



Biography

Prof. Fatima El Omari is Professor of Psychiatry and Addictology at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat (Mohammed V University) and Head of the Addictology Department at the Ar-Razi University Psychiatric Hospital (Rabat-Salé). She also directs the University Diploma in Addictology, contributing to the training of healthcare professionals in Morocco.

Her work is based on an integrated approach to addictions, combining clinical care, public health, prevention, harm reduction, and clinical research.

She is Vice-President of the Moroccan Association of Addictology (AMA) and a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM), where she chairs the Education and Training Committee.

She also serves as Morocco's permanent correspondent to the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

Her research interests include opioid agonist treatment, cannabis and cocaine use, dual diagnosis, harm reduction, prevention, behavioral addictions, and public health policies. She has authored several scientific publications and is actively involved in international collaborations in Africa.

Addictions in North Africa: Emerging Dynamics, Challenges and Public Health Opportunities

This presentation provides an overview of the evolving landscape of addictions in North Africa within the broader African context. It begins with an analysis of the situation in Africa, highlighting the rapid increase in substance use and emerging public health challenges. It then focuses on the epidemiology in North Africa, including patterns of substance use, the emergence of new substances, and the growing role of behavioral addictions.

The presentation also examines the organization of healthcare systems and the availability of addiction services in the region, identifying both progress and existing gaps. Particular attention is given to treatment approaches, including opioid agonist therapy (OAT) and harm reduction strategies, as well as their implementation.

Prevention strategies are discussed, emphasizing current limitations and the need for more structured and targeted interventions. Finally, the presentation addresses specific populations, including women, youth, incarcerated individuals, and people who use drugs, highlighting the importance of tailored approaches.

Overall, this presentation aims to provide an integrated perspective on addictions in North Africa, outlining both challenges and opportunities for strengthening public health responses.