1. Course Title: Developmentally Informed Approach to Addictive Disorders: Asian Insights (DIAAD-AI)

2. Submitter Information

- Organizer Name: Dr. Vivek Benegal

3. Program Objectives

- To learn about the developmental aspects influencing addictive behaviors, including genetics, temperament, and socio-dynamic determinants.
- To understand targeted stage based interventions tailored to developmental vulnerability.
- To explore successful technology models in training and treatment in the context of low and middle-income countries (LAMICS)

4. Target Audience

- Psychiatrists, Addiction Specialists, Clinical Psychologists, Social Workers, and other Mental Health Professionals

5. Program Details

Date & Time: 5th October 2025

Duration: 4 Hours (Including a 30-Minute Break)

Location: Prague

6. Brief explanation about the course:

About the Centre for Addiction Medicine (CAM), National Institute of Mental Illness and Neurosciences (NIMHANS):

The CAM, NIMHANS, is one of Southeast Asia's largest clinical and research hubs dedicated to addiction psychiatry. Over the past three decades, the center has pioneered a distinctive treatment model that adopts a developmentally informed approach to address addictive disorders. This evidence-based model has been scaled successfully, using telemedicine and digital networks equipping thousands of healthcare professionals to deliver effective addiction care within their communities through the use of innovative technologies.

About the course:

Addiction, whether to substances or behaviors, is predominantly a disorder of young age, with its origins in adolescence and early adulthood. People who manifest difficulties in cognitive and emotional control (externalizing/internalizing temperaments) starting from early childhood are especially vulnerable. Addiction is increasingly understood using developmentally informed models and better treated using developmental-stage-based strategies. Social determinants also strongly determine risk, manifestation and outcomes of addictive disorders, and the socioeconomic and political realities of LAMIC environments present unique challenges.

Treatment strategies for addictions in resource-poor settings face distinct challenges at individual, family, and community levels. Supporting individuals with addiction requires more than just treating substance use; it involves identifying and addressing the developmental and psychosocial factors that influence susceptibility, course and relapse. Lack of access to safe, ethical, effective professional care, across LAMIC settings, also creates huge treatment gaps,

inadequate treatment with violation of rights, abuse and exploitation as caregivers are forced to rely on increasing numbers of "rehabilitation centres" operating outside of established legal and ethical guidelines,

This course adopts a developmental framework for understanding and managing addictive disorders, emphasizing the critical role of developmental vulnerabilities in shaping treatment needs, while highlighting some successful strategies of a multipronged treatment strategy which addresses a] temperamental and exposomal vulnerabilities; b] neuroadaptation to repeated use of substances or specific behaviors; c] cumulative impacts of vulnerability + neuroadaptation on individual, interpersonal and social functioning as well as risk of relapse.

Additionally, the course explores strategies to address the treatment gap in low-resource settings, particularly in LAMICs. It highlights the successful application of technology-based solutions—such as telemedicine services and structured training programs—to expand access to care, enhance service delivery, and promote sustainable addiction treatment models in underserved regions.

Time	Topic & Delivery Methods	Facilitators
20 minutes	Introduction to course Division of groups Ice breaking	Dr. Vivek Benegal
10 minutes	Slido Quiz	Dr. Narasimha and Dr. Prabhat Chand
45 minutes	Developmentally Informed Approach to Assessment of Addictive Disorders (DIAAD): LMICs perspective 15 Minutes Didactic 15 Minutes case presentation 15 Minutes discussion	Dr. Jayant
15 minutes	Activity	Team and members
45 minutes	DIAAD-driven management of addictive disorders 15 Minutes Didactic 15 Minutes case presentation 15 Minutes discussion	Dr. Vivek Benegal
30 minutes	Break	Networking
40 minutes	Technology to reduce treatment gap in SUDs: A Virtual Knowledge Network Model for LMICs 20 minutes didactic with successful models 20 minutes discussion	Prof. Prabhat Chand
20 minutes	Telemedicine model of care in LMICS	Dr. Venkata Lakshmi Narasimha
15 minutes	Summary, Q and A	Team

7. Program Methodology

- Case-Based Learning
- Interactive quizzes
- Group activities & Roleplays

8. Key Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of developmental influences on addiction.
- Improved awareness of targeted, evidence-based intervention strategies.
- Learn successful technology models in training and treatment from low and middle-income countries.