

ISAM Annual General Meeting
Nov 19th, 2008
Cape Town, South Africa

28 persons in attendance

1. Call to order by President Tarek Gawad at 5:05 PM who thanks everyone for attending.
2. Agendas and Minutes of Cairo 2007 were distributed. Both were adopted.
3. Annual meetings:
 - a. Appreciative gratitude expressed to Dr. Rataemane and his LOC for the successful hosting of ISAM 2008.
 - b. 2009 – Calgary, Canada Sept 23-26. Best wishes expressed to Dr. el-Guebaly in this endeavor.
 - c. 2010 – Umbria, Italy. Oct 4-7 Hosted by the Consulta lead by Drs. M. Clerici & G. Carra
 - d. 2011 – Honolulu, Hawaii May
 - e. 2012 – Geneva, Switzerland. And the Swiss Society will be encouraged to become an Affiliate member.
 - f. 2013 – potential venues: Delhi, India; Bali, Indonesia and Sydney, Australia
4. International Examination
 - Now 40 certificant
 - 2009 will see potentially 3 sitting so far: April 10: Cairo, Egypt; April 12: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Sept 27: Calgary, Canada during the annual meeting.
 - Questions will be upgraded by the Editorial board after the Annual meeting using new edition of Principles of Addiction Medicine
 - Stressed that this exam was not to be competitive with national exams but complementary in nature and scope.
 - A motion by Board to offer the ISAM exam at every annual meeting was passed.
5. Website: Dr. H. Alho continues as our WebMaster with updates at least twice a year. Once again a grateful thank you to the Finnish Addiction Medicine Society for hosting our webpages.
6. Newsletter: Dr. D. Gastfriend will be preparing our next newsletter and appreciation expressed to him for taking on this endeavor.
7. Journal Substance Abuse: Update by Dr. M. Galanter
 - 28 years of publication and indexed on PubMed
 - Members of the ISAM Board on the International Editorial board
 - 3 special issues of interest were recently published: Screening Brief Interventions; Adolescent Substance Abuse treatment & International Perspective on Addiction Medicine.
 - In the works is an issue on Mindful related treatments
 - Dr. Galanter encouraged attendees to submit papers for publication.
 - Individual ISAM members receive an online copy of the journal.
8. Fellowships: Both NIDA and WHO
 - Not many applications this year for either fellowship
 - Several very late cancellations due to problems with entry visas into South Africa that did not allow next in line to take spot.
 - Please spread the word for 2009 that these Fellowship are available with information on website by January 1st and to apply early.
 - Appreciation expressed to both WHO and NIDA for their continued support of these travel fellowships.

9. Future Projects: Dr. Gawad spoke ISAM becoming recognized and being formally invited to participate in the following projects:
 - Egypt Prison Project: the Criminal Justice Department and the Minister of the Interior have requested ISAM to evaluate the work at the training facility, advise on setting up and financing the work done by consultants. This will be a joint project with UNODC who are project managers. Details have not been determined yet, but a letter of interest has been sent to the ISAM office.
 - United Arab Emirates National Center on Rehabilitation & Treatment: asking for an evaluation of the program including auditing, situational analysis and future planning for 3-5 years in set-up according to culturally sensitive needs as well as report findings. The Board voted for this project to start provisionally and 4-5 will go see the situation and do the analysis. No financial support is required as totally funded. This is a real boost for ISAM's image.
 - ISAM was asked to present a submission to Beyond 2008 in a pivotal NGO role addressing the addiction problem.
 - WHO submission: Thanks expressed to Dr. John Saunders for his outstanding paper which will be taken as a cornerstone paper in the Geneva meeting later this November.

10. Position papers: two position papers were approved: Pathological Gambling and ISAM Policy on Policies which will be uploaded onto the ISAM webpages. Dr. R. Hajela is spearheading the position papers including reformatting Dr. Saunders' submission to WHO for a position paper. Attendees were encouraged to submit ideas for position papers to the ISAM office.

Congratulations expressed to Dr. Gawad for all his work in building ISAM's image and for his efforts in expanding connections such as those with WHO.

11. Strategy for Restructuring: Dr. Gawad presented his suggestions for restructuring with a max of 7 Board members and the establishment of Zonal representatives in an effort to maximize communication. Job descriptions for these positions will be discussed.
12. Financials: Presentation by M. D'orozi, Executive Assistant from the ISAM office on the expenditures and revenue for 2007. We are still operating within our allotted budget of \$25,000US/year. Concern expressed with the elevated cost of the Auditors in Calgary for the preparation of our Financial Statements. R. Hajela to try to find a more cost-effective company. Although the Board passed a motion to accept BDO Dunwoody again, if a better alternative is found, there will be an electronic motion to change this and an addendum to the Board Minutes with the new Auditors. Suggestion by J. Saunders to try and find pro bono or reduced rate due to not-for-profit nature of ISAM.

Motion by John Saunders, seconded by Dario Gigena to accept the statements and budget for 2009. Carried.

13. ISAM 2008: Dr. Rataemane, Chair LOC gave a brief synopsis on conference:
 - A few cancellations
 - Good variety of presentations
 - Great contribution by ISAM Board
 - He personally ordered the good weather
 - Wonderful that ISAM would come to South Africa
 - In the works is the establishment of the South Africa Society for Addiction Medicine which will have a broader membership of stakeholders
 - Dr. Gawad expressed confidence in Dr. Rataemane's ability to produce such an outstanding event. A formal motion of thanks and congratulations was expressed to Dr. Rataemane and his wife for their work on making ISAM 2008 a reality

14. Evaluation forms: Attendees were asked to please fill out the evaluation forms in order to ensure that ISAM annual meeting continue to meet the needs of participates and strive towards continued improvement. As well members and interested parties may be receiving in the near future a brief survey to help with planning structural changes to ISAM.

Attendees were asked if they had suggestions for future ISAM topics.

- Skills transference
- How to evaluate and manage patients
- Encourage Case Studies and Training
- Encourage facilitating research for longstanding and new educational grants
- Courses for the exam, following ASAM's model, to be a core objective of ISAM meetings

15. Adjournment at 6:15 PM

Recorder
Marilyn Dorozio
Executive Assistant
ISAM Office
Nov 2008