



NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 1

October 1985

Published Quarterly

President's Message

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This newsletter signals the rapid growth of AMSAODD. We are grateful that Mrs. Lucy Barry Robe, a multipublished author active in the field of chemical addictions, has accepted this editorship. Send her your news items and suggestions.

With the cooperation of the California Society for the Treatment of Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies, we move forward with the certification project (see p. 3).

The column "AMSAODD Board Meeting" will alert you to the new and varied activities of your society. Committees are busy and some are expanding and need dedicated members. Please let us know what committee(s) you'd like to work with.

The board, with representatives from all segments of our membership, encourages your input. Contact your regional board member; let's hear your ideas. We're growing (over 1,850 members). We're busy. We're progressive. We want to be sensitive to the needs and desires of our membership.

Our Board has increased the number and duration of its meetings. Please know that all expenses (travel, housing, etc.) for these meetings are paid for by the officers and board members themselves.

Government, "third party" people, and industry are rapidly making changes that impinge on patient care. We will strive to be effectively and ethically responsive to these changes. Your input is requested.

ALCOHOLISM: Clinical & Experimental Research, our journal edited by Marcus A. Rothschild, MD, and Mary E. Fox, RN, encourages your manuscripts and suggestions. (Editorial address: Nuclear Medicine Service, Veterans Administration Medical Center, First Ave & 24th St, New York, NY 10010. Phone: (212) 689-3937)

Our annual meeting, together with the Ruth Fox Course for Physicians (Maxwell N. Weisman, MD) and the medical-scientific conference (Marc Gallanter, MD) will be held in conjunction with the Research Society on Alcoholism and the annual forum of the National Council on Alcoholism. Dates are April 18-22, 1986. Place: San Francisco. Please make plans now to attend this outstanding event.

You see--there are many ways to be active in AMSAODD. Let's hear from you.

Warm good wishes,

Max A. Schneider, MD
President

2110 East First St, Suite 118, Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 835-7665

Twenty board members attended the July 27, 1985, meeting in Chicago.

Proposed California contract for AMSAODD Certification Project: AMSAODD to budget \$107,524, with \$44,969 for contractual society (two-year period).

Training Course: (see p. 3)

New Committees: 1) Medical Student/House Officer: Keith E. McManus; 2) Advisory (former AMSAODD leaders) to also function as Ethics Committee; 3) Ad Hoc Committee on Gay and Lesbian Alcohol/Drug Problems: Larry Siegel, MD.

Constitution Committee: will be activated by Jess W. Bromley, MD, to clarify relationships of state chapters to regional and national, and to develop guidelines for forming state chapters.

Publications Committee: (Stanley E. Gitlow, MD) AMSAODD reiterated its desire to expand the name of the scientific journal to Alcoholism & Other Chemical Dependencies: Clinical & Experimental Research to reflect the society's overall interest in chemical addiction. Publication of quarterly AMSAODD Newsletter approved.

NCA Criteria: Dr. Schneider to write NCA executive director Tom Seesel about including AMSAODD members on this NCA committee.

Public Policy: On behalf of AMSAODD board, Dr. Weisman to write the APA about new organization AAPAA (American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions). All its members belong to APA.

Medical Education: In report of June meeting with Chicago ACCME office, James A. Halikas, MD, "quite sure" that AMSAODD will receive reaccreditation for Category I CME credit.

Peer Review: Board agreed to support the APA's position that psychiatric, alcohol and substance abuse DRG's are significantly flawed. Committee (headed by Percy E. Ryberg, MD, and Sheldon Zimberg, MD) to develop position on length of stay (inpatient and outpatient).

Membership: (LeClair Bissell, MD) total now 1,850.

Treasury: names of members in arrears going to state chairpersons and regional directors. Platform budget to board in October.

Other: According to Dr. Schneider, the US Navy decision to transfer its alcoholism treatment program from medical to "line service" has been rescinded. AMSAODD's letter against the move was influential.

Next Board Meeting: October 21, 1985, in New York City.

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Call/write AMSAODD about special introductory offer. Phone: (212) 206-6770	Phone: (603) 646-5809	Phone: (205) 934-2294

(courtesy sample ads)

Why certification for physicians in the field of chemical dependency? Margaret Bean-Bayog, MD, chair of the Credentialing Committee, told AMSAODD Newsletter that the definition of certification is "one who has mastered a body of knowledge." She said that "a lot of people in the alcoholism field have long wanted physicians in the field to have a high level of skills and scientific credibility" and for this body of knowledge to be accredited. Certification will cover 13 classes of drugs, with the range to include opiates, psychedelics, caffeine and nicotine.

AMSAODD will sponsor a review course prior to the exam next year. According to Anne Geller, MD, chair of the Training Course Subcommittee, the review course will be open to all physicians and will be offered in four cities in September 1986. The subcommittee, which met in July 1985, will prepare a syllabus of the material to be taught. "The course will cover the body of knowledge about alcoholism and other addictive drugs that we feel is necessary to master as physicians, in order to practice in the field of chemical dependency," Dr. Geller told AMSAODD Newsletter. Content will range from "basic pharmacology to treatment strategies to followups" and will be modelled after the review course given by the California Society for the Treatment of Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies.

Each area will organize its own course and designate teachers for it, according to Dr. Geller, but for quality and quantity control, the material offered will be the same around the country. An AMSAODD representative will travel to each site as "overall supervisor."

Review courses for the exams, each sponsored by a local AMSAODD group, will be held in: Chicago Sept. 5-6 (Herbert D. Trace, MD); Los Angeles Sept. 12-13 (California Society for the Treatment of Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies, Ms. Gail Jara); New York City Sept. 19-20 (Dr. Geller); Atlanta Sept. 26-27 (Al J. Mooney III, MD).

A different committee will prepare the certification exam, which will be given simultaneously in several cities throughout the country in late October or early November. Yet another group will grade the examinations.

Chair of the Subcommittee on Testing is Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD; chair of the Standards Subcommittee is Marc Galanter, MD.

Regional News

Impaired Physicians Programs

Six state medical societies now have impaired physicians programs that directly or indirectly employ AMSAODD members: David I. Canavan, MD (New Jersey); Roger A. Goetz, MD (Florida); Barton A. Harris, MD (New York); William J. Farley, MD (Georgia); David T. Dodd, MD (Tennessee); Kent E. Neff, MD (Oregon). Drs. Canavan, Goetz, and Harris are full-time; the other three are half-time.

Region 8: H. Blair Carlson, MD, of Littleton, Colo., would like to know if there is a published list of available fellowships in alcoholism and drug dependency. Sandra Jo Counts, MD, of Seattle, would like sources for recent and unbiased published information on cost effectiveness of treatment. As chairman of AMSAODD's Region 8, Dr. Counts also writes: "There are certainly broad differences in this organization. My region of 11 or 12 states has 130 members. I have not calculated how many square miles per member that is, but it has to be enormous, and our problems of communication are quite different from those of people in the high-density regions. For instance, it's unlikely we will ever be able to have a regional conference, since who will come to Seattle from Arizona when they could go to California?"

Please send us your region's news. Also tell us about your books, conferences, grants, scientific papers. Don't blame us if you are left out of this newsletter.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(Sponsored or co-sponsored by AMSAODD)

Breathing Techniques for Recovery and Self-Transformation: Baltimore, Nov. 2. The Resource Group, 7402 York Rd, Suite 101, Baltimore, MD. Phone: (301)337-7772.

Current Issues on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse: Burlington, MA, Nov. 16. The Mediplex Group, Inc., 2101 Washington St, Newton, MA 02162. Phone: (617)969-0480.

National Conference on Cocaine: The Clinical Challenge: New York City, Nov. 17-19. Regent and Fair Oaks Hospitals/U.S. Journal Training, Inc., 1721 Blount Rd, Suite #1, Pompano Beach, FL 33069. Phone: 1(800)851-9100.

SECAD 10: Southeastern Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Atlanta, Dec. 4-8. Charter Medical Corp., Addictive Disease Division, 11050 Crabapple Rd, Suite D-120, Roswell, GA 33075. Phone: 1(800)845-1567.

Treating Alcoholism and Substance Abuse among Gay Men and Lesbians: Boston, Dec. 11. The Mediplex Group, Inc., 2101 Washington St, Newton, MA 02162. Phone: (617)969-0480.

AMSAODD 17th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference, with RSA (Research Society on Alcoholism): San Francisco, Apr. 18-22. Deadline for abstracts Jan. 3, 1986. Ruth Fox Course for Physicians Apr. 18.

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

p. 4

Joseph A. Pursch, MD--Dear Doc
(CompCare)
Abraham J. Twerski, MD--Self-Discovery
in Recovery (Hazelden)
Joseph R. Cruse, MD--The Romance:
A Story of Chemical Dependency
(Nurturing Networks)

Are you published?
Please let us know, so that we
can list your new book.

GRANTS

NIAAA: 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville,
MD, 20857

Children of Alcoholics (COA's): inherited traits, markers, coping mechanisms, non-alcoholic COA's, influence on parental relapse, incest and battering, gender traits, minorities. Inquiries to: Ernest Vanderveen, PhD, Chief, Clinical & Psychosocial Research Branch, Room 14C-17. Phone: (301)443-4223.

Trauma: alcohol-related injury and death. Inquiries to: Ms. Jeanne Trumble, Director, Alcohol and Safety Projects, Room 16C-24. Phone: (301)443-2890.

The Robert Johnson Wood Foundation:
PO Box 2316, Princeton, NJ 08540.
Medical care strategies that enable patients to better conserve or regain ability to function on daily basis. Inquiries to: Phyllis L. Kane, Program Assistant. Phone: (609)452-8701.

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