We Are ISBRA!
Benefits of becoming an ISBRA member

ISBRA invites new members! We promote biomedical research on alcoholism, disseminate research information and resulting theories, promote training, promote international exchange through the organization of scientific meetings, and encourage peer-reviewed publications and newsworthy reporting. Members enjoy discounted meeting registration fees, the availability of travel awards for meeting attendance, a discounted subscription to the society-sponsored journal, *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, exposure to plenary talks by experts from around the world, and the opportunity to attend meetings in attractive locations where new research ideas are formulated. Members in good standing of one of ISBRA’s affiliated regional societies (ESBRA, JMSAS, RSA, APSAAR, or LASBRA) need only complete the online ISBRA Membership Application Form, and pay annual dues of $35. Others must submit an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae and the Membership Application Form, and pay annual dues of $60. All can be submitted online. Join now and enjoy discounted registration costs for the upcoming congress, September 8-12, 2012, in Sapporo, Japan!

Tamara Phillips, PhD
Chair, Membership Committee

Travel Grant for ISBRA members

NIAAA Travel Grant to ISBRA in Sapporo (2012)

Sapporo: Dr. Edward Riley is in the process of applying for an NIAAA R13 conference and travel support grant for the Sapporo ISBRA Congress in hopes of assisting scientists who would not otherwise be able to attend. Funds are being requested to primarily provide partial travel support for the following individuals: symposia presenters, junior scientists, and underrepresented investigators. Priority for support will be given to US scientists, and symposia presenters from countries with new and developing alcohol research programs. As in the past, junior investigators are encouraged to apply. Junior investigators are defined as those less than 8 years from their doctoral degree. More details will follow if the application is successful.

Edward Riley, Senior Vice President of ISBRA

ISBRA Congress, Paris 2010

For the European and especially the French community of alcohol researchers, it was a great pleasure and honor to welcome the 2010 ISBRA Congress to Paris in September 2010. That meeting carried on the work of our Society, occurring after Sydney in 2006, Washington in 2008, and before Sapporo in 2012. We hoped that 2010 would turn out to be a “vintage year”.

All indications suggest that the meeting was a great success, with more than one thousand participants. Apart from the joint conferences with RSA in the US, no ISBRA congress has ever assembled so many researchers before. We even had to turn down applications because of the limited space of the congress venue. Originally we had planned with another much larger venue but had to make a last minute change for a smaller one close to...
Globalize it: Alcohol research in the 21st century and the role of ISBRA

ISBRA is unique in its mission to organize and foster dialogue between alcohol researchers around the world. Our members work in the preclinical and clinical fields and have a collective interest in problems associated with the excessive use of alcohol. Individuals afflicted with alcohol problems represent a large share of the worldwide burden of disease. Yet at the same time, alcoholism is a multifaceted disease that through the study of its pathophysiology also provides important insights into normal brain and other organ function. While alcohol-related problems are widespread and similar around the world, more than 80% of global funding for alcohol research comes from American sources. Through the support of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH/NIAAA), our U.S. colleagues are leading the way in many areas of research. Nevertheless, an international dialogue is essential for a complete understanding of the nature of alcohol related problems and our search for solutions under specific genetic and cultural conditions around the world. The last century has taught us that science and research are never free from preconceptions, traditions, and political influence. They can result in prejudiced and ideological thinking and may even dominate research areas and funding. This experience was influential in the conception and founding of ISBRA 30 years ago. There is a richness of ideas, experiences and ethical concepts about alcohol problems that stretch beyond one region and would benefit from multinational discussion. ISBRA and its five regional societies in Asia/Pacific (APSAAR), Europe (ESBRA), Japan (JMSAS), North America (RSA) and South America (LASBRA) provide the ideal forum for an exchange of the most recent research methodologies and results, and also for better understanding regional concepts, priorities, and differing perspectives. Please join ISBRA in its continued mission and become a part of globalizing alcohol research.

Karl Mann, MD PhD
President of ISBRA

ISBRA Congress 2012, Sapporo

It is our honor to invite researchers and clinicians around the world to join the 16th Congress of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA 2012). The Congress will be held in Sapporo, Japan, and will be hosted by the Sapporo Convention Center. Sapporo is the fifth largest city in Japan and serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of northern Japan. I hope you will enjoy the scientific interactions here as well as the friendly people of this beautiful city.

You may be worried about the recent disaster in Japan. Here in Sapporo, we have had no direct damage from the earthquake and tsunami. Aside from concern for those directly affected by the earthquake and the nuclear crisis, we in Sapporo have largely gone about living our normal daily lives without difficulty. Sapporo is 630 km away from the Fukushima Nuclear power plant. Radiation levels have not deviated from normal levels here.

Most importantly, at ISBRA 2012, our purpose is to exchange scientific experience and knowledge amongst scientists from different backgrounds.

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Therefore, we plan to hold joint ISBRA/affiliated society symposia to make ISBRA a more international society. We also plan to have symposia organized by young scientists, I am confident that this focus provides an opportunity to our younger members to present their work.

The Organizing Committee would like to hear your suggestions, opinions, and interests in order to create the program for ISBRA 2012. This is your Congress.

**Toshikazu Saito**, Congress President ISBRA 2012 and Past President of ISBRA

**ESBRA Congress 2011 Vienna**

The bi-annual ESBRA Congress will be held in Vienna on September 4 to 7 this year. The Congress President is Prof. Dr. Otto Lesch. A broad range of topics within the alcohol field from basic research on various organs to clinical issues in diagnosis and treatment of alcohol-related diseases will be covered. Traditionally, ESBRA will have joint symposia with ISBRA on “Imaging techniques,” with APSAAR on “Basic brain research,” and for the first time, with the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), on “Treatment of alcoholic liver disease” and with the NIAAA on the “Pathogenesis of alcoholic liver disease.” Young scientists will have their own platform and a symposium session. Without any doubt, the beautiful city of Vienna and its cultural background will offer a unique possibility for the exchange of scientific ideas. Immediately after the Vienna meeting on Wednesday, September 7, a bus transfer to the Golden City of Prague is organized, where a broad range of questions of alcohol-related problems will be discussed at the Charles University under the guidance of Prof. Tomas Zima. For more information, please visit www.medacad.org/esbra2011

**Helmut K. Seitz**, MD PhD, AGAF Professor of Medicine President of ESBRA

**APSAAR-Thailand 2011 Conference**

The Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR) is going to hold its second bi-annual scientific meeting in the Montein Riverside Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-11 November 2011. The Meeting will be conjoint with the International Academic Conference on Substance Abuse in Commemoration of H.M. the King’s 84th Birthday, organized by the Administrative Committee on Substance Abuse Research Network (ACSAN), the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. This APSAAR-Thailand 2011 Conference will be a major international meeting of researchers, clinicians, and public health practitioners in the field of addiction and alcohol studies in Asia-Pacific region, from both public and private sectors. The theme of the Conference is “Alcohol And Addiction Research: Past and Future Directions” and some 600 participants are expected to attend this meeting. Provisional keynote and plenary speakers include Robert Ali (Australia), David Celentano (USA), Ihn-Geun Choi (Korea), Linda Cottler (USA), Victor Hesselbrock (USA), Karl Mann (Germany), Kenneth Warren (USA), Marc Potenza (USA), Toshikazu Saito (Japan), John B. Saunders (Australia), and Apinun Aramratana (Thailand). Submission for oral and poster presentations is open until 15 July 2011.
Members of the research group felt that their needs would be better met by forming an independent international alcohol research society that might, perhaps, hold its meetings in conjunction with those of ICAA in order to permit communication between the scientists and the service providers. For this purpose, Boris Tabakoff and J.-P. von Wartburg, with financial support from NIAAA, the U.S. Brewers Association, and Swiss sources, organized an international scientific meeting in Chexbres, Switzerland, in 1978, at which a Steering Committee chaired by Boris Tabakoff was formed to draw up plans for the proposed new society. Statements of its aims, bylaws, and operating procedures were prepared by this Steering Committee and presented for discussion to the research group at the ICAA meeting in Cardiff, Wales, in 1980. These plans were approved by the research group and a new Steering Committee was set up to proceed with the organization of the new society. The name chosen for it was the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcohol (ISBRA), but it was agreed that the term “biomedical”, though differentiating the new entity from social science organizations, was to be interpreted broadly to include behavioral and cognitive research of the type now subsumed under the field of neurobiology.
It was also agreed that the Board of Directors would have broad international representation, and that the society’s Presidents and sites of meetings would rotate on a regular basis across the different parts of the world where alcoholism research was conducted. The First Congress of ISBRA was organized by Roland Scholz (Germany), and Ronald Thurman (US). The meeting was held in Munich, Germany, July 6-10, 1982, and represented the consolidation of two successful symposia series: The Fourth International Symposium on Alcohol and Aldehyde Metabolizing Systems and the Sixth Biennial International Symposium on Biomedical Research on Alcoholism. Subsequently the principle was adopted that ISBRA would serve as an “umbrella group” with which regional alcoholism research societies in different parts of the world would be affiliated. At present, these regional societies include the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) in North America, the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA), and the Japanese Medical Society for Alcohol Studies (JAMSAS, and a Latin American society (LASBRA) is currently in the process of organization.

The society has met every two years at Congresses held on a rotating basis in Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. Each Congress is usually held in conjunction with the meeting of the alcohol research society of the country or region where the Congress is being held. The society has served to bring together researchers and clinicians in the alcohol field from many countries and has promoted their work world wide. In 1988, ISBRA became a Non-Governmental Organization in Official Relations with the World Health Organization.

Through the good offices of the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, ISBRA was originally incorporated in Canada and was headquartered for many years in Toronto. Subsequently, it was incorporated in the US in Denver, Colorado, where the head office currently resides. The society started modestly with 131 members from 17 countries in 1981 and has grown to 619 members from 41 countries in 2011. The ISBRA Congresses are open to registrants who are not members of the Society, and several of the Congresses have had over 1,000 registered participants.

Pictures circa 1980’s, Richard Deitrich, PhD; Boris Tabakoff, PhD; and Harold Kalant MD, PhD

Current ISBRA Officers and Board of Directors

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the Eiffel tower. It would be of interest to speculate on the reasons for the meeting’s success. Obviously, we can imagine that the lure of Paris — a city of night lights and romance with its culinary offerings, historic buildings, and world class museums — was a great motivation to attend. Above all there was the expectation of excellent science and new data being presented, of course. The varied and integrated presentations on both basic and clinical data were clearly well attended and well received. On one hand, knowledge of the basic brain mechanisms that lead to alcohol dependence is advancing at a remarkable pace. On the other hand, a growing number of therapeutic trials have been conducted throughout the world. It is reasonable to assume that the potential of new treatments are engendering new hope and interest internationally.

In Paris, participants have found the best alcohol research presented by the best scientists: 72 symposia and 330 posters, not counting the satellite events. The most attended events of the meeting were the 6 lectures delivered by well known speakers (e.g. Drs. Tamara Phillips, Kenneth Kendler, Pier Vincenzo Piazza, Susumu Higuchi, Karl Mann, and Michel Lejoyeux). They outlined the main trends in alcohol research for the years to come. Integrating alcohol dependence into the wider concept of addiction seems to be one important track for progress in the coming years. This success was largely due to the excellent work of the colleagues participating in the inter-nation program committee and the local organizing committee, whom we would like to thank again for their commitment. Last, but not least, the ISBRA congress in Paris has been very stimulating and invigorating for French alcohol researchers. It has helped us become better organized and coherent in fostering alcohol research in France. While the organization of the meeting took much hard work from many people, we have been paid back many times over in the rewards of its success.

**Michel Reynaud,** Congress President  
**Karl Mann,** Chair of the Scientific Committee

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**NIAAA Travel Grant to ISBRA in Paris (2010)**

Paris: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) R13 conference and travel support grant provided support for 142 meeting participants. The awards were made to participants from 23 countries and 48 percent were women. 46 awards were provided to junior investigators, 95 were provided to senior investigators, and 8 were provided to underrepresented minorities. 49 percent of the recipients had at least one poster abstract, and 69 percent presented a symposium. Twenty-five percent had both a poster abstract and a symposium abstract. Twenty-eight percent served as symposia session organizers or chairs.

**Edward Riley,** Senior Vice President of ISBRA

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**2010 ISBRA Congress, Paris, France: Speaking: Michel Reynaud  
On Stage: Francois Paille (French Society on Alcohol Research), Toshikazu Saito, Karl Mann, Jean-Marie Le Guen (Vice-Mayor, Paris Public Health)**