

ISAM Newsletter – May 2002

See you in Reykjavik! October 2-5, 2002

Located in the North Atlantic, Reykjavik is the capital of Iceland, a unique island. A rich scientific program is being proposed by the Scientific Committee as well as opportunities to meet with our colleagues from Iceland and around the world. Optional excursions to waterfalls and glaciers next to warm, mineral rich lagoons will complete this unique experience. Accompanying persons are welcomed!!

How to register? Register online at: www.saa.is. Scroll down on your left hand side till you find the option ENGLISH and click on it for the English translation. Then click on "registration" on the right hand side under **4th ISAM Annual Meeting**.

WORD OF CAUTION!

Please note: registration fee by June 2nd for ISAM members is ISK 29,000 (~\$305 US or \$410 CDN). Last year in Trieste, some registrants benefited from the reduction without paying their ISAM dues. This year we are forwarding a list of paid up members for 2001/2002 and only those will be eligible for the special ISAM rate. So please send your membership dues to our office as soon as possible by cheque or VISA credit card only.

Submission to the scientific program, also involves a commitment to be present at the conference. Non-attendance without major reason will be recorded and future submissions will not be accepted.

BOARD ROTATION: ISAM matures!

At the meeting in Reykjavik, the Founding Board will complete its first term, An election committee, chaired by myself as senior Vice-President, has been asked to review the Board composition and ensure regional representation. Maturing organizations need a rotation in board membership and it is anticipated that up to one-third of our Board will rotate at the end of the meeting.

We are looking for new Board members from every region so please submit to our office your curriculum vitae if you wish to be considered. Submissions are to be forwarded at the latest July 15th to ISAM's office [nady.el-guebaly@calgaryhealthregion.ca].

The committee has established the following criteria for consideration of Board membership:

- Full membership
- Current dues payment
- Representation of national, regional or subspecialty constituencies
- Demonstrated active involvement with ISAM through either one or more of:
 - recruitment of new members
 - organization of annual, regional or co-sponsored meetings
 - fund-raising activities
 - involvement with position papers and committees
 - presentations at meetings
 - submissions to e.publication

Yours truly,
G.D. Talbott, MD

INTERNATIONAL ADDICTION

Our e.publication will be on its third issue by the end of the month. Please check at:
<http://ahdp.lib.ucal.gary.ca/IA>

The contents of the Third edition will be:

Editorial Nady el-Guebaly, MD

Methadone at an Australian Teaching Hospital: a clinical audit from 1988 - 1993

Aidan Foy, MD & AP White, MD
Newcastle Mater Misericordiae Hospital, NSW Australia

Definitions Related to the Use of Opiates for the Treatment of Pain (reprinted with permission of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society and the American Society of Addiction Medicine)

Committee: Seddon Savage (Chair), Ed Covinton, MD, Howard Heit, MD, John Hunt, MD, David Joranson, MD & Sidney Schnoll, MD

Facets of Drug Abuse in Egypt: An Overview

Tarek Gawad, MD
Addiction Unit, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

Alcohol and mortality crisis in Belarus

Yuri Razvodovsky, MD
Grodno State Medical University, Belarus

Your comments on the articles will be welcomed!

NOTICE: SEARCH FOR NEW EDITOR

One of the signs of ISAM's maturation is the increase in commitments required from our office. We need help to continue our growth. International Addiction is an e.publication issued currently twice/year to all 700 corresponding members of ISAM from 87 countries.

A new editor and editorial office is required. Expressions of interest are to be submitted to ISAM's office by July 15th at the latest and should include statements about:

- Demonstrated experience in e.communication
- Resources available to ensure a self-sustaining publication
- Strategy to ensure a track of international publications
- Proposed editorial governance linkage with ISAM

The editorship is a Board appointment for a duration of 3 years, renewable.

UPDATE ON OUR TASK FORCE REPORTS

As you know, a number of task forces were established in Trieste concerning issues prioritized by the Board. They replaced board mandate committees that had been relatively inactive. They include:

1. Draft of international curriculum in Addiction Medicine
It is my pleasure to report Dr. M. Galanter's draft as Appendix A. We welcome you to share your comments with him [marcgalanter@nyu.edu] and/or the other coordinators: Dr. P. Mecziems [pmdoc@sympatico.ca], Dr. J. Gleser [jorge.gleser@moh.health.gov.il] and Dr. P. Haber [phaber@mail.usyd.edu.au].
2. Basic Medical Education in Addictions
Dr. F. Poldrugo has promised us an early draft with the contribution of Drs. D. Mohan and J.P. Allen.
3. Principles of Addiction Treatment
Drs. C. Brewer and M. Delgado are spearheading this effort. They will now be joined by Dr. S. Blume.
4. Physician Health
A presentation in Reykjavik will form the basis for a set of guidelines to be discussed by ISAM. Dr. D. Talbott is our coordinator for this effort.
5. Adolescent Substance Abuse
Dr. Y. Kaminer has announced the new formation of SASATE , Society for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Effectiveness, whose founding meeting will be at the CPDD meeting in Quebec City on Monday, June 10th, 2002. We look forward to the collaboration between SASATE and ISAM and to a presentation in Reykjavik.
6. Opioid Addiction and Chronic Pain
Please peruse in International Addiction, the definitions adopted by a consortium of American societies. They should serve as a template for further ISAM guidelines regarding this important challenge.

We are interested in ensuring the development of ISAM position statements to further our field.

ADDICTION MEDICINE – International Practice Profiles Proposal for a book

From the submissions we receive for "International Addiction" there is an obvious desire to describe what goes on nationally in the practice of Addiction Medicine as well as identifying common global themes.

It is our intention to propose a book with chapters, 10-12 pages long each, describing the practice of our profession in a given country/region. Those interested in participating in such a project are welcome to correspond at your earliest convenience with ISAM's office at: nady.el-guebaly@calgaryhealthregion.ca or Dr. N. el-Guebaly, Foothills Hospital Addiction Centre, 1403 – 29 Street NW, Calgary Alberta T2N 2T9 CANADA

Some track record of publications in English would be helpful.

MEETINGS

Where is the next Annual meeting after REYKJAVIK?

Toronto, April 30 – May 4, 2003

ISAM continues to experiment with meeting formats. In Toronto, the ISAM meeting will be conjointly held with ASAM's first meeting outside the United States.

This should be an opportunity for our two organizations to share experiences! We will have an ISAM scientific meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2003 followed by the ASAM meeting on May 2-3-4 with enhanced international participation.

AFFILIATE MEETING – First World Forum

Reminder of The First World Forum, Montreal, Sept 23-27, 2002. This much anticipated multidisciplinary global forum has received up to 600 submissions so far. For further information on the World Forum please check their website at: www.worldforumdrugs-dependencies.com

Argentina's Regional Meeting 2002 Where there's a will there's a way!

The media has covered extensively the economic woes of this lovely country! Special recognition is therefore extended to salute the enthusiastic optimism of our ISAM members who organized a successful symposium with the National Drug Agency (SEDRONAR) in Buenos Aires on April 15-20, 2002, as well as a series of presentations coinciding with the XVIII Meeting of the Argentinian Psychiatric Association at Mar del Plata.

ISAM speakers included Drs. Joseph Beasley, Maria Cristina Delgado, Nady el-Guebaly, Wayne Moran and Flavio Poldrugo. The organizing committee was composed of Dr. Carolina Bergoglio, Dr. Dario Gigena, Dr. Javier Didia Attas and of course our own dynamic ISAM Secretary, Dr. Maria Delgado who with the full support of Dr. Graziella Locatelli, President of Argentina's Psychiatric Association ensured high visibility to our program. We also wish Dr. Grimson and Dr. Verruno from SEDRONAR full success in this difficult task.

The presence of this dedicated group as well as critical mass of colleagues is allowing us to consider an ISAM annual meeting for South American in Buenos Aires in 2005.

CONCLUSIONS

The many activities reported in this newsletter should reassure you that ISAM is indeed a growing and maturing organization.

Looking forward to your feedback.

N. el-Guebaly, MD

APPENDIX A

Basic Medical Substance Abuse Curriculum **Dr. Marc Galanter**

1. *Exposure in the clinical context to:*
 - a) *patients with primary alcohol and/or drug abuse and dependency*
 - b) *hospitalized medical and surgical patients with drug and/or alcohol abuse and dependency*
 - c) *psychiatric patients -- inpatient or outpatient -- with chemical dependency*
 - d) *optional: families of above patients*
2. *Laboratory assessments*
 - a) *biochemical indicators of chronic alcohol/drug use*
 - b) *questionnaire assessments, such as the MAST and the CAGE*
3. *Knowledge of the evaluation and treatment of abuse of each of these agents:*
 - a) *alcohol*
 - b) *opiates*
 - c) *cocaine and stimulants*
 - d) *marijuana and hallucinogens*
 - e) *benzodiazepines*
4. *Pharmacology of the aforementioned drugs*
5. *Types of treatment*
 - a) *detoxification*
 - b) *medical complications of chemical dependency (including AIDS)*
 - c) *rehabilitation models based on 12-step programs*
 - d) *individual therapy or counseling*

Specific Knowledge and Skills

The field of substance abuse 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, including sedatives (alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates), stimulants (cocaine, amphetamine), opiates, and hallucinogens.
2. Recognition of the signs of abuse and dependence on these categories of drugs.
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. Recognition of the signs and symptoms of the social and psychological problems accompanying the chronic use and abuse of the major categories of drugs.
6. Diagnosis of the medical sequelae of addiction, including hepatic, central nervous system, infectious, and HIV illness.
7. Recognition and understanding of the special problems of the pregnant drug abuser and of the babies born to substance-abusing mothers.