



Annual Report

2025 / 2026

July 2025 – June 2026

Photo taken at INHSU 2025, Cape Town, South Africa.



Photo taken at INHSU 2025,
Cape Town, South Africa.

Contents

Vision, mission and values	03 >	Focus area 1: Strengthen the INHSU network	11 >
What we do	04 >	Focus area 2: Convene the global community	13 >
Year in numbers	05 >	Focus area 3: Build capacity and capability	18 >
President’s letter	06 >	Focus area 4: Create resources for real-world change	23 >
Looking ahead with our incoming President	07 >	The INHSU Board	26 >
Executive Director’s letter	08 >	The INHSU team	28 >
Partner with us	09 >	Financial Report	29 >
The first year of our strategic plan	10 >		

Vision, mission and values



We are the International Network on Health, Hepatitis, and Substance Use. Our **vision** is a world where people who use drugs have equitable access to evidence-based services, treatment, and support to improve health and live well.



Our **mission** is to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. We create knowledge exchange, provide education, advocate for good practice and policies and unite stakeholders.

We foster collaborations through our global network of researchers, healthcare providers, harm reduction experts, policymakers, and advocates. Everything we do is in partnership with people with living and lived experience of drug use.



Everything we do is guided by our shared **values**:

- **We are driven by respect**

United by our shared passion and values, we are people before professionals. We uphold trust, honesty, and fairness in all our interactions.

- **We collaborate for impact**

We recognise that we can achieve more collectively than individually. We foster connections and facilitate shared learning to maximise our impact.

- **We value diversity**

We draw strength from our diverse network, celebrating and valuing both professional expertise and the invaluable insights gained from the lived and living experiences of those who use drugs.

- **We embrace innovation**

We proactively seek new opportunities, partnerships, and innovative approaches to our work, consistently striving for positive change.



A surprise choir performance at INHSU 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa, had everyone up dancing.

What we do



Our work spans three key areas; knowledge exchange, education and advocacy. Through all three, we are committed to the human rights of people who use drugs, and their contribution will always be central to our work.



Knowledge Exchange

We support and facilitate scientific exchange, and the dissemination of knowledge to improve the health of people who use drugs across the world.



Education

We educate healthcare providers, program managers, researchers, policymakers, and others to build capacity in addressing issues impacting people who use drugs.



Advocacy

We amplify the voices of people who use drugs, showcase good practice, provide evidence-based policy recommendations, and advocate for proven interventions to enhance the health of people who use drugs.



Photo taken at INHSU 2025, Cape Town, South Africa.

Year in numbers

683

members
across

69

countries



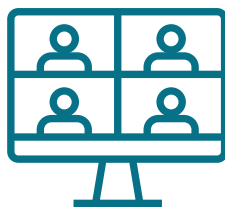
189

members
from
low-
and
middle-
income
countries
(27.7%)

2,100

registrations
across

7 webinars



533 conference
delegates

461 abstracts submitted
to **INHSU 2025** and



57 scholarships
awarded



10 board members from **7**
countries - read more
on page 26 ➔



15,000+
views of our online toolkits

80+

collaborating
international organisations



409

clinicians,
peer
workers, and other
stakeholders educated



1

paper published
in The Lancet
Global Health



9

Hepatitis C
Intervention Symposia
delivered across

3

countries



139

INHSU EMCR
members from

39

countries



President's letter



As I reflect on the past year, one milestone stands out: holding our annual conference in Cape Town. The journey to INHSU 2025 really began with the INHSU Africa 2020 meeting, which showed what could be achieved by bringing the network together in the region and helped lay the foundations for our return.

Hosting our annual conference in a low- or middle-income country for the first time was an important moment in INHSU's history.

Cape Town was special for many reasons, but what I will remember most is the strong engagement and leadership of the community of people who use drugs. This brought an energy and purpose to the meeting that was difficult to capture in words. I will also never forget the performance at the reception. It was incredibly moving and, for many of

us, emotional. It was one of those rare moments that reminded me why INHSU exists.

I would particularly like to thank Andrew Scheibe and Angela McBride. Their commitment, local leadership and enormous efforts were central to bringing the conference together and making it such a special meeting.

Our growing global reach has also been reflected in our membership, which now extends across 69 countries. I am particularly proud that 28% of our members are from low- and middle-income countries. This is encouraging progress, although we still have much more to do to ensure that people from all regions can participate fully in our network and help shape its direction.

As a researcher, I was extremely proud to see INHSU publish its first paper in The Lancet Global Health. Drawing directly on the discussions and recommendations from our 2024 Policy Day in Athens, the paper demonstrates INHSU's ability to

bring together community members, policymakers, practitioners and researchers and to translate those discussions into work that can influence policy and practice.

The continued growth of the INHSU Intervention Symposium Series in Australia and the United States has been another highlight. These meetings are helping us reach new audiences and translate evidence into practice locally. A massive thank you to Olivia Dawson, whose energy and leadership have been central to their success.

I would like to thank the incredible INHSU team: Nikitah Habraken, Olivia Dawson, Brooke Nolan, Olivia Burton and Maja Robertson. It is remarkable how much this small team achieves. Their dedication, creativity and commitment to excellence underpin everything we do.

I am especially grateful to our Executive Director, Emma Day. Her exceptional leadership, judgement, and commitment have been central to INHSU's progress, enabling a small organisation to achieve far more than its size might suggest.

Finally, thank you to our members, Board, partners, and the community of people who use drugs.

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to seeing INHSU continue to grow as a global network and force for positive change.



This will be my last letter as President of INHSU, a role I have proudly held for 11 years. During that time, I have watched INHSU grow from a small network focused on hepatitis C into a truly global community working to improve the health of people who use drugs. I could not think of a better person to hand the presidency to than our current Vice President, Professor Natasha Martin.

Natasha has been an important part of INHSU for many years and brings deep expertise, commitment and a strong belief in the value of collaboration and inclusion. I know INHSU will be in excellent hands as it enters its next chapter.

Jason Grebely,
INHSU PRESIDENT

Looking ahead with our incoming President



I am thrilled and deeply honoured to be taking on the role as INHSU President this year. I also want to begin by recognising Jason and the extraordinary contribution he has made to INHSU over his years as President.

Jason has made an indelible mark on this organisation. Under his leadership, INHSU grew from a network largely focused on viral hepatitis into a broader community committed to improving the health of people who use drugs. Our educational activities and conferences expanded around the world, our membership became larger and more diverse, and INHSU became an increasingly influential voice in global discussions of hepatitis C treatment, harm reduction, and the health of people who use drugs. Just as importantly, Jason has brought enormous energy and a deep commitment to INHSU's values.

Having had the privilege of working alongside Jason as Vice President, I am honoured to now take on the role of President and build on what he, our Board, team and members have created.

For me, taking on this role is particularly meaningful because INHSU has been central to both my professional life and the community I have found within our field. INHSU is where I find people who share a fundamental conviction: that the health needs of people who use drugs deserve sustained, thoughtful, and evidence-based attention. There are many organisations working on hepatitis, HIV, overdose, harm

reduction or drug policy. What makes INHSU special is that improving the health of people who use drugs is not siloed into one disease area or program – it is the central focus of our work.

That mission also sits at the heart of my own research. My work uses mathematical models to help policymakers understand how to most effectively reduce hepatitis C, HIV, and overdose. Throughout my career, I have seen how important it is to bring together research, practice, policy and the perspective of people who use drugs if we want evidence to translate into action. INHSU is one of the few places where all these communities come together.

As I look ahead to the next three years, one of my key priorities will be to make our community more genuinely global. With members across more than 60 countries, and our recent 2025 conference in



Cape Town, we are already a global network. We will build on that momentum and hold regional and annual conferences in more low- and middle-income countries and regions where we have not previously held INHSU events.

But geographic reach is only one part of global participation. Over the coming years, I am committed to creating more opportunities for members to participate in our organisation's work, contribute their expertise and ideas, and benefit from the connections our global network offers. Relatedly, I seek to expand our already incredible work investing in the next generation of leaders in this area.

As our field evolves towards 2030 and beyond, we need to remain responsive as the needs change. As countries tackle hepatitis C elimination, shifting donor priorities, and rapidly changing drug markets, the research questions and priorities of our members will evolve too. I do not think we should try to predict today exactly what our agenda should look like several years from now, but we will remain open to identifying where we can make the greatest contribution to improving the health of people who use drugs.

I am enormously excited about what we can build together over the next three years. If you have ideas about what we should do next, or if you would like to become more involved in shaping that future, I would love to hear from you. You can email me at natasha-martin@health.ucsd.edu

Natasha Martin

Professor Natasha Martin,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Executive Director's letter



As I reflect on the year, what stands out is a combination of strategic partnerships and a growing and talented team. For much of the year, INHSU had just four staff members, recently growing to six. Despite our small team, we continue to achieve an extraordinary amount, and I'm so proud of what we have accomplished. Each of these achievements represents progress towards our vision. Thank you to our members and collaborators who make it all possible.

Expanding education and building connections

This year, we expanded our education programs across the United States and Australia, reaching more locations and giving more healthcare professionals access to evidence-based education and support on hepatitis C and HIV models of care. Through the continued growth of our symposia program, we reached and trained more practitioners than ever before, helping build the knowledge and connections needed to improve care for people who use drugs.

Growing our team to increase our impact

One of our strategic commitments is to maintain a skilled and motivated workforce. Despite a challenging global funding and workforce environment, our team grew from four to six staff this year. I continue to be amazed by the volume and quality of work delivered by them. Their commitment and expertise have enabled us to grow our programs and our impact, and I thank them deeply for everything they have contributed this year.



Investing in the next generation of sector leaders

This year, we launched the INHSU Fellowship Program and continued our partnership with INPUD on the Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award. Both initiatives create opportunities for emerging leaders to build their networks, skills, and experience through tailored mentorship and practical opportunities. By investing in people now, we are helping develop the leaders who will shape the future of health and care for people who use drugs.

Influencing global policy through collaboration

Our collaboration with the World Health Organization and Médecins du Monde to launch key WHO guidance was a major highlight of the year. The webinar introducing WHO's guidance on needle and syringe programs was particularly significant. Discussions at the 2024 INHSU Policy Day contributed directly to the development of guidance that is now being shared globally. It was a powerful example of what we can achieve by bringing together policy, research, practice and community.

Delivering on our commitment to global inclusion

A key commitment in our strategic plan is to host our Annual Conference in at least one low- or middle-income country during the current five-year period. Hosting INHSU 2025 in Cape Town marked an important milestone in delivering on that commitment. It was a joy to see the energy of the Cape Town meeting, hear new voices and perspectives, and build new partnerships.

A thank you to Jason, and welcome to Natasha

This year also marks an important leadership transition for INHSU. I would like to thank Jason for his extraordinary contribution and leadership over the past 11 years, and for the support he has given both me and our team.

I am also delighted to welcome Natasha Martin as our next President. Having worked closely with Natasha in her role as Vice President, I look forward to continuing that partnership and to the next chapter for INHSU.

Emma Day

Emma Day,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Partner with us



Whether you're developing a new resource, delivering training or bringing people together, INHSU can help.

We work with partners around the world, including governments, universities, agencies and other organisations, to design and deliver projects that improve the health of people who use drugs. With more than **600** members across **50** countries, we can connect projects with the scientific, clinical, policy and lived expertise needed to deliver practical, evidence-based solutions.

Read *The European Toolkit for the Elimination of Viral Hepatitis in Prisons (EuroHePP)* [here](#).



Convening & stakeholder engagement



We bring together the right people to drive better policy, practice and health outcomes.

We design and facilitate advisory groups, roundtables, workshops and large-scale convenings that connect diverse stakeholders and people with living and lived experience to share knowledge, solve problems and advance change.

Example

Policy Days

Each year, our Policy Day focuses on a different global priority, bringing together diverse stakeholders to tackle complex global or national challenges. The resulting recommendations have informed WHO guidance, influenced global policy discussions and been published in leading peer-reviewed journals.

Bespoke tools & resources



We create practical, evidence-based resources that support implementation in real-world settings.

Our expertise includes clinical guidance, online toolkits, implementation resources, educational materials and advocacy tools designed for clinical, frontline, peer and community audiences.

Example

The European Toolkit for the Elimination of Viral Hepatitis in Prisons (EuroHePP)

Contracted by the University of Pisa to support the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), INHSU designed the framework and developed the content for a European toolkit to support viral hepatitis elimination in prisons.

Bespoke training & education



We develop tailored education for clinical, frontline, peer and community audiences.

Our expertise includes CME-accredited education, curriculum development, online learning, implementation support and interactive workshops covering hepatitis C, HIV, harm reduction and other health issues related to drug use.

Example

Hepatitis C intervention training (HERO in Practice)

Contracted by Prisma Health in partnership with the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, INHSU is delivering a multi-year education program combining virtual and in-person training, expert-led sessions, case studies and peer learning to strengthen hepatitis C service delivery.

The first year of our strategic plan



2025-2026 marked the first year of implementation of INHSU's Strategic Plan 2025-2030, providing an opportunity to translate our strategic priorities into action. Developed through consultation with members, stakeholders and our Governing Board, the strategy sets the direction for our work through to 2030.

This Annual Report is structured around the four focus areas of the Strategic Plan, showcasing the activities, partnerships and achievements delivered throughout the year and their contribution to our long-term vision and impact.

Read INHSU's Strategic Plan [here](#).



Image taken at INHSU 2025.

Focus area 1: Strengthen the INHSU network



Strategic activities and outputs:

- Grow and strengthen INHSU membership while maintaining a multidisciplinary and globally diverse network
- Provide professional development opportunities and support for members
- Deliver knowledge exchange and education programs in partnership with relevant organisations to increase reach and strengthen sector collaborations

INHSU members play an active role in shaping our work throughout the year. Through committees, special interest groups and working groups, members contribute to conference planning, strengthen regional and professional networks, and create opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Member activities

Community Committee

The Community Committee worked throughout the year to ensure the voices and priorities of people who use drugs were embedded across our annual conference program and the dedicated Community Day.

Nurses Committee

The Nurses Committee brought together nurses from across the INHSU network to identify priorities and develop nursing-focused sessions and networking opportunities at the annual conference.

Latin America Working Group

The INHSU Latin America Working Group reflects the organisation's growing engagement across the region. The group provides a dedicated forum to strengthen regional collaboration, share knowledge, and support the development of INHSU's network and activities throughout Latin America.



INHSU's Early-Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) Special Interest Group

With **139 members**, the EMCR Special Interest Group continued to foster collaboration and professional development among emerging researchers. Activities included conference workshops, EMCR and community networking events, and the creation of a community-focused zine to support knowledge exchange and engagement.

EMCR Leadership Award

The EMCR Special Interest Group launched the inaugural **INHSU EMCR Leadership Award**, recognising bold, inclusive and collaborative leadership by early and mid-career researchers working to improve the health and human rights of people who use drugs. Open exclusively to INHSU EMCR members, the award includes conference support, a plenary presentation opportunity, and a nine-month mentorship with a senior academic from the INHSU network. Congratulations to **Dr Amanda Slaunwhite**, recipient of the inaugural INHSU EMCR Leadership Award.

Our members

Focus area 1: Strengthen the network

We believe the greatest impact is achieved when researchers, practitioners, policy makers, advocates and communities of people who use drugs come together to share knowledge, learn from one another and turn evidence into action. Our diverse global membership and collaborative projects make this possible.



683

members
representing

69

countries
around the world

189

members
(27.7%)
from low- and
middle-income
countries

Focus area 2: Convene the global community



Strategic activities and outputs:

- Deliver an annual conference showcasing the latest evidence, research and good practice
- Host the conference in at least one LMIC and increase LMIC speaker representation
- Provide scholarships for delegates from LMICs, community members, practitioners, policymakers and early career researchers
- Convene international roundtables to identify evidence gaps, strengthen partnerships and drive policy action

INHSU creates opportunities for researchers, healthcare providers, policymakers, advocates and people with lived and living experience of drug use to connect, exchange knowledge and build partnerships that drive progress. This is delivered through our flagship conference and targeted events.

INHSU 2025, Cape Town, South Africa

INHSU conferences are always special, but Cape Town was something else. Returning to the continent for the first time since 2020, against a backdrop of significant global change and shifting funding landscapes, was a powerful reminder of why this work matters and why coming together as a global community is more important than ever.



Image taken at INHSU 2025.

“

This was my first INHSU conference, and I found a real ‘home’ for harm reduction, programming, thought leadership and discussion. It was unlike any other conference I’ve attended. The focus on bringing together all perspectives, from community to academia and beyond, created a balanced yet highly innovative program that opened my eyes to new possibilities in public health and supporting people who use drugs.

”

INHSU 2025
DELEGATE

PREVIOUS / NEXT

INHSU 2025 – By the numbers



Professional affiliation

- Advocate - 5%
- Allied Health - 2%
- Community Member - 10%
- Community Worker - 5%
- Healthcare Practitioners - 19%
- Industry Representative - 6%
- Management - 4%
- Nurse - 5%
- Polymakers - 2%
- Program Manager / Project Officer - 11%
- Researcher - 19%
- Student - 4%
- Other - 8%



46 countries represented
including **15** across Africa



Over **63** hours
of content delivered
across **49** sessions



461 abstract submissions

- Clinical Research: **47**
- Epidemiology and Public Health: **180**
- Models of Care and Programs: **155**
- Social Sciences & Policy: **79**

Focus area 2: Convene the community

161

scholarship applications received



57 scholarships awarded

across community, trainees and practitioners, including **33** local/ community scholarships



INHSU 2025 scholarship recipients.

Thank you to our generous donors

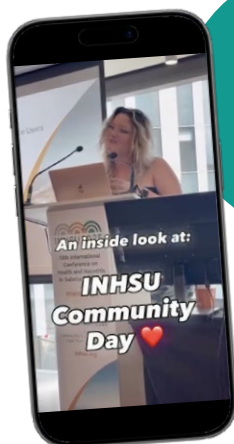
34% of scholarship recipients were from low- and middle-income countries. More than half of these scholarships were funded by INHSU speakers who donated their fees throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for their support.

INHSU 2025 in Cape Town

The annual Community Day

Each year, INHSU opens with the Community Day, led by local and international community members who develop the program and shape the discussions — a space led by and for community.

In Cape Town, **131** people took part, with free registration supporting broad and equitable participation.



Click to watch
Community
Day highlights
on Instagram.

INHSU 2025 Policy Day

Alongside the conference, INHSU convened a Policy Day in Cape Town, bringing together **67** policymakers, funders, researchers and community leaders to address barriers to harm reduction across Africa.

Through focused discussions, participants identified key challenges and developed practical, evidence-based recommendations to strengthen policy, support community leadership and improve access to services.

Policy Day report: Increasing access to harm reduction services across the African region. [Read it here.](#)



Focus area 2: Convene the community

“

INHSU 2025 was more than just a conference. It brought people together from around the world to share ideas, research and lived experience without stigma or judgement. **It was a safe space where people who use drugs could be themselves and tell their stories openly.**

”

INHSU 2025 DELEGATE

Across the conference

1. Community Village
2. Pre-conference prisons networking and panel event
3. Discussion Space
4. Nurses breakfast event and dedicated nurses' session
5. Posters and poster tours





“

I loved the playful elements like the scavenger hunt, which encouraged me to explore sessions I might not have otherwise attended.

”

INHSU 2025
DELEGATE

“

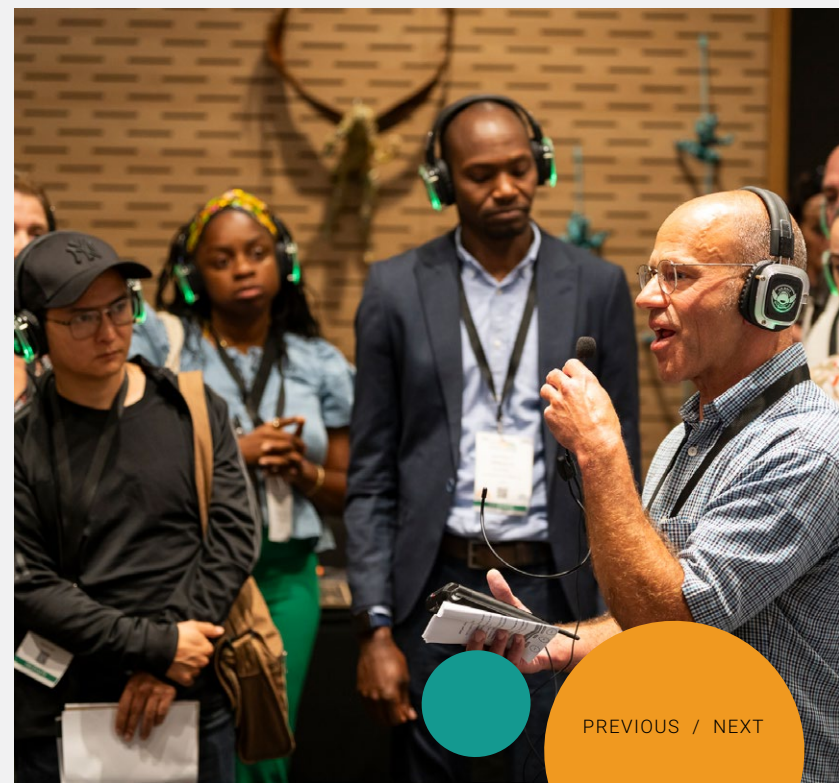
The highlight of the conference for me was the Community Day. It provided a platform for people who use drugs to share the incredible work happening in their countries and communities.

”

INHSU 2025
DELEGATE

Images taken at INHSU 2025.

Focus area 2: Convene the community



INHSU Spotlight Story

From Policy Day to global guidance: How we informed WHO's revised NSP Operational Guide

In early 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) released updated global guidance on needle and syringe programs, shaped in part by conversations at INHSU's 2024 Policy Day in Athens, Greece.

Using an implementation science approach, 54 participants — including researchers, policymakers, community leaders and funders — developed solutions to pre-defined barriers such as how syringe targets are applied in practice, and how procurement decisions affect quality and access. This approach shifted discussions beyond high-level thinking to focus on what is actually happening on the ground, where systems are falling short, why, and what actions can be taken.

Among those in the room was Ernst Wisse, who was leading the revision of WHO's Operational Guide at the time.



[Hear more from Ernst Wisse on the INHSU Policy Day.](#)

“

The Policy Days at INHSU are quite unique... bringing together all these different stakeholders to look at the same issue from multiple perspectives.

”

ERNST WISSE,
MÉDECINS DU MONDE AND
WHO NSP OPERATIONAL
GUIDE AUTHOR

Two issues stood out:

- Fixed syringe distribution targets were being misinterpreted and limiting access
- Program design was failing to reflect the realities and preferences of people who use drugs

These priorities are now embedded in WHO's updated recommendations, shaping how needle and syringe programs are designed, funded and delivered worldwide. The Policy Day recommendations have also been published in [The Lancet Global Health](#), extending its reach even further.

Focus area 2: Convene the community

“

It was a catalysing moment... helping crystallise which issues needed to be improved globally and frame the new guidance.

”

ERNST WISSE

For those involved, the impact was immediate and ongoing.

“

There was a bit of magic in the room... a real credit to INHSU's convening power. We had all the right people there and were able to move quickly from identifying issues to planning solutions.

”

SUSIE MCLEAN,
ATTENDED ON BEHALF
OF GLOBAL FUND

Focus area 3: Build capacity and capability



Strategic activities and outputs:

- Educate researchers, healthcare providers, harm reduction practitioners, policymakers, and advocates on harm reduction interventions, good practice, and other interventions that improve hepatitis C care and broader health outcomes
- Deliver knowledge exchange and education programs in partnership with relevant organisations to expand reach and strengthen collaboration across the sector
- Deliver activities that amplify research, facilitate knowledge exchange and showcase effective models of care in infectious diseases, harm reduction and drug policy
- Build researcher capability in meaningful engagement with people who use drugs throughout the research process

Through education, mentoring, and training programs, INHSU supports healthcare providers, researchers, policymakers, advocates and peer workers to develop the knowledge, skills and networks needed to improve health outcomes for people who use drugs.

Building capacity through our global Hepatitis C Symposia

INHSU's global Hepatitis C Intervention Symposium Series supports healthcare providers, harm reduction practitioners, policymakers, peer workers and program managers to build skills, share knowledge and apply evidence in practice.

Developed and delivered in partnership with local organisations and expert steering committees of key opinion leaders, these events focus on the practical implementation of innovative interventions and models of care. Topics include dried blood spot testing, telehealth, outreach and improvements to clinical systems.

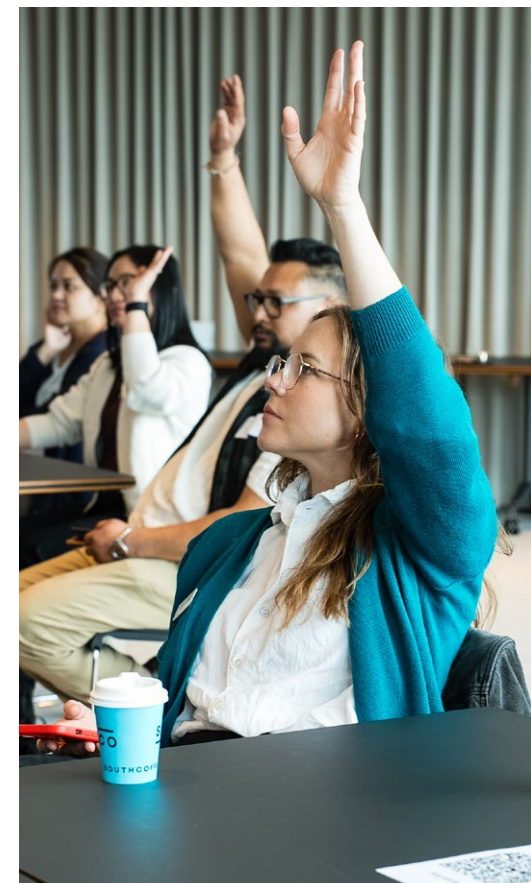


Image taken at the 2025 Sydney Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia.

Global symposia reach:



United States

6 symposia
233 participants



Canada

1 symposium
70 participants



Australia

2 symposia
106 participants

Across all regions, there was a strong focus on real-world implementation. If you are interested bringing a symposium to your city/town, please contact olivia.dawson@inhsu.org

What our symposia delegates had to say:

“

The symposium was a wonderful experience. The presenters were superb and the information both informative and engaging.

”

“

So great to have the room full of change makers and innovators.

”

“

[Following the symposia] we are looking at streamlining our processes to see if all the current steps are necessary.

”

“

I will be updating local HIV primary care recommendations to include hepatitis C treatment.

”

“

We will re-evaluate testing pathways, care delivery strategies and incorporate more team members into treatment.

”

Focus area 3: Build capacity



Image taken at the Sydney
Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia.

INHSU Spotlight Story

Supporting women who use drugs

Women who use drugs face complex and compounding barriers, shaped by stigma, criminalisation, violence, caregiving responsibilities and a lack of gender-responsive care. At the same time, those working to support them often have limited access to mentorship, funding and global networks.

In early 2026, we launched our **inaugural U.S. Fellowship Program**, a nine-month initiative supporting early and mid-career researchers and practitioners working to improve health outcomes for women who use drugs. **31** applications were received. The program brings together five fellows from clinical, research and community settings to build skills, share knowledge and connect with a global network.

Congratulations to the 2025 U.S. Fellowship Recipients:



Alex White
Services Director,
Texas Harm Reduction
Alliance



Galya Walt
PhD Student, Brown
University School of
Public Health



Ilana Hull
Assistant Professor of
Medicine, University of
Pittsburg



Kathleen (Katie) Ward
Postdoctoral Research
Fellow, Columbia
University



Madeline McCrary
MD, Division of
Infectious Diseases,
Washington University

Now in its sixth year, the **Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award**, delivered in partnership with the International Network for People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), continues to support women advancing the rights and health of people who use drugs. Recipients receive mentorship, international exposure and a full scholarship to attend and speak at the INHSU Conference.

In 2026, **37** applications were received globally, reflecting the strength of emerging leadership across the sector.

Congratulations to the 2025 Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award Recipients:

“

Receiving the Jude Byrne Award feels like **an invitation to continue the story of powerful women who have poured their hearts into this work.**

”

YARELIX
ESTRADA,
BOGOTÁ / U.S.

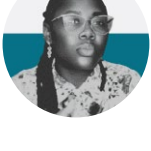


“

Receiving the award **motivates me to continue my advocacy and share insights with my community** of women who use drugs. It shows what is possible.

”

RITA MUSA,
NIGERIA



Focus area 3: Build capacity

The Impact of Investing in Women Who Use Drugs

Discover how the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD) and INHSU's Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award has empowered women who use drugs through mentorship, financial support and recognition, strengthening leadership and advocacy around the world.

Scan to read
the report.



INHSU Early-Mid-Career Researcher's Workshop



Participants at the INHSU 2025 EMCR Workshop.



At INHSU 2025 in Cape Town, INHSU's Early-Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) Special Interest Group led a series of activities to support emerging researchers.

A dedicated workshop brought together EMCRs from around the world ahead of the conference, combining sessions on publishing, knowledge translation and research impact with mentoring and peer exchange.

Creative approaches to dissemination were explored through a zine-making workshop, resulting in a co-created conference zine that showcased new ways to share research beyond academic audiences.



Conference Zine.

Focus area 3: Build capacity



Poster presentation at INHSU 2025.

INHSU Spotlight Story

Strengthening relationships between researchers & community

What happens when researchers and people with lived and living experience are brought together not as subjects and experts, but as partners?

Too often, community involvement remains tokenistic, with limited opportunities for meaningful collaboration. Researchers face uncertainty about how to engage meaningfully, while community members continue to experience extractive processes that fail to value their knowledge.

INHSU is working to change this.

In 2025, this work continued at INHSU in Cape Town. Now in its fourth year, the EMCR–community networking event, led by the Community Committee and INHSU's Early-Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) Special Interest Group, brought together **65** participants. It created space for researchers and people with lived and living experience to meet as equals, build relationships and explore new ways of working together.



**Focus area 3:
Build capacity**

Image taken at INHSU 2025.

Alongside this, the Community Committee and EMCR SIG co-created the INHSU conference zine, highlighting what can be achieved when community and researchers collaborate in new and creative ways.

This work builds on a broader effort to strengthen relationships between researchers and community. Earlier initiatives have already led to peer-reviewed publications co-authored with community members, as well as ongoing collaborations that began through INHSU convenings. These approaches are now embedded across the conference program and wider INHSU programming.

Download 'Co-Designing Research with People Who Use Drugs: How to Get it Right' [here](#).



Focus area 4: Create resources for real-world change



Strategic activities and outputs:

- Develop practical resources and tools to improve health service delivery for people who use drugs
- Create advocacy resources and tools that support efforts to improve health services for people who use drugs

INHSU develops practical resources and accessible online learning activities that support ongoing professional development, strengthen service delivery and help translate evidence into practice.

Toolkits & training for our partners

A growing focus for INHSU is partnering with universities, agencies and governments to deliver bespoke projects, training and resources. This includes:

- Development of the European Toolkit for the Elimination of Viral Hepatitis in Prisons (EuroHePP), supporting HCV testing and treatment across prison settings in Europe
- Working with the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney we are developing an international hepatitis C point-of-care testing toolkit which will be released in 2027.

Community of Practice for Hepatitis C care in regional and remote Australia

This Community of Practice, commissioned by the Burnet Institute's Eliminate C program, brings together people working in regional and remote Australia to share ideas, build connections and strengthen elimination efforts.

 **159** members

 **2** Webinars
with **80** attendees

 **2** infographics

 **+** Regular newsletter sharing resources, events and opportunities

Webinars for the World Health Organization

INHSU was engaged by the World Health Organization to design and deliver global launch webinars for key new guidance on harm reduction. These sessions played a central role in introducing the guidance to an international audience.



WHO's *Needle and Syringe Programmes (NSP) for People Who Inject Drugs Operational Guide* launch webinar

936 registrations

373 live viewers

432 YouTube views



WHO's *Guidance on Maintaining Opioid Agonist Maintenance Treatment (OAMT) During Emergencies* launch webinar

502 registrations

201 live viewers

168 YouTube views

Hepatitis C Community of Practice, United States

The U.S. Hepatitis C Community of Practice brings together clinicians, practitioners and stakeholders who have participated in INHSU's Hepatitis C Intervention Symposia. It provides an ongoing space to connect, share experiences and exchange practical insights to strengthen hepatitis C care beyond individual events.

 **586** members

 **2** Webinars
with **169** attendees

 **+** Regular newsletter sharing resources, events and opportunities

Ethical Storytelling Roadmap

Every story shared has the power to influence attitudes, policy, and practice. But without the right safeguards, storytelling can also expose people to stigma, distress and unintended harm.

Developed through discussions at INHSU 2024 and a workshop at INHSU 2025, the Ethical Storytelling Roadmap is a practical guide to ethical storytelling, covering consent, recording, publication and aftercare. Grounded in lived experience and trauma-informed practice, it supports more collaborative, respectful and safer storytelling.

[Download the Roadmap here.](#)



 **700** downloads

 **411** registrations for launch webinar

Focus area 4:
Create resources for change



Participants at the INHSU 2025 workshop.



Photo taken at INHSU 2025.

INHSU content across the year:



500+

posters, abstracts and
presentations added to the
[Conference Archive](#)



6,500+

newsletter subscribers



10,289

views of our hepatitis
C Intervention toolkit



1 published paper in
the ***Lancet Global Health***

*“Addressing policy barriers
to scaling up needle and
syringe programmes: a global
call to action”*



373 people
completed INHSU's Harm
Reduction and OAT Online
Learning Modules

Focus area 4: Create resources for change



71,400

website visits



40+ news
stories



66

email campaigns sent



3,913

views of Alcohol and Other
Drugs Hepatitis C online
education program



Presented at a U.S.
National Viral Hepatitis
Roundtable webinar,
and the American
Correctional Association
(ACA) ECHO webinar

The INHSU Board



Jason Grebely
PRESIDENT

Head of the Hepatitis C and Drug Use Group at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney and Senior Editor for the International Journal of Drug Policy.



Natasha Martin
PRESIDENT ELECT

Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health in the Department of Medicine at the University of California San Diego and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol.



Andrew Scheibe
VICE PRESIDENT ELECT

Medical doctor working in harm reduction research, technical advisor for TB HIV Care and a researcher at the University of Pretoria. Focuses on the intersections between infectious diseases, determinants of health and human rights.



Mia Biondi
BOARD MEMBER

Mia is an Assistant Professor and leads the Nurse Practitioner Program at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is also the Director of Implementation at the Viral Hepatitis Care Network.



Matthew Bonn
BOARD MEMBER

Matthew is the communication manager with the Canadian AIDS society. He's also a safe supply and drug policy consultant, drug user activist and freelance writer, whose work has appeared in global drug policy publications.

**Ernesto Cortés**

BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director of the Costa Rican Association on Drug Studies and Interventions (ACEID), member of the Costa Rican Association of Families of Incarcerated People (FPU) and secretariat of the Latin American Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD).

**Louise Hansford**

BOARD MEMBER

Louise is the Hepatitis C Elimination Coordinator South for the NHS APA (NHS Substance Addiction Providers Alliance), and has worked in the drug and alcohol field for 17 years. Her career with hepatitis C began in 2012, when she set up the award-winning Hep C Hants P2P project (Peer to Peer), which has since seen over 600 successfully treated.

**Angela McBride**

BOARD MEMBER

Executive Director for the South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD). Angela has worked in the field of harm reduction for over 7 years, with lived experience working and participating in abstinence programs and centres.

**Peter Vickerman**

BOARD MEMBER

Professor in infectious disease modelling at the University of Bristol. He has 25 years experience in infectious disease modelling. He has contributed to numerous international advisory groups (including WHO, U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. National Institute of Health, NICE Public Health guidance committees and Public Health England).

**Ernst Wisse**

BOARD MEMBER

With a background as a nurse, Ernst has extensive field experience in street-based harm reduction programs and has managed interventions across low- and middle-income countries, including Iran, Afghanistan, and Myanmar. Ernst holds a master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and currently serves as Médecins du Monde's lead on harm reduction.

The INHSU team

**Emma Day**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Responsible for overseeing the operational management, programmatic work and strategic direction of the organisation.

**Brooke Nolan**

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

Oversees communications activities for the INHSU organisation and all projects. Brooke also manages INHSU membership.

**Nikitah Habraken**

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Oversees programs, project business development, stakeholder engagement and partnership building.

**Olivia Burton**

PROGRAM MANAGER

Develops and delivers programs across INHSU's three pillars of work.

**Olivia Dawson**

PROGRAMS & POLICY MANAGER

Responsible for leading the development, delivery and monitoring and evaluation of INHSU programs and policy work.

**Maja Robertson**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Provides administrative and operational support across INHSU's three pillars of work.

2025/2026 INHSU Financial Report

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2026

	Account	30 Jun 2026	30 Jun 2025	Year on Year Movement
Assets				
	Bank			
	INHSU bank	949,457	748,582	200,875
	Total Bank	949,457	748,582	200,875
	Current Assets			
	Accounts Receivable	12,333	29,973	(17,639)
	Conference seed funding receivable	30,009	30,009	(0)
	Prepayments	6,053	10,353	(4,299)
	Accrued Income	33,707		33,707
	Computer Equipment	2,489	3,023	(534)
	Total Current Assets	84,591	73,357	11,235
Total Assets		1,034,048	821,939	212,110
Liabilities				
	Current Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable	0	2,631	(2,631)
	Accrued expenses	5,799	25,670	(19,871)
	GST	(1,819)	5,483	(7,302)
	Income in advance	388,198	206,690	181,508
	Provision for annual leave	30,706	27,527	3,179
	Provision for LSL	1,924	356	1,568
	PAYG and Superannuation payable	7,946	7,130	816
	Total Current Liabilities	432,753	275,487	157,266
	Non Current Liabilities			
	Provision for LSL	9,970	5,410	4,560
Total Liabilities		442,723	280,897	161,826
	Net Assets	591,325	541,042	50,283
Equity				
	Current Year Earnings	28,370	15,166	
	Retained Earnings	541,042	577,573	
	FX Reserves	21,913	(51,697)	
Total Equity		591,325	541,042	

2025/2026

INHSU Financial Report

Profit and Loss

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	01.07.2025 to 30.06.2026 EUR	01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 EUR	Year on Year Movement
Trading Income			
Membership	11,710	20,126	(8,416)
Donations	4,881	5,133	(252)
Project Funding	567,763	463,726	104,037
Conference Sponsorship	311,732	307,124	4,608
Conference Registrations	248,481	419,523	(171,042)
Other Income	66,570	86,140	(19,570)
Total Operating Income	1,211,136	1,301,772	(90,636)
Operating Expenses			
Administration expenses	37,022	53,902	(16,880)
Other Operating expenses	184,507	222,499	(37,992)
Conference expenses	548,199	706,817	(158,618)
Staff costs	400,804	284,907	115,897
Financial costs	12,235	18,481	(6,246)
Total Operating Expenses	1,182,767	1,286,606	(103,839)
Net Profit	28,370	15,166	13,204

Note:

FY25 Conference Sponsorship Income and Expenses have been restated to correct an overstatement in prior year. No impact to Net Profit.

Thank you



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