

The International Society of Addiction Medicine



INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION IN ADDICTION MEDICINE

APPLICATION FORM 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Degrees: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Exam Location: SASKATOON Exam Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Deadline: August 31, 2006

*The examination is composed of 225 multiple choice questions testing knowledge and some clinical judgment. The exam will take 4 ½ hours and will be administered in two parts with a 15 min health break in between and will be proctored by two faculties, one external and one local. An examination site will be determined by the location of at least 10 eligible candidates.*

**Eligibility requirements:** Please send the following.

1. Copy of Graduation Certificate from a medical school recognized by the World Health Organization.
2. Copy of a valid license to practice medicine in a given licensing jurisdiction (national, region). A medical license is to be provided which is valid at the time of application and at the time of the examination.
3. Three Reference/Recommendation letters to attest to good standing in the medical community:
  - Two letters from *physicians* who have known the applicant for at least two (2) years and are acquainted with the applicant's current professional status, medical practice, and involvement in the field of addiction medicine.
  - One letter of reference from a current ISAM member who can attest to or verify the physicians' good standing in the medical community.
4. Current Curriculum Vitae/resume documenting:
  - a substantial portion of medial practice in the addiction field over a continuous 3- yr period
  - List of Continuing Education (conferences, workshops, courses) over the past three years.

**FEES:** An international money order made payable to the *International Society of Addiction Medicine* for \$700 US (non-ISAM members, \$600 US (ISAM members), \$625 US (for members of Affiliate Societies) is to be forwarded along with the application material to:

ISAM c/o Dr. el-Guebaly  
Foothills Hospital Addiction Centre, 1403 – 29 Street NW  
Calgary AB T2N 2T9

PLEASE NOTE: Rejected applications will be refunded minus a \$100US processing fee.

## The International Society of Addiction Medicine



**ISAM**

### **Disclaimer – PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN WITH APPLICATION**

Because the International Society of Addiction Medicine [ISAM] is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the credentials awarded, the Editorial Board has adopted a set of accountability standards related to the certification process. These standards exist to protect the public from those who seek to misrepresent their qualifications or their status as credentialed practitioners. All individuals applying to, or certified by, ISAM must comply with these standards.

### **APPLICANT CONSENT STATEMENT**

I understand that ISAM reserves the right to verify any or all information on this application and that any incorrect or misleading information may constitute grounds for rejection of my application or revocation of my certification. I authorize ISAM's officers and assigned examiners (the "designated parties") to review my application to determine whether I have met ISAM's standards for certification. I agree to cooperate promptly and fully in any review of my certification by ISAM, including submitting such documentation and information deemed necessary to confirm the information in my application. I indemnify and hold harmless ISAM and its designated parties from the decision made on my application so long as such decision was made in good faith and does not constitute gross negligence by ISAM or its designated parties.

I understand and agree that ISAM may deny my eligibility to take the ISAM International Certification Exam if any part of my application is incomplete or illegible, documented information does not meet the necessary requirements or the application does not include the correct fees.

I understand that I am to report to the testing location at least 45 (forty-five) minutes prior to the examination starting time. I understand and agree that I may not be permitted to enter the testing area if I arrive late for the examination and that I will not be granted additional time to complete the examination if I arrive late and am permitted to enter the testing area.

I understand that the decision of the examining Board is final and that there is no appeal process for my score.

I understand that the information relating to the certification process may be used for statistical purposes and for evaluation. I further understand that the information for certification records will be treated confidentially.

I understand that if certified, my name will become part of a registry and may be released for verification.

By signing, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this information, and agree to abide by these terms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Objective:

- ISAM's Certification of Addiction Medicine is a credentialing process that assures the public that the holder has the pre-requisite knowledge competence to practice in that field within the confines of his/her medical license.
- To met the needs of an international membership of practicing physicians for standardized, valid and affordable credentialing in addiction medicine

### Specific Knowledge and Skills

The field of Addiction Medicine requires knowledge of pharmacology, psychiatry, general medicine, and psychology, as well as an understanding of the interaction of these disciplines. In order to insure that the trainee is well-versed in these areas, training programs must include both hands-on experience in clinical situations as well as classroom and seminar sessions.

1. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of the use of all of the major categories of drugs/psychoactive (mood-altering) substances, including sedatives (alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates), stimulants (cocaine, amphetamine, tobacco), opioids, hallucinogens (marijuana, LSD, PCP) and inhalants (organic solvents, glue)
2. Recognition of the signs of abuse and dependence on these categories of drugs/substances.
3. Recognition of the signs of withdrawal from these major categories of drugs and knowledge and experience with the range of options for treatment of the withdrawal syndrome and its complications.
4. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of overdose and medical and psychiatric sequelae of these major categories of drugs and knowledge of the proper treatment of overdose.
5. Diagnosis of the medical sequelae of addiction, including hepatic, central nervous system, infectious, and HIV illness.
6. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of the psychological, social and spiritual problems accompanying the chronic use, abuse and dependence related to the major categories of drugs and knowledge of the range of management options.
7. Recognition and understanding of the special problems of drug/substance use, abuse and dependence during pregnancy and of the babies born to these mothers.
8. Recognition and understanding of the special problems of drug/substance use, abuse and dependence in target populations such as children and adolescents, women and seniors.
9. Recognition, education and appropriate treatment related to behavioral addictions like gambling, sex and love, internet, work, shopping etc.
10. Recognition, education and appropriate treatment of adjustment disorders and/or other concurrent illness in individuals and their family members

### BASIC CLINICAL EXPOSURE

1. Exposure in the clinical context to:
  - a) patients with substance-related disorders in a community, out-patient setting
  - b) hospitalized medical and surgical patients with substance-induced disorders and substance use disorders
  - c) psychiatric patients -- inpatient or outpatient -- with concurrent substance use disorders, specifically - Substance Abuse and Substance Dependence, including alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
  - d) families of above patients suffering from adjustment disorders
2. Laboratory assessments
  - a) biochemical indicators of chronic alcohol/drug use and their complications

- b) questionnaire assessments, such as the MAST, AUDIT and CAGE-AID
3. Knowledge of the evaluation and treatment of abuse of each of these categories of agents:
- a) depressants like alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates
  - b) opioids
  - c) cocaine and stimulants
  - d) marijuana and hallucinogens
  - e) inhalants like organic solvents, glue
4. Pharmacology of the aforementioned psychoactive/mood-altering substances
5. Types of treatment
- a) detoxification
  - b) medical complications of substance use disorders (including intravenous drug use and its related transmission of infectious diseases like Hepatitis B, C and AIDS)
  - c) rehabilitation models based on 12-step programs and other psycho-social-spiritual, behavioral approaches
  - d) counseling, individual psychotherapy and group psychotherapy
6. Exposure in the clinical context to the diagnosis and treatment of behavioral addictions

### **Recommended Textbooks and other basic references**

#### ***Basic Textbook***

- Graham A et al. Principles of Addiction Medicine. American Society of Addiction Medicine. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Chevy Chase, MD, 2003. [83%]

#### ***Additional Textbooks***

- Galanter M, Kleber HD. Textbook of Substance Abuse Treatment. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. American Psychiatric Press, Washington DC, 2004.
- Lowinson JH et al. Substance abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Williams & Wilkins, 2004.

#### ***Additional References***

- Ghodse H. Drug and Addictive Behavior. A guide to treatment. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Cambridge UK, 2003.
- DSM-IV TR. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. American Psychiatric Association, Washington DC, 2000.
- ICD 10. International Statistical Classification of diseases and Related Health Problems. [ONLY Section on Behavioral & Mental Disorders] 1989 revision, Geneva, World Health Organization, 1992.  
<http://www.who.int/whosis/icd10>
- World Health Organization. Neuroscience of psychoactive substance use and dependence. Geneva, 2004.
- ISAM Definitions, website [www.isamweb.org](http://www.isamweb.org)

### **225 questions on the following Content Areas**

- I. Definitions & Core Concepts, Basic Sciences, Epidemiology & Pharmacology
- II. Diagnosis, Assessment & Early Intervention  
incl Prevention & Family
- III. Intoxication & Withdrawal
- IV. Treatment: Outcomes incl family, Linkages, Pharmacological Interventions (Opioid), Behavior Interventions, 12-Step/Spirituality
- V. Workplace Issues/Physician Health
- VI. Medical Disorders & Complications
- VII. Psychiatric Comorbidities & Complications
- VIII. Pain and Addiction
- IX. Children, Adolescents
- X. Behavior Addictions

