



NEWSLETTER

Volume II, No. 3

March 1987

Published Bi-Monthly

Editor:

Lucy Barry Robe
15 Ridge Rd
Cold Spring Harbor
NY 11724
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President's Message

We've come a long way, folks. Our name, constitution, and bylaws (Dr. Jess Bromley, chair) now more truly reflect our broad concerns. Membership has surged. The certification program is established. Intensive review courses have received rave reports (Dr. Anne Geller, chair). Regional meetings have sprouted. Education programs (CME) have increased. A major AIDS seminar was held. Nicotine dependence is being addressed. Long term planning has been established. Mr. E. M. Steindler is our first fulltime executive director. Claire Osman begins her 17th year as our administrative director. Special thanks to Drs. William Hawthorne (finance chair), LeClair Bissell (membership chair), Marc Galanter (program chair, Medical-Scientific Forum) Maxwell Weisman and Charles Whitfield (Ruth Fox Course).

AMSAODD New York:

Claire Osman
12 West 21st St
7th floor
New York, NY 10010
Phone: (212)206-6770

Dr. Margaret Bean-Bayog (chair certification project), together with subcommittee leaders Drs. Marc Galanter/William Kennedy (credentialing), James Halikas/Charles Whitfield (fellowship), and Anthony Radcliffe/John Griffin (examination) have done a marvelous job.

AMSAODD Chicago:

E.M. Steindler
6525 W. North Ave
Oak Park, IL 60302
Phone: (312)848-6050

This newsletter was inaugurated and is now published bi-monthly--thanks to Ms. Lucy Barry Robe and the publications committee (Dr. Stanley Gitlow). A new membership directory is expected very shortly.

The U.S. Journal has given us voice and subscriptions.

A special debt of gratitude to Dr. Jasper Chen See, our treasurer--generous with his time, energy and wise counsel.

Your suggestions are needed and heeded. Your participation is encouraged. Your energies and thoughts are necessary. "Drug" and "alcohol" folks can work together. We must increase our liaison with other workers in the chemical dependency field while at the same time keeping CD in the mainstream of medicine. Our future is secure with your help and our new leadership. Our April Annual Meeting in Cleveland deserves your attention. It will be intellectually stimulating and provide an emotional high. Let's continue the surge of progress together.

Max A. Schneider, MD, President

2110 East First St, Ste 118, Santa Ana, CA 92705-4097

Phone: (714)835-7665

AMSAODD Board Meeting Highlights

Over 30 physicians attended the Feb. 22, 1987, board meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Certification: (Margaret Bean-Bayog, MD) Certificate ceremony for those who passed the 1986 AMSAODD exam, or the California Society 1983 or 1984 exams, at our annual luncheon, Saturday, April 25, Stouffer Inn on the Square, Cleveland, OH.

Executive director E. M. Steindler to explore a relationship between AMSAODD's certification project, and subspecialty certification in association with relevant boards, such as the ABIM, ABPN, ABFP.

Credentiailling Subcommittee:(Marc Galanter, MD) AMSAODD-certified members total 735. Of these, 565 passed the 1986 certification exam; 163 had previously been certified by the California Society; 7 were Exam Subcommittee members who helped to develop the exam. For those unclear about how to mention their AMSAODD certification on c.v.'s, etc. the subcommittee will prepare precise wording, for Board approval.

Exam Subcommittee:(Tony Radcliffe, MD) 100 did not pass the 1986 exam.

Scoring process for the 1986 exam:

--scores on each part (multiple choice questions and patient management problems) were considered separately in order to pass.

--a passing score was 1.2 standard deviations or less from the mean, based on combined pooling of 1983 and 1984 (California Society) and 1986 AMSAODD scores.

AMSAODD to issue a Request for a Proposal (RFP) for the development of the 1989 certification exam; the current California Society contract with AMSAODD ends April 1988.

All data developed thus far from exam process belongs to AMSAODD. Any material generated by AMSAODD is the private property of the society and no individual has the right to use it without prior approval of the Board.

Fellowship Subcommittee: (James Halikas, MD) Interested fellowship directors and AMSAODD members to brainstorm CD (chemical dependency) fellowship problems in Cleveland on Friday, April 24, at 10:00 AM. Dr. Halikas has a list of desirable components for CD fellowship training programs.

New subcommittee (of Certification committee) will develop a core curriculum for various levels of medical education.

Review Course: (Anne Geller, MD)

New Orleans.....Sept. 17-19 (Drs. Donald Gallant, Lynn Hanks)

Chicago.....Oct. 8-10 (Drs. David Benson, Amin Dagheshami)

San Francisco....Oct. 22-24 (Drs. Garret O'Connor, Sanford Reder, Peter Banys)

Washington, DC...Nov. 5-7 (Drs. Martin Valaske, Mary Dufour)

Working committee in New York to develop a uniform syllabus for Review Course.

Publications: (Stanley E. Gitlow, MD) AMSAODD intends to extend its contract with Williams & Wilkins, publisher of the 'blue journal' (Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research) for one more year, should the Research Society on Alcoholism desire such a continuation. AMSAODD would thus guarantee 300 subscriptions at \$50 each (\$15,000), but would indicate to RSA that this arrangement would end Dec. 1, 1988.

In February, many AMSAODD members received \$70 renewal notices for the blue journal from Williams & Wilkins. This occurred without AMSAODD's knowledge, since all members had the concurrent opportunity to subscribe for \$50 when paying their annual dues. [W & W offering refunds to any AMSAODD member who inadvertently subscribed twice to journal.]

AMSAODD Newsletter now accepts advertisements from treatment centers and drug companies. All drug ads will be reviewed by a committee of physicians, prior to acceptance.

Newsletter now welcomes "pending policy" statements. If chair of a committee sends a draft of AMSAODD policy statement to editor Lucy Robe, Newsletter will explain that committee is still changing and polishing the statement, and that AMSAODD invites members to comment to their area representatives on the AMSAODD board. Send policy statements to Newsletter at any stage of development that committee wishes.

"Future Meetings" free listings in Newsletter restricted to conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by AMSAODD. "New Books" free listings limited to books by AMSAODD members, or authors related to AMSAODD.

No flier enclosures can be inserted in Newsletter at present time.

No official publication, or publication with official sanction, or publication bearing official comment, can use AMSAODD's name without prior approval of the material by the Board, or by an approved committee.

Medical Education: (James A. Halikas, MD) AMSAODD sponsored or co-sponsored 12 conferences between Jan. 23 and April 26, 1987.

Standards & Economics of Care: (Percy Ryberg, MD) In the APA's revision of DSM-III for DSM-III-R, the term "abuse" (psychoactive substance abuse) is back in the document. AMSAODD board voted to contact APA and request inclusion in process to formulate DSM-IV. Nomenclature committee will be formed.

AIDS & Chemical Dependency: (Larry Siegel, MD) (See report p. 4 on the AIDS Forum.) Board approved a 1988 AIDS conference, chaired again by Dr. Siegel, who welcomes suggestions from AMSAODD members for workshops, topics and speakers.

Committee's "Facility Guidelines for Substance Abusers at Risk for and Infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)" approved by Board.

Budget & Finance: (William B. Hawthorne, MD) Reimbursements for expenses of members participating in AMSAODD programs must be approved in advance by this committee, and the president.

All AMSAODD news releases must be approved in advance by the president or executive director. AMSAODD will hire someone to prepare news releases and handle press contacts.

Public Policy: (Sheila B. Blume, MD) Board approved the following policy:
"Recognizing the immense personal, social and economic cost of drug dependencies to society at large, AMSAODD acknowledges that drug dependencies are diseases and are a legitimate part of medical practice. In addition, AMSAODD encourages individual physicians, other health professionals, medical and other health-related organizations, government and other policy-makers to inform themselves about drug dependencies and to base their policies and activities on the recognition of drug dependencies as diseases."

AMSAODD policy statement on "Children of Parents Suffering from Alcoholism or Other Drug Dependencies" also approved by Board.

Confidentiality Subcommittee: (Sheila B. Blume, MD, acting chairperson) has been made part of the Public Policy Committee. AMSAODD members are encouraged to recommend members.

Membership Committee: (LeClair Bissell, MD) Dr. Bissell was asked to recommend proposed reduced dues figures for retired, foreign and other special individuals.

Trauma: (Joseph J. Zuska, MD) AMSAODD's exhibit at the Oct. '86 American College of Surgeons meeting interested nearly 200 physicians.

Report from Executive Director: (E. M. Steindler)

Mr. Steindler hopes to help implement AMSAODD's Long Range Plan, which was approved by the Board in September. Several directors of AMA divisions were not aware of AMSAODD's certification process, but are very interested in it. Important to publicize AMSAODD's policies. Liaison with government agencies essential.

He is exploring areas that would benefit AMSAODD members beyond reduced journal subscriptions, bi-monthly Newsletter, chance for certification, reduced meeting fees.

Other: According to Dr. Chen See, some foreign members with frozen monies may have a problem paying AMSAODD dues. Any member of AMSAODD who wants to help a foreign colleague, please contact Claire Osman in the New York office.

AMSAODD will create a new ad hoc committee to study methadone maintenance. Chair: James T. Payte, MD.

Board approved AMSAODD statement that diagnosis of alcoholism should not preclude consideration of liver transplant as treatment mode. AMSAODD also opposes arbitrary abstinence length as a requirement before alcoholics can be considered for organ transplantation, but recommends decisions on a case by case basis. AMSAODD joining NCA (National Council on Alcoholism) in supporting amicus brief in a Michigan case.

Next Board meetings: April 22, and 25 (new officers) in Cleveland OH.

About 150 participated in the AMSAODD-sponsored conference on AIDS & CD in Ft. Lauderdale FL, Feb. 20-21. Forum explored the relationship between drug and alcohol use and AIDS; how to treat chemically dependent patients who have--or risk developing--AIDS, or ARC (AIDS-related complex), or HIV (human immunodeficiency virus, also known as HTLV/LAV infection); and how to educate patients and staff about AIDS.

Chemical dependency apparently heightens risk of infection and subsequent illness, through a greater tendency to risk-taking (particularly sexual and sharing needles), and immunosuppression by alcohol and other drugs. "Many drugs of abuse predispose to risky behavior--including sexual," according to Larry Siegel, MD, of Key West, chairman of the AIDS Forum. He believes that effective intervention in drug and alcohol misuse may offer a practical means to help curtail the AIDS epidemic.

"It is absolutely critical for chemical dependents to be well informed about AIDS," declared David E. Smith, MD, of the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic in San Francisco. Theories suggest that "infection with HIV alone is not sufficient to cause the development of AIDS." Co-factors may damage the immune system along with HIV. The drugs most commonly suspected are: "alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, amyl and butyl nitrate, and perhaps opiates and PCP."

Luncheon speaker Robert G. Niven, MD, former director of the NIAAA, and others deliberated over whether physicians should treat the chemical dependency of PWAs (persons with AIDS) who are expected to die soon.

Several physicians described how change in lifestyle can be beneficial through:

- better general health to fight infection;
- some recovery of immune impairment in some patients;
- discontinued exposure to HIV (particularly if sexual lifestyle changes and use of contaminated needles stops).

With these changes, seropositives (those with HIV) might not necessarily develop AIDS. Those with AIDS would have an improved quality of life in the time left to them.

Another major issue was whether a CD facility should treat AIDS victims, or, indeed, should even test for it, particularly in risk groups such as IV users and gay men. "The idea of an onslaught of AIDS patients scares chemical dependency treatment centers," said William B. Hawthorne, MD, of New England's Mediplex Group. "Professionals fear that staff as well as patients will panic if their facility treats patients who have AIDS. Most are unclear about what to do." Dr. Hawthorne believes that "education and knowledge can replace the current hysteria," and that families as well as patients and staff should be educated.

Dr. Hawthorne also said that an "informal survey" he conducted indicated that most rehabs have seen few AIDS/CD patients. "In fact, most said that they have had only one, if that. So we have breathing time before any onslaught."

Proceedings of this AIDS Forum will be published in the quarterly Advances in Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Barry Stimmel, MD, editor, in late 1987.

Audio tapes of the conference are for sale now by Infomedix, 12800 Garden Grove Blvd, Ste F, Garden Grove, CA 92632. Phone: 1(800) 367-9286. (In California: 1(800) 992-9286.)

MEDICAL DIRECTORS/STAFF PSYCHIATRISTS/PRIMARY CARE PHYS.
 Medical Recruiters of America has attractive opportunities for psychiatrists, primary care physicians in CD/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

FAMILY PHYSICIAN, specialt. CD
 seeks associate. Busy practice, growing desert commun. Hard worker willing treat AIDS and Chemical Dependency
 Contact: Mel Pohl, MD, 2810 W. Charleston Blvd, Ste F54, Las Vegas, NV 89102. (702)870-0808

Dear Editor:

Questions have been raised in the AMSAODD Newsletter regarding the ethics and legality of reporting cases of suspected child abuse to state hotlines when patients are covered by federal confidentiality laws and regulations covering alcohol and drug treatment. The August 1986 U.S. Public Law 99-401 resolves the former conflict between federal confidentiality regulations and state mandated child abuse reporting. The new law adds the following language to the federal confidentiality law:

"The prohibitions of this section do not apply to the reporting under State Law of incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect to the appropriate State or local authorities."

Note that only the initial report of the incident can be made without consent. Any requests for additional information and the patient's record itself are still protected. A signed informed consent or specific court order issued under subpart E of the regulations are required, subject to all of the restrictions of the regulations, as in any other request for information.

Sheila B. Blume, MD
Amityville, NY

Dear Editor:

I think it's very nice that we now have a choice of journals. The AMSAODD membership comes from such a variety of different backgrounds, and has such a variety of professional activities, that the opportunity to have a say and a choice about what we read is appreciated.

Jean L. Forest, MD
Malvern, PA

Dear Editor:

When I decided to leave Juneau, Alaska, I sent my c.v. out to people advertising for physicians in the AMSAODD Newsletter. That's how I ended up here at

Oaklawn. I'm really grateful that you have ads in the Newsletter.

Delores Burant, MD
Elkart, IN

Dear Editor:

Over the past few years, AMSAODD has done well in bridging many gaps that have traditionally fragmented the chemical dependency field. The gap between alcoholism and other drug dependencies has narrowed with our name change. The certification exam has brought all areas of the medical profession together around a cohesive body of knowledge.

In the increasingly fierce and changing environment of cost-containment, I would offer one further gap which AMSAODD members will hopefully gradually help to close: the gap between policy makers, health insurance companies and benefit management decision-makers as a group, and clinicians and treatment facilities who labor under admission and utilization review processes.

If the integrity and quality of patient care is to be preserved, the time is rife for greater mutual education and communication of the needs and priorities of cost-containers and clinicians. With our increased consensus-making and brainstorming with both sides of the gap, we may yet find a way to innovate a "win-win" situation for the good of our patients.

David Mee-Lee, MD
Marblehead, MA

Dear Editor:

I wish to comment on the Letter to the Editor from Dr. James M. Todd, Brattleboro, VT, which was published in the January, 1987, issue [of the Newsletter].

The technique of methadone maintenance as a treatment for heroin addiction is indeed legal in all fifty states.

Kathleen Bell Unger, MD
San Francisco, CA

Wanted: Psychiatrist to join busy practice on the Florida Suncoast. Will assist in the treatment areas Co-Dependency, Chemical Dependency, General Psychiatry; In-Patient and Out-Patient. This is a salaried position. Send resume to:
Center for Problem Resolution
Attn: Leslie G. Brewer, D.O.
1793 Largo Lane, Largo, FL 33544

Dear Editor:

The letter in the January 1987 Newsletter from James M. Todd is an eloquent testimonial in favor of increasing the training requirement for board certification.

Dr. Todd might be interested to learn that the "controversial" and "illegal" technique of management with methadone maintenance is currently being used to treat about 75,000 patients per year. As a physician who has been involved in methadone treatment for over 10 years, I am concerned that so many "Addictionologists" think that methadone maintenance is an unimportant or unsophisticated method of treating narcotic dependence.

Methadone maintenance is strictly regulated by State and Federal governments and is extremely cost-effective, particularly in comparison with inpatient programs, which, for the most part, are limited to the very wealthy or the very insured. In spite of the frequent claims by specific drug treatment programs or practitioners pushing specific treatment modalities, there is no evidence what so ever that any method of treatment is any more effective than methadone.

If AMSAODD placed heavy emphasis on methadone maintenance in the 1986 board, I would like to congratulate the authors for their perspective on drug treatment in the real world.

James W. Hayden, PhD, MD
Houston, TX

This new 'Letters to Editor' column is an opportunity for AMSAODD's membership to make use of a real forum. Our editor, Lucy Robe, is offering us her ear: if you are too busy to write a letter, feel free to telephone her. She will take down your comments and send your 'letter' to you for approval before publishing..

What do you wish to see in this newsletter? What do you want AMSAODD to do--to accomplish for you as a member?

For example: do any government rules/regulations/policies about drugs bother you? How do you feel about school programs on prevention? About breathalyzers?

Our committees could benefit from--in fact, they need--reflections by the AMSAODD membership. How do you feel about what our committees are doing?

Anything else on your mind?

Publications Committee

Awards to AMSAODD Members

The Association of Clinical Scientists' 1986 Certificate of Honor for Contribution to the Clinical Sciences to Jasper Chen See, MD.

The California Society for the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependencies Vernelle Fox Physicians Award for 1987 to Max A. Scheider, MD.

The 1987 National Drug Abuse Medicine Award to Jokichi Takamine, MD; the 1987 Sidney Cohen Lectureship to Ernest P. Noble, MD.

The American Medical Association's 1986 Education and Research Foundation's Award for Health Education to G. Douglas Talbott, MD. ...

In Memoriam

Emery Hetrick, MD, of New York; respiratory failure attributed to an AIDS-related condition. Associated with Pfizer Inc., Harlem Hospital Psychiatry Dept., co-founder of the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth.

Nath Nayar, MD, of Ontario; acute leukemia. President & CEO of Donwood Institute. His wife, Christine, wrote AMSAODD that Dr. Nayar took his certification exam last fall "during a blast crisis," and hoped to learn the results before he died. "Although his sensorium was much affected" when notification that he had passed the exam arrived during his final week, "I did tell him about it as did his colleague and, in fact, his treating hemotologist. We all believe he knew before he died." ...

Free Subscriptions to CD Magazine for Physicians

Alcoholism & Addiction Magazine offers a free subscription to every physician in the U.S. who makes the request on his or her letterhead prior to April 30, 1987.

Write: Alcoholism & Addiction Magazine, 23860 Miles Rd, Cleveland, OH 44128. ...

Errata: In last issue's list of new state chairs, Dawn Obrecht, MD, was incorrectly listed as "Dan." ...

Medical Director

Methodist Outreach, Inc., Memphis, TN, a 55-bed residential substance abuse facility, is seeking a board certified (or eligible) physician for our MEDICAL DIRECTORSHIP.

Methodist Outreach, an affiliate of Methodist Health Systems - our nation's fifth largest private multi-hospital system - is under management by Health Industries of America.

--Adolescent and Adult Programs

--Inpatient and Structured Outpatient Treatment

Strong treatment team in place. JCAH accredited.

Attractive compensation possible for this key role.

Respond in confidence to:

Janet Kirk, Administrator
Methodist Outreach, Inc.
2009 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38114
Phone: (901) 276-5401

Western Conference
on Addiction

Sponsored by Charter Medical
April 1-3, 1987
April 4 - Cocaine Workshop
Salt Lake City, Utah
800-845-1567 912-742-1161
15 Hours - CME Cat I credits

Situation Wanted: 52-year-old med. school teacher w. knowledge of recovery wants position in CD setting. Good lecturer and teacher. Contact Tom S. Allen, MD
4465 Thomas Glen, Beaumont, TX 77706 Tel: (409)899-9475

Immed. openings for B/E or B/C psychiatrists, to direct adult or adol. addictive disease units in hospitals S & W Texas. Peter McLees, Charter Medical Corp., 9550 Flair Dr, Ste 409, El Monte CA 91731. Phone: (818)401-1881

Freedom '87

The Geisinger National
Conference on Addiction

Oct 28 - Nov 1, 1987
Philadelphia, PA

Conway Hunter, Jr., MD
Chairman
Geraldine O. Delaney
Co-Chair

Sponsored by:
Marworth Alcoholism
Treatment Centers and
The Geisinger Foundation

Call for information -
1-800-451-4442 - Nat'l
1-800-622-8926 - Penn

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Ad rates begin at \$50

For information call:
E. M. Steindler, Exec. Dir.
AMSAODD - Chicago
(312) 848-6050
or

Newsletter Editor
Lucy Robe on Long Island
(516) 367-6692

May issue ad deadlines:

Conferences: April 30

Help/Situations Wanted:
May 14

Newsletter published:

May, July, September
November, January, March

FUTURE MEETINGS

Sponsored or co-sponsored by
AMSAODD (one-time listing
for co-sponsored confer-
ences)

WESCAD 2: Western Confer-
ence on Alcoholism & Drug
Dependence, Vancouver, BC,
Apr. 1-4.

Elmer H. Ratzlaff, MD,
3075 Point Gray Rd,
Vancouver, BC V6K 1A7.
Phone: (604)734-5333.

Western Conference on
Addiction: Salt Lake City,
Apr. 1-3.

Cocaine Workshop: Apr. 4.
Charter Medical Corp.,
11050 Crabapple Rd, Ste
D-120, Roswell, GA 30075.
Phone: (800)845-1567.

Adult Children of
Alcoholics: St. Simons
Island, GA, Apr. 15-19.

Conway Hunter, Jr., MD,
ACOA Workshop, PO Box 646,
Sea Island, GA 31561.
Phone: (912)638-5529.

AMSAODD Medical Scientific
Conference: Cleveland, April
23-26.

AMSAODD Board Meeting:
April 22.

Ruth Fox Course for Physi-
cians: April 23.

AMSAODD Luncheon: April
25. Awarding of Certificates
ceremony for those who
passed the AMSAODD 1986
Certification Exam or the
1983 or 1984 California
Society Exam.

AMSAODD Board Meeting:
April 25.

Conference Coordinator,
AMSAODD, 12 West 21st St,
New York, NY 10010.

Conference Manager phone:
(203)227-7084.

Northeast Conference on
Alcohol & Drug Dependence:
Newport, RI, May 3-6.

Jane A. Drury, Conf.
Coord., Edgehill Newport
Foundation, Beacon Hill Rd,
Newport, RI 02840.
Phone: (401)847-2225.

Great Fellowship Tour of
Russia: May 7-23. Drs. Max
Weisman and Anne Geller.

Myra Abrams, Agency Interna-
tional, 22 Lenox Pointe, NE,
Atlanta, GA 30324.
Phone: (800)445-0616.

A Conference on the
Treatment of Chemically
Dependent Healthcare

Professionals: Scotia, NY,
May 13.

Conifer Park, Glenridge
Rd, Scotia, NY 12302.
Phone: (518)399-6446.

3rd Annual Western Insti-
tute on Addictions:

Albuquerque, May 18-22.
Institute for Integral
Development, Po Box 2172,
Colorado Springs, CO 80901.
Phone: (303)634-7943.

AMSAODD Review Course:

New Orleans: Sept. 17-19
Chicago: Oct. 8-10
San Francisco: Oct. 22-24
Washington, DC: Nov. 5-7

AMSAODD Certification
Exam: Saturday, Dec. 5,
1987.

AMSAODD, 12 W. 21 St, New
York, NY 10010
Phone: (212)206-6770

NEW BOOKS

Donald I. Davis, MD:
"Alcoholism Treatment, An
Integrative Family and
Individual Approach"
(Gardner Press)

Peter A. Selwyn MD: "AIDS:
What is Now Known" (HP Pub-
lishing Company)



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