

ISAJE – the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors

Through such organisations as the Vancouver Group and WAME (World Association of Medical Editors), much has been done over the last decade to set agreed ground rules for conduct of journal business and raise ethical awareness.

The specialist journals are now starting to develop their own networks. In 1997, with logistic support from *Addiction's* American office and leadership and inspiration coming from Thomas Babor, a meeting was held in Farmington, Connecticut, which brought together representatives of 22 addiction journals from nine countries.

The enthusiasm and sense of fellowship engendered was tangible. The practical outcome was the Farmington Consensus (*Addiction* 1997, 92, 1613-1616), a document which defines agreed ethical expectations for journal publishing in our field. SSA's two journals are signatories to this document.

ISAJE's continuing work centres on how journals can better serve the needs of authors and readers in our speciality and how we can harness our skills and experience in support of that ambition. The discovery of mutual interests and common problems has been a repeated feature of our time together. There has been a sense of strength in unity rather than, as might have been expected, sharp competition.

In 2000 the group met at Krakow and with the assistance of Robert L. Balster (joint editor of *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*) and Thomas Babor, a formal constitution for the group was agreed and the ISAJE name was adopted. Working groups continue activities between meetings.

The ISAJE Executive Officer is Susan Savva at *Addiction's* London office. The next full meeting will be in Quebec from 6-8 June 2002 with *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* the host journal.

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Support for international policy review

Far-reaching in its membership, and with its two journals reflecting a highly international commitment, SSA seeks to support international policy review. It does so as a funding partner with many other contributors. These three projects have all received SSA support, but were produced by independent groups of researchers working under the aegis of WHO Europe (and in each case, personal indebtedness to Cees Goos of WHO Europe should be acknowledged).

Alcohol and Public Policy Group (I)

This exercise resulted in the publication in 1994 with Oxford University Press of *Alcohol Policy and the Public Good*, authored by an international group of seventeen scientists. The book was subsequently translated into eight languages. The output included a second OUP volume (*Alcohol and Public Policy: Evidence and Issues* 1995) edited by Griffith Edwards and Harold D Holder.

The Supply Side Initiative

This project, led by Harold Holder, sought to set up an action agenda for research on the supply side of alcohol. The outcome was published in December 2000 as an *Addiction* supplement.

Alcohol and Public Policy Group (II)

A team led by Thomas Babor is developing a report which will take further the earlier analysis while exploring its own exciting new directions. A clutch of working papers was published as a thematic issue of *Contemporary Drug Problems* in 2000 (27, 393-668). The final report, with the working title *Alcohol, No Ordinary Commodity* will appear in due course, again with Oxford University Press as publisher.

A specifically SSA project has recently been initiated, with a small grant to Tom Babor. He will explore international interest in establishing a collaborative network of national addiction societies, perhaps along the lines of ISAJE.

Tackling Alcohol Together

This book represents the outcome from an SSA Working Group. The aim was to review in detail data on drinking and drinking problems in the United Kingdom and on that basis come up with a view on what a joined-up national policy would look like. The exercise was influenced by the international perspective developed in *Alcohol Policy and the Public Good*, but sought to see what that vision would look like if applied to a particular situation. A summary is presented on the Society homepage.

Duncan Raistrick, Ray Hodgson & Bruce Ritson, 1999 *Tackling Alcohol Together*. London, Free Association Press.

Addiction Biology Annual Student Prize

The Editorial Board offers a prize of £500 each year to the postgraduate student who submits the best review or original research article on biological aspects of substance misuse. The winning article will be published in the journal.

For a copy of the guidelines, please contact:

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A personal PS from the Bulletin's editors

We are grateful to everyone who has helped us put this Bulletin together. Before we set out on the task we did not know how the product would look. Now we have reached the signing off stage, we have experienced a rewarding sense of fresh discovery as to what a society founded 118 years ago is doing today, and what it might perhaps do tomorrow.

Put together the Society as catalyst and enabler and the astonishingly creative energies of today's addiction field; bring international journals and international societies increasingly into effective networking; develop the Society's journals and its wider publishing partnerships so as to serve the field with increasing accuracy and aptness: and the total enterprise will be very much more than any of the parts. *Please join us - and join in.*

Susan Savva Griffith Edwards



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ADDICTION

BULLETIN No. 1 - JANUARY 2002

This Bulletin presents a summary of the activities of the Society for the Study of Addiction for 2002. We hope that this news sheet will help further to strengthen the collegiate involvement of members in an active, outward-looking international learned society. Any who are not yet members and wish to join will be welcome, and membership details are given on the Society's web page at www.addiction-ssa.org

Membership of SSA offers many tangible advantages. We are the only cross-disciplinary multi-substance international society of its kind today active in the addictions field. New members - researchers, clinicians, teachers, policy makers - are warmly welcomed, and also students.

The comprehensive membership deal

For the current annual membership fee of £75 (\$150) SSA offers an array of benefits:

- **Not one, but both Society journals** Under a new deal, members will now receive both *Addiction* and *Addiction Biology* free within their membership subscription. Compare this with the cost of a personal subscription to *Addiction* (£220; \$385) or *Addiction Biology* (£144; \$235) to see just how valuable this new benefit is.
- **Electronic access** through the Society's website to people with shared professional and scholarly interests based in many different countries
- **Reduced enrolment fee** for the Society's Annual Symposium, with opportunities for personal interaction with other members and an invitation to present your own work
- **Free access to *Addiction Bookclub***, the Society's exclusive bookshop which gives 25 % discounts on book titles
- **An opportunity** for your personal involvement in the Society's ongoing work.

Join now - it's easy! For full details, please visit www.addiction-ssa.org or look for the Society page within each journal issue.

The SSA Symposium

The annual meeting is an important focus for the Society's activities. It is an opportunity to hear new research and to identify future directions. The formality of the presentations is combined with the informality of a reunion of good friends. In recent years, attendance has reached 200, giving it at once a friendly feeling combined with the opportunity to meet new people.

Each year a central theme is addressed by speakers with established reputations. Delegates' paper sessions afford the opportunity for newer contributors to present and discuss their work. An annual prize of £300, sponsored by Reckitt-Benckiser, is awarded for the most promising new research presented by a poster paper. This year the prize went to Dr. Fergus Law from Bristol.

The 2001 meeting was held in Leeds, UK. The theme was "Changing the Course of Addiction". George Vaillant, Tom McLellan, Harold Holder, Christine Godfrey, Allan Collins, Sue Ruben, David Best, Claire Gerada, Brian Taylor and David Foxcroft were the invited speakers who ensured the success of the two days.

Leeds will again be the venue for this year's meeting, to be held from 28-29 November 2002 in conjunction with the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Further information will soon be available on the Society's homepage.

Honorary Fellows

At the 2001 annual meeting, the Society was proud to confer honorary fellowships on three scientists who have each served our field with great distinction. Harold Holder, director of the Prevention Research Center, Berkeley, USA, received the award for his outstanding contributions to research and thinking on alcohol policy formation and substance misuse prevention. His vision is international. Thomas McLellan, head of the Treatment Research Unit, University of Pennsylvania, won the accolade for his distinguished contributions to treatment research in the substance misuse arena. His critical insights have been of great value to the field. George Vaillant, Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, has made brilliantly original contributions to understanding of life history of people with and without substance problems.



Gillian Tober, convenor of last year's SSA Symposium

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Society Bursaries 2001-2002

The Society awards bursaries of between £50 - £750 and gives support for attendance at conferences, courses and scientific meetings. The scheme is designed for individuals who have a demonstrable commitment to working in the addictions field. Preference is given to applications from SSA members. There is a separate scheme for underwriting the cost of small meetings. For full criteria for both schemes, please visit the Society homepage.

Journals with intentions



Addiction's regional editors meeting, Greenwich June 2001.

From left to right, Elaine Stott, Antonia Seymour, Griffith Edwards, Susan Savva, Wayne Hall, Ingeborg Rossow, Patricia Davis, Christine Godfrey, Tom Babor, Robin Davidson, Robert West

The Society publishes *Addiction* and *Addiction Biology*. Here the respective editors profile what they see as their mission. Griffith Edwards, Editor-in-Chief of *Addiction*, writes:-

Addiction is house journal for an international "invisible college" of addiction scientists. At the heart of *Addiction's* mission is the ambition to connect with and help give cohesion to the scientific, clinical and policy field it seeks to serve. That ambition is supported by a structure based on autonomous editorial offices for the Americas (Thomas F Babor in Farmington, Connecticut); Australasia (Wayne Hall, formerly of National Alcohol and Drug Research Centre, University of NSW, and now at the University of Queensland); and an office in London serving the rest of the world (Robert West). A further important organisational feature is the support which the journal receives from its panel of 85 Assistant Editors drawn from over sixty countries. And we benefit from the input of a 46 person Advisory Board from twenty countries.

Let's identify a few aspects of *Addiction's* output which give expression to its aims.

• Science at its best

The journal is fortunate in the continued flow of high quality research submitted. Through a friendly but intensive refereeing

process, our aim is to select research reports which are not only competent but put original thinking into the literature.

• Live debate

Through its editorials, its commentary series and the correspondence column, *Addiction* encourages debate on theories, techniques and findings, on the application of addiction science to the amelioration of society's pains and problems, and on the ethical framework.

• Briefing

Our news and notes column carries news reports of an international scope, while the book review section with new publications listings provided by Andrea Mitchell of SALIS (Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists) gives a comprehensive information service.

• In-depth analysis

The added value of *Addiction's* supplement series offers in-depth analysis of selected research topics through distinguished guest editors. Forthcoming for 2002 is *Treatment of Marijuana Disorders* (Michael Dennis & Thomas F Babor). Our January 2001 number, *Theories of Addiction* (guest editor Robert West) was published as a Special

Issue, and is likely to be a benchmark for some time to come.

• Historical consciousness

Addiction believes that historical understanding is vital to the good health of contemporary discussion. We publish an addiction history series; and a sequence of journal interviews, which are statements from people who have helped make contemporary history.

Addiction is thus guided by intention – we believe that it has a duty in partnership with its field to help that field towards greater self-awareness, achievement and relevance. That is a feasible intention, provided the journal is truly in touch with people around the world who feel they are stakeholders in the enterprise.

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and share ideas. Also, feel free to visit the journal's homepage

<http://www.blackwell-science.com>

Addiction does not cover biological sciences. For that sector, turn to our sister journal *Addiction Biology*, and Timothy Peters, Editor-in-Chief.

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A Day in the Life of *Addiction Biology*



Timothy Peters, editor of *Addiction Biology*

As *Addiction Biology* reaches the end of its 5th year of publication it is of interest to describe how it functions.

The process of producing the journal mimics that of the cell and the various players can be likened to the sub-cellular organelles. The nucleus, with the Editor-in-Chief as the nucleolus, is the editorial executive comprising the European, Americas and Australasian Regional Editors, the editorial manager, representatives of the publisher including marketing and a cross section of academic colleagues, both clinical and non clinical. Six monthly meetings determine strategy and implementation of the SSA policies. The processing and production of the

journal is analogous to the ribosome-endoplasmic reticulum-golgi complex of glycoprotein synthesis and secretion involving the closely co-ordinated interactions of the editorial and production staff of the SSA and Taylor and Francis, our current publishers. A key individual in the overall process, the mitochondrion, the principal energy producing and metabolic organelle, is the Editorial Manager, Rosamund Greensted. Her long experience and detailed knowledge of the editorial and publishing process is repeatedly proving to be invaluable.

Cells do not act in isolation and communicate extensively with fellow cells (colleagues) and with the external environment. Receipt of manuscripts (receptor mediated endocytosis, active transport, passive diffusion), feedback from authors, subscribers and scientific colleagues and peers (ligands) allows us to respond rapidly to the external environment. Rejection of manuscripts (exocytosis) is a rare (20%) event. Direct cell-cell communication occurs with *Addiction*, interchanging manuscripts as appropriate, sharing of best practice and constructive criticism of each other. Examples of developments in response to internal and external requests include the Best Clinical Practice series. Several of the invited reviews contain clear clinical guidelines as well as reviewing the relevant basic science. Analysis of the journal subscription list and of registered visits to articles posted on the web indicated the need for this series, which continues to be popular with our readers.

Please check out the journal's homepage at

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>

International Research Monographs in the Addictions (IRMA)

A series produced by Cambridge University Press aims to give addiction researchers a high profile, book length publishing opportunity. The series aims not only to meet the needs of the authors and readers but also, through the standards set, to add to the strength of the field. Every volume counts, but the series as series should in the long run count greatly.

The SSA connection? The series editor for IRMA is appointed by Cambridge University Press in consultation with the Society. IRMA is edited from

Addiction's London office, with Patricia Davis taking administrative responsibility, and Griffith Edwards as series editor.

• Recent titles:

Harold D Holder (USA) *Alcohol and the Community: a systems perspective for prevention* (1998); Nadia Solowij (Australia) *Cannabis and Cognitive Functioning* (1998); Robert J Meyers & William R Miller (USA) *A Community Reinforcement Approach to Addiction Treatment* (2001)

A new publisher for *Addiction*

In January 2002 *Addiction* goes over to publication with Blackwell Science. We see this as offering a valuable new publishing partnership. And here's some welcome news from our new partners. Blackwell Publishing has reached an agreement with the Open Russian Consortia to provide access to all their journals (science, medical, humanities and social science) to institutions within the Russian Federation. Blackwells expect to extend the scheme to 500 Russian institutions in the future, and to sites in Belarus and the Ukraine. The deal, signed in July last year, is sponsored by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and will last for two years. For full details, consult <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>

History directly spoken: a forthcoming book of *Addiction* interviews

Early in 2002 Blackwell Science will be publishing under its "Addiction Press" imprint *Addiction Interviews: key witnesses talking*. This collection of thirty *Addiction* interviews published since 1990, with commissioned commentaries is edited by Griffith Edwards. Taken as a whole, the collection provides insights into the life and times of addiction science over the latter decades of the twentieth century. But it is also a book about individual professional endeavour and will serve as a source of inspiration as well as information.

• In press:

Thomas Babor & Frances Del Boca (USA) *Treatment Matching in Alcoholism*.

Invitation If you have an idea for an IRMA volume even at an early stage of thinking, do please make contact and be assured of interest and welcome.

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