

ISAM Annual General Meeting 2006
Oporto Portugal
September 29, 2006

Meeting opened at 12:35 chaired by ISAM President, Dr. Tarek Gawad with 27 members in attendance.

INTRODUCTION

- President Dr. T. Gawad welcomed everyone and introduced members of the ISAM Board including the two newly elected Vice Presidents: John Saunders (Australia) and Hannu Alho (Finland). He also briefly outlined his involvement in some of this past year's activities. Highlights included a site visit to Oporto; attendance at the Hong Kong Addiction Medicine conference to establish initial links; attendance at CPDD in June and NIDA Education Training Program.
- Words by Executive Medical Director, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly expressing appreciation for all the hard work and great transition to Dr. T. Gawad and his leadership.

NIDA

- Strengthening our ties, NIDA has agreed to participate in workshops and symposia at the ISAM Annual Meetings.
- Desire to collaborate in dissemination of educational information and scientific materials through ISAM.
- A NIDA grant for \$25,000/year for support of ISAM annual meetings was submitted and appreciation expressed to the PI, Dr. Greg Bunt.
- Possibly Humphrey Fellows with take the ISAM exam
- Other opportunities for collaboration will be explored.

ISAM CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION – Dr. N. el-Guebaly

- Clarification made that the ISAM Certification Exam was never intended to replace any existing national certifications but rather to complement them and further the Addiction Medicine field's fight for validation.
- The exam tests core knowledge.
- Exam is offered when a critical mass of applicants is available and tries to take advantage of existing event. Next sitting will be in Saskatoon Oct 2006 in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Annual meeting. As well a Sitting is planned for Cairo 2007 at the ISAM Annual meeting.
- The exam is self-sufficient and there are funds in a "war chest" that will be utilized in the ongoing re-evaluation of questions, elaboration of new questions, etc.

AFFILIATE SOCIETIES

Joining the current Affiliate Society from Finland, Canada and the Netherlands, the Egyptian Society has agreed to become affiliated by Cairo 2007. ISAM is now a combination of Individual-based and society-based organization.

WHO

- Dr. V. Poznyak interested in expanding relationship beyond the annual WHO-ISAM Travel Fellowships
- Several avenues for collaboration will be explored.

NGO

- ISAM has obtained NGO status with the United Nations as of July 2006 and will have an ISAM rep for meetings in Geneva, Vienna and New York.
- Thanks expressed for work done to obtain this to G. Bunt, N. el-Guebaly, M. Dorozio and P. Pueyrredon

ANNUAL MEETINGS

2006: Thanks and appreciation expressed to our host and the Oporto Organizing Committee for the great conference.

Suggestions by Dr. Kaminer:

- Since last minute cancellation by speakers could jeopardize the quality of the meeting, if this happens more than once, not to accept abstracts from these individuals.
- Suggestion that the scientific program present new findings and reviews as there were very few updates in 2006.

Response:

- These issues already discussed at the ISAM Board meeting There is difficulty in collecting info for abstracts and to solidify the commitment from speakers it was decided that from Cairo onward no abstract would be accepted without the speakers being registered for the conference following the World Psychiatric Association format.
- It was also pointed out that of the speakers who were not able to show, valid medical reasons were given as well as unforeseen problems with airline cancellation of flights.

2007 Cairo, Egypt: www.isam2007cairo.com

- Workshops will be determined
- Running Monday-Thursday to avoid conflict with Muslim or Jewish holidays

Future meetings:

2008	Capetown, South Africa	TBA (tentatively early June or Nov) led by Dr. S. Rataemane
2009	Calgary, Canada	Sep 22-27
2010	Sydney, Australia	TBA
2011	Hawaii, USA	TBA

JOURNAL

- The Substance Abuse Journal will be going online in the new year and full ISAM members will be receiving an electronic copy through the ISAM Head Office.
- As well there will be two special issues in the near future.
- As Editor, Dr. Marc Galanter welcomed international submissions and articles for peer-review. marcgalanter@nyu.edu

WEBSITE

- In the process of being revamped within the next 6 months.
- Thanks expressed to the Finnish Society who have offered to maintain the website, spearheaded by Dr. Hannu Alho and supported by Drs. T. Tyrtingsson, T. Gawad and C. Haasen.
- Currently there is a new email for the ISAM office: office@isamweb.com which should be used for correspondence with the ISAM Head Office instead of Dr. el-Guebaly's personal email.
- The website was seen as the "Window of ISAM" and the most effective vehicle for the dissemination of information worldwide

HEAD OFFICE

- Historically, ISAM started with the inaugural meeting in Palm Springs in 1999. Seed money for the office was \$35,000US.
- These funds have been increased to the current ~\$90,000US
- The Office is running on \$20,000/year and many volunteer hours by Dr. N. el-Guebaly and the Executive Assistant M. Dorozio. The ISAM Board has approved and increase of funds to \$25,000US/year.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL CHANGES

- A one page financial breakdown with proposed budget was distributed with agenda.
- The ISAM Board has made the following financial changes:
 - o Approval of BDO Dunwoody as Auditors for 2006
 - o Increase in Office running funds from \$20,000 to \$25,000US/year
 - o Approval for website improvement costs
 - o Approval to set up a Reserve fund
 - o Approval for utilization of up to \$5000 for 2007 project to be determined from suggestions received by Board. Suggestions: Travel Award for Young Researcher; Education & Research material elaboration, distribution and possibly translation; etc.
 - o Release of safety net of monies for the Certification Exam as this is self-sufficient
- Motion by M. Galanter, seconded by G. Bunt to accept the budget as presented for 2007. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Suggestion to place the SWIFT # and bank transfer on the dues renewal form as a payment option.
- Update forms as the ISAM office can now accept Mastercard as well.

POSTERS

Winners of the poster presentation judged by panel: Drs. P. Haber, T. Gawad and G. Carra were announced. It was felt to be a difficult decision and tied for first place: Ana Silva "Hippocampal adaptation induced by methamphetamine to counteract drug neurotoxicity" and Nina Ebner "Multidisciplinary approach for Hep C approach", with an honorable mention Cassilda Costa "Profile of smokers who seek treatment at psychiatric department of St. John's Hospital – four years experience".

EVALUATION FORM

It was stressed that we require these:

- to Fulfill a requisite for grant application
- To improve conference
- To enable members to have say in topics they would like to see on program

ADJOURNMENT at 1:30

Recorder
Marilyn Dorozio
ISAM Executive Assistant