

Background and mission statement

Expert opinion constitutes an important source of information, especially when other types of data are scarce, the issues under discussion are complex and difficult to address with available data, or there is a need for rapid synthesis of information and intervention formulation. The dynamic and complex nature of substance use disorders and behavioral addictions necessitates the formation of global networks which can rapidly identify emerging challenges, synthesize cross-national information, and provide valid consensus opinions on areas of disagreement. To assess shifts in the patterns of addiction and national service provision to affected individuals, an ISAM working group conducted a survey of 189 experts in addiction sciences from 72 countries in 2020.

The ISAM Global Expert Network (ISAM-GEN) aims to build on this endeavor and develop a global expert infrastructure based around ISAM which can enable valid and reliable expert elicitation and consensus-building in the various sub-disciplines of addiction sciences.