

Public health focus for World Health Organization regional forum

Professor Steve Allsop, Director of the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), recently attended the first World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre regional forum for the Western Pacific. NDRI is a WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Professor Allsop's Curtin colleague, Dr Helen Brown, from the University's School of Public Health, also attended the forum, held in the Philippines. Dr Brown is Director of the WHO collaborating centre for environmental health impact assessment. The forum brought together WHO

collaborating centres from 10 member states in the Western Pacific region, with the aim to strengthen strategic partnerships and to share best practices to address public health challenges.

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The meeting focussed on how WHO collaborating centres can contribute to WHO strategic directions, share expertise and collaborate to address public health concerns, from communicable diseases to issues such as mental health and drug and alcohol related problems.

Both Professor Allsop and Dr Brown were presented with a plaque of appreciation by Dr Shin Young-Soo, Regional Director of the WHO regional office for the Western Pacific.

