



American Medical Society on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies, inc.

NEWSLETTER

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President's Message.

Medical history was made on Oct. 18, 1986, when 662 AMSAODD members in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, sat for the first national physician's exam in chemical dependency. We are grateful to the over 100 Society members, headed by Drs. Margaret Bean-Bayog, Anne Geller, Anthony Radcliffe, Marc Galanter and John Chappell, for the tremendous contribution of time, effort and dedication over the past two years, which made this project a reality. Thanks also to Gail Jara, project coordinator, and to Claire Osman and Eshel Kreiter of the AMSAODD staff, for their great efforts. Certificates will be awarded at AMSAODD's annual meeting in Cleveland next April to those who passed the exam.

The 1987 certification exam is scheduled for Dec. 5. Spread the word to physicians in all specialties, encouraging them to sit for this exam. We are keeping faith with our original plan to gradually escalate the requirements for taking the exam.

Over 850 physicians attended the review courses and made very positive comments. Four such courses will be held in the fall of 1987, dates and places to be announced.

The tremendous expansion of our programs requires more staff, support systems and funding. To meet these needs, dues will increase to \$150 per year. Until now, over 50% of each member's dues paid for a JOURNAL subscription; beginning in 1987, dues will no longer include this subscription. However, members can henceforth subscribe to a number of journals at specially reduced rates; this offers the option of choosing journal(s) appropriate to individual needs.

Negotiations were completed with the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) and Williams & Wilkins (publisher) for our continuing joint publication of the journal ALCOHOLISM: Clinical and Experimental Research for an additional year, during which time long-term planning will continue. We are happy to report this workable agreement as we strongly believe that the JOURNAL represents an important contribution to research in our field. Specific changes in this new contract will be reported in the near future. Personal thanks to Drs. William Hawthorne and Stanley Gitlow for their adroit handling of this important matter.

The JOURNAL needs high caliber clinical research articles. Send for review to: Marcus A. Rothschild, MD, Editor, Nuclear Medicine Service, Veterans Administration Medical Center, First Ave & 24th St, New York, NY 10010.

The AMSAODD Annual Meeting, Medical-Scientific Conference, and Ruth Fox Course, in Cleveland April 23-26, 1987, promise to be extremely exciting. Please plan to attend.

Max A. Schneider, MD, President, 2110 East First St, Ste 118,
Santa Ana, CA 92705-4097. Phone: (714) 835-7665

Twenty-seven physicians attended the Sept. 21, 1986, meeting in New York.

Certification: (Tony Radcliffe, MD)

Requirements for taking 1987 certification exam:

- 1) AMSAODD member in good standing with dues current and
- 2) MD or DO with current license in good standing in jurisdiction in which applicant practices and
- 3) good standing in his/her professional community and
- 4) one year full-time involvement in CD field or the equivalent of one year full-time (FTE) and
- 5) successful completion of an approved residency training program or certification by a specialty organization recognized by ABMS (American Board of Medical Specialties) or--for 1987 only--five years full-time clinical practice in any field of medicine (or the equivalent in time of five years full-time [5 FTE's]).

After 1987 the clinical practice option will not be available. Instead, an approved residency training program and/or Board certification by a medical specialty organization recognized by the ABMS will be required.

Individual's exam scores will be confidential; stored, for the present, for AMSAODD at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Any communications/questions about the 1986 exam: write to AMSAODD in New York.

Recertification will be required within 7 years. For the present, the certification exam will also be used for recertification, but subcommittee to study feasibility of a separate exam.

1987 exam date: Saturday, Dec. 5, 1987. The application form will be mailed to members in Dec. 1986.

Review Course: (Anne Geller, MD) Single syllabus for all four Review Course sites to be developed. Dates and sites of 1987 Review Courses to be announced.

Membership: (LeClair Bissell, MD) 2300 AMSAODD members as of September. Continual increase of membership fueled largely by interest in the certification exam.

Budget & Finance: (William B. Hawthorne, MD) AMSAODD membership dues raised to \$150 to support structural changes in the society; will no longer include subscription to 'Blue journal.' Fee for 1987 certification exam set at \$450.

Publications Committee: (Stanley E. Gitlow, MD)

Over a dozen journals have offered reduced subscription fees to AMSAODD members, who could subscribe to journal(s) of their choice when paying AMSAODD dues. These include: The Alcoholism Report, The Addiction Letter, The Drug Abuse Report, DATA (The Digest of Addiction Theory and Application), Alcohol and Alcoholism (The British Medical Council on Alcoholism Publication), The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly, Advances in Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Journal of Chemical Dependence Treatment, and The Journal of Studies on Alcohol (Rutgers). A study of which journals AMSAODD members chose would show our board what kind of journal--if any--the society might want to hand-design in the future.

Advertising revenues for the AMSAODD Newsletter indicate possibility of ads eventually paying the lion's share of publication's cost. Newsletter will initiate two Letters to Editor columns: 1) clinical issues and 2) other issues on alcoholism and other drug dependence. Newsletter to be published bi-monthly (6 issues per year) beginning Jan. 1987.

Publications (cont.)

Board voted to reopen discussion of AMSAODD's involvement with 'Blue Journal' (ALCOHOLISM: Clinical and Experimental Research). Drs. William Hawthorne and Jean Forest negotiated a compromise with RSA (Research Society on Alcoholism): tentatively AMSAODD would offer the journal to members at reduced rates, along with other journals [see above] but matching RSA's subscriptions for the first year; AMSAODD's name would remain on journal cover as co-owner, editorial policy to remain the same; AMSAODD free to concurrently own/co-own other journals.

Medical Education: (James Halikas, MD) Co-sponsorship by AMSAODD includes two specific guidelines: 1) must meet criteria of ACCME and 2) no event may take place at same time that another AMSAODD-sponsored meeting, committee, or general meeting is held.

Program: (Marc Galanter, MD) AMSAODD attendance at annual Medical-Scientific Conferences rising steadily: from 270 in 1984 (Detroit) to 463 in 1986 (San Francisco). Abstract submissions for 1987 (Cleveland) due by Dec. 1, 1986.

Main theme of NCA Forum April 22-27) will be alcohol and sports. Due in part to the success of the Ruth Fox Course for Physicians, NCA will offer a new annual course for alcoholism counselors: the Marty Mann course, chaired by Sheila B. Blume, MD.

AIDS and Chemical Dependency: (Larry Siegel, MD) Program for AIDS Forum Feb. 20-21 in Fort Lauderdale complete. Registration fee \$150 for AMSAODD members, \$175 for non-members. AMSAODD board recommendations about HIV testing in treatment facilities to be discussed at Feb. 22 board meeting.

President's Report: (Dr. Schneider) Reiteration that AMSAODD certification exam is within the confines of AMSAODD, does not test competency but mastery of a body of knowledge.

US Dept. of Health & Human Services requests assessment of safety and clinical effectiveness of aversion therapy. Board recommended response: "although not the kind of issue AMSAODD can take a position on at this time, we will notify our membership through the Newsletter that this study is underway, and urge those who have individual contributions to make to correspond directly." [National Center for Health Services Research and Health Care Technology Assessment, Room 3-10, 5600 Fishers Lane, Park Bldg, Rockville, MD 20857].

Public Policy: (Sheila B. Blume, MD) Four public policy statements are in various stages of development: children of alcoholic and drug dependent parents; physician's role in treatment (with Committee on Standards and Economics); marijuana; highway safety.

AMSAODD sent a letter of support to Sen. Paula Hawkins for NIAAA/NIDA reauthorization, and for warning labels on beverage alcohol.

Trauma: (Joseph J. Zuska, MD) AMSAODD had a booth at the last meeting of the American College of Surgeons.

Long Range Planning: (Dr. Schneider) Committee to be appointed that will develop and promote core curriculum for medical schools.

Term of Office: State and committee chairpersons' terms of office to be limited to two years, beginning with AMSAODD Annual Meeting in April 1987. Terms will be co-terminus with AMSAODD president, who can reappoint state chairs.

Next Board Meeting: Sun. Feb. 22, 1987, Fort Lauderdale, FL, after AIDS Forum.

<p><u>MEDICAL DIRECTORS/STAFF PSYCHIATRISTS/PRIMARY CARE PHYS.</u> Medical Recruiters of America has attractive opportunities for psychiatrists, primary care physicians in chemical dependency/psychiatric facilities, as well as private practices throughout the US. Send c.v. or call toll-free: 1(800)237-5021. [Florida call collect (813)872-0202.] Attn: Joyce L. Adams, Physician Recruitment MRA, 3421 W. Cypress, Tampa, FL 33607-5093</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA, PA opening for PHYSICIAN exp.substance abuse treatment Full or part time. Call E. Gusman at: 1(800)535-7698 or at (504)893-4879. Other openings in IL, TX, WY.</p>
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<p><u>CLINICAL DIRECTOR/PHYSICIAN</u> Needed immediat. for addictions/co-dependency program of an expanding psychiatric facility. Required: MD with 4 years medical practice. Prefer recovering alcoholic/co-dependent; psychiatric residency favorable. Competitive salary. Send resume to: Personnel Manager, Oaklawn Center, 2600 Oakland Ave, Elkart, IN 46517 Phone: (219)294-3551. EOE</p>	<p><u>MEDICAL DIRECTOR</u> Private 46-bed residential treatment center specializing in CD. Prefer recovering/co-dependent individual. Contact: Steve Ember, Adm. Charter Pineg Recovery Ctr. Mobile, AL (205) 432-8811</p>
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HALF PAGE AD: \$500

Call/write AMSAODD office: (212)206-6770
 12 W. 21st St, New York, NY 10010

Prepared by the AMSAODD Standards & Economics of Care Committee and approved by the AMSAODD Board.

According to committee co-chair Sheldon Zimberg, MD, "these are not standards of care, but are peer review admission and continued care criteria. They are based on experts' consensus for realistic criteria."

The goal of these and other forthcoming criteria: "to determine a realistic set of criteria for government regulators and insurable payers that can be utilized in review of patients."

Detoxification Criteria

I. ADMISSION REVIEW: #1, #2, #3, and at least one from #4.

1) Diagnosis of one: alcohol abuse, alcohol dependence, alcohol withdrawal, alcohol withdrawal delirium, alcohol hallucinosis, alcohol idiosyncratic intoxication, AND

2) History of recent or current drinking, AND

3) Patient is in need of 24-hour observation and/or skilled nursing care, AND

4) One or more from a) to h): a) onset or expectation of withdrawal syndrome based on observation and history; b) other medical or psychiatric conditions which require close observation during withdrawal (e.g. pregnancy, heart disease, liver disease, suspected head injury, uncontrolled hypertension); c) history of significant additional drug ingestion during present drinking episode; d) uncontrolled behavior endangering self or others; e) suicide risk; f) other severe psychiatric or medical disorder which in combination with alcoholism requires observation and nursing care; g) patient is unable to care for his/her immediate needs; h) failure of ambulatory detoxification.

II. LENGTH OF STAY: Up to 7 days, including 48 hours of drug-free observation.

III. CONTINUED STAY REVIEW:

1) Patient continues to have symptoms or complications of withdrawal, OR

2) Patient is experiencing medical or psychiatric condition requiring continued hospital level of care, OR

3) Patient is withdrawing from a combination of alcohol and another drug(s) known to have a detoxification pattern of longer duration.

IV. CRITICAL DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES:

- a) complete history and physical examination,
- b) appropriate diagnostic studies as indicated,
- c) progressive reduction of appropriate drug, with 48 hrs. of observation after the last dose of detoxification medication,
- d) provision of counseling and/or psychiatric services and rehabilitation aimed at treatment beyond detoxification for patient, family, and/or significant others,
- e) discharge plan completed with referral for continued care for alcoholism,
- f) treatment of co-existing medical or surgical problem,
- g) psychiatric evaluation and treatment if indicated.

Emanuel M. Steindler has been appointed to the newly developed position of Executive Director of AMSAODD. Claire Osman will continue in her position as Administrative Director.

"For the past 24 years, 'Manny' has been an executive with the American Medical Association, most recently as Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse," Dr. Max Schneider told AMSAODD Newsletter. "He developed and implemented the AMA's impaired physicians program; authored or co-authored the AMA programs on drinking and driving and on medical education in chemical dependency; and was editor of the AMA's "Manual on Alcoholism" and "Drug Abuse Handbook for Physicians." He is a member of NCA's national board of directors.

"Manny will be headquartered in Chicago. Communications with our New York City office will be by computer. As AMSAODD's membership and activities escalate, Manny's skills, experiences and expertise are urgently needed. The AMA has indicated its support and the possibility of joint projects.

"Welcome, Manny!"

AMSAODD member Enoch Gordis, MD, is new Director of the NIAAAA (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism), the fifth since the U.S. government agency began in 1971. A specialist in internal medicine, Dr. Gordis had directed an alcoholism treatment program in Elmhurst, NY, for the past 15 years, and is also a researcher in the alcoholism field. He took office October 9th.

Dr. Gordis told AMSAODD Newsletter that "there has been much progress in bringing alcoholism into the mainstream of medical concerns, and AMSAODD has played an important role in achieving some of that progress. However, we still have a good deal to do before alcoholism can be accepted fully by colleagues in other disciplines as a legitimate area of treatment, research and education. I hope that the NIAAAA, in cooperation with organizations such as AMSAODD, will be able to contribute to this important endeavor."

AMSAODD now has a Committee on Tobacco Dependence, chaired by John D. Slade, MD, of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. Dr. Slade asks "AMSAODD members interested in the work of the committee" to contact him at: (201)745-8600, ext. 8180 (office) or (609) 921-3216 (home), or to write him at: 166 Montgomery Rd, Skillman, NJ 08558-9642.

"People often ask the AMSAODD office about Dr. Ruth Fox," Claire Osman told the Newsletter. "Dr. Fox's daughter tells me that her mother is resting comfortably in the nursing home. However, she no longer has visitors outside the family."

Beginning with this issue, the AMSAODD Newsletter will be published bi-monthly, instead of quarterly. We plan two new reader-written columns: one for clinical problems, the other for AMSAODD-related issues (see p. 7).

Got a clinical problem that bothers you? Think another physician can help? Write (under 100 words) Letters to Editor, AMSAODD Newsletter, 15 Ridge Rd, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724. Unsigned letters cannot be considered for publication.

In the January Newsletter, we plan to publish a list of CD fellowships that are available around the country. Readers with any information about CD fellowships please contact the AMSAODD office.

AMSAODD has a press release about the 1987 certification exam. We would appreciate people sending this to their county medical society, hospital publication and/or local chapter of specialty society. The AMSAODD office has copies of the announcement.

In Memoriam: Henry L. Rosett, MD; Kemal Akdamar, MD.

LETTERS TO EDITOR:

AMSAODD members: as the size of your medical society and its involvement in various issues expands, we want to hear from you. This 'Letters to Editor' column will be your forum for AMSAODD-related matters: issues, policies, controversies.

For example, how do you feel about the AMSAODD certification exam? The review course? Re-certification? Insurance reimbursement for aversion therapy? Mandatory drug testing in specific populations? Accepting AIDS patients in your treatment facility?

Send your letter to: Letters to Editor, AMSAODD Newsletter, 15 Ridge Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724. Please keep it short (under 100 words); we may have to abbreviate it further. Unsigned letters cannot be considered for publication.

Sandra Jo Counts, MD, sent a clipping from the American Medical News of 10/3/86:

"Physicians have an obligation to report drug or alcohol abuse in cases where the public safety is at stake. This message from the AMA received nationwide attention...[after] a report in the Pittsburgh Press stating that at least 23 airline crew members, including a pilot near death from a cocaine overdose, had been treated at Pittsburgh hospitals for medical crises related to drug abuse. Hospital officials said confidentiality laws prevented reporting of such abuses."

Newspapers quoted the AMA's counsel, "if physicians do not report such cases to authorities, they run the risk of being held liable." According to the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, "The obligation to safeguard patient confidence is subject to certain exceptions, which are ethically and legally justified because of overriding social considerations."

Dr. Counts asks: "I wonder what AMSAODD members think of this or whether other legal opinions contradict this opinion?"

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FUTURE MEETINGS
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FELLOWSHIP

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Charter Medical Corp., 11050 Crabapple
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Phone: 1(800)845-1567. In GA:
(404)641-9268.

Two one-day courses in Adolescent
Alcohol and Drug Dependence, one on
treatment, one about family: in L.A.,
San Francisco, New York, Boston,
Columbus, Chicago, Dec. thru May. The
Resource Group, 7402 York Rd, Ste 101,
Baltimore, MD 21204.
Phone: (301)337-7772.

National Forum on AIDS and
Chemical Dependency: Ft. Lauderdale,
FL, Feb. 20-21, 1987. AMSAODD, 12 West
21 St, New York, NY 10010.
Phone: (212)206-6770.

Ruth Fox Course for Physicians:
Cleveland, April 23, 1987.
AMSAODD Medical Scientific
Conference: Cleveland, April 24-26,
1987.
Conference Coordinator, AMSAODD,
12 West 21 St, New York, NY 10010

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PHYSICIAN
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: The San Francisco
VA Medical Center will have an opening
in its Substance Abuse Fellowship
Program on July 1, 1987. Fellows in
the two-year program train in the
diagnosis and treatment of drug and
alcohol abuse. Participating
facilities include the San Francisco
Va Medical Center, University of
California Medical School, Langley
Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute, San
Francisco General Hospital,
Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, and
Merritt Peralta Hospital. Applicants
should have an interest in addictive
diseases, be licensed to practice
medicine, be board certified or
eligible in Psychiatry, Internal
Medicine, Family Practice, Neurology,
Anesthesiology, or Clinical
Pharmacology. Preference will be given
to U.S. citizens. Salary range begins
at \$32,000 and will be higher
depending on PGY-level and prior
experience.

Applicants: send letter of
interest and curriculum vitae, plus
five letters of recommendation, to
Peter Banys, MD, Program Director,
Substance Abuse Fellowship, VA Medical
Center (116-E), 4150 Clement Street,
San Francisco, CA, 94121. The deadline
is Dec. 15, 1986. Direct questions to
Dr. Banys at (415)750-2127. EOE.



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