Early Career Addiction Professionals Section

A online google survey was conducted to invite suggestions and know opinion about early career addiction professionals regarding Early Career Addiction Professionals Section by ISAM (International Society of Addiction Medicine). We were able to get opinions from 10 Early Career Addiction Professionals across 10 different countries including USA, UK, India as of now. Following are summary of survey results.

1. Do you think there is need to form Early Career Addiction Professionals Section of ISAM ?
9 responses

- 66.7% Strongly Agree
- 33.3% Agree
- May be
- Not needed as there are already such section at WPA/EPA etc.

2. If such section is formed then what should be the scope of this section? Who should constitute as an early career addiction professionals ?

- The Early Career Addiction Professionals Interest group should comprise young investigators in any field related to addiction research and practice (e.g., medicine, psychology, neuroscience sociology, etc.). I believe this interest group could potentially benefit from the post-graduate students' creative ideas and innovations in the field of addiction medicine. These innovative ideas could be applied to different affairs relevant to the whole ISAM missions, leading to the scientific, practical, and executive potentials of the society to flourish. The scopes of this interest group might encompass conducting joint research projects in the field, holding webinars and online workshops for improving practical skills and competencies of young clinicians in the field, and helping early-career addiction professionals, especially those in developing countries to reach to an international standard for their knowledge and competencies.

- ICAP 1 completed professionals should be also part of this section.

- Anyone with less than 10 years of experience in the field of addiction medicine should be eligible for membership of the section.

3. If such section is formed then what are your expectations as an early career addiction professional?

- Frequent webinars for networking 3-4 per year in addition to ISAM Annual Conference

- One of the main benefits of forming such interest group could be the joint activities that early career professionals could do with the contribution of the senior researchers and professionals in the field. So, effective mentorships by senior members of the ISAM
would be expected, accordingly. Moreover, the early-career professionals interest group could have a major role in providing innovative ideas for different activities ISAM could contribute to. Additionally, potential financial support of ISAM for the research projects in the field of addiction medicine that are meant to be done by this young group members could be a great incentive for the members’ active contribution.

- More collaborative research & communication with peers in the field internationally, Specific training sessions from the experts of the field, help in research proposals and grants when possible based on the merits of the proposal

4. What should be objectives of this section? Do you concur with the objectives mentioned in attached document?

9 responses

- Yes. Totally agree.
- Yes. However, I would like to suggest some changes
- No

33.3%
66.7%

5. Any other suggestions/changes for this section?

- Extend the age and time criteria. Western countries people graduate in mid to late 30s. As mentioned above, with lack of jobs, people do full scope addiction practice 5+ yrs after finishing fellowship. Age should not be a criteria given medical school and can restrict entry into fellowship.

- The inclusion criteria is too variable. For e.g. it's too narrow for people who are post MD (cut off limit of less than 5 years) and would be too broad for ISAM travel awardees (likely to have more than 5 years of experience) My suggestion would be to see this section as something which covers early career and mid-career professionals.