

**Minutes of the
ISAM 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Calgary, Canada
Fri Sept 25th
5:30-6:30**

18 in attendance

1. ISAM President Dr. T. Gawad called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.
2. 2008 Minutes: Motion by Dr. R. Hajela, seconded by Dr. A. Munoz to adopt the Minutes of Cape Town, South Africa 2008. Carried.
3. Annual Meetings: The presentations with preliminary details will be available on the ISAM website.
 - 2009 - Calgary, Canada presented by Dr. N. el-Guebaly
280 participants – low compared to prior years due in large part to backlash of the economic slump in North America and local politics influencing the attendance of allied health care professionals.
However, felt great content in program and facilities.
Evaluations will confirm or not.
 - 2010 – Milan, Italy presented by Drs. Massimo Clerici and Giuseppe Carra
Venue: University conference facilities
Dates: Oct 4-7, 2010
Socials: Concert, museums, etc.
Website: will be up in near future.
 - 2011- Proposal to be reviewed from Abu Dhabi, UAE
 - 2012 – Geneva, Switzerland presented by Drs. Daniele Zullino and Riaz Khan
Venue: Centre **International** de Conferences, Geneva
Dates: Oct 13-17, 2012
Socials: Museums, Old Town, **Salve????** excursion, etc.
Transportation: 80-min free shuttle from airport to city centre in 10 minutes
Possible simultaneous translation.
 - 2013 – Malaysia under Dr. Mahmood Nazar Mohamed has been accepted for ISAM 2013.
4. Certification Examination:
 - 12 new Certificants from Saudi Arabia and 9 from Egypt in spring of 2009. 6 more sat the exam this morning.
 - Exam questions are being updated: old questions done post-conference and new questions to be tackled by Editorial Committee in Milan, Italy

- Presentation made by University of Calgary biostatistician, Dr. Claudio Violato to the Editorial Committee on question validity, appropriate MPL and clarity.
 - Still no buy-in from European countries even though exam is not meant to supplant national certifications.
5. Website:
- Abstract from Mar del Plata 2005 have been retrieved and will be uploaded onto the webpages.
 - Thanks to Dr. H. Alho and the Finnish Society for the hosting of the web site.
 - New design was launched 2 years ago to give webpages a more dynamic look and increase ISAM's profile - a measure of success is the number of hits in 2 years ~26,000
 - Suggestions to include a section with links to related sites, organizations, association, etc. Invitation to audience to send in suggestions to Dr. Alho
 - Suggestion for a password protected Member Section that would show a directory of name and country
 - Dr. D. Gigena suggested using ADWORDS for higher profile
6. Journal of Substance Abuse:
- Brief progression of Journal and publishers given by Dr. M. Galanter
 - A very brief 2-minute Survey will be going out to all ISAM members as well as being posted on the webpages to inquire about ISAM desired ISAM services for members and meeting attendance
 - Journal is a useful body of research and peer-reviewed (2 reviewers) knowledge.
 - Invitation to audience to submit articles and consider volunteering as a reviewer.
 - 4 Special issues have also been published on: (a) Adolescent Substance Abuse, (b) International Aspects of Addiction Medicine, (c) Mindfulness approach to addiction treatment and (d) Screening and Brief Intervention
 - Dr. Jag Khalsa, NIDA, is also putting together an issue on Medical Consequences of Substance Abuse
 - An important mandate of the NIDA grant which ISAM has obtained is dissemination of information
7. Fellowships:
- Recipients for both the NIDA for Young Investigators awards and the WHO for Physicians awards have commented on the amount of grant not being enough to cover expenses. This particularly a concern where it is stipulated that awardees must be from countries in the two lowest World Bank categories.
 - Board discussed and will contact both co-sponsoring agencies for possibly distributing the funds among 4 instead of 5 awardees.
 - This year two awardees were unable to attend due to financial constraints.
8. Future projects
- WHO: ISAM rep to WHO, Dr. John Saunders, continues to push for more involvement and higher affiliation. Currently ISAM has type 3 affiliation with the World Health Organization.

Dr. T. Gawad translated the ASSIST (both short and long versions) and also the Global Alcohol Survey into Arabic for WHO.

- NGO – UNODC: ISAM participated in Beyond 2008. The Commission of Narcotic Drugs [CND] acknowledged the strategies and the NGO's as main stream in harm reduction.
- Egyptian Prison Project: A 2-day ISAM regional meeting with the Ministry of Interior to discuss how to address reformation and merging Addiction Services in the Criminal Justice System is planned prior to Milan.
- National Rehabilitation Centre: 6 consultants under the ISAM banner worked on a needs analysis in Abu Dhabi under a body related to the head of State responsible for services for Drug Addiction. ISAM was asked for 6 months technical assistance that includes an educational and service implementation components. After a second visit by 2 of the consultants, a document addressing 10 specific items was produced and presented. Once accepted it is hoped to put the report on the webpages.

9. Restructuring Strategy:

- Dr. T. Gawad outlined the Restructuring Strategy adopted in Cape Town by the Board and gave a brief history of evolution of Board from initial 19 members to present.
- Dr. H. Alho has been elected President-Elect. The positions of Vice-Presidents have been eliminated.
- Key points:
 - i. Reduce the Board to 7 by 2012, but this will require one Board member elected in Jan 2010 and one in October 2010.
 - ii. Dr. H. Alho will continue initiated process. In 2011, five Board members will step down.
 - iii. A Request for Intent will be emailed out to all paid members for nominations
 - iv. More focus on members, lists, renewals, etc.
 - v. Establishment of Board functions which will give strategic direction:
 - President
 - President-Elect
 - Secretary-Treasurer
 - Conference
 - Membership & Development (Promotion)
 - Project Management
 - Affiliated Societies
- Motion by Dr. H. Alho, seconded by Dr. A. Munoz to accept changes to restructuring details as presented. Carried.

10. Finances: Copies of the 2008 audited financial summary were distributed

- Summary by Dr. N. el-Guebaly. The office expenses came in under-budget again but it was emphasized that the key items for sustainability are membership and profit from the annual meetings.
- Due to changes the office will now be run separate from Dr. el-Guebaly's office by Marilyn Dorozio – contracted for 5 years.

- Motion by Dr. Greg Bunt, seconded by Dr. D. Gigena to accept the financial summary. Carried.
 - Motion by Dr. Greg Bunt, seconded by Dr. H. Alho to continue using BDO Dunworthy as auditors for 2009. Carried. This will be reviewed in Milan.
11. Affiliate Societies: The Swiss Society has been accepted as an Affiliate Society. Welcome!
12. Evaluations: The importance of having attendees fill out and return the evaluations was stressed as the feedback received helps the next LOC with the planning of the annual meeting.
13. Suggestions:
- Change meeting name from Business Meeting to General Assembly.
 - Try not to use acronyms as may mean different things to out of country attendees
14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM