 – KT Presentation: Kora DeBeck, UHRI*
4:20 - 4:30 - Q&A
4:30 - 4:50 – KT Presentation: Michaela Montaner, UHRI*
4:50 - 5:00 - Q&A
5:00 - Close

***Affiliation - UHRI: Urban Health Research Initiative**

FEATURE PRESENTATION:

“Promoting evidence-based drug policy through knowledge translation: Lessons learned from the Urban Health Research Initiative”

BACKGROUND:

There remain critical areas in public health where the gap between the best available evidence and public policies persists. Few areas suffer more from this concern than the response to illicit drug problems. There is a growing body of scientific evidence showing that drug law enforcement has had a limited impact on preventing the availability and use of illegal drugs in Canadian society. With the rise of gang violence on one hand and high-profile public health programs to address drug use on the other, illicit drug policy is increasingly the focus of media attention and public and political debate.

The Urban Health Research Initiative (UHRI) at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS was established in 2007 with the objective of improving the health of individuals and communities through research to inform policy and practice. UHRI researchers have produced over 370 peer-reviewed research publications while working continuously to influence policy, practice, and public opinion at the international, federal, provincial, municipal, and grassroots levels. Three examples of these “knowledge translation” (KT) projects will be discussed in this presentation.

PRESENTERS:



Kora DeBeck, PhD, is a Research Scientist with the Urban Health Research Initiative at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) and a Post-doctoral Fellow with the Department of Medicine at UBC and the Centre for Public Health and Human Rights at Johns Hopkins University. She played a lead role in developing a unique program of Knowledge Translation at the BC-CfE. The goal of this program is to make scientific research relevant and accessible to key stakeholders including community groups and policy-makers as a means of supporting evidence-based policies that protect the health of marginalized groups. Kora has published in many areas of urban health and addiction including: Canada's federal drug strategy, supervised drug consumption, drug-related street disorder, drug law enforcement, housing, low-threshold income generation, and emerging risks for HIV among people who inject drugs. Kora has also been involved in the scientific evaluation of Vancouver's supervised injection facility and contributes to its knowledge translation activities. Her work is supported by a CIHR Fellowship.



Michaela Montaner, BA, is the Communications Coordinator at the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy and a Research Assistant at the Urban Health Research Initiative. With respect to communications, Michaela plays a lead role in developing and implementing knowledge translation strategies and materials to promote evidence-based responses to health and social problems associated with illicit drugs. As a research assistant Michaela draws on web analytics, media analysis, and, increasingly, public opinion polls to evaluate the effectiveness of knowledge translation activities.