# ASAM NEWS

# American Society of Addiction Medicine

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Membership Renewal Alert See p. 8

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New Officers....

# ASAM Sends Core Benefit Policy to White House

ASAM has developed a position statement for treatment of alcohol, nicotine, and other drug abuse and dependence, which the society sent to Hillary Rodham Clinton and her health care reform task force on Mar. 4.

The statement urges specific inclusion of primary and specialty treatment for substance use disorders in any basic health benefit.

(See Executive Vice President's report p. 3; position statement p. 4)

"The most immediate and urgent task is to ensure that treatment for alcohol, nicotine and other drug dependencies be included in the core medical benefit in national health care reform legislation."

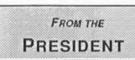
-- Dr. Geller (see p. 2)



Anne Geller, MD - new ASAM president

ASAM is a specialty society of physicians who are concerned about alcoholism and other addictions and who care for persons affected by these illnesses.

#### President Anne Geller, MD New York, NY



Term: 1993-1995.

Specialty: Neurology

Present Title: Chief, Smithers Center, Senior Attending Medicine, St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital, New York City.

ASAM Board: since 1984.

ASAM Cmtes:

Chair--Management Section; Ad Hoc Specialty Status;

Past chair--Medical Education Section; Review Course and Review Course Syllabus; New York State.

Member--Executive (since 1986); Nomenclature.

Current Academic Affiliation: Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons.

Recent Author: "Restore Your Life" Bantam Books, pub. 1991; also booklets, articles, monographs, papers.

ASAM Certification: 1986.

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One reason it is so rewarding to be an ASAM member is that the level of genuine altruism is so high. Some of us came into addiction medicine because of our personal experience, others because we saw a population under served by traditional medicine, and still others because we found treating addicts exciting, challenging, and professionally satisfying.

But we all, I believe, are committed to the ASAM mission: to ensure that addicted patients have access to the best quality care given by practitioners who are competent in addiction medicine.

In the early years of becoming a national organization, ASAM focussed on defining that body of knowledge which is required to practice addiction medicine, and on teaching and testing ourselves. I remember sitting for ASAM's first nationwide examination in 1986 with great pride and great trepidation. I had organized the ASAM review courses and syllabus, but by regulation knew nothing of the separately organized exam. I hoped that our concepts of the contents of addiction medicine overlapped significantly. Now, seven years of practice and hard work later, we have an established, respected certification examination; 2,619 ASAM members have passed it, and we veterans of '86 are up for recertification. This enormous effort has been costly to the society, not only in money but also in the time, energy and commitment of ASAM members. But the effort has been totally worthwhile and, I believe, essential to our being part of mainstream medicine.

For the next five years, however, our focus will shift to the areas of clinical practice and to our goal of setting standards for access to and quality of addiction medicine care.

The most immediate and urgent task is to ensure that treatment for alcohol, nicotine, and other drug dependencies be included in the core medical benefit in national health care reform legislation. The ASAM "Core Benefit" statement must be distributed widely (see p. 3), and ASAM must be involved at all levels in discussions of health care reform.

We also must take the next steps in the development of the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria. This will mean obtaining data on its reliability and validity, linkage with assessment tools, and consequent revision of the initial document.

In addition, we must begin to develop practice guidelines for addiction medicine in a variety of clinical settings, with the goal of completion within three years.

In order to achieve these goals ASAM needs to commit not only the resource of our members' time and efforts, but also staff time and finances.

Of course we will seek outside funding. But we should be prepared to fund from within. In order to do this, we must examine the other areas to which our financial resources have been committed, and determine where to economize. This is a critical time for health care. It is especially critical for a field in the early stages of development, such as addiction medicine. We must have data-based standards of care if we are to participate in the health care system, and we, the practitioners in the ADM field, must provide them. I cannot emphasize too strongly how urgent and important is this task.

We need to continue our efforts to obtain new members, to retain current members, and to be widely known as the national multi-specialty medical society for addictions. This is also a priority in the allocation of financial resources.

We must support research, and our research institutes NIAAA and NIDA. Basic and clinical research is essential to our continuing growth. In the last decade, we have developed a basic science of addiction that places us firmly within medicine. But we need to know more about the causes and courses of addictive diseases. We need more extensive and varied treatment techniques. Above all, as clinicians we need to know much more about what treatments work and for whom. In our support of research we will be making a different kind of commitment, a commitment to be informed practitioners and teachers, to know and to use the available data, to be ready to discard approaches which have been shown to be ineffective, and to use those for which there is solid scientific evidence. We also must commit ourselves to searching for the most cost-beneficial way to deliver services to addicted patients. This approach should be manifested in our ASAM committees, in our conferences, as well as in our activities within our own medical communities.

In emphasizing the goal of providing guidelines and criteria for clinical practice, which was determined a priority by the ASAM Board in its October retreat last year, I do not intend that our many other activities not be continued. Indeed, our strength lies in having many and diverse interests. Priorities change. When they do, it is healthy for our organization to have, as we now do, a group of informed and dedicated members who are already at work in the areas to be developed. All our committees have contributed and will contribute to our richness and our growth.

This is an enormously exciting time for ASAM. I look forward to the next two years with eager anticipation, which I know you share with me, about the contribution we can make to improve the quality of addiction treatment.

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#### ASAM's Action in National Health Care Reform

by James F. Callahan, DPA

On March 4, 1993, ASAM sent to the White House the "American Society of Addiction Medicine Core Benefit for Primary Care and Specialty Treatment and Prevention of Alcohol, Nicotine and Other Drug Abuse and Dependence." The "Core Benefit" was sent with letters from ASAM President Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD, to Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chair, President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform, and to Tipper Gore, Chair, Sub-Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The "Core Benefit" is a statement of the minimum treatment and prevention benefits that must be available to an in individual and his/her family under a national health care program. The "Benefit" urges that primary and specialty treatment for substance use disorders be specifically included in any basic health benefit, rather than be assumed to fit under some category, such as mental health. The "Benefit" is premised on the use of objective criteria, such as the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria For The Treatment of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders (PPC), to determine which level of care is most appropriate for the severity of the illness. The PPC is also the basis for determining patient movement through the continuum of care. The full text of ASAM's statement begins on page 4 of this issue of ASAM NEWS.

The "Benefit" was prepared by ASAM's Health Care Reform Task Force, and approved by the ASAM Executive Committee during a March 3 conference call. The task force members are the five officers of the society (Jess W. Bromley, MD, Jasper G. Chen See, MD, Anne Geller, MD, William B. Hawthorne, MD, Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD), and Sheila B. Blume, MD (Chair), James F. Callahan, DPA, Paul H. Earley, MD, Marc A. Galanter, MD, David C. Lewis, MD, David Mee-Lee, MD, Michael M. Miller, MD, David E. Smith, MD, and G. Douglas Talbott, MD.

The development of the "Core Benefit" is the initial step in what will be an all-out effort by the board and ASAM members to assure that addiction treatment becomes a benefit for all Americans. This would truly be a landmark and a goal for which we have all worked long and hard.

ASAM will involve the entire membership in the national dialogue that will take place around President Clinton's proposal, once it has been submitted to Congress on May 1, 1993. We will ask state chapter presidents and state chairs to have ASAM members petition the state, county, and local medical societies to include a comprehensive treatment benefit for addictive diseases in their national health care reform proposals, and to promote the use of the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria.

The chairs and members of ASAM's nine medical specialty committees (Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry and Surgery) will be asked to take ASAM's position to their respective medical society, academy, or college leaderships, and to ask that medical specialty proposals on national health care reform identify addiction as a primary disease, and treatment as a core benefit.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE

In addition, ASAM will press home its message to the AMA through its delegates to the AMA's annual and interim meetings, and at the President's Forum, an annual meeting between the AMA leadership and leaders of national medical specialty societies.

ASAM will also ask each member of the Society to write President Clinton and to personally visit and/or write his or her U.S. Senator and Representative, urging inclusion of ASAM's Core Benefit in health care reform provisions. An initial "Call to Action" is on this page (below).

Lastly, through its Washington office, ASAM will make known its position to the members of the Clinton Administration, and will work closely with national health and addictions organizations in the Washington Coalition and other national forums, where national health care reform is discussed and benefits packages are proposed.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM ACTION ALERT

ASAM, as a member of the National Coalition on Alcohol and Other Drug Issues, urges you to write to President Clinton and to your U.S. Senators and Representatives to convey the following clear and simple message:

"Any national health care reform proposal must include a core benefit for primary care and specialty treatment and prevention of alcohol, nicotine, and other drug abuse and dependence, if access to health care is to be a reality for all Americans."

Your letter need not be long. It simply must state the above message. Please write today and send me a copy of your letter... *JFC* 

#### **NIDA Technical Reviews**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse will hold a series of "technical review meetings, in which experts from the drug abuse field will review current research findings and state-of-the-art research methods," according to Richard A. Millstein, acting director of the Institute. Technical Reviews are open meetings, and "NIDA would welcome the attendance of any interested ASAM member."

Three will deal with treatment research issues: • June 10-11: "Potentiating the Efficacy of Medications: Integrating Psychosocial Therapies with Pharmacotherapies in the Treatment of Drug Dependence" • Aug. 26-27: "Medications Development for the Treatment of Pregnant Women" • Sept. 8-10: "Outcomes in Cocaine Treatment"

Interested ASAM members are invited to contact Dr. Dorynne Czechowicz at NIDA: **a** (301) 443-4877.

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Names in boldface are first mentions of ASAM members.

The following new position statement was sent to the President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform on Mar. 4. (Also see report by Dr. Callahan p. 3.)

### ASAM Core Benefit for Primary Care and Specialty Treatment and Prevention of Alcohol, Nicotine and Other Drug Abuse and Dependence

#### Preface

#### Statement of the Problem

Alcohol, nicotine and other drug dependencies are widespread primary chronic diseases (1,2,3,4). A study of nearly 20,000 adult Americans in the general public found a 13.5% lifetime prevalence of alcohol abuse or dependence, and a 6.1% lifetime prevalence of other drug abuse or dependence, exclusive of nicotine (5). The prevalence rates of substance use disorders for children are also significant. Additionally, about 17% of American adults are dependent on the nicotine in tobacco (6). Alcoholism is associated with 25% of all general hospital admissions (7) and alcohol abuse and dependence cause an estimated 100,000 deaths annually. Smoking of tobacco is responsible for 434,000 deaths per year (8).

The health costs, exclusive of tobacco costs, are estimated at \$140 billion per year (9). Substance use disorders lead to a wide variety of long term disabling diseases such as hepatic cirrhosis, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, cerebral atrophy, and fetal alcohol syndrome, and to an increased incidence of HIV/AIDS and antibiotic resistant tuberculosis. In society as a whole, substance use disorders also adversely affect family members (10), increase absenteeism and poor job and school performance, and are associated with crime, violence and accidents.

#### Cost Benefits of Treatment

The cost benefit of treatment has been demonstrated (11,12,13). Studies also demonstrate cost offsets for alcoholism treatment within the healthcare system, (14,15), including a 1993 report (16). Additional cost offsets are produced by decreased vehicle crashes, family violence, work and school absenteeism, and industrial accidents (17).

#### Objective Basis for Determining Need, Level and Continuum of Care

The need for and level of treatment must be a clinical judgment based on objective guidelines derived from research literature and clinical consensus such as the guidelines in the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria (PPC) For The Treatment of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders. (18) The goals of objective criteria are to match intensity of service to severity of illness in a continuum of care, prescribe a treatment level that can accomplish the objectives safely, and provide a framework in which clinical outcomes and cost benefit may be assessed. These goals and concepts have been widely accepted. The PPC contains separate criteria for adults and children.

#### Principles

Alcohol, nicotine, and other drug dependencies are primary diseases which produce serious secondary physical and psychiatric complications. Principles that govern the development

# **POLICY STATEMENT**

and implementation of the Core Benefit are:

- A. Primary care and specialty treatment for substance use disorders should be specifically included in any basic health benefit, rather than be subsumed under some other category, such as mental health.
- B. Coverage should include a continuum of primary care and specialty services that provide effective treatment for substance use disorders.
- C. Provision should be made for simultaneous treatment of substance use disorders and their physical and psychiatric co-morbidity, wherever indicated.
- D. Ongoing treatment evaluation, case management, cost benefit and outcome studies should be an integral part of the ongoing evaluation of all substance use disorder services.
- E. Eligibility should be based on competent diagnosis of substance use disorders by use of objective criteria such as the DSM III-R/IV or ICD 9/10, and on medical necessity.
- F. Patient placement should be based on objective criteria with quality of care assured by appropriate review.
- G. Where specialized substance use disorder services are provided, these services must be linked to the rest of the health care system.
- H. Medicine must work closely with other professional providers and self-help groups, and all must avail themselves of the broad network of community services to address the long-term vocational, education, and other needs of people with substance use disorders.
- Linkage between medical institutions and non-medical rehabilitative services should be assured by requiring such institutions to be licensed and accredited (e.g. state licensing boards, JCAHO and CARF).
- Coverage for alcohol, nicotine and other drug dependencies should be non-discriminatory on the same basis as any other medical care.
- K. Caps or limits on numbers of treatment visits, days or payments should be applied in the same manner as with any chronic disease.
- L. Treatment should be financed from the same source as any other primary disease. Additional revenue could come from taxes on alcohol and tobacco products, but the budget for substance use disorder treatment should not be contingent on sales of these products.

#### **Core Benefit**

The Core Benefit is a statement of the *minimum* services that must be available to an individual and his/her family. The Benefit is:

#### 1. Prevention Through Patient Education:

on the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

 on the risk factors for the development of drug dependency.

These services are offered to patients and their families in

a health care setting and are analogous to dietary and exercise counseling for patients at risk for myocardial infarction or diabetes mellitus.

#### 2. Assessment and Treatment:

- · history
- physical examination
- · mental status examination
- · screening and diagnosis
- provision of treatment as is required of any chronic disease
- management of acute exacerbations and relapse
- · detoxification at appropriate levels of care

#### Scope of Benefit

Treatment should be provided in the most appropriate and cost beneficial setting. Inpatient treatment should be used when justified by illness severity; e.g., when the illness meets the criteria for Level III or IV placement according to the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria.

When significant social problems are the major factor determining the need for inpatient care, such care would preferably take place in residential settings, with appropriate cost sharing between the health care and social service systems.

Patients with physical or psychiatric co-morbidity may need additional care or consultation from other disciplines. Some patients with severe physical or psychiatric co-morbidity may require treatment in or referral to appropriate settings.

Linkages among all service systems should be maintained and monitored.

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Approved by ASAM Executive Committee March 3, 1993

#### **ASAM Healthcare Reform Task Force**

Sheila B. Blume, MD - chair Jess W. Bromley, MD James F. Callahan, DPA Paul H. Earley, MD Marc A. Galanter, MD Anne Geller, MD William B. Hawthorne, MD David Lewis, MD David Mee-Lee, MD Michael M. Miller, MD Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD David E. Smith, MD G. Douglas Talbott, MD

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New ASAM Officers Terms: 1993-1995

#### President: Anne Geller, MD

New York, NY See photo p. 1; article by Dr. Geller on p.2

#### President-Elect David E. Smith, MD

San Francisco, CA Specialty: Clinical Toxicology Present Title:President, Medical Director and Founder, Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinics, San Francisco. ASAM Board: since 1980s. ASAM Crates: Chair-- Nomenclature; Member--AIDS, Executive, MRO, Public Policy, Task Force Specialty Status, Joint

NCA/ASAM Definition/Criteria. Alternate Delegate to the AMA;

Past President: (CSAM) California Society of Addiction Medicine (now an ASAM state chapter).

Current Academic Affiliation: Associate Clinical Professor of Occupational Medicine and Clinical Toxicology, University of California Medical School at San Francisco.

Recent Author: Numerous books and articles; Founder Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.

ASAM Certification: 1986

## Secretary Lynn Hankes, MD

Seattle, WA (formerly Miami, FL) Specialty: Addiction Medicine. Present Title: (Feb. 1993) Director, State of Washington Physicians Health Program.

ASAM Board: since 1989.

ASAM Cmtes: Member--Executive, Resources & Development; director of Annual Ruth Fox Course for Physicians; former director of two Review Courses.

Academic Affil.: Former Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Miami School of Medicine. Recent Author: chapter with LeClair Bissell, MD, "Health Professionals" in "Substance Abuse - A Comprehensive Textbook Second Edition."

ASAM Certification: 1986.



Deadline for ballots was Mar. 15. ASAM NEWS will run photos of the new regional board members in a future issue.

# Treasurer William B. Hawthorne, MD

Key West, FL.

Specialty: Psychiatry, Addiction Medicine

Present Title: Medical Director, Care Center for Mental Health.

ASAM Board: since 1985, Treasurer since 1987.

ASAM Cmtes: Co-Chaitr-- Ruth Fox Memorial Endowment Fund; Chair--Task Force'on the ASAM Journal; Member-- Publications. Representative from ASAM to JCAHO since 1987. Academic Affil.: Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School (1984-1991). Recent Author: article in Advances in Alcohol and Substance Abuse. ASAM Certification: 1986.



#### Immediate Past President Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD Fontana, CA

Specialty: Addiction Medicine

Present Title: Chief of Addiction Medicine, Chemical Dependency Recovery Program at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Fontana.

ASAM Board: since 1985. ASAM Committees:

Chair-- Exam 1985-87, Certification Council (beginning 1987); Steering; Membership Campaign. Member-- Executive; International. Current Academic Affiliation: Clinical Instructor, University of Cali fornia at Riverside; Assoc. Clinical Instructor of Preventive Medicine at Loma Linda Medical Center.

Recent Co-Author: "Pharmers Almanac."

ASAM Certification: 1986.



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#### Region 1 (New York) Marc Galanter, MD

New York, NY

Specialty: Psychiatry

- Present Title: Director of Addiction Services, Bellevue Hospital; President of aaPaa (American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions). ASAM Board: since 1987
- ASAM Cmtes: Chair--Annual Meeting Program (beg. 1982); Medical Education Section; Editor -- Recent Developments in Alcoholism; Member -- Ed. Bd--Journal of Addictive Diseases.
- Current Academic Affiliation: Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse,

N. Y. University School of Medicine. Recent Author: Editor, Substance Abuse journal; Assoc. Editor ,Alcohol ism: Clinical & Experimental Research. ASAM Certification: 1986

# Region II (California)

Kevin W. Olden, MD San Francisco, CA Specialty: Gastroenterology, Psychiatry Present Title: Consultant, Chemical Dependency Recovery Center, St. Mary's Hospital. ASAM Cmtes: Member -- Ad Hoc on Ethics; State Chapters. President of California chapter. Current Academic Affiliation: Assistant

Clinical Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, Univ. of California at San Francisco and at Davis. ASAM Certification: 1986

### Region III (New England) Alan A. Wartenberg, MD

Cumberland, RI Specialty:Internal Medicine Present Title: Medical Director, Addiction Recovery Program, Faulkner Hospital (Boston).

ASAM Cmtes:Member--Ad Hoc on Ethics; Fellowship.

Current Academic Affiliation: Assistant Professor of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine; (former) Brown Univ. Ctr Alc./Add. Studies.

Recent Author: chapters on chemical dependency in 4 books; journal articles. ASAM Certification: 1986

These nine board members were elected by their regions as ASAM NEWS went to press. Deadline for ballots was Mar. 15.

Region IV (Ohio & Pennsylvania) Bruce K. Branin, DO

Waverly, PA

Specialty: Addiction Medicine Present Title: Medical Director, Chemical Dependency Services, Geisinger Health Care System of NE Penn. ASAM Board: since 1992 ASAM Cmtes: Member--Medical Care in Recovery; Criteria. Founding president of Pennsylvania chapter. Current Academic Affiliation: Instructor in Addiction Medicine for Scranton-Temple Residency Program. ASAM Certification:1986

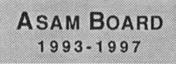
### Region V (Southeast) Richard A. Beach, MD

Pensacola, FL Specialty: Addiction Medicine Present Title: Medical Director of Twelve Oaks. ASAM Cmtes: Member -- Medical Care in Recovery; State Chapters. Former president of Florida chapter. ASAM Certification: 1988

#### Region VI (Midwest) Andrea G. Barthwell, MD Chicago, IL

Specialty: Addiction Medicine Present Title: Medical Director of Interventions. ASAM Board:since 1991 ASAM Cmtes: Chair & Co-Chair --Chicago Review Course in Substance Use Disorders (1989-1992); Co-Chair-State of the Art in Addiction Medicine (1991, 1993); Chair -- Cross-Cultural Clinical Concerns. Member--Methadone; Review Course; Pregnancy and Neonatal: Appeals; CME (Ex-Officio). President-Elect: Illinois chapter. ASAM representative to AMA Family & Violence Cmte.

Current Academic Affiliation:Lecturer, Univ. of Chicago Dept. of Psychiatry. ASAM Certification: 1986



#### Region VII (Southwest) J. Thomas Payte, MD San Antonio, TX

Specialty: Addiction Medicine Present Title: Founder, Medical Director of Drug Dependence Associates. ASAM Cmtes: Chair--Methadone Treatment. Current Academic Affiliation: Adjunct Instructor in Pharmacology at Univ. of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Recent Co-Author: 2 chapters in State Methadone Maintenance Treatment

Guidelines (CSAT); author, editor of journal articles.

ASAM Certification: 1987

#### Region VIII (West) Walton E. Byrd, MD

Tigard, OR Specialty: Allergy, Addiction Medicine Present Title: Physician in Charge, Chemical Dependency Center, -Professional Program at Springbrook Northwest, Newberg. Current Academic Affiliation: Lecturer, Addictive Diseases at Oregon Health Sciences University. ASAM Certification: 1986 Region IX (International) Ray Baker, MD New Westminster, BC, Canada Specialty: Family Practice Present Title: Medical Consultant co-founder of B.C. Lawyer's Assistance Program. ASAM Cmtes:Certification Exam applicant reviewer (1987-88). Chair--CMSAOD 1992 annual scientific meeting in Vancouver. Current Academic Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Director of AMIR (Addiction Medicine and Intercollegial Responsibility), Faculty of Medicine, Univ. of British Columbia. ASAM Certification:1986

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#### Chapter Presidents

ASAM now has 20 state chapters. The following are their presidents, as of March 9, 1993.

Chapter Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Florida Georgia Illinois lowa Maryland Mississippi Missouri Nevada New York Ohlo Oregon Pennsylvania Tennessee Texas Utah Washington

President Jack C. Whites, MD Alan Kazan, MD James M. Merritt, MD Kevin W. Olden, MD William T. Haeck, MD John Lenton, MD Andrea Barthwell, MD Dennis Weis, MD John R. Steinberg, MD Lloyd Gordon, MD Jorge A. Viamontes, MD Michael A. Jonak, MD Stephan J. Sorrell, MD Chris Adelman, MD Phillip Unger, MD Mark R. Publicker, MD Christine L. Kasser, MD J. Richard Mayo, MD John Carter Hylen, MD Roy D. Clark, MD

# MEMBERSHIP ALERT!!!!!

#### DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ASAM 1993 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

As a member service, listings are in alphabetical order by state for greater ease of networking among members

But only *current* ASAM members are listed! If you haven't already done so, renew your membership NOW!

By phone or FAX, use MasterCard or Visa

Phone: 202-244-8948 FAX: 202-537-7252 or by Mail: ASAM, P.O. Box 80139 Baltimore, MD 21280-0139

### DEADLINE: MAY 15, 1993

## ASAM NEWS

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# MRO / ASAM

#### Medical Review Officer Training Courses

#### **Two Courses**

An ASAM certified physician who completes an MRO course will receive a letter attesting that she/he has been certified by ASAM through written examination, as knowledgeable in the diagnosis and treatment of alcoholism and other drug dependencies, and that she/he completed a course given by ASAM for Medical Review Officers.

#### June 18-20, 1993

Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans, Louisiana

August 27-29, 1993 Crystal Gateway Marriott Arlington, Virginia

American Society of Addiction Medicine 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 409 Washington, DC 20015

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#### News About Members

Anne Geller, MD, of New York City, new president of ASAM, was re-

cently invited to join the National Advisory Council of the NIAAA (National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism).

Beny J. Primm, MD, director since 1989 of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAT) in Washington, DC, resigned Feb. 24, according to *Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Weekly*. Dr. Primm will return to New York City, to head the Urban Resource Institute and the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation there.

A new book, "Dr. Dave" by Clark S. Sturges, profiles ASAM new president-elect **David E. Smith**, MD, of San Francisco. According to Devil Mountain Books, the publisher: "When David Smith opened the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic on June 7, 1967, he didn't know whether it would last the month, let alone the summer. Today, more than 25 years later, Dr. Dave oversees a budget of \$8 million and a staff of 500 who meet the medical and social needs of approximately 50,000 patients a year. This is his story, an intense personal history with revelations that will probably surprise even many who know him."

In January, Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Weekly instituted annual awards, giving its "Voice in the Woods" Award to Michael O. Smith, MD, of New York City's Lincoln Hospital, who has "continued to champion the cause of acupuncture is an effective treatment for craving despite a lot of skepticism from the field."

#### Region III (New England) 6th Annual Conference

Region III held its sixth annual meeting at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, CT, on Jan. 23. Hosts were conference coordinator Mark L. Kraus, MD, Region III director Allan Graham, MD, and Connecticut state chair Peter Rostenberg, MD.

ASAM members held a business meeting and concluded that "ASAM National" should take a greater leadership role in promoting addiction medicine to corporate America, the insurance industry of America, and the American public. The group also discussed the need for better communication between the ASAM regions through improved use of our national newsletter, ASAM NEWS.

ASAM members who gave presentations were John D. Melbourne, MD, on the chemical dependency section in a community hospital setting; Dr. Rostenberg on trauma and substance abuse (he is co-chair of the Trauma Committee); Douglas Ziedonis, MD, on the dual diagnosis patient; Dr. Kraus and Michael A. Feinberg, MD, on primary care internal medicine residency training in addiction medicine.

Next year's conference, the region's 7th annual, will be held in the state of Maine.

[Conference report by Dr. Mark Kraus of Waterbury, CT]

Names in boldface are first mentions of ASAM members

# ABOUT ASAM

#### In Memoriam

Anton M. Krone, MD, of Tampa, FL, died in December. Certified by ASAM in 1986 and a former treasurer of the Florida chapter, his specialty was internal medicine.

Daniel Rakowski, MD, of East Amherst, NY, died in December. His specialties were internal medicine and psychiatry.

#### 299 Pass ASAM Exam

Of the 334 ASAM members who took the ASAM Certification Examination on Dec. 5, 1992, in Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles, 299 passed. The 11% rate for those who did not pass is the same as for the 1990 exam.

#### PPC Conference

ASAM's 3rd National Conference on Patient Placement Criteria (PPC) was held in Atlanta Feb. 19-21. The Georgia chapter (through its president, **Beth Howell**, MD) and the Georgia Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse, led a long list of co-sponsors. About 170 participants actively engaged in a conference designed to build skills in the areas of structuring programs and coordinating clinical staff in programs that have implemented the ASAM PPC; clinical assessment and treatment planning utilizing the PPC; and use of the PPC in appealing treatment authorization denials. Faculty included three chairs of ASAM's Standards & Economics of Care Section: Chris Kasser, MD, David Mee-Lee, MD, and Michael Miller, MD.

Participants were given a "Blueprint for Implementation of the PPC." Faculty focused on the sources of resistance to changes encountered when program introduce the PPC; management and supervisory leadership strategies for handling resistance to change within an organization; and the paradigm shifts from fixed-length-of-stay "program models" of ADM care to more clinically-driven, severity-of-illness driven models of care that employ service delivery systems with multiple levels of care. Attorney David Bralove completed the faculty; he addressed making successful appeals of adverse decisions of external utilization reviewers, and how using the ASAM Criteria can facilitate the appeals process. (Conference report by Michael M. Miller, MD, of Madison, WI.)

# Young Investigator Award to NIDA Researcher

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ASAM's annual young investigator award will go this year to Ivan D. Montoya, MD, MPH, for the best abstract submitted for presentation at ASAM's annual medical-scientific conference. Abstract title is "Reduction of Psychopathology Among Individuals Participating in Non-Treatment Drug Abuse Residential Studies." Dr. Montoya's sponsor was David Gorelick, MD, PhD, Chief, Treatment Branch, Addiction Research Center, NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) in Baltimore. The award will be presented in Los Angeles on May 1. Conference program chair is Marc Galanter, MD.



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Massachusetts General Hospital Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital



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#### Florida Chapter Annual Meeting in Orlando

The Florida Society of Addiction Medicine, which was the first state chapter to be granted a charter by ASAM, drew 125 participants to its 7th annual conference in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, Jan. 14-17. CME and CEU sessions (14.5 credit hours) were offered three mornings and one evening; participants used free time to enjoy adjacent Walt Disney World. The group included 60 physicians, 22 nurses who held a breakout session, and counselors.

Next year's conference is scheduled for Jan. 20-23, 1994, at the same Hotel Royal Plaza.

#### Monitoring Medical Professional Patients in Recovery

PRN (Physicians Recovery Network) monitoring groups for four southeast Florida counties were established in April 1989. Licensed professionals entering the groups contracted to attend 40 of 52 meetings for two years. Each group is facilitated by a licensed therapist who has experience in the addiction field, and an addictionist.

William T. Haeck, MD, new president of FSAM, reported on 45 months experience from the five established groups. They included health professionals licensed in Florida, but no nurses or paraprofessionals. From onset through Dec. 31, 1992, 117 professionals entered the program.

Thirty-three of the 117 (28%) relapsed, 19 (58%) more than once. Twenty relapsers (61%) had been through extended treatment, ten through primary treatment.

In the initial full two years, 41 of 62 (66%) entrants completed two years of monitoring without relapse, graduating to a less extensive monitoring program. Behavioral changes picked up relapse more frequently than did random urines.

Dr. Haeck said that his experience would indicate a relapse rate of 25% in professionals following treatment, during the first two years after treatment.

#### AIDS Update

Larry Siegel, MD, former chair of the ASAM AIDS and Chemical Dependency Committee, reminded the FSAM audience that a new definition of AIDS went into effect in January. All patients who have CD4 T cell counts of 200 or less must be reported to the State of Florida Health Dept.

He is encouraged that "from the time of exposure and infection by HIV until full blown AIDS develops, the median time during which 50% of these patients will *not* have developed AIDS-defining illness is now in excess of ten years." He also believes that too many CD professionals still have an attitude of "Why treat HIV positive patients for CD? They'll die anyway. Might as well let 'em use!" On the contrary, declared Dr. Siegel, "some have a very long life span from time of infection, and intervention strategies are available which can increase that longevity."



#### "The Recovery Book"

by AI J. Mooney, MD, Arlene Eisenberg and Howard Eisenberg.

Workman Publishing, New York City, 1992, 597 pages, \$13.95

Dr. Al Mooney is a former, ASAM board member and medical director of Willingway Hospital in Statesboro, GA. The CD facility was founded by his parents (one was the late John Mooney, MD, long time ASAM member) after they so-

bered up. Willingway began informally in the Mooney's home in 1960, treated nearly 600 patients in the 1960s and moved to its current 11-acre site in 1971. Willingway is still operated by the family of whom two, including the book's author, are ASAM members.

In the book's foreword by two-time ASAM president Stanley E. Gitlow, MD, who has treated alcoholics since the early 1950s: "... physicians and other helping professionals, you will under-



stand your addicted patients and clients as never before."

The book is divided into nine parts with 30 chapters. Its design is superbly user-friendly. Whether the reader be a newcomer to sobriety or an old timer, a family member, friend, or professional, the reader can browse at random, or can quickly and easily find specific material. Sections are divided and subdivided into shorter sections, with headings in boldface type. There are 'Guide Lines,' 'MiniGuides,' and other useful material presented in boxes for quick reference and easy rediscovery. For variety's sake, some material is presented via very brief, anecdotal case histories, followed by advice.

In "A Note to Physicians" at the end of the book, Dr. Mooney appeals to doctors to *learn*. "It's about time we acknowledged that the drinkers and druggers who wind up on Skid Row show up in our offices first, often--and it's up to us to recognize it--at a highly teachable moment...Alcoholism is a disease that causes other diseases--something like 350 of them. No body part or system escapes." Nor does the family: "If Jane Smith's lungs fail, all of her body's linked organs, including her brain, will die. If Jane, mother of three, becomes an alcoholic, a similar ripple effect may destroy her family."[LBR]

Names in boldface are first mentions of ASAM members.

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#### Third Printing for PPC

by David Mee-Lee, MD, Chair Standards & Economics of Care Section

Since the initial release of the Patient Placement Criteria two years ago, over 4,000 copies have been sold or distributed. ASAM now plans a third printing.

#### Response to Survey

The goal of the PPC was to produce a document that would be useful to health care payers, utilization review professionals, and treatment providers alike. ASAM sent over 2,000 questionnaires in January 1993 to asses whether we have reached the goal of producing a document that is appropriate, clinically relevant, and acceptable to professionals to approach addiction treatment from various vantage points.

Some preliminary results of 100 returns are as follows:

Most of the responses came from providers (77%); 7% were from managed care organizations, and 16% from others.

65% are using the PPC to assign patients to levels of care.

45% noted difficulties in training staff to use the PPC.

A little over half use the *PPC* to determine lengths of stay. Of these, 56% estimated such use in fewer than 1/4 of their patients; 32% said they were being used in over 3/4 of their patients.

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35% found the *PPC* being used by UR or MC firms, and 29% by providers in appealing UR actions.

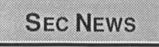
53% thought the *PPC* were userfriendly most of the time; 42% some of the time; and 5% not at all.

#### Incident Report Form Update

by Michael M. Miller, MD, Chair Reimbursement Committee

ASAM NEWS has twice published our Denial of Access to Care Report Form: in July-August 1990 (p. 3) and March-April 1991 (p. 11). From Oct. 1991 to March 1992, 90% of the returned forms showed denied approval of treatment plans for Continued Stay in Level III Care (as defined by the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria) Since then, only a handful of forms were returned to ASAM. One reason may be that the treatment field is so stressed that no one has the marginal time or energy to complete these Incident Reports.

We decided to focus data collection efforts in the most problematic area, so we prepared a "Revised Version 1993" of the Incident Report Form. We encourage ASAM members to use this to document problems when external utilization review agents deny access to care. ASAM is *not* discouraging members from returning completed versions of the



previous Incident Report Form; we will continue to assemble that data as we receive it and will report on it in ASAM NEWS. The 1993 version published in this issue (See p. 13) intends to examine the same problems but in a more focused fashion. We hope that it will provide a better picture of how the ASAM PPC are coming into play in the interactions between ASAM clinicians and external utilization review entities.

Please note that the Revised Version 1993 uses terminology that is consistent with the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria (PPC).We encourage ASAM members to incorporate the PPC into their clinical operations and to use the PPC when communicating with UR firms and external case managers. Note as well that the Incident Report Form is designed to document instances in which the ASAM Criteria for Continued Stay have been met, but authorization of the treatment plan has not been forthcoming from some external agent.

Please photocopy these forms as needed for use by you or your staff and return completed forms to the ASAM office, Suite 409, 5225 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Thank you.

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(Please photocopy as needed for use by you or your staff) Return completed forms to: American Society of Addiction Medicine, 5225 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., Suite 409, Washington, DC 20015

Your Name\_\_\_\_\_ Your State

ASAM Certified? No \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ Cert No. \_\_\_\_

Patient Age \_\_\_\_\_ Patient Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Principal Diagnosis (ICD/DSM Code) Date of Denial of Access to Care

#### I. PATIENT'S CURRENT LEVEL OF CARE (LOC)

- Outpatient Clinic: Gen Med/Surg/Psych Care
- Hospital Inpt: Gen Med/Surg/Psych Care
- Level IV ADM Services
- Level III ADM Services
- Level II ADM Services
- Level I ADM Services
- Other:

#### II. ADDICTION MEDICINE LOC REQUESTED

Level III ADM Services,

e.g. Residential Inpatient Rehab

#### **III. ACTION REQUESTED**

Admission (Entry) Continuation of Care

#### IV. PATIENT'S TYPE OF REIMBURSEMENT

- Medicare
- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- \_\_\_\_ County/City Government Health Care Funds
- Prepaid Capitated Care e.g. HMO
- Managed Indemnity Coverage e.g. "Commercial Insurance"
- Employer/Union Self-Insured Plan
- Uninsured Patient/Doesn't Qualify for Government Assistance

#### V. CRITERIA MET FOR JUSTIFYING YOUR CLINICAL DECISION WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY EXTERNAL UTILIZATION REVIEW.

PLEASE CHECK ITEMS ONLY IN CASES IN WHICH THE CRITERION FOR ADMISSION OR CONTINUED STAY HAS BEEN MET AND IN WHICH THIS CRITERI-ON HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE REVIEWER: BUT CHECK AS MANY AS APPLY TO THIS CASE.

- 1-A Withdrawal symptoms require continued 24-hr. monitoring
- 1-B. Post-withdrawal organicity contraindicates Level II care

#### ACCESS TO CARE DENIAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM Revised Version 1993 • ASAM Standards & Economics of Care Section

- 2-A. Specific documented biomedical comorbidities preclude Level II care at this time
- 3-A. Specific documented emotional/behavioral issues require 24-hr. monitoring still
- 4-A. Treatment Acceptance deficits are such that patient does not recognize, accept, and understand the seriousness of the addictive disease to a degree that leads patient to accept participation in Level II services
- 4-B. The patient has not demonstrated behaviors indicating appropriate personal responsibility or newly learned behavior/coping patterns such that success in Level II care could be expected
- 5-A. Relapse Potential is sufficiently high, as manifested by continued intense cravings, that Level II care is contraindicated
- 5-B. Relapse Potential is considered sufficiently high to indicate continuation in Level III care, due to patient being unable to appropriately connect relapse triggers with return to substance use
- 5-C. Imminent relapse appears likely outcome of admit/ transfer to Level II care, and clinical grounds exist to suggest that continued Level III care will favorably alter this likelihood
- 6-A. Recovery environment deficits contraindicate placement in a Level II setting, and good faith efforts have been initiated (but are not yet completed) to secure a more stable recovery environment
- 6-B. The patient's social or interpersonal environment has encountered a sudden new deterioration, requiring the securing of an alternative residential environment for the expectation of successful recovery in a Level II setting

#### VI. PARTY DENYING ACCESS TO CARE

- \_\_\_ Commercial Insurance Prior Authorization Agent
- Managed Care Co. Subcontracted by Insurance Carrier
- Employer/Union Benefits Manager or Benefits Dept. Agent
  - Managed Care Co. Subcontracted by Employer/Union Other

Name of Third Party Payer\_\_\_\_ Name of Managed Care Agency\_\_\_\_ Name of Person You Spoke With Credentials of Person You Spoke With: Certified ASAM Member \_\_\_\_ Non-Cert. ASAM Member Other MD/DO \_\_\_ RN (License #, State) Other (Specify):

Date Denied Access to Care

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Contact: Joy Harris, Senior Vice President, Division of Medical Administration, Daniel Stern and Associates, Pittsburgh, PA; 800-438-2476

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Contact Jeanie Henderson, AA/COS 304-263-0811, ext. 4015.

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For further information and applications please contact: Mickey Ask, MD, ATU Veterans Hospital Loma Linda, California 92357 **=** (909) 825-7084, ext. 2353

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Phone: (212) 206-6770. FAX: (212) 627-9540.

#### Seminar, Reception in Los Angeles

Reminder ... an Estate Planning Seminar for members, spouses, and friends is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, from 5:45 pm to 6:45 PM at the Medical-Scientific Conference in Los Angeles.

The Ruth Fox Memorial Endowment Reception in appreciation of your support is scheduled for Friday, April 30, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in Los Angeles (by invitation to donors only).

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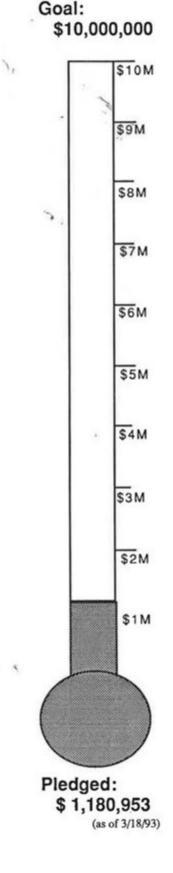
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| ASAM Board Meeting: Los Angeles, Apr. 28<br>All members are welcome to attend.  | eeles, Apr. 3<br>erence:<br>penture Hotel<br>, May 7<br>nes Mill Rd,<br>64-6236<br>nolism & Drug<br>on Ave,<br>9-5700<br>proaches:<br>m, Louisiana<br>Ste 800,<br>ary<br>ervice)<br>e 10-12 | <ul> <li>New Orlean<br/>Arlington, Y</li> <li>IDAA 93 (Intu-<br/>Scottsdale,<br/>Connie Hyd<br/>Lexington, H</li> <li>ASAM State<br/>Orlando, FI</li> <li>ASAM 6th N<br/>Atlanta, No</li> <li>1993 State<br/>California<br/>Newport Be<br/>CSAM, 380<br/>± (510) 428</li> <li>Florida Soci<br/>Orlando, FI<br/>Lucy B. Rol<br/>Juno Beach,<br/>Calendar in<br/>sored (CME cred<br/>ferences. For inco-<br/>rectly to Lucy B.<br/>For informatic</li> </ul> | <ul> <li></li></ul>   |

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