



GloCal Career Development Series

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FACULTY OF MEDICINE, CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY

GLOCAL FELLOW 2022-2023

A pixel art illustration of a cityscape. In the center, a large white sun with horizontal rays and a checkerboard pattern at its base is set against a yellow background. Below the sun, the title 'LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT' is written in a green, pixelated font. Underneath the title is a block of text in a similar green, pixelated font. The cityscape features several tall buildings with green and white patterns, two smaller buildings with signs that read 'FAMILY' and 'SUMMER', a bus, a car, and a bench in the foreground. The sky is yellow with a few white clouds.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF LANNA, A PLACE THAT HAS LONG EMBRACED THE RICHNESS OF CULTURAL, IDENTITY, RACIAL, AND GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY WITH GENEROSITY AND EMPATHY

Current career



- **Assistant Professor of Psychiatry**
Department of Psychiatry, Chiang Mai University
- **Research areas:** global mental health, LGBTQ+ mental health, suicidality, substance use, and culturally responsive psychiatry
- **GloCal Fellow 2022-2023**
- **Project:** *Sexualized drug use among men who have sex with men (MSM) and the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis care continuum in Thailand.*
(Drug Alcohol Depend Rep, 2025)



Challenging Mental Health & Addiction Problems in Thailand

1

Substance use & suicide are the main causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)

- Alcohol & Amphetamine were commonly reported
- Depression & Schizophrenia are also common comorbidities with problematic substance use

2

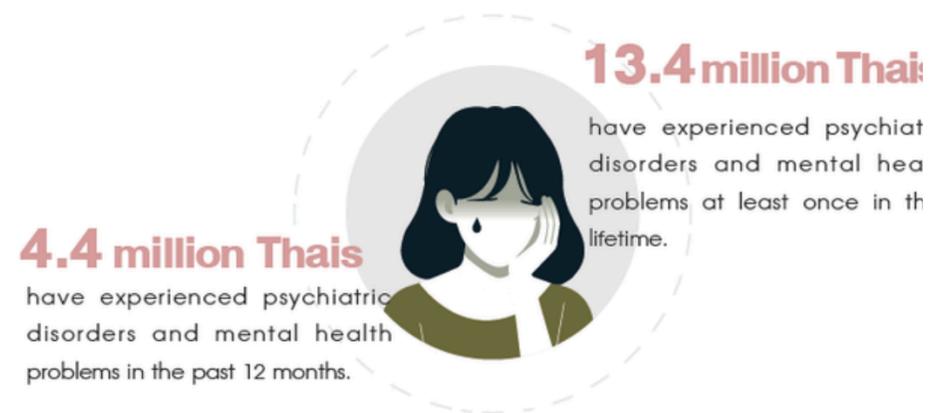
Fewer choices of pharmacological intervention for people who have problematic substance use

- Alcohol use disorder – Anticraving medication / Naltrexone, x Acamprosate
- Opioid use disorder – OAT x Naltrexone, x Buprenorphine/naloxone (suboxone)

3

New trends in addiction problems

- Complicated problems found in the sexually diverse population
- Legalization of cannabis/ kratom use in Thailand

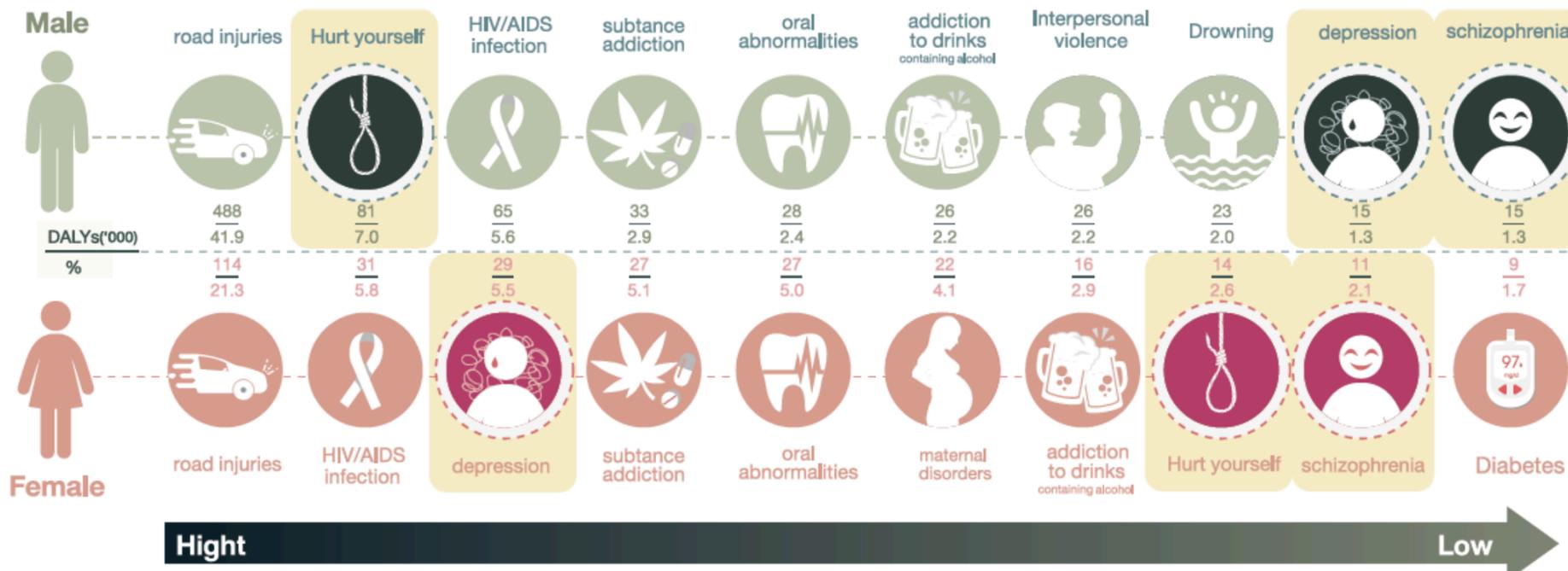


Source: The 2023 National Epidemiology Survey on Mental Health in Thailand
Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health



Note: Prevalence over the past 12 months
Source: The 2023 National Epidemiology Survey on Mental Health in Thailand, Department of Mental Health

Ranking of DALYs for Thais aged 15-29 in 2019, by gender and cause



Source: Disability-adjusted Life Years: Report on Burden of Disease and Injury of Thai Population in 2019. International Health Policy Program

Building a Research Identity from Local to Global

Locally relevant psychiatric issues

- Gender-diversed population
- Substance use and addiction
- Sexual Health & Psychiatry
- Mental Health in Medical Students
- Academic involvement (Lecturer)
 - Faculty of Medicine, CMU
 - CMU Master's Degree in Mental Health (International Program)
- Hospital-based & Community based services

- Global Health Research Center, CMU
- Research Institute of Health Sciences (RIHES)
- CMU Pride Clinic: Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology/ Surgery/ Internal Medicine (Endocrinology)/ Pediatrics (Endocrinology, Growth & Development)
- MPLUS Clinic (community clinic for HIV prevention)



Opportunities with GloCal
(UCGHI global health fellow)

Building a Research Identity from Local to Global



12-month program (GloCal)
3 months at UCLA



12-month Clinical Research Fellow in Addictions
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
& University of Toronto, Canada



Sustain global collaborations

- Start with locally relevant psychiatric issues → scale to global mental health relevance
- A coherent research theme (mental health inequities across populations) strengthens academic trajectory

Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the International Setting

Psychiatry

Public health

Biostatistics/
Epidemiology

Sociology &
gender studies

Key persons
targeted populations

From local to global

From global to local

Transgender population
MSM population
Medical students with gender diversity

Clinical work in addiction psychiatry
mixed methods study
clinical research
Translational research
Syndemics frameworks of HIV

Working across cultures

Reaching the targeted population through community clinic

- Differences in substance use in the area (Chiang Mai & Bangkok) - a melting pot in Thailand
- Participants expressed concerns that disclosing histories of substance use or distribution might be used as legal evidence against them
- Researchers must clearly communicate confidentiality protections and data anonymization procedures

Interviewing in qualitative research

- Learning other strategies to obtain the
- Ethical safeguards and trust-building are essential to ensure valid and reliable data collection



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Institutional Collaborations Networks (GloCal)

- Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine
- Global Health Research Center, CMU
- Research Institute of Health Sciences (RIHES)
- CMU Pride Clinic:
 - Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology/ Surgery/ Internal Medicine (Endocrinology)/ Pediatrics (Endocrinology, Growth & Development)
- MPLUS foundation & MPLUS Clinic

- **Fogarty International Center**
University of California Global Health Institute (UCGHI)
GloCal Health Fellowship

- Member of **Neurology Collaborative Science Group (Neuro CSG) of Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally for HIV/AIDS and Other Infections AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG)**
Selected as a member from 2023-2025

Institutional Collaborations Networks



Translational Addiction Research Lab (TARL)

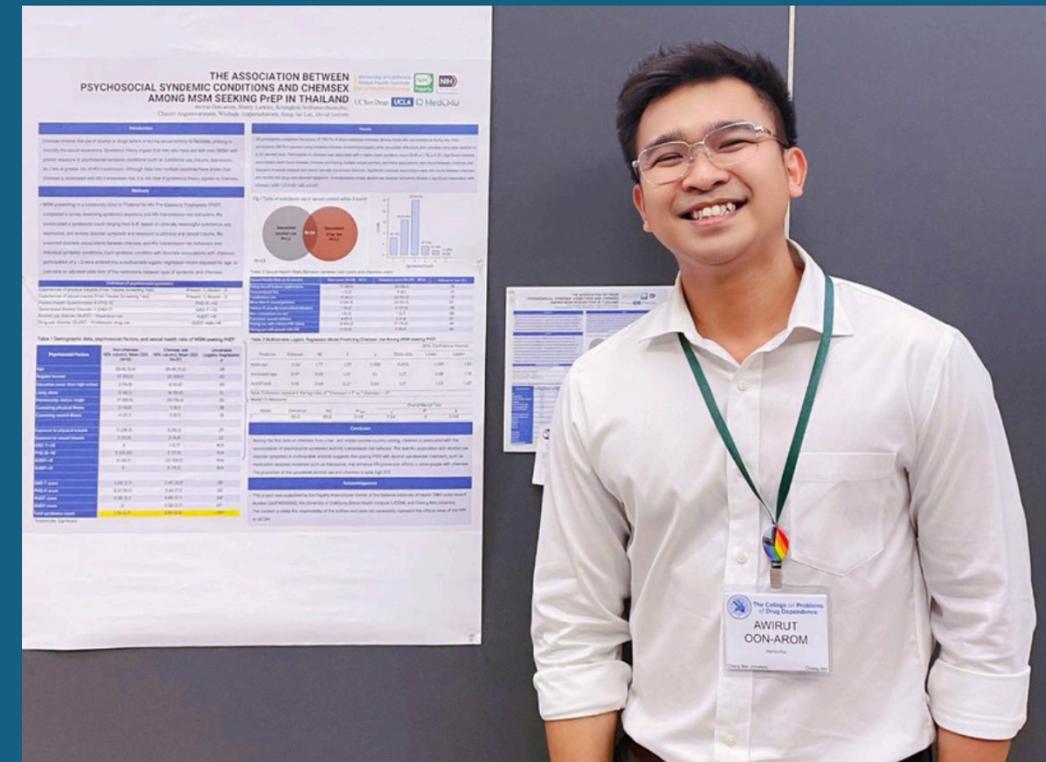
- The Relationship between Alcohol Use, Mental Health Conditions, and Sexual Experiences with Partner Practicing Injected Drugs Among GBMSM
- Comparing Childhood-onset and Adult-onset Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Results from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions-III (NESARC-III).
- Cytisine: Testing its Potential as a Therapeutic Strategy for Smoking Cessation among People with Concurrent Alcohol Use Disorder.
- Investigating fatty acid amide hydrolase and clinical correlates in opioid treated chronic pain patients with and without problematic opioid use: a pet study with radioligand [11C]CURB

Clinical works

- Concurrent Outpatient Medical & Psychosocial Addiction Support Services (COMPASS) – Weekly for 1 year
- Medical Withdrawal Services (MWS) – 3 months rotation, then weekly for another 9 months
- Sexual Behavior Clinic – 1-month observation
- **HQ services:**

Integrative screening system of sexual health and mental health
Substance use & Preventive intervention for gender diverse population
Clinical Assessment for gender diverse people with co-occurrent substance use and mental health problems

Presentation



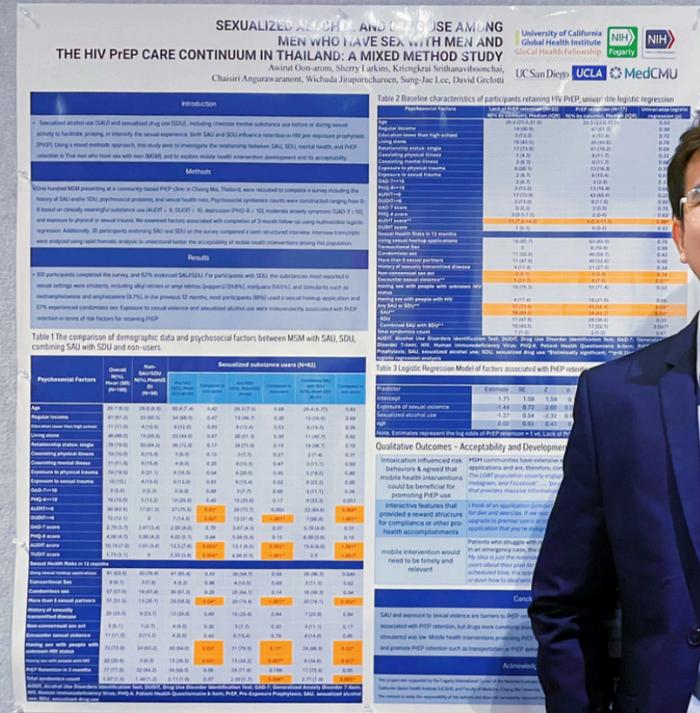
- Oral Presentation
- The 2023 National Transgender Health Summit, San Francisco, California, USA, May 3-6th, 2023
- Greater psychosocial syndemics relate to worse quality of life among Thai transwomen.

- Poster Presentation
- The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Scientific Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA, 19-21st June 2023.
- The association between psychosocial syndemic conditions and chemsex among MSM seeking PrEP in Thailand

Poster presentation

Both presentation were supported by Travel Awards from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto.

- Poster Presentation
- The 2024 NIDA (National Institute of Drug Abuse) International Forum, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 14-15th June, 2024
- Sexualized alcohol and drug use among men who have sex with men and the HIV PrEP care continuum in Thailand: A mixed method study



- Poster Presentation
- The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual Scientific Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada 16-19 June 2023.
- The Relationship between Alcohol Use, Mental Health Conditions, and Sexual Experiences with Partner Practicing Injected Drugs Among GBMSM: An Analysis from NESARC-III Survey

Continuous International Networks

ACTG



- **Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally for HIV/AIDS and Other Infections AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG)**
 - An Open-Label, Randomized Controlled Trial of Pramipexole versus Escitalopram to Treat Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and Comorbid MDD with Mild Neurocognitive Disorder (MND) in Persons with HIV: A Multicenter Trial of the ACTG (Collaboration with RIHES, CMU)

camh
mental health is health



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

- **Center for Addiction and Mental Health and the University of Toronto; Collaborative Research with Institutions in Southeast Asia.**
 - Capacity building in HIV, chemsex, and addiction care for Thailand: The integrative services of sexual health and mental health
 - PI: Bernard Le Foll, Tim Guimond, June Lam
- **Biopsychosocial Investigations of Gender Laboratory (BIG Lab), Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Toronto Mississauga**
 - Developmental trajectories of sexual and gender identity in adolescence by using mixed-methods study
 - PI: Doug VanderLaan

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Continuous Networks for multi center studies (started in Thailand)

Chulalongkorn
University

Chiang Mai
University

Siriraj Hospital
Mahidol University

LGBTQ related Research Alliance

Prince of Songkhla
University

Khonkaen
University

LAARB: Lanna Alliance for Addiction Research
and Behavior

Aim for multicenter studies on addiction

- Chiang Mai University
 - Psychiatry
 - Family Medicine
- Suan Prung Hospital (Psychiatric Hospital)
- Thanyarak Hospital (Addiction Rehabilitation Center)
- San Pa Tong Hospital (Community Hospital)

in LGBTQ medical students

Religiosity, perceived family support, and gender disclosure

Prevalence of Depression and Generalized Anxiety

Academic difficulties, education-related problems, and discrimination

Sexual Behaviors

What Do LGBTQ+ Medical Students Experience and Need in Medical School?



Balancing professional and personal life

During GloCal Fellowship
& Clinical Fellowship in Toronto



After backing to Thailand

- Lecturer & Consultant Psychiatrist
 - Medical Students (Undergrad)
 - Psychiatry Resident
 - Master's Degree in Mental Health
- Research
 - Supervisor
 - Try to be an independent global health researcher
- Services
 - General Psychiatry
 - Addiction Psychiatry
 - IPD/ OPD/ Consultation Liaison
 - CMU Pride Clinic

Managing mentoring relationships



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Securing grant funding for research

Plan for research grants

- Non-US Citizens Can Apply If:
 - Applying through a foreign institution
 - The project shows a unique population advantage
 - collaborating with a US-based PI
- Potential research grants
 - NIDA R21 (pilot data on chemsex & PrEP)
 - Fogarty K43 (Emerging Global leader Award)
 - NIMH R01 (LGBTQ+ mental health + substance use syndemic model)



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