Developing Guidelines for Research on Drugged Driving: The Talloires Project

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One of the major problems in assessing the true public health impact of drug-use on driving and overall traffic safety is the fact that the variables being measured across studies vary significantly. In studies being reported in a growing global literature on drug impaired driving, the basic parameters being assessed, the analytical techniques being used, and the drugs being tested for, are simply not comparable due to a lack of standardization in the field. The International Council on Alcohol, Drugs, and Traffic Safety’s (ICADTS) working group on “Illegal Drugs and Driving” identified this problem in 2005 and recommended that a set of standards or guidelines for drugged driving research was sorely needed. In September 2006, a meeting of international experts was convened to discuss the harmonization of protocols for future research on Drugged Driving. The principal objective of the meeting was to develop a draft consensus report to set forth guidelines, standards, core data variables and other controls that could form the basis for future international drugged driving research. A modified Delphi method was used to develop a draft set of guidelines. After the meeting the draft guidelines were posted on the internet for a 45-day period of review and comment. In the final stage, comments received were integrated into the final version of the document. The Guidelines Document (provided to all T2007 registrants) is divided into three major sections each focusing on the different aspects of drugged driving research (e.g. Roadside surveys, Prevalence studies, Hospital studies, Fatality and Crash investigations etc) within the critical issue areas of Behavior, Epidemiology, and Toxicology. The Behavioral section contains 32 specific recommendations, 2) The Epidemiology section contains 40 recommendations and 3) the Toxicology section contains 65 recommendations. The goal of this document is to begin a dialog regarding the collection of uniform datasets in future impaired driving research. The U.S. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), The European Commission (EU), The European Drug Monitoring Centre (EMCDDA), The French Society of Analytical Toxicology (SFTA), the International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS), & the International Association of Forensic Toxicology (TIAFT) provided funding and various other support for the planning and implementation of this important project.

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