

The International Society of Addiction Medicine



ISAM

December 2003 Newsletter

Relevance and Credibility were ISAM's targets for 2003!

As we review our fifth year in operation, I believe that this year's highlights were our continuous search for relevance to our members as well as expanding our credibility within the international community. **We need your feedback as to how well we are achieving these goals!**

A. Assessing our Society's major products

1. A renewed website: www.isamweb.com

Our website, now attached to the Head Office, has been revamped and now includes several sections:

Home Page	Board members
Mission	Constitution
Annual Meetings	Fellowship
Regional Meetings	Affiliated Meetings
e.-Publication	Newsletters
Position Papers	Membership Forms
Current Affairs	

Our consulting editor, Dr. W. Moran has suggested a Members' only section on our website. Please take time to visit the webpages and forward us your feedback.

2. Annual meetings

▪ 2003 – Amsterdam – Sept 25-27

Attended by some 320 registrants, the conference's local organizing committee headed by Dr. Wim van der Brink planned an outstanding scientific program including some 77 abstracts covering a range of basic science and clinical topics of relevance to our expanding field.

We are currently negotiating with Schering-Plough to widely distribute the abstracts in booklet format.

The meeting would not have been possible without the expanding participation and support of research institutions such as the National Institute of Drug Addiction (NIDA) whose new director, Dr. Nora Volkow actively participated at the conference as well as the Amsterdam Institute for Addiction Research (AIAR); in addition, clinical organizations such as the Jellinek Centre as well as the pharmaceutical industry such as Schering-Plough supported our meeting. Our warmest thanks to all.

One, of course, should not forget the great Dutch welcome provided from the Dutch Society and its representatives Dr. Peter Geerlings and Dr. Rob ter Haar.

- **2004 - Helsinki, Finland – June 2-5**

Our annual meeting in Amsterdam was also a planning site for the next one! In effect, under Dr. Hannu Alho's energetic leadership the planning for Helsinki is in its final phase. Please check the conference website: www.paly.fi/isam2004.htm

You will, I am sure, recognize the same desire for academic excellence as well as ample opportunities to network and socialize.

An important consideration is access to the annual meetings by members from, developing countries. We will for the first time propose hotels with different prices and this newsletter also includes an announcement about the new WHO-ISAM fellowships!

- **Future Meetings**

We are committed to a meeting in Argentina, April 2005 and are considering Oporto, Portugal for 2006. **Those considering applying for future meetings should peruse our Guidelines for mutual expectations at our website under "Annual meetings".**

3. Organizing Regional and Co-sponsored meetings

International travel has never been easy but it has become more difficult of late due to increased costs and security concerns. Our Board discussed at length the need to reach out to our membership through additional regional meetings that are more accessible. This year, I would like to select two regional and/or co-sponsored meetings as examples.

- Santiago, Chile, June 4-7

This meeting co-organized by ERAcciones and ISAM was a wonderful opportunity to meet our Chilean and other South American colleagues and share expertise. An enthusiastic organizing committee led by Dr. Daniel Martinez and including our Board representative, Dr. Maria Delgado ensured a great mix of clinical presentations as well as opportunities to visit local treatment facilities against the background of the majestic Andes.

- St. Catherine Monastery, Mount Sinai, Egypt, Oct 15-17

ISAM participated in a thematic meeting on Religion, Spirituality and Mental Health along with our sister international organization, The World Psychiatric Association. The current scientific foundation of this major ingredient for our patients' recovery was fully explored along with the need for further recognition of this variable, independent of economic status, in our treatment efforts. Further qualitative and empirical research was encouraged.

4. Task Force Reports

This year we had the pleasure to post on our website our first ISAM positions on:

- Educational Curriculum: Dr. Galanter, Chair
- Physician Health: Dr. Talbott, Chair
- Definitions: Dr. Hajela, Chair
- Other position papers concerning Pain and Addiction (Dr. D. Smith, Chair); Youth and Family (Dr. Y. Kamier, Chair); as well as a paper on Comorbidities are in the works.

A new task Force on Policies: Dr. Gleser, Chair, is in the planning.

These positions are living documents i.e., they can be modified and updated depending on membership feedback. If you wish to participate in any one of the Task Forces, please inform us. From my past experience, this is an excellent opportunity not only for senior members but also members in their early career to network, and participate in these international efforts.

An example of Task Force meeting in Amsterdam was the Curriculum In Education Task Force – Dr. Marc Galanter

The Task Force met on September 25 in Amsterdam, chaired by Marc Galanter, M.D. In attendance were Drs. Poldrugo (Italy), Hajela (Canada), Brewer (UK), Bunt (USA), Tyrfinngsson (Iceland), Azim and Gawad (Egypt), Dom (Belgium), Chen (China), O'Brien (USA), and Kokkevi (Greece). Each of the participants described issues associated with the development of addiction medicine training in their respective countries. Topics ranged from issues in dealing with general medicine services, facilities available for training, related governmental initiatives, and certification of training programs. Also discussed was the desirability of an international certification program for addiction medicine. This work was carried forward from the previous meeting of the Task Force in Iceland and will be continued at the coming conference in Helsinki.

5. Supporting the establishment of national curricula in Addiction Medicine

ISAM's Task Force on Education has drafted the outline of a curriculum posted on the website. It is understood that this outline needs to be adapted to the local cultural, clinical and academic experience. An example of this adaptation was the creation of an Addiction Medicine Course at Cairo University this fall with the organizing leadership of Dr. T. Gawad and the scholarly participation of several of our Egyptian colleagues, members of ISAM. The presentations included local epidemiological data, treatment philosophies and experience as well as visits of a range of public and private clinical facilities. Ample time was provided for topical questions and answers as well as networking. Dr. Galanter and I were privileged to participate in this process along with the faculties of 3 universities, public health officials lead by Dr. M. Ghanem and WHO representatives Dr. A. Mohit and Dr. S. Murthy. Those wishing to emulate this event can contact Dr. T. Gawad, Cairo University through our office.

6. International Addiction – in transition

The transfer of *International Addiction* from the University of Calgary to Haight Ashbury with Dr. David Smith as the new editor has resulted in a transition period. Hopefully new editions will appear in 2004.

B. Exciting new projects

1. The WHO –ISAM Fellowships for middle and low income countries

It is our pleasure to update you on the partnership with the World Health Organization. We have acted as consultants on the WHO "Adherence Task Force" and "Research in the Future". Now, to facilitate the attendance of members from developing countries to our annual meetings, we are co-sponsoring joint fellowships (Appendix I). While hopefully this effort can be sustained from year to year it is a wonderful first step in further collaboration with this senior international health body. Particular thanks to Drs. V. Poznyak and M. Monteiro from WHO as well as Drs. H. Alho and G. Fischer from ISAM for spearheading the negotiating process.

2. International Certification in Addiction

The Board in Amsterdam supported the design of a new certification to be available for our members. An editorial board is being formed to create a set of Multiple Choice Questions with psychometric reliability and validity to test our knowledge of the field. The examination could be available at our annual meetings as well as regionally.

It is anticipated that the first examination may be available as early as 2005.

This is a major step towards international credentialing.

It is hoped that reciprocity with the countries who already have qualifications in Addiction Medicine will be encouraged.

C. Renewing our organizational base

1. Elections of a new Board Executive

It is my pleasure to announce the election of our new Board Executive. Our Board members in attendance in Amsterdam were:

Hannu Alho, Finland
Colin Brewer, United Kingdom
Char-Nie Chen, China
Maria Delgado, Argentina
Nady el-Guebaly, Canada
Gabriele Fischer, Austria
Raju Hajela, Canada
Marc Galanter, USA
David Gastfriend, USA
Tarek Gawad, Egypt
Jorge Gleser, Israel
Flavio Poldrugo, Italy
Thorarinn Tyringsson, Iceland

The Board elected Dr. Jorge Gleser as our new President-Elect.

Dr. Gleser has been actively involved with ISAM since its inception. He has served ISAM actively in the role of Vice President and has been involved in all its activities. In addition he has been instrumental in creating the Israeli Society of Addiction Medicine, which to date holds a very active membership. He also organized an Annual Meeting in Israel, and advanced the ideas and guidelines for New Membership Categories.

Dr. Gleser will replace me as ISAM President at the end of our meeting in Argentina, April 2005. I know that ISAM will benefit from his energy, creativity and dedication.

Other members of the new Executive are:

Tarek M.S.A. Abdul Gawad, MD as Vice-President

Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt

G Douglas Talbott, MD as Vice-President – re-elected for second term

Talbott Recovery Campus, Atlanta Georgia, USA

Maria Delgado-Pich, MD as Secretary-Treasurer – re-elected for second term

Medical Director, Gaia Nova U. Belgrano, Cordoba, Argentina

If the items listed in this newsletter are any reference, the Board has lots to do!

2. Associate membership

The Board reiterated in Amsterdam its welcome for the inclusion of “Non-physician professionals with significant interest in the field of Addiction” as Associate Members of ISAM. The requirements criteria, privileges and limitations are listed on the website

3. Affiliate membership

A major Board decision was to create a network of national and other societies with missions compatible with ISAM's and at least a designated section with a majority of physician members. Within ISAM, a Council of Affiliate Societies would be created with eventual representation on the Board.

A template letter to be sent to these societies has been drafted and if you know of a Society who would be interested in joining us, please forward the name and address of the Society as well as the name of its President to our office.

4. Membership Drive!

As usual our Society's continued existence depends on the support of our members. We do hope that our work is becoming increasingly relevant to you and adds to your credibility as a professional in the field. **If you have other suggestions, let us know!**

To join or renew your membership for 2004, the membership forms are on the website [www.isamweb.com] and appended to this newsletter. For those who have difficulty sending us cheques, please consider a 2 or 3-year renewal at the current rate.

**So from our Executive Assistant, Marilyn D'Orozio and myself: Compliments of the Season!
Join us, stay and work with us.**

N. el-Guebaly, MD

President

APPENDIX I: Fellowship

APPENDIX II: Membership dues



**2004 WHO /ISAM International Traveling Fellowships
Helsinki, June 2-5, 2004**

Application Deadline: February 16, 2004

The International Traveling Fellowships, a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence and the International Society for Addiction Medicine (ISAM) is soliciting applications for the Year 2004 International Traveling Fellowship. Pending availability of funds, four to five awards will support participation by addiction specialists from eligible countries* at the ISAM Annual Scientific Meeting (June 2 to 5) to be held in Helsinki, Finland (see <http://www.paly.fi/isam2004.htm>). The amount of award is up to 2000 USD that should cover reasonable travel and living expenses during the meetings as well as meeting registration fees. The ISAM2004 local organizer will coordinate travel arrangements after the awards are announced.

Applicants are required to: (1) be affiliated with organizations with the capability and a history of conducting addiction research, teaching and /or treatment; (2) have been involved in addiction research, and/or clinical and teaching activities in the area of addictions; (4) show promise of developing future research, (4) be living and working outside the high-income countries at the time of application and travel; (5) present their current research at the ISAM2004 meeting, (6) have sufficient knowledge of the English language and (7) provide a post-travel report. Fellows may not have received travel support from WHO or ISAM in the past year. The ISAM membership (application see <http://www.isamweb.com/pages/membership.html>) is preferred but not required.

Applications must include (1) an abstract of current work that could be presented at meeting (abstract form <http://www.paly.fi/isam2004.htm>), including the title, method, findings, and relevance of the work to drug abuse research; (2) a short curriculum vitae (max one page) documenting research, teaching and /or clinical experience (see requirements above), and (3) two letters of support by two independent individuals (one from the home country and one from the home country or outside). However, an applicant can not request a letter of support from staff of the WHO or ISAM.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications should include a fax number and e-mail address whenever possible. **E-mail applications are encouraged.** Award selections (by the ISAM/WHO award committee) will be announced in March 2004. Applications must be received no later than February 16, 2004, at the following address:

Hannu Alho, the ISAM 2004 Organizer
National Public Health Institute
POB 33
00251 Helsinki, Finland
Fax +358 9 4744 8133
hannu.alho@ktl.fi

*For this program, eligible are low and middle income countries (see the classification by World Bank at <http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm>).

APPENDIX II

**THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL - 2003**

Please fill out and fax to (403) 944-2056 for VISA card payments only, or mail to: Dr. N. el-Guebaly, Foothills Hospital Addiction Centre, 1403 – 29 Street NW Calgary AB T2N 2T9, Canada with check or money order.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____

Zip/Postal code: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

I wish to renew my ISAM membership. I have enclosed the amount according to the World Bank Economic Guidelines attached.

I will pay by: _____ cash _____ cheque _____ money order (payable to ISAM)

VISA: _____ Exp date: _____

Authorizing signature: _____

***Please note VISA payments will be processed through CSAM – CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE in Canadian funds

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - 2004
(Please type or print legibly)

Name _____ Degree(s) _____
(Last) (First) (MI)

PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS: Office Home

Organization/Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____ E.mail _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Fax _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Citizenship _____

UNDERGRADUATE College or University _____

EDUCATION: Degree(s) _____ Date of Graduation _____

PROFESSIONAL Medical/professional School _____

EDUCATION: Degree(s) _____ Date of Graduation _____

MEDICAL SPECIALTIE(S): Primary _____ Secondary _____

INTERNSHIP/RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP/OTHER GRADUATE TRAINING: (if any)

Institution & Address _____

Subject area _____ Inclusive dates _____

Institution & Address _____

Subject area _____ Inclusive dates _____

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS: (Past & Present)

University & Location	Title	Department	Date
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PRESENT CLINICAL PRACTICE SITE:

HOSPITAL and STAFF APPOINTMENTS: (Past & Present)

Hospital & Location	Title	Department	Date
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YEARS IN PRACTICE: _____

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Circle all categories that apply and indicate percentage of time spent

Clinical Practice _____% Administrative _____% Academic/teaching _____%

Research _____% Other: _____% (specify _____)

LICENSURE: [Type, State/Prov., Country] _____ Date _____

AREA(S) OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN ADDICTION MEDICINE: _____

REFERENCES: List two members from ISAM or physicians in your country with addresses & telephone

I agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the International Society of Addiction Medicine. I understand that the society may review my application and my references, and make inquiries about me. I will hold the Society, its members, examiners, officers, employees and agents free from all damage and complaint by reason of any action taken on this application or by reason of any subsequent action on membership. I pledge myself to high standards of ethical practice.

Signature: _____ Date: _____, 2003

Dues schedule and country listing attached.

Please complete [type or print] and return with check **made payable to ISAM** [if in North America] or money order in US funds [if outside North America] to or fax with VISA authorization and number:

**Dr. N. el-Guebaly, President, ISAM
Addiction Centre – Foothills Hospital
1403 – 29 Street NW
Calgary AB T2N 2T9 CANADA**

Phone: (403) 944-2350 Fax: (403) 944-2056 E.mail: nady.el-guebaly@calgaryhealthregion.ca

I authorize payment of due to ISAM through my VISA credit card:

VISA # _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

****Please note: funds will be processed through the Canadian Society of Addiction medicine (CSAM) and taken out in CANADIAN funds**

DUES CATEGORIES & FEES: (World Bank Economic Categories)

a) Full Members & Associate Members

\$90 US	\$60 US	\$30US	\$15 US	
Andorra	Am. Samoa	Albania		Viet Nam
Aruba	Antigua &	Algeria	Afghanistan	Yemen
Australia	Barbuda	Belarus	Angola	Zaire
Austria	Argentina	Belize	Armenia	Zambia
Bahamas	Bahrain	Bolivia	Azerbaijan	Zimbabwe
Belgium	Barbados	Bosnia	Bangladesh	
Bermuda	Botswana	Herzegovina	Benin	
Brunei	Brazil	Bulgaria	Bhutan	
Canada	Chile	Capa Verde	Burkina Faso	
Cayman	Croatia	Colombia	Burundi	
Channel Islands	Czech Republic	Costa Rica	Cambodia	
Cyprus	Estonia	Cuba	Cameroon	
Denmark	Gabon	Djibouti	Cent. Afr. Rep.	
Faeroe Islands	Grenada	Dominica	Chad	
Finland	Hungary	Dominican Rep	China	
France	Isle of Man	Ecuador	Comoros	
French Polynesia	Korea, Republic	Egypt	Congo	
Germany	of	El Salvador	Cote d'Ivoire	
Greece	Lebanon	Equat. Guinea	Eritrea	
Greenland	Libya	Fiji	Ethiopia	
Guam	Malaysia	Georgia	Gambia	
Hong Kong	Mauritius	Guatemala	Ghana	
Iceland	Mayotte	Guyana	Guinea	
Ireland	Mexico	Iran	Guinea-Bissau	
Israel	Oman	Iraq	Haiti	
Italy	Palau	Jamaica	Honduras	
Japan	Panama	Jordan	India	
Kuwait	Poland	Kazakhstan	Indonesia	
Liechtenstein	Puerto Rico	Kiribati	Kenya	
Luxembourg	Saudi Arabia	Latvia	Korea, Dem.	
Macao	Slovak Republic	Lithuania	Kyrgyz Rep/	
Malta	Seychelles	Macedonia	Lao PDR	
Monaco	St. Kitts & Nevis	Maldives	Lesotho	
Netherlands	St. Lucia	Marshall Islands	Liberia	
Neth. Antilles	Taiwan	Micronesia	Madagascar	
New Caledonia	Trinidad &	Morocco	Malawi	
New Zealand	Tobago	Namibia	Mali	
Northern Mariana	Turkey	Papua New	Mauritania	
Is.	Uruguay	Guinea	Moldova	
Norway	Venezuela	Paraguay	Mongolia	
Portugal		Peru	Mozambique	
Qatar		Philippines	Myanmar	
Singapore		Romania	Nepal	
Slovenia		Russian	Nicaragua	
Spain		Federation	Niger	
Sweden		Samoa	Nigeria	
Switzerland		South Africa	Pakistan	
United Arab		Sri Lanka	Rwanda	
Emirates		St. Vincent	Sao Tome &	
United Kingdom		Surinam	Principe	
United States		Swaziland	Senegal	
Virgin Is (US)		Syria	Sierra Leone	
		Thailand	Solomon Isl.	
		Tonga	Somalia	
		Tunisia	Sudan	
		Ukraine	Tajikistan	
		Uzbekistan	Tanzania	
		West Bank/Gaza	Togo	
		Yugoslavia: Ser-	Turkmenistan	
		bia/Montenegro	Uganda	