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A Note from the President

Dear ISBRA Members,

It has been just about six months since I took the office of President, and it is proving to be an educational and humbling experience. First, I want to thank Karl Mann for leaving ISBRA in such good shape, with functioning committees, reasonable financial stability, and a growing membership. I also want to acknowledge that Susumu Higuchi was appointed as our new Senior Vice President, and Rainer Spanagel, our new Junior Vice President. The Executive Committee is now in the process of assessing the administration of ISBRA in terms of committees by determining if new committees are needed, if a more formal structure to committees is required, and reviewing committee assignments. We need to increase participation of the membership, increase the diversity of committee assignments, reduce redundancies, and make sure we are maintaining the needs of the Society.

Tamara Philips, the Chair of the Membership Committee, has once again done an outstanding job in recruiting new members to the Society. We currently have 704 members from 46 different countries. Obviously, that needs to increase over the coming years and Tamara is looking at new ways to meet this challenge. Tamara has updated our recruitment flyer and once again we will be recruiting new members at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) being held in Orlando, FL, USA in June 2013. At the upcoming RSA meeting, ISBRA is cosponsoring a symposium, “Alcohol and Co-Morbid Substance Use Disorder: Perspectives on COGA, NESARC and Japanese Samples,” which was organized by Michie Hesselbrock and Susumu Higuchi. I want to personally thank them for contributing to this meeting and also thank the RSA for continuing this tradition of having ISBRA sponsored symposia. Remember that at the Sapporo Congress there was a very successful joint ISBRA/RSA symposium on the “Effects of Alcohol on the Development of Neural Circuits: From Molecules to Brain,” organized by Michael Charness highlighting the partnerships between both Societies.

Speaking of Sapporo, Toshi Saito did an outstanding job in arranging a fabulous meeting, and one that turned a profit to ISBRA. Thank you, Toshi. A sample of the thousands of pictures taken in Japan can be found on the ISBRA.org website. Don’t worry, there are no incriminating pictures of dancing lobsters (if that comment doesn’t make sense, make sure you attend the next ISBRA Congress). ISBRA is also jointly sponsoring with ESBRA a symposium for the European Meeting to be held in Warsaw, Poland on September 8th-11th. Marcin Wojnar is Chairing the Organizing Committee and the meeting looks to be a success. The Congress website is at www.esbra2013.com. Warsaw is a beautiful city and hopefully many of you will be able to attend.

We are also gearing up for the Joint RSA/ISBRA meeting to be held June 21-25 near Seattle, WA, USA. The Program Committee is being assembled and is Co-Chaired by Kim Fromme, Bob Swift, and Howard Becker. Bob and Howard are ISBRA members and hopefully the Chairs will be putting the next Program Committee together while at the RSA meeting this year. I will be asking some of you to please serve in this capacity. Laura Nagy, the incoming RSA President, has been very easy to work with on this joint conference and it should be an incredible meeting, as people are already discussing new satellite meetings, among other things. I sincerely hope ISBRA and its affiliated societies have great representation in Seattle.

On a final note, the success of ISBRA is dependent upon the talent and hard work of its members. If you want to get involved, just drop me an email at eriley@mail.sdsu.edu. We need ideas and people who want to see action on an international level regarding alcohol research. Despite our name, ISBRA now welcomes all research disciplines within the alcohol research community. Take a look at the program from the Sapporo or Paris Congresses, and I think you will be surprised at the breadth and depth of topics that were covered.

ISBRA needs your support and dedication to be successful and to meet the needs of the international alcohol research community. The Chairs of the Committees of ISBRA are as follows, and if you have ideas for them, please feel free to get in touch: Peter Dodd, Education Committee; Tamara Philips, Membership Committee; Susumu Higuchi, Liaison Committee; Michel Reynaud, Finance Committee; Victor Hesselbrock, Publications Committee. I want to thank each of them for their hard work promoting the efforts of ISBRA.

Wishing you all a great year and I look forward to seeing many of you at RSA in June, and hopefully ESBRA as well in September.

Edward Riley,
President
Committee Members 2013-2014

Education Committee
Peter Dodd (Chair) - Australia
Rosana Camarini – Brazil
Michael Charness – USA
Helmut Seitz – Germany
Sachio Matsushita - Japan

Executive Committee
Edward Riley (Chair) - USA
Karl Mann - Germany
Susumu Higuchi - Japan

Finance Committee
Michel Reynaud (Chair) - France
Raymond Anton - USA
Paula Hoffman - USA
Rainer Spanagel - Germany
Shih-Jiun Yin -Taiwan

Liaison Committee
Susumu Higuchi (Chair) - Japan
Sawitri Assanangkornchhai – Thailand
Karl Mann - Germany

Membership Committee
Tamara Phillips (Chair) - USA
Raymond Anton - USA (Ex Officio)
Susan Barron - USA
Rosana Camarini - Brazil
Peter Dodd - Australia
Mary-Anne Enoch - USA
Claudia Spies - Germany
Tomas Zima - Czech Republic
Lindsay Squeglia - USA
Sungwon Roh - S. Korea

Publication Committee
Victor Hesselbrock (Chair) - USA
Ihn-Guen Choi – S. Korea
Jan Hoek - USA
Karl Mann - Germany
Boris Tabakoff – USA
Eri Hashimoto – Japan

Nomination Committee
Karl Mann (Chair) - Germany (Ex Officio)
Toshikazu Saito - Japan (Ex Officio)
Edward Riley - USA
WHO Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy – an exciting initiative to improve global maternal and child health

In January 2013, Professor Vladimir Poznyak, Coordinator of the division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at WHO Geneva, chaired a meeting in Washington DC to commence development of the WHO Guidelines for the Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy. This initiative was undertaken in response to evidence of the increasing use of alcohol and other substances during pregnancy worldwide; the adverse effects that this may have on the long term health of both mother and child; and the lack of internationally recognised guidelines for identifying and managing substance use. The work on the WHO guidelines began in 2012 and is being conducted in two parts, i) tobacco and ii) alcohol, drugs and other psychoactive substances, and will result in two separate but linked documents. The Guideline Development Group (GDG) for the tobacco stream first met in Geneva in September 2012.

The WHO document outlining the scope and purpose of the guideline development iterated that ‘tobacco, alcohol and other substance use by expectant mothers and other people living in their households are not only detrimental to maternal and child health - the topics of UN Millennium Development Goals 2, 4, 5 and 6 - but can also undermine the social and health gains so difficult to achieve in many low- and middle-income countries.’ The weeklong meeting was attended by the GDG Members, an international, multi-disciplinary group of clinicians, epidemiologists and clinical researchers representing 11 countries (Table 1). It was held at WHO headquarters and supported by the secretariat (Nicolas Clarke, Lubna Bhatti, Keryn Murphy, Svetlana Popova and Nandi Siegfried). Group members presented a summary of current policies and guidelines operating in their own settings.

A range of organisations was represented by Observers, including: the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; CDC Atlanta; EUFASD Alliance; International Confederation of Midwives; March of Dimes; NIAAA; National Institute on Drug Abuse (US); National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome; Rebecca Project for Human Rights; Trimbos Institute; WHO collaborating Centres from Australia, Canada and the Netherlands; UNICEF; UN Population Fund; Pan American Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. ISBRA was represented by the President, Professor Ed Riley from San Diego, who gave a presentation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

The role of the GDG was to review and identify good quality existing international guidelines; agree on the scope of the WHO guidelines; examine the evidence on the risks to health from substance use in pregnancy; and plan the proposed guideline document. The data extraction and critical appraisal process was described and will be led by Dr. Nandi Siegfried. The GDG will use the GRADE process to evaluate the quality of evidence available to support recommendations to be included in the guidelines. The guideline development process is complex and time-consuming. The group discussed the importance of developing guidelines suitable for a range of countries; taking account of local policy and legislation; and the need to ensure development of clear messages for dissemination of the guideline recommendations to health professionals, policy-makers and the general public. A second meeting is scheduled for the group in late 2013 and the guidelines are expected to be published in 2014.

Elizabeth Elliott
Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health
University of Sydney

(Table 1 follows.)

continued on page 6
### Table 1. Guidelines Development Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sawitri Assanangkornchai</td>
<td>Associate Professor Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine. Prince of Songkla University, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilherme Borges</td>
<td>Professor, Senior Researcher, Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatría Ramon de la Fuente Muñiz, Mexico City, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Chang</td>
<td>Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anju Dhawan</td>
<td>Additional Professor, National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Elliott</td>
<td>Professor of Paediatrics &amp; Child Health, University of Sydney, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriele Fischer</td>
<td>Professor, Medical University of Vienna Zentrum für Public Health, Universitätsklinik für Psychiatrie &amp; Psychotherapie, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erikson F. Furtado</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section and of PAI-PAD (Alcohol and Drugs Program), School of Medicine, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendree Jones</td>
<td>Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Baltimore, Maryland, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fareed Minhas</td>
<td>Professor of Psychiatry, Head, Institute of Psychiatry, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre, Rawalpindi General Hospital, Murree Road, Rawalpindi, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Murphy</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Initiative in Africa, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town Observatory, Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Ordean</td>
<td>Medical Director, Toronto Centre for Substance Use in Pregnancy (T-CUP), St Josephs Health Care, Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabrielle Welle-Strand</td>
<td>Senior Adviser, Norwegian Directorate of Health, Norway</td>
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**ISBRA 2012 Congress, Sapporo, Japan**

Presidents’ Young Investigator Awards recipients

Jin-Seok Byun, D.D.S., Robert J. Lipinski, Ph.D., Kristen Pleil, Ph.D., William Giardino, B.S., and Angela Renee Ozburn, Ph.D.
2013 LASBRA Congress

VI Congress of the Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA)

October 16 – 19, 2013, Concepción, Chile

Dear colleagues,

LASBRA (Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism) and LARNEDA (Latin American Research Network in Drug Addiction) would like to invite you to the VI Congress of LASBRA and the first Joint LASBRA-LARNEDA Meeting, which will be held in Concepción, Chile.

Last year, LASBRA participated in the second iteration of LARNEDA’s Workshop “Motivated behaviors, stress and addiction: from molecules to behavior,” which took place at Valparaiso, Chile. The interaction between these two Societies has fostered collaboration of different groups working on issues associated with the use and abuse of drugs in Latin America.

The major objectives of this Joint Meeting are to further foster academic and scientific interaction among researchers, exchange experiences in alcohol and drug addiction programs in Latin America and to discuss various aspects of neurobiology of the drug.

Concepción is the second largest city of Chile, and known as “the university city” for its number of universities. This makes the city rich in youth culture and positioned as one of the most important cultural and financial centers of the country. Natural beauty, historic buildings and exciting nightlife are also trademarks of Conce, its affectionate nickname.

We look forward to meeting you in Concepción.

Sincerely,

Rosana Camarinit
President, LASBRA
The 36th Annual Meeting of the RSA is going to be exciting and stimulating. Located at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, the meeting will start with 7 preconference satellite sessions, followed by 4 full days of plenary addresses, symposia, poster sessions, evening paper sessions, and special events, and will end with the closing ceremony, awards, banquet and dancing. The program reflects the increasing integration of alcohol science across levels of analysis, with 13 integrative symposia that span preclinical and clinical approaches. These integrative symposia address a range of topics, including: GABA-B agonists, Genetic and genomic approaches, Alcohol and sleep, Alcohol and impulsive behaviors, Drug discovery and development, Ethanol across the lifespan, Alcohol withdrawal, Neuroendocrine mechanisms of alcohol-related consequences, Integration of alcohol research & treatment communities, Alcohol and HIV/AIDS, Alcoholic steatohepatitis, Impulsivity and school-based prevention, and Prenatal alcohol exposure and public health. The plenary speakers will continue the integrative theme:

• Sunday morning: The RSA Distinguished Scientist Awardee
• Monday morning: Read Montague, Ph.D., COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE
  Dr. Montague is the founding director of the Human Neuroimaging Laboratory and the Computational Psychiatry Unit of the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute and a Professor in the Department of Physics
• Tuesday morning: Caryn Lerman, Ph.D., TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH ON NICOTINE DEPENDENCE TREATMENT
  Dr. Lerman is the Mary W. Calkins Professor, Department of Psychiatry and the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA and Deputy Director of the Abramson Cancer Center
• Wednesday morning: Bonnie Nagle, Ph.D., the 2012 recipient of the RSA young investigator award, DISSOCIATING THE NEURAL PHENOTYPES OF RISK FOR ALCOHOLISM FROM CONSEQUENCES OF ITS USE
  Dr. Nagle is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience and Director of the Developmental Brain Imaging Laboratory at Oregon Health & Science University

When not busy at the meeting, conference attendees and their families can enjoy the Hyatt Regency, which is situated on 1500 acres, and includes a ½-acre swimming pool with waterfalls, whirlpools and slides; a 21-acre lake for canoes, kayaks and paddle boats; and 45 holes of award-winning Jack Nicklaus designed golf. Also available are jogging/walking paths, a rock climbing wall, bicycles, quadricycles, and a 9-hole Pitch & Putt course. It is a great venue for families, and is close to Walt Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios, premium outlet shopping and fine dining.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara S. McCrady, Ph.D.
President, Research Society on Alcoholism
ISBRA 2012 Congress

James B. Isaacson Award
presented to
Charles O’Brien, M.D., Ph.D.
for lifelong excellence in scientific research in to the causes and treatment for alcohol dependence

ISBRA 2012 Congress

Hiromasa Ishii Memorial Award
presented to
Hide Tsukamoto, Ryuichi Ikejima
Some years ago it was decided that the term of the ISBRA President should be reduced from four years to two years. I was the first ISBRA President to serve for this shortened period of time, starting in 2010 at the ISBRA Congress in Paris and ending in October 2012 after the ISBRA Congress in Sapporo, Japan. It was an exciting time interacting and ruminating about an alcohol research world that is rapidly changing. We have witnessed much progress in different fields such as genetics, epigenetics and stem cell research; all leading the way to new treatment options and new challenges for old treatment concepts. In my personal perspective, the alcohol research field still has a delay of several years compared with tobacco research in terms of getting its research findings into public awareness, with consequences for policies. Fortunately, we are rapidly closing this gap, for instance, by providing more detailed information about the link between alcohol consumption and cancer. The new burden-of-disease study published in December 2012 showed that alcohol consumption is now the third leading risk factor for ill health worldwide, moving up from sixth place only two decades ago. All of this shows that we need cutting edge research in our field, as well as a very wide and global distribution of our findings that includes a comprehensive discussion of consequences. With this in mind, the link of ISBRA to its affiliate societies around the world (see below) and close collaboration with the World Health Organization are keys to success.

My predecessor, Dr. Toshikazu Saito from Sapporo University, was very successful in strengthening the international relations of ISBRA and its affiliate societies. This is an important and logical step in a world which is more and more globalized. ISBRA, with its affiliate societies in North and South America, the Asia Pacific Region and Europe, seems to be the right forum for further discussion and progress. When I started my presidency it was crystal clear to me that continuing and extending the work of Dr. Saito and to further enhance international collaborations are critical to success. I realized the benefit to these goals of improving the visibility of ISBRA and its affiliate societies. On that behalf, we created an annual newsletter, which is distributed at the ISBRA Congress and at the regional conferences of all affiliate societies such as RSA. Issues no. 1 and 2 are available on the ISBRA website (www.isbra.com). This newsletter reports about current activities of the ISBRA Board of Directors and of its diverse committees. In addition, we continued and extended the organization of joint symposia between ISBRA and its regional societies. It is now common practice for ISBRA to organize joint symposia with ESBRA at the congress of the European Society and vice versa. This is also true for the Asia Pacific and the Latin American regional societies. This practice was also introduced at the RSA conference in San Francisco and conversely as an RSA/ISBRA symposium during the last ISBRA conference in Sapporo in October 2012. These joint symposia are meant to inform the “global alcohol research public” of regional problems and the progress being made throughout the world in solving some of these problems.

One specific area of concern has been the issue of getting more female alcohol researchers involved in the work of ISBRA. Therefore, we asked predominantly women to work in the ISBRA membership committee. Under the leadership of Dr. Tamara Phillips, Portland USA, they were able to newly recruit about 10% of the ISBRA membership. A second area of concern in terms of increasing the visibility of ISBRA’s missions and actions was the collaboration with the RSA in the supervision of our joint scientific journal Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research (ACER). The number of changes were discussed between the current editor-in-chief, RSA and ISBRA, and put into action. Thus, ISBRA has two seats in a newly created advisory board for ACER. Equally, ISBRA is ready to serve in the nomination committee when it comes to choose the next editor-in-chief.

The ISBRA congress held in October 2012 in Sapporo, Japan, was, without any doubt, the highlight of the 2010–2012 term. Under the leadership of Dr. Toshikazu Saito and with the support of Dr. Susumu Higuchi, our Japanese colleagues put together an outstanding scientific program and were also able to meet the enormous organizational challenges caused by the earlier catastrophe

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in Japan. With this in mind, I would again like to thank Dr. Saito for his enormous contribution to ISBRA. The same holds true for ISBRA’s Board of Directors and the members serving on diverse committees. In addition, Dr. Ken Warren, the acting director of NIAAA, was again a generous supporter of ISBRA by providing travel grants for US researchers and students. Further, Robert Messing, Mark Goldman and Barbara McCrady, who were presidents of RSA during my term, worked together with me to improve the collaboration of both societies. Last not least, I would like to wish the current ISBRA President, Dr. Edward Riley from San Diego, good luck in presiding over this truly international alcohol research society.

Karl Mann
Immediate Past-President

NIH Update for 2013, Global Alcohol Research, and NIAAA

The NIH has named four research priorities for 2013: investing in basic research, accelerating discovery through technology, advancing translational sciences, and fostering new investigators and new ideas. These priorities are essentially the goals that Dr. Collins delineated when he became Director of NIH in August 2009. Dr. Collins also listed a fifth priority at the start of his tenure - that of global health research, which includes the development of partnerships between U.S. institutions and research entities abroad.

For FY 2013, the budget for NIH remains flat at around $30.9 billion ($435.5 million for NIAAA); but this essentially means a decrease, as the Biomedical Research and Development Price Index predicted a 2.8% increase in the cost of the goods and services NIH funds purchase for this time period. It is important to remind the international research community that more than 80% of the NIH’s $31 billion dollars in annual funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive grants to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state of the U.S., and around the world. At the present time, about 54% of the NIH budget goes toward basic research. The largest category of funding mechanism, the RO1, is typically awarded for five years and historically represents one half of the total NIH budget allocation. This means that a significant portion of the annual NIH budget goes to fund the out years of existing RO1s, as well as other types of grants.

As all are certainly aware by now, the proposal to merge the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institute of Drug Abuse, as well as addiction research programs from a handful of other NIH institutes (most notably the smoking cessation research funded by the National Cancer Institute), into a single entity on substance use, abuse, and addiction was called off by NIH Director Francis Collins a few months ago. In place of the proposed structural changes, the three institutes primarily affected will work together on what is being called a “functional merger” to develop joint research priorities and funding opportunities where there is the best opportunity to advance the science.

What does this mean for alcohol research?
There are important implications for the international alcohol research community. First, the prospect of merging research on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues into one entity carried with it the possibility of a lessening of funds available to investigators doing research in any and or all of these areas.

While there would have been attempts to keep the structural merger “budget neutral,” this would have been increasingly difficult to do. Dr. Collins noted in his November announcement that “…the time, energy and resources required for a major structural reorganization are not warranted…” These resources are dwindling (see above) and, given recent Congressional action on the U.S. budget, all Federal agencies, including the NIH, are required to make significant cuts in spending for 2013. Current grant awards are likely to experience budget cuts in attempts to fund as many new projects as possible. With rises in the costs of doing research, the costs of a structural merger of the
NIAAA, NIDA, and parts of NCI would have only added to this not so bright horizon.

Second, having an Institute devoted specifically to the study of the health effects of alcohol, as well as the prevention and treatment of the consequences of harmful use of alcohol, for many decades has allowed the advancement of knowledge in this area far more than it would if it were one among several substances being studied. One important outcome of this is the fact that, with significant support from NIAAA, meetings devoted to alcohol science held around the globe (ISBRA, ESBRA, APSAAR, LASBRA, and RSA) bring together scientists from many diverse fields – toxicology, neuroscience, epidemiology, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, genetics, epigenetics, neonatology, obstetrics, pediatrics, economics and policy research to focus on one theme - alcohol. These meetings facilitate opportunities for multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary science to develop, and allow the formation of new concepts and the refinement of theory to take place. NIAAA also supports other international scientific meetings that bring together scientists on one particular aspect of alcohol research such as alcoholic liver disease, pancreatitis and cancer, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, and screening and brief intervention.

Third, a separate Institute at NIH that is focused on research about alcohol reminds the global community of its public health impact. Harmful use of alcohol is a significant risk factor for many health and social issues and is ranked among the top five risk factors for death and disability globally (Lim et al, 2012). Further, as the recent findings of the latest Global Burden of Disease Project clearly point out, the increasing impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on life health, social and economic development is quickly replacing that of infectious disease and malnourishment in low and middle income countries. Harmful use of alcohol (along with tobacco use, poor diet, and limited physical activity) is one of the leading risk factors for NCDs. In 2011, The High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the adoption of its Political Declaration, represented the first time that all Member States of the United Nations agreed to come together and develop an agenda to reduce the risk of NCDs (UN General Assembly Resolution 66/2). Reduction in the harmful use of alcohol has been identified as one of the four behavioral measures countries must focus on as part of the global plan to reduce this risk. Alcohol research, then, becomes a critical piece in the reduction of NCDs, as basic science, epidemiological studies and translation of the findings from these into evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions focused on alcohol must inform countries actions.

NIAAA and Global Research
NIAAA has one of the most active global research programs for its size at the NIH. In addition to providing support for international meetings, we fund collaborative research projects (http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-282), support the involvement of foreign investigators in large initiatives such as the Integrative Neuroscience Initiative on Alcoholism and the Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, and directly fund investigator initiated projects submitted by independent foreign scientists. Our intramural program accepts post docs and fellows from numerous countries for research experience and training. Currently, NIAAA is providing funding and technical support for the World Health Organization project to determine the prevalence of FASD in very low income countries. NIAAA uses the results of its funded studies (both domestic and international) to inform the U.S. government positions at the United Nations General Assembly, the World Health Assembly, and meetings of the Organization of Economic Co-Operation and Development, as well as other global activities. Senior staff at NIAAA, both in the intramural and extramural Divisions, as well as our extramural grantees, provide scientific advice to WHO, its regional offices, and member states in support of the Global Strategy to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harms. Given alcohol’s complex and well documented role as a factor in violence, NIAAA has provided important funding and leadership to the Institute of Medicine’s Forum on Global Violence Prevention.

The importance of alcohol in global health demands the focus and insight of scientists all over the world working together to solve the mysteries of alcohol and its effects on the human body, individual development, family and community health, and the advancement of society. Current funding constraints at the NIH, continued reduced budgets likely for the foreseeable future, and the slow economic recovery throughout the world are real impediments to the growth of alcohol research. Remaining a separate Institute, NIAAA has the opportunity to more effectively help the field through leveraging collaboration between and among alcohol scientists working throughout the world.

Margaret M. Murray, Ph.D.
14th ESBRA Congress

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to invite you to join us in Warsaw for the 14th Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism. The congress will take place at Marriott Hotel, September 8-11, 2013.

Warsaw is the capital and the largest city of Poland. It is an exceptional European city with a hard history and promising future. At the time of World War II over 80% of its buildings were completely destroyed, but today the city has become an important international tourist destination and economic, political, and cultural center in Europe. Visiting Poland during September will also be a great opportunity to see and appreciate the famous “Golden Polish Autumn.”

The aim of the ESBRA meeting will be to learn about recent advances in basic science research as well as clinical aspects of substance use, abuse and dependence. The agenda for the congress will represent a multidisciplinary approach toward the problem of alcohol drinking, including neurobiological, psychosocial and therapeutic perspectives. New research on alcoholic liver disease will be also presented. We will have over 30 symposia, free communication sessions and numerous posters. We are very happy to host the ISBRA/ESBRA joint symposium “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Strange Beginnings to Cutting Edge Research.”

We look forward to seeing you all at the ESBRA 2013 Congress in Warsaw!

Marcin Wojnar, M.D., Ph.D.
President, 2013 Congress

ISBRA Membership Benefits

ISBRA is seeking new members! ISBRA promotes pre-clinical and clinical biomedical and translational research on alcoholism, disseminates research information that sculpts theories, promotes training at the pre- and post-doctoral levels, promotes international exchange through opportunities to interact at scientific meetings, supports diversity, and encourages 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. If every current member of ISBRA convinces a colleague or trainee to join ISBRA, our numbers would soar and our society would greatly benefit. Join now and enjoy discounted registration costs for the next joint ISBRA/RSA Congress, June 21-25, 2014, in Seattle, Washington, U S A.

Tamara Phillips, Ph.D.
Chair, Membership Committee
RSA/ISBRA Joint Scientific Meeting

June 21-25, 2014
Bellevue, Washington, USA

The RSA/ISBRA Joint Scientific Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle’s desirable Eastside. We expect over 1500 attendees from around the world for the joint meeting. The program will be developed jointly by ISBRA and RSA and will provide multiple opportunities for plenary lectures, symposia, workshops and poster sessions. The joint meeting provides the ideal environment for connecting with international colleagues from around the world to focus on research progress in all fields of alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

Initial meeting information (program proposals and abstract submissions, plus additional details) will be posted October 15, 2013 at www.rsoa.org. The second set of meeting materials (program outline, poster session details, registration, lodging, plus additional details) will be posted March 10, 2014. The ISBRA website will have a direct link to the RSA Conference pages.

The Hyatt Regency Bellevue (http://www.hyattregencybellevue.com) is on Seattle’s Eastside. It is just 20 minutes from Sea-Tac International Airport and nine miles east of Seattle. The hotel has recently been renovated and expanded, adding a new guest tower and more than 53,000 square feet of event space, making it a great location for the joint RSA/ISBRA meeting. The Hyatt serves as an anchor within the Bellevue Collection, an indoor city-space which contains many shops, restaurants and entertainment options.

Laura E. Nagy, Ph.D.
Vice President, RSA

2012 Congress Poster Session
Applying for ISBRA Membership

If you are already a member in good standing of one of ISBRA’s affiliated regional societies (ESBRA, JMSAS, RSA, APSAAR OR LASBRA) you need only complete the online ISBRA Membership Application Form, which can be found at http://isbra.com/membership.shtml (if you have questions, please contact Ms. Lintz at isbra@isbra.com). Annual dues for these members are $35. If you are not a member of an affiliated society, you must submit an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae and the Membership Application Form. Annual dues for these members are $60, and all information can be submitted online at http://isbra.com/membership.shtml. The Membership Committee reviews applications 4 times a year. Application deadlines are: January 2, April 1, July 1 and October 1. You will be notified in writing of your formal acceptance into ISBRA.