


Monica Barzanti

Monica Barzanti, currently Head of International Relations at San Patrignano, began collaborating with San Patrignano as an educator in 1979, mentoring girls, young women and mothers with their children in their recovery from substance use disorders. In 1998 she joined the International Relations Team, working in the area of drug policies. Since 2006 she has been a member of the Vienna NGO Committee, representing San Patrignano at UN events. She also coordinates and tutors study visits and trainings at the Community by students, voluntary groups, social workers, policy makers, scholars and people working in the field of drugs, both Italian and foreign. She is consultant and expert in recovery and prevention methods and transfer of expertise.


Agnes Chen

Agnes Chen is a Registered Nurse and the founder and Executive Director at Starlings Community, a not-for-profit whose mission is to protect the health and promote the healing of youth exposed to the stress and stigma of a parent's substance use. As a passionate advocate, she utilizes her personal and professional experience to lead a national movement that recognizes the harm that substance use stigma imposes on the health and well-being of Canadian youth and to inspire a society that supports whole families to flourish.


Calixta de Balmaceda

Psychologist, specialist in prevention and treatment of addictions with more than 29 years of experience. Project Coordinator for the Cruz Blanca Panameña.

Teacher and coordinator of the psychology course at UDELAS Colón extension.

Coordinator of the Prevention Commission in the Red Iberoamericana de ONG que trabajan en drogodependencia (RIOD).

International certified trainer - Familias Fuertes.

International Certified Trainer UPC Universal Prevention Curriculum.

Certified Trainer Universal Treatment Curriculum UTC.

Member of the Global Training Network UPC-UTC, ISSUP, CICAD-OEA, Plan Colombo, UNODC.


Berenice Gomez

Social Psychologist from the Autonomous Metropolitan University of Barcelona.

Master in Drug Addiction from the University of Barcelona.

Psychologist at Espai Ariadna and at the Gender Violence and Addictions centers of the Fundación Salud y Comunidad.


María José Vera

With a degree in Psychology, María José's background in Dianova Spain began in 2002 as a volunteer and later she joined the multidisciplinary team as a social educator and psychologist. Since 2007 she has been director of the Santa Elena Therapeutic Educational Center, to become the Las Torrecillas Therapeutic Educational Center (Córdoba) in 2019. María José has extensive knowledge and experience in working with minors with addiction and associated behavior problems from the perspective of current regulations in relation to child protection, as well as in the team management in residential centers.


Gisela Hansen

Doctor in Psychology specialized in addictions, mental health, gender and rights perspective. Director of the Dianova Association in Spain. Professor and researcher at the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychobiology at the University of Barcelona. Master's degree in research on adult psychopathology and dual pathology. Master's degree in child and adolescent clinical psychopathology. She has extensive residential addiction treatment experience. Various participations in international forums and activity and political incidence of the United Nations-CND (Vienna), EFTC, Consultant for European projects on addictions, gender and childhood. Member of the Board of Directors of the Ibero-American Network of NGOs working on drugs and addictions and of the Catalan Federation of Drug Addictions.