



Issues of Substance (IOS) Special Session

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 1:30—4:30 p.m.

Drug-impaired Driving in Canada: Implications for Prevention and Treatment

Although the misuse of drugs has long been considered a major social problem, the acute and devastating consequences of driving while impaired by drugs has only recently come to the forefront as a public health and safety issue. The recent introduction of legislation targeting drug-impaired driving has necessitated the need for public awareness and education efforts of the problem and its associated consequences. This pre-conference session will provide an overview of the drugs and driving problem in Canada, actions being taken by the criminal justice system to address the problem, and potential implications for the treatment system. This session will be of interest to those who are involved in or affected directly or indirectly by drugs and/or alcohol including addiction specialists (i.e., treatment providers, clinical staff), law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation officers, corrections, researchers, academics, policy-makers and private sector professionals.

This session will describe the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) program for detecting drug-impaired drivers, and discuss recent research supporting the scientific basis of the DEC program. Participants will have the opportunity to view a demonstration of a DEC evaluation conducted by a trained police officer, known as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). The session will conclude with a discussion of approaches that could be adopted for the prevention of drug-impaired driving and the services and supports needed for effective rehabilitation of those who have been charged with this offence.

Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in an actual DEC evaluation by a trained DRE officer during pre-determined times at the IOS conference. Sign-up sheets will be made available during this special session.

This session is co-sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

Advance registration is required for this special session. The cost is \$50 for registered IOS participants, and \$75 for non-registered IOS guests.

