Bibliography of Published/Posted Studies, Reviews, Commentaries, and presentations on Congress 60 Treatment Philosophy and Methods (and Related Studies)

(January 5, 2025)

Compiled by William L. White, M.A., Emeritus Senior Research Consultant, Chestnut Health Systems, USA

Congress 60 is a non-governmental organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran dedicated to the treatment of drug addiction. Founded in 1998, Congress 60 now (2023) exists in more than 100 branches in Iran with more than 140,000 members. Within Congress 60, addiction recovery is viewed as a fundamental reconstruction of one's body (neurological repair), psyche (mind and character), spirit (worldview), and interpersonal relationships. Such transformations are facilitated by time limited medication support (opium tincture titrated over approximately 11 months), encouragement and facilitation of concurrent smoking cessation, and deep involvement in a vibrant recovery culture offering numerous peer recovery support activities for individuals and families. Further information on Congress 60 can be obtained on its website at

https://www.congress60.org/EnUS/Congress-60-Human-Revivification-Society-The-Addiction-Treatment.

The purpose of this document is to provide a listing of scientific studies and related commentaries that have been published in scientific/medical/professional journals related to Congress 60. Listed citations were identified through major search engines (Medline, PubMEd, Google Scholar, Science.gov, RefSeek, Dimensions, ERIC, Semantic Scholar, ResearchGate, JURN, and WorldWideScience), and personal communications with Congress 60 founder Mr. Hossein Dezhakam. It is hoped this document will provide scholars with a summary of research to date conducted on Congress 60's treatment philosophy and methods as well as encourage further collaborations between Congress 60 and the international addictions research community.

Addiction Treatment in Iran

Ekhtiari, H., Noroozi, A., Farhoudian, A., Radfar, S. R., Hajebi, A., et al, (2020). The evolution of addiction treatment and harm reduction programs in Iran: a chaotic response or a synergistic diversity? *Addiction*, 115(7), 1395-1403.

Figg-Franzoi, L. (2011). Maslahat, the state and the people: Opium use in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Crime Law and Social Change*, 56(4).

DOI: 10.1007/s10611-011-9326-1

Pirnia, B., Dezhakam, H., Pirnia, K., Malekanmehr, P., Soleimani, A. A. et al (2020). COVID-19 pandemic and addiction: Current problems in Iran. *Asian J Psychiatr*, 54, 102313. PMID: 32738562

Razaghi E, Farhoudian A, Pilevari A, Noroozi A, Hooshyari Z, Radfar R, Malekinejad M. (2023) Identification of the socio-cultural barriers of drug addiction treatment in Iran. *Heliyon*, 18, 9(5), e15566. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e15566. PMID: 37131427; PMCID: PMC10149210.

Congress 60 History and Current Status

Dezhakam, H. (2022). Innovations in Addiction Treatment and Recovery: The Story of Congress 60. Tehran, Congress 60.

Dezhakam, H. (1996) Crossing the Zone 60 Degrees Below Zero. Tehran, Congress 60.

Dezhakam, H. (2011). Love: Fourteen Valleys for Recovery. Tehran, Congress 60.

Dezhakam, H. (2019). Recovery community organization leadership. (Blog) posted September 3, 2019, at https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/335/William-White/2019/10/Recovery-Community-Organization-Leadership/blog-post/.

Dezhakam, H. (2021). Peer support within an Iranian recovery community. (Blog) Posted November 4, 2021, at https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/416/William-White/2021/11/Peer-Support-within-an-Iranian-Recovery-Community/blog-post/

Dezhakam, H. (2021). The role of worldview in addiction recovery: Perspectives from Mr. Hossein Dezhakam. https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/420/William-White/2021/12/The-Role-of-Worldview-in-Addiction-Recovery-Perspectives-from-Mr-Hossein-Dezhakam-Iran/blog-post/

Recovered drug users are top players in the rugby club. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. https://www.unodc.org/islamicrepublicofiran/en/former-drug-users-are-top-players-in-the-rugby-club-.html

White, W. (2012). An addiction recovery community in the Islamic Republic of Iran: An interview with Mr. Hossein Dezhakam, Founder, Congress 60. Posted at https://www.chestnut.org/resources/2329a25f-6865-4722-8314-5f9d7e9d5859/2011-percent-20Iran-percent-20Mr-percent-20Hossein-percent-20Dezhakam.pdf

White, W. (2023) (Editor) *The Little Book: Reflections on addiction and recovery of Hossein Dezhakam*, Founder Congress 60, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran: Congress 60.

White, W. (2015). Congress 60: An addiction recovery community within the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, 33(3), 328-347.

White, W. (2016). Congress 60: A recovery community in the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Counselor*, 17(5), 47-51.

The X Theory and DST Method

Dezhakam, H. (2018). Addiction as a brain disease: Perspectives from the Islamic Republic of Iran. (Blog) Posted March 8, 2018, at https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/252/William-White/2018/3/Addiction-as-a-Brain-Disease-Perspectives-from-the-Islamic-Republic-of-Iran/blog-post/.

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., Dezhakam, S. & Haghighatfard, A. (2023). A new taper-off treatment of opium dependents can lead to cure of the addiction as well as an improvement of cognitive functions. *MOJ Addict Med Ther.*, 8(1), 8–11.

Ranjbaran, M. & Sahraei, H. (2013). Commentary: New view on treatment of drug dependence. *Basic and Clinical Neuroscience*, 5(1), 96-97.

White, W. (2018). Addiction as a brain disease (Perspectives from the Islamic Republic of Iran) https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/252/William-White/2018/3/Addiction-as-a-Brain-Disease-Perspectives-from-the-Islamic-Republic-of-Iran/blog-post/

Congress 60 Studies

Abdollahi, M., Gorgzadeh, N., Motevalian, S. A., Shadnia, S, & Soltaninejad, K. (2017). Status of total antioxidant capacity and malondialdehyde level in methamphetamine addicts: A cross sectional study. *International Journal of Medical Toxicology and Forensic Medicine*, 7(1), 19-25.

Bakht, T. G., Yaghoubi, A. & kheyrabi, M. Z. (2014). Comparing the personality types, quality of life and coping styles in men consuming crack and healthy individuals, *European Online Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*, October. (NOTE: Came up in Search of Congress 60 but Congress 60 not referenced specifically in article, notes subjects from 4 treatment clinics)

Danesh, S. Y., S., Mohebi, S. & Massoumi, A. (2015). The comparison of the efficacy of methadone maintenance therapy with congress 60's group therapy on behavioral disorders and mood symptoms of drug addicts in Qom, Iran. F1000Research, 6. https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-comparison-of-the-efficacy-of-methadone-therapy-Danesh-Mohebi/17fc2971eb231274e4360e20200ea9ad1661c5c7

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., Dezhakam, S., Dezhakam, A., Haghighatfard, A. (2023). A new protocol of methamphetamine dependence treatment with taper-up-off treatment of opium tincture, a new hope to cure the methamphetamine addiction. *Int J Psychiatry*, 8(3), 40-44.

Dezhakam A, Dezhakam H, Haghighatfard A. (2022). Taper off treatment can improve executive functions and regulate expression of BDNF and 5HTTPLR genes in opium abusers after six months period. *J Psych Sci Res.*, 2(2), 1–8.

Haghshenas Bilehsavar S, Batouli SA, Soukhtanlou M, Alavi S, Oghabian M. (2022). Different olfactory perception in heroin addicts using functional magnetic resonance imaging. *Basic Clin Neurosci.*, 3(2), 257-268. doi: 10.32598/bcn.12.6.2210.1. Epub 2022 Mar 1. PMID: 36425954; PMCID: PMC9682317.

Maarefvand, M., Ghiasvand, H. R., Ekhtiari, H. (2013). Drug craving terminology among opiate dependents; A mixed method study. *Iran J Psychiatry*, 8(2), 97-103. PMID: 24130609; PMCID: PMC3796301.

Moeeni, S. S., Rastgoo Sisakht, R., Vousooghi, N., Kamali, K., Raisi, F., Mokri, A.. (2021). Comparing sexual function between opioid dependents consuming methadone or opium tincture. *Iran. J Psychiatry*., 16(3), 312-319. doi: 10.18502/ijps.v16i3.6257. PMID: 34616465; PMCID: PMC8452837.

Noroozi, A., Conigrave, K. M., Mirrahimi, B., Bastani, P., Charkhgard, N. et al, (2021). Factors influencing engagement and utilisation of opium tincture-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder: A qualitative study in Tehran, Iran. Drug & Alcohol Review, July, https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13357

Panaghi, L., Ahmadabadi, Z., Khosravi, N., Sadeghi, M. S., Madanipour, A. (2016). Living with addicted men and codependency: The moderating effect of personality traits. *Addict Health*, 8(2), 98-106. PMID: 27882207; PMCID: PMC5115643.

Pilevari, A. & Asl, M. Z. (2021). The effects of drug addiction treatment methods on families' behaviors: The Congress 60 treatment method. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 131, 108564.

Pirnia B, Dezhakam H, Pirnia K, Malekanmehr P, Rezaeian M. (2020). Grief of COVID-19 is a mental contagion, first family suicide in Iran. *Asian J Psychiatr.*, 54, 102340. doi: 10.1016/j.ajp.2020.102340. Epub 2020 Aug 3. PMID: 32777756; PMCID: PMC7834061.

Pirniaa, B., Dezhakam, H., Pirnia, K., Malekanmehr, P., Soleimani, A. A., et al (2020). COVID-19 pandemic and addiction: Current problems in Iran. *Asian J Psychiatr.*, 54, 102313. doi: 10.1016/j.ajp.2020.102313; PMCID: PMC7377711; PMID: 32738562

Shaditalab, J., Azizzadeh, M. & Khanjaninejad, L. (2011). The need for gender-responsive programs: A qualitative study. United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), May.

Tavakoli, M., Sahaf, R., Farhoudian, A., & Bakhtavar, Y. (2012). The influence of detoxification on the quality of life in substance addicts lives with 40-65 years of age referring to the charity "Congress60. *Salmand: Iranian Journal of Ageing*, 6 (S1), 34-40.

URL: http://salmandj.uswr.ac.ir/article-1-480-en.html

Tavakoli, M., Sahaf, R., Ghaffari, S. Farhoudian, , & Hayatbakhsh, r. (2012). Cost Benefit analysis of detoxification in addicts over 40 in human recovery population (Congress 60). *Archives of Rehabilitation*,12, 52-57}. https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:70521587

Zahedi Asl, M., & Pilevari, A. (2018). A study of the cognitive processes of ex- addicts and their families (Case study: Congress 60). *Social Sciences*, 24(79), 33-73. doi: 10.22054/qjss.2017.23549.1595

Related Papers on the Use of Opium Tinture in Addiction Treatment

Bahadori, Z., Safaie, N., & Mirmohammadkhani, M. (2022). Comparison of psychiatric disorders in addicted patients treated with buprenorphine, methadone, and opium tincture in Iran. *Middle East Current Psychiatry*, 29.

Daneshmand, R., Mehrjerdi, Z. A., & Samiee, M. (2014). Maintenance treatment with opium tincture: a preliminary qualitative study of the factors related to treatment entry. *Iranian J Public Health*, 43, 1123.

Kamali, M., Kamali, H., Doustmohammadi, M.M., Sheikhbardsiri, H., & Moghadari, M. (2021). Treatment of opium addiction in persian medicine: A review study. *Journal of Education and Health Promotion*, 10.

Kim, J. J., Nikoo, M., Nikoo, N., Javidanbardan, S., Kazemi, A. et al (2023). Quality of life of patients treated with opium tincture or methadone: A randomized controlled trial. *Drug Alcohol Depend*, 249, 110874.

Krausz, M., Akhondzadeh, S. (2015). Comparing opium tincture (OT) with methadone for substitution treatment of opioid dependence (OT-RCT). Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02502175

Mehrjerdi, A. Z & Zarghami, M. (2013). Maintenance therapy with opium tincture for injecting drug users; implications for prevention from viral infections. *Hepat Mon*, 13(4), e8334. PMID: 23805161

Nikoo, M., Kianpoor, K., Nikoo, N., Javidanbardan, S., Kazemi, A., et al (20223). Opium tincture versus methadone for opioid agonist treatment: a randomized controlled trial. *Addiction*, 118(2), 284-294.

Nikoo, M., Nikoo, N, Anbardan, S. J., Amiri, A, et al (2016). Tincture of opium for treating opioid dependence: A systeamitc review of safety and efficacy. *Addiction*, 112, 414-429.

Nikoo, M., Moazen-Zadeh, E., Nikoo, N., Javidanbardan, S., Kazemi, A., et al (2019). Comparing opium tincture and methadone for medication-assisted treatment of patients

with opioid use disorder: Protocol for a multicenter parallel group noninferiority double-blind randomized controlled trial. *Int J Methods Psychiatr Res*, 28(1) e1768.

Noroozi, A., Conigrave, K. M., Mirrahimi, B., Bastani, P., Charkhgard, N., et al (2022). Factors influencing engagement and utilisation of opium tincture-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder: A qualitative study in Tehran, Iran. *Drug Alcohol Rev*, 41(2), 419-429.

Rahimi-Movaghar, A., Amin-Esmaeili, M., Hefazi, M., & Yousefi-Nooraie, R. (2013). Pharmacological therapies for maintenance treatments of opium dependence. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, (1), Article Cd007775. https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD007775.pub2.

Tabassomi, F., Zarghami, M., Shiran, M. R., Farnia, S. & Davoodi, M. (2016). Opium tincture versus methadone syrup in management of acute raw opium withdrawal: A randomized, double-blind, controlled trial. *J Addict Dis*, 35(1), 8-14.

Z A, M. (2013). Tincture of opium prevents non-prescribed use of benzodiazepines among opium-dependent women: potential applications for clinical practice. *J Addict Res Ther*, 4, 1.

Congress 60 Smoking Cessation Studies

Al-Jayyousi, G. F. & Al-Qashoti, MK. R. (2022). Tobacco cessation programs and factors associated with their effectiveness in the Middle East: A systematic review. *Tobacco Induced Diseases*, 3(20) 84. doi: 10.18332/tid/153972.

White, W. (2018). A vision of tobacco-free recovery communities. https://www.chestnut.org/Blog/Posts/236/William-White/2018/1/A-Vision-of-Tobaccofree-Recovery-Communities/blog-post/

White, W.L., Daneshmand, R., Funk, R. & Dezhakam, H. (2016). A pilot study of smoking cessation within an Iranian addiction recovery community. *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, 34(1), 15-29.

Use of DST Method for Treatment of Other Medical Illnesses

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam A., Dezhakam, A, Dezhakam, S., & Haghighatfard, A. (2024). Novel protocol of opium tincture oral consumption in three female cases with breast cancer, *Clinical Research and Clinical Reports*, 3(11); DOI:10.31579/2835-8325/136

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., & Haghighatfard, A. (2024). D.SAP, a formulation derived from apples, showed the potential to reduce inflammation in COVID-19 infected patients. *International Journal of Clinical Studies and Medical Case Reports*, 45(4), 1-5. DOI: 10.46998/IJCMCR.2024.45.001119

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., Dezhakam, A., Dezhakam, S. & Haghighatfard, A. (2023). Short report of potential melinogenesis effects of taper up-off of opium tincture in rodent model of multiple sclerosis. *Research Square*. Accessed at https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3853761/v1

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., Dezhakam, S. & Haghighatfard, A. (2023). Novel Protocol of Opium Tincture Oral Usage in Two Cases with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and Hodgkin Lymphoma. *Mathews Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 8(2), 1-5. https://doi.org/10.30654/MJGH.10021

Dezhakam, H., Dezhakam, A., & Haghighatfard, A. (2022). Taper up-off treatment of opium may reverse some dysregulations of gene expression patterns caused by four type of leukemia, AML, ALL, CML and CLL; a pilot animal model study. *Gastroenterology & Hepatology: Open Access*.

Pirnia, B., Dezhakam, H., Pirnia, K., Malekanmehr, P., & Rezaeian, M. (2020). Grief of COVID-19 is a mental contagion, first family suicide in Iran. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*, 54, 102340 - 102340.

Recent Presentations at Professional, Scientific, and Medical Conferences

Dezhakam, H. New approach to the treatment of cancer. AACR-KCA Jpoint Conference on Precision Medicine in Cancer. Seoul, South Korea, November 21-22, 2024.

Dezhakam, H. Early results of a gene expression study of a new method of opium treatment showed inhibition of metastasis in breast cancer rodent model at the 7th Edition of International Cancer Conference (ICC 2024) Baltimore, Maryland, USA 17-19 October, 2024

Dezhakam, H. Potential Myelinogenesis effects of taper up-off of opium tincture in animal model of multiple sclerosis. Immuno-Oncology Summit; August 7-9,2024 Philadelphia, USA.

Dezhakam, H. Short report of wound healing pathway activation after taper up-off treatment method of opium in ulcerative colitis model IMMUNOLOGY 2024, American Association of Immunologists. Held on May 3-7, 2024/ Chicago, Illinois, USA

Dezhakam, H. Metastasis inhibition in breast cancer animal model treated by a novel protocol of taper-up-off of opium tincture oral usage. International conference on cancer research and diagnostics. International conference on interventional oncology. (ICCRD) Held on 24-26 October 2023 in New York City, USA

Dezhakam, H. Comparison of taper-off method of opium tincture and 12-Steps Narcotics Anonymous method for opium dependence treatment. 4th Edition of Global Conference on Addiction Medicine, Behavioral Health and Psychiatry (GAB 2023)

Held on October 19-20, 2023 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Dezhakam, H. A novel protocol of taper-up-off of opium tincture could inhibit angiogenesis in animal model of Breast cancer. International conference on interventional oncology (ICIO) Held on 27-29 October 2023 in Washington DC,

Dezhakam, H. D,Sap an Iranian apple vinegar may reduce the lung inflammation in the rat model of SARS-Cov-2. Hot Topics: Hot Topics on Influenza, RSV and COVID-19. The fifth ESWI Influenza Conference. Presented December 4-7, 2021. Hannover, Germany.

Dezhakam, H. Taper up-off treatment of opium can alter the gene expression profile of acute lymphoid leukemia: A pilot rat model study. ICMBO 2021: International Conference on Medical Biology and Oncology. December 20-21, 2021. Dubai, UAE.

Dezhakam, H. Specially formulated Iranian apple vinegar called D.SAP could treat the rat model of COVID-19 infection. Hot Topics: Hot Topics on Influenza, RSV and COVID-19. The fifth ESWI Influenza Conference. Presented December 4-7, 2021. Hannover, Germany.

Dezhakam, H. Taper up-off treatment of opium can altered the gene expression profile of acute lymphoid leukemia: A pilot rat model study. American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA. April 8-13, 2022.

Dezhakam, H.Taper up-off treatment of opium as a potential new treatment of leukemia: New methods & new hypothesis about cancer. American Cancer Society, Annual Symposium of novel achievements in diagnosis and treatment of leukemia. Atlanta, Georgia, December, 1922.

Dezhakam, H.Isolation and molecular identification of lactic acid bacteria from D.Sap, a new fermented solution. 25th International Conference on Food Technology & Processing, Barcelona, Spain, Presented October 6-7, 2021.

Mokri, A., Alishahraki, M., Yaghoubi, M., editors. (2007). Substitution treatment with tincture of opium: preliminary results of an open label clinical trial in Iran. Warsaw, Poland: 18th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.