

ISAM Annual General Meeting
Oct 2007
Cairo, Egypt

46 persons in attendance

Agendas and Minutes of 2006 were distributed.

Meeting called to order 5:40 PM by ISAM President, Dr. Tarek Gawad who welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Welcome

Dr. Gawad gave a brief description of this year's meeting with 32 symposia, 217 non-Egyptians and 466 National attendees, making this the largest registration at an ISAM annual meeting. Contributions from NIDA, NIAAA and WHO were gratefully acknowledged, with the expressed hope that they will continue to participate in future ISAM meetings.

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Gawad specifically wished to thank NIDA not only for their participation in the program but especially to Dr. Jag Khalsa for his assistance and guidance in obtaining a NIDA conference grant in the amount of \$40,000 US for this year and an agreement of a grant for \$25,000 for the next three years to support the ISAM annual conferences.
- Thanks were expressed to Dr. Marc Galanter, ISAM Chief Editor for his support in providing an online copy of the Substance Abuse Journal to all full paid ISAM members.
- Thanks expressed to Dr. Hannu Alho and the Finnish Society for their revamping and upgrading of the ISAM webpages.

Fellowships

- Thanks were expressed also to NIDA as part of their grant to be utilized for Travel Research Fellowships and this year 5 awards were granted for colleagues from Malaysia, China, Portugal, India and Kenya to attend and present.
- Thanks were expressed to the WHO for their ongoing Travel fellowships from developing countries which allowed 5 colleagues to attend from Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Belarus.
- Dr. Gawad would like to encourage applicants for the 2008 fellowships to not only send in their letter of interest to the Head Office but also to fax it in as the server sometimes rejects emails coming in and this way we would be aware of those who express interest in applying.

Affiliation Societies

- Acknowledgement of our ongoing Group I Affiliates Societies: the Finnish Society, the Dutch Society and the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine as well as the American Society of Addiction Medicine in Group II.
- This year we have the honor of welcoming new Affiliate Societies. In Group I: The Icelandic Society, The Indian Society, The Egyptian Society, the Austrian Society and in Group II the Italian Consulta.
- The President would like to have a rotating representative from the Affiliate societies to attend the board meetings and we will start with the Dutch Society. A letter will be sent to the Dutch Society contact, Dr. C. de Jong, requesting the name of the representative to attend the Board meeting in Cape Town.

International Certification Examination

- Dr. Nady el-Guebaly reported that 15 Egyptian colleagues took the exam on Oct 19, 2007.
- The exam continues to have 225 questions with 25 of these being “tester/dummy” questions to renew the question pool.
- All details can be found on the ISAM webpages for anyone interested in taking the exam in 2008: www.isamweb.org

Financials

- Brief financial report given on statement of expenses and revenue for 2006-2007 and the budget approved by the Board for 2007-2008.
- As a registered non-profit society \$45,000 remains ear-marked for Taxation Canada and costs associated in the event of the Head Office moving from Canada.
- The Head Office is operating within the budgeted \$25,000/year but utilizing resources from Dr. el-Guebaly’s office. \$5,000 from the special project fund will be used for time spent in conference related activities to offload work from the Head Office.
- Revenues include dues from 186 full members and affiliate societies.
- Of note, membership dues have increased slightly for the first time since ISAM’s inception in 1999: For World Bank Category A countries from \$90 to \$100 US; for Category B countries from \$60 to \$67 US; for Category C countries from \$30 to \$35 US and for Category D countries from \$15 to \$17 US.
- Motion by M. Galanter, seconded by H. Alho to accept the financial report as presented and to retain BDO Dunworthy as Auditors for 2007.

Future meetings

- ISAM’s next meeting will be Nov 17-20, 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa. The webpages are up and information and details will be added shortly: www.isam2008.com. The conference venue is the Sheraton Arabella. Dr. Gawad conducted the site visit and stressed the beauty of the city and surrounding areas, the high caliber of the facilities and the safety of the area. Hope to see you all next year in Cape Town!

- ISAM will be in Calgary, Canada Sept 23-27, 2009 celebrating the 10th Anniversary meeting of ISAM. The 20th Anniversary meeting of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine will also be celebrated in a contiguous meeting.
- Future meetings are being looked at: 2010 Italy, 2011 Hawaii, 2012 Australia or India.

Evaluation forms

Evaluation forms in each delegate's bag will be exchanged for Attendance certificates and it was stressed that these evaluations assist the organizers to continue improving future conferences and are a requisite for future grants.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Recorder
Marilyn Dorozio
Executive Assistant
ISAM Office
Nov 2007