



## Second Quarter 2015 Newsletter

### In This Issue

[9th Annual RADARS Scientific Meeting](#)

[International Pre-Symposium](#)

[RADARS® System at the: European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists \(EAPCCT\) Annual Meeting](#)

[Scientific Advisory Board Retirement Announcement](#)

[RADARS® System Conference Attendance April – June 2015](#)

[Upcoming RADARS® System Conference Attendance July 2015 -September 2015](#)

[RADARS System Quarterly Technical Report](#)

[RADARS System in Social Media](#)

[RADARS System Mission Statement](#)

[Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center and Denver Health and Hospital Authority](#)



## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual RADARS® System Scientific Meeting, May 6, 2015



The 9th Annual RADARS® System Scientific Meeting, Bending the Curve of Prescription Drug Abuse, on May 6, 2015 was a great success. This event has grown tremendously over the years, and we're happy to say this meeting was the best one yet!

Registrants for the annual meeting included those working in government, academics, the pharmaceutical industry and more! The diversity of attendees helped stimulate fantastic discussions.

Coverage of topics was comprehensive and multi-faceted. The major themes of the meeting tried to answer the questions, "Where are we today?" "How did we get here" "How do we get out of here" and "What problems are we likely to encounter along the way."

**These topics were addressed through discussions on the following topics:**

- ◆ RADARS® System 2014 Data Updates
- ◆ The Changing Landscape of Prescription Drug Abuse: Implications for Patients and Pain Physicians
- ◆ Intertwined Epidemics: Prescription Opioids and Heroin
- ◆ Risk of More Serious Outcomes in ED Visits Involving Benzodiazepines and Their Combination with Opioids and Alcohol
- ◆ Emerging Data on Prescription Medicine Misuse in the UK

### Did You Know?

**StreetRx has had over 1 million visits since its launch in 2010?**

Continued...

- ♦ Emerging Prescription Drugs of Abuse in the United States from the RADARS® System Poison Center, College Survey and Web Monitoring Programs
- ♦ RADARS® System “Write-In Drugs” from the RADARS® System Drug Diversion Program
- ♦ StreetRx Price Comparison: Bulk vs Non-Bulk
- ♦ Opioid and Non-Opioid Medications from the RADARS® System Opioid Treatment Program
- ♦ Outside the United States: Drugs Sourced from Foreign Countries

Other topics of discussion included the rise in heroin and its relation to prescription drug abuse, the new environment for prescribers of increased regulation and negative influence, and abusers response to the decreased ease in obtaining prescription opioids.

We would like to thank our speakers for their contributions to a great event! Their knowledge and expertise was vital to our success.

We are providing access to all speaker presentations, which you can find on our website at the following address: [www.radars.org/home2/events/annual-meeting](http://www.radars.org/home2/events/annual-meeting)



We welcome your feedback on these meetings. If you have any feedback on either the international pre-symposium or the scientific meeting, please send it to [business@radars.org](mailto:business@radars.org). Your comments are very important to us as we begin planning for next year's meeting.

**We hope to see you next year where we will celebrate the 10th Annual RADARS® System Scientific Meeting!**

## International Pre-Symposium



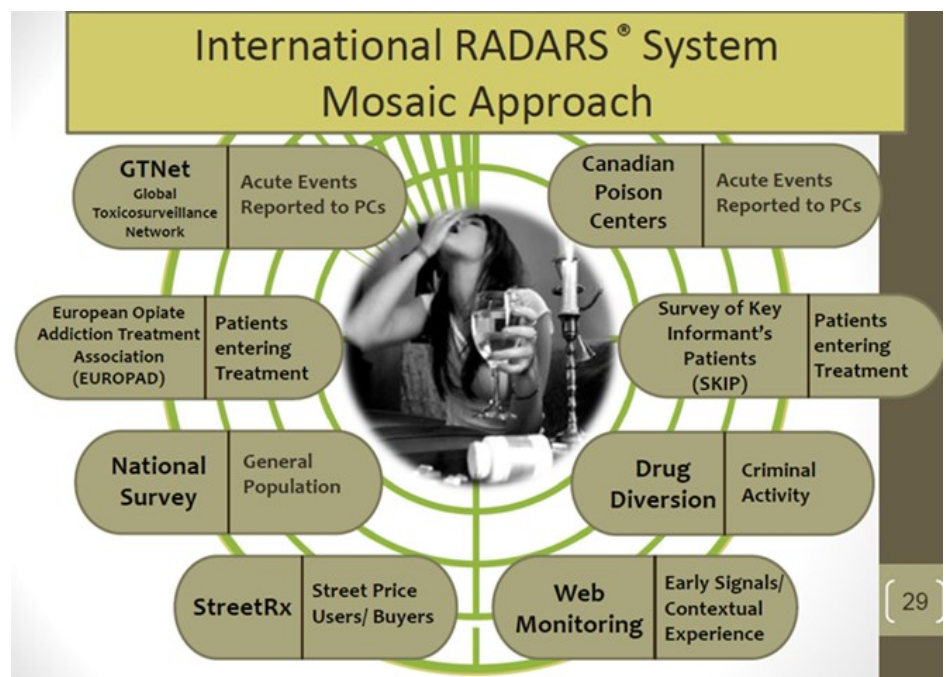
The second annual RADARS® System international pre-symposium, Emerging Global Trends in Prescription Drug Misuse, was held on May 5, 2015, and saw significant growth in attendance from the prior year. We are pleased to see such interest in international surveillance and prescription drug abuse and hope to continue to offer this international perspective at future meetings. The diversity of beliefs and practices between countries sparked some interesting conversations as well as new ideas.

### Presentations for the international session included:

- ♦ RADARS® System International Data Updates
- ♦ International Surveillance: Importance of Context – Canada, Australia and United Kingdom
- ♦ Data from the UK National Internet Survey on Prescription Medicine Misuse
- ♦ Prescription Drugs as Part of Overdose Deaths in Norway and Beyond

As RADARS® System continues to grow internationally, the myriad of programs offered continues to expand. We hope this data will continue to bring stimulating discussions on the international front and are excited to continue a focus on international perspectives.

We look forward to further growth next year!

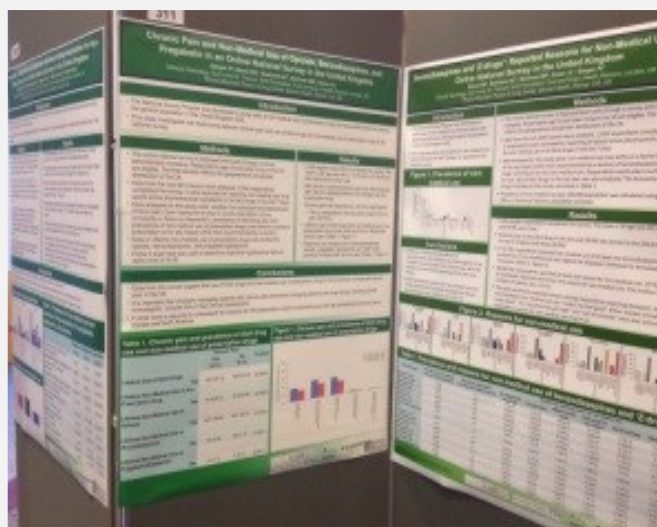




## Featured Event by RADARS® System

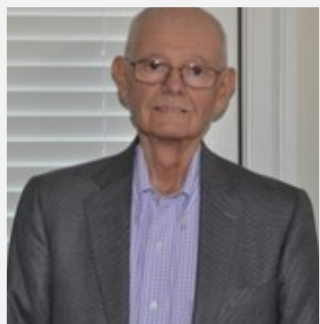
### RADARS® System at the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) Annual Meeting

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists Congress was held from May 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in St. Julian's, Malta. Themes of this year's conference included drugs of misuse, toxic death, and toxicology in specific populations, among others. International RADARS® System Programs had 6 abstracts accepted, with 2 receiving oral platforms for the "Drugs of Misuse" conference session. Using data from the Global Toxikosurveillance Network (GTNet) Program and the National Survey Program, these 6 abstracts presented the latest data regarding the misuse and abuse of various prescription drugs, globally. The longevity of the GTNet Program allowed for an interesting presentation of trends over time, and the novelty of the National Survey's first launch spawned numerous analyses regarding chronic pain and non-medical use of various prescription drugs, reasons for non-medical use of both opioids and benzodiazepines, and perceptions of the safety of prescription drugs. In addition to a large presence from the RADARS® System, the conference was attended by key international partners from both of these programs, many of whom were co-authors of these 6 published works.



The Global Toxikosurveillance Network celebrated the 5-year anniversary of the project during the EAPCCT Conference and held a successful Working Group Meeting on the evening prior to the start of the conference. This was followed by a dinner hosted by RMPDC including delegates from many countries around the world. During this dinner, Dr. Richard Dart gave a presentation using data from the most recent publication in the New England Journal of Medicine.

## Scientific Advisory Board Retirement Announcement



**It is with great sadness that we announce the retirement of Dr. Edward Adams from the RADARS® System Scientific Advisory Board.**

Dr. Adams is the Executive Director, Epidemiology, at Covance Market Access Services. He is part of the Prospective Studies Group within Global Health Economics and Outcomes Research. He is responsible for providing scientific and technical leadership in epidemiology, risk management and outcomes research.

He has more than 20 years of experience consulting on the design, assessment and implementation of risk management programs, risk minimization action plans (RiskMAPs), REMS, post-marketing surveillance, and drug scheduling nationally and internationally.

He was the Principal Investigator on a number of post marketing studies including an 11,000 patient study of tramadol, a 600 patient prospective study of nicotine replacement therapies and a 500 patient prospective study of AVINZA®. He also conducted the post-marketing surveillance of the Nicotrol Patch and Inhaler.

He has served on several risk management advisory groups including the Independent Steering Committee for Ultram® and currently serves on the RADARS™ Scientific Advisory Board. He was a member of the IMMPACT working group and is currently a member of the ALERTT working group within ACTION (Analgesic, Anesthetic and Addiction Clinical Trial Translations, Innovations, Opportunities, and Networks), a public private partnership with the FDA with a special interest in optimizing clinical trials.

Dr. Adams has written White Papers on the clinical utility, abuse and diversion of buprenorphine and tramadol that were utilized in the U.S., Canada and in reviews by the World Health Organization.

He was a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, as served as the Chief Epidemiologist at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), where he was responsible for the Nation's Drug Abuse Surveillance effort, including the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) and the Treatment Episode Dataset (TEDS).

For several years, he was the U.S. representative to the Pompidou Group of Experts in Epidemiology within the Council of Europe. In 1987, he was the epidemiologist assigned to the U.S. delegation at the United Nations International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. While at NIDA, he received a commendation medal from the Surgeon General for contributions to epidemiology.

Currently he is a key member of a team investigating the prevalence and natural history of Fibromyalgia. Data are also collected on the Burden of Illness associated with fibromyalgia compared to subjects with and without chronic widespread pain. He has consulted with a number of companies on matters related to pain.

He is currently a member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Officers Association.

Dr. Adams obtained his BS in Pharmacy from Fordham University, an MS in Pharmacology from Purdue and his doctorate (ScD.) in Health Policy and Management from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

We thank Dr. Adams for his contributions.

## Recent RADARS® System Abstracts

### **RADARS® System Conference Attendance April – June 2015**

#### **The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD)**

**June 13, 2015 – June 19, 2015**

RADARS® System abstracts presented:

**An online national survey and the Crime Survey for England and Wales: are the data comparable?**

Green JL, Dargan PI, Wood DM, Besharat AC, Martinez EM, Dart RC

**A comparison of attempted suicide rates by methylphenidate exposure in adult and adolescent populations**

McRae EM, LeLait MC, West N, Dart RC.

**Prescription opioid death rates are greater for females than males**

Iwanicki JL, LeLait MC, Severtson SG, Bucher-Bartelson B, Dart RC.

**Reductions in prescription opioid abuse among enrollees into opioid treatment programs**

Rosenblum A, Fong C, Matusow H, Parrino M, Maxwell-Taylor C.

#### **Canadian Pain Society 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (CPS)**

**May 20, 2015 – May 23, 2015**

RADARS® System abstracts presented:

**Trends in Tramadol Use and Abuse reported to the Ontario Poison Centre**

Austin E, Thompson M, Hudson H, Bernabeo D, Johnson DJG, Dart RC

**Transborder trafficking of prescription opioids in Canada and the United States**

Dart RC, Severtson SG, Green JL, Dasgupta N, Ellis MS, Cicero TJ

#### **XXXV Annual International Congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT)**

**May 23, 2015 – May 30, 2015**

RADARS® System abstracts presented:

**Trends Over Time in Population Rates of Intentional Misuse and Self-Harm Mentions with Buprenorphine, Methadone, and Oxycodone as Reported to Poison Centres in Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom**

Bartelson BB, Desel H, Schaper A, Davanzo F, Sesana F, Cooper G, Thompson JP, Johnson DJG, Green JL

**Prescription Opioids: Reported Reasons for Non-Medical Use in an Online National Survey in the UK**

Dargan PI, Martinez EM, Besharat AC, Green JL, Wood DM

**Chronic Pain and Non-Medical Use of Opioids, Benzodiazepines, and Pregabalin in an Online National Survey in the United Kingdom**

Dargan PI, Wood DM, Besharat AC, Martinez EM, Green JL

## Recent RADARS® System Abstracts

### [Pregabalin, Gabapentin and Baclofen: Sources of Drug Acquisition for Non-Medical Use in an Online National Survey in the UK](#)

Wood DM, Besharat AC, Dargan PI, Martinez EM, Green JL

### [Benzodiazepines and 'Z Drugs': Reported Reasons for Non-Medical Use in an Online National Survey in the UK](#)

Wood DM, Besharat AC, Martinez EM, Green JL, Dargan PI

### [Perception of Prescription Drug Safety in an Online National Survey in the United Kingdom](#)

Wood DM, Dargan PI, Besharat AC, Martinez EM, Green JL

## **Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM)**

**May 12, 2015 – May 15, 2015**

RADARS® System abstracts presented:

### [Prescription Opioid Exposures and Outcomes among Older Adults](#)

Hatten BW, West NA, Severtson SG, Green JL, Dart RC

### [Reduced Street Price and Quantity Discounts for Diverted Extended Release OxyContin and Opana Following Crush Resistant Reformulation](#)

Lebin JA, Murphy DL, Severtson SG, Dart RC

### [Comparative Rates of Mortality and Severe Medical Effect Among Commonly Prescribed Opioid Analgesics: Calls to US Poison Centers Reporting Opioid Overdose Due to Intentional Abuse and Misuse Exposures](#)

Murphy DL, Lebin JA, Severtson SG, Dart RC



## Upcoming RADARS® System Conference Attendance: July—September

### International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology

August 22, 2015 – August 26, 2015

RADARS® System abstracts to be presented:

#### **Non-Medical Use of Benzodiazepines and Opioids: an Online National Survey in the United Kingdom**

Green JL, Besharat AC, Goodman EM, Bucher-Bartelson B, Wood DM, Dargan PI

### **RADARS® System Quarterly Technical Report**

**Reduced Street Price and Quantity Discounts for Diverted Extended Release OxyContin ER and Opana ER Following Crush Resistant Reformulation**

### **RADARS® System in Social Media – Get Connected!**



Follow us at [@RADARS\\_System](https://twitter.com/RADARS_System). You can find news relating to prescription drug surveillance and abuse in the US and abroad. RADARS® System tweets include publication announcements, conference attendance, program updates and more.



Publication and conference attendance news can be found on our LinkedIn site ([www.linkedin.com/company/radars-system](http://www.linkedin.com/company/radars-system)).



Visit [www.RADARS.org](http://www.RADARS.org) for active links to presentations, conference and manuscript abstracts.



## Contact Information

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## RADARS® System Mission Statement

The RADARS® System provides timely, product specific and geographically-precise data to the pharmaceutical industry, regulatory agencies, policymakers and medical/public health officials to aid in understanding trends in the abuse, misuse, and diversion of prescription drugs.

## Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center and Denver Health and Hospital Authority

The RADARS® System is a governmental nonprofit operation of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center (RMPDC), an agency of Denver Health. The RMPDC has been in operation for more than 50 years, making it one of the oldest poison control centers in the nation. Denver Health is the safety net hospital for the City and County of Denver and is the Rocky Mountain region's academic Level I trauma center and includes Denver Public Health, Denver's 911 emergency medical response system, nine family health centers, 12 school-based clinics, NurseLine, correctional care, Denver CARES, the Denver Health Medical Plan, and the Rocky Mountain Center for Medical Response to Terrorism, Mass Casualties and Epidemics.



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HEALTH**  
Level One Care for ALL

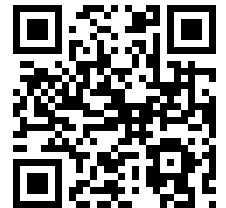


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