

ISAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 4, 2004

Helsinki, Finland

1. President's Update

Welcome and opening remarks by Dr. N. el-Guebaly, ISAM President who thanked attendees and country hosts, the Finnish Society of Addiction Medicine.

2. Motion by R. Hajela, seconded by F. Poldrugo to adopt the Agenda with the inclusion of interaction between ISAM and European Associations added. Carried.

3. Annual Meetings

Annual Meeting	2005	Buenos Aires/Mar del Plata, Argentina	April 19-23
Proposed Regional Meeting	2006	Hong Kong	Jan
Annual meeting	2006	Oporto, Portugal	Sept 26-30
Proposed Annual meeting	2007	Cairo, Egypt	Oct

4. Affiliation with National Societies

- Board members have been mandated to start talks with National Societies and present options of either a sum per member, option for full memberships at time of dues renewal (ISBRA-RSA model) or lump sum.
- ASAM: presentation to Board and letter. Outcome will come as memorandum in the near future. Although at this time no reciprocal discount for meetings is on the table, possible discount for books at the ASAM meeting to be discussed.
- CSAM: presentation to Board at their Annual Meeting in October 2004
- Dutch Society of Addiction Medicine has signed up their 130 members for affiliate status.
- Talks to start with the Finnish Society of Addiction Medicine
- Differences discussed:
 - a) Affiliate members
 - cannot hold office
 - receives communication from their Society Head office
 - copy of Substance Abuse Journal to the Affiliate Society's Head Office
 - receives a % of the discount offered to paid ISAM members
 - a) Full members
 - can run for office and/or position on Board
 - will receive copy of *Substance Abuse* journal free for 2 years
 - receives full discount at annual meetings
 - direct communication

5. New Position Papers

Work being done on:

- Curriculum
- Definitions
- Physician Health
- Comorbidity treatment

- Efforts spearheaded by Dr. David Gastfriend on Patient Placement Criteria
- Scholarly work on Gender Health Issues by Drs. Gabriele Fischer and Henriette Walter presently seeking feedback.
- Dr. John Saunders requesting feedback from membership on problem areas encountered in DSM & ICD for the DSM V and ICD 11, such as the area of abuse not as well defined as dependence, behavioral addictions, etc.
- Comments on any of these issues can be forwarded to the ISAM Head Office (nady.el-Guebaly@calgaryhealthregion.ca) and will be rerouted to the appropriate Task Force Chair.

6. Task Forces at current meeting

a. Education

- Focus on Certification exam detailed below.
- Need to determine: Who would be eligible, literature preparation required, value, etc.
- Focus is to test knowledge and not clinical skills at this time.

a. Pain & Addiction – Chaired by Dr. Raju Hajela

- Problems with defining Abuse vs Dependence; Addiction, etc.
- Finding overlap and common ground
- Traditionally Pain people don't want to treat addiction and vice versa.
- A Consensus statement and consensus guidelines draft paper will be drawn up and circulated to members for feedback.

b. Family & Adolescents – Chaired by Dr. Yifrah Kaminer

- Encouraged to see a whole day track dedicated to problems with addiction in Adolescence – this reflects increased general interest in this area.
- Mission: update professionals in field on latest information, expand interest in Adolescent/Addiction problems and make resources known and available such as SISA (server & literature)
- A position paper to be drafted and circulated for feedback

7. International Certification

- An International Editorial Board has been put together
- The selected Editorial Board is presently compiling questions from readily available texts in the field such as DSM IV, ICD 10, ASAM's Principles of Addiction Medicine, etc.
- The Editorial Board will come together in September to review, finalize and select final 250 multiple choice questions for the first exam
- In recognition of the fact that psychometric validation is required and that appropriate, non-country specific exam questions are difficult to write well, a University of Calgary specialist in questions, Dr. Claudio Violato, will review questions, test validity and work with the Editorial Board throughout the project.
- It is planned to administer the first exam at a co-sponsored meeting in Cairo, October 2005.
- The evaluation will help determine areas that may need fine-tuning.
- Suggestions of a Review course at the Annual Meeting or an on-line web review course are being considered.
- No competition is being sought with existing national exams.

8. Representation to international bodies

- Dr. Gregory Bunt has agreed to be our NGO representative at the United Nations
- Dr. Flavio Poldrugo will be our representative at UN ODC in Vienna.
- Collaboration and interaction between European Association and ISAM will be explored by several interested the Board members.

9. Board Renewal

- The annual meeting in Argentina 2005 will be the time for re-elections and change. Several Board members will have completed their second allowable 3-year term and will be stepping down.
- A Nominating Committee has been set up and letters of interest with accompanying CV are to be sent to the ISAM Head Office. A minimum of 1 year as an ISAM member is encouraged.
- The position of Executive Medical Director has been approved to ensure continuity in the Head Office.

10. WHO-ISAM Fellowships

- WHO-ISAM provided 5 fellowships for colleagues from World Bank classification I & II countries. We were very pleased with the contribution and caliber of presentations.
- The Finnish Society of Addiction Medicine also contributes 5 fellowships to colleagues from Baltic countries.

11. Publication

The Board reached an agreement with Dr. Marc Galanter to become our Editor for 2 years. A free copy will be provided to paid members of the journal *Substance Abuse* for 2 years.

Submitted by

M. Dorozio, Recorder