ISAM’S SPIRITUALITY INTEREST GROUP

Charge
ISAM has designated certain Interest Groups in order to develop key areas of interest to its members, and has now initiated an Interest Group to address the issue of spirituality with regard to addiction illness and recovery. This was undertaken because of:

(1) the Society’s definition of addiction, manifest in “biological, psychological, sociological and spiritual dimensions.”
(2) the diversity of our members’ cultural backgrounds that merit attention to the nature of spirituality in their respective national settings.

Definition of Spirituality
Spirituality can be defined as that which gives people meaning and purpose in life. For some, it can be achieved through participation in religion. For others it can be broader and include involvement in altruistic or creative aspects of one’s cultural background, such as engagement with humanism, the arts, or nature.

Areas of Focus
We will address different aspects of spirituality which have been explored in both practice and research. Some examples are:

(1) Clinical Issues: These have been the focus of descriptive study, analysis of mediators of drug use recovery, and behavioral addiction.
(2) Cross-cultural studies: Application of recovery approaches are found in diverse national settings, among treatment professionals, and in religiously oriented programs.
(3) Biology: Recent imaging studies have been undertaken to ascertain neurophysiologic concomitants of spirituality in relation to addictive disorders and their treatment.

Organizer
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References

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