International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism

2020 Newsletter

Volume 10, June 2020

573 Members, 39 Countries, 1 Mission
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On the Cover: The International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism has a wide representation of members from throughout the world. The logo on the cover is a celebration of this and the flags represent the 39 countries from which our 573 members reside.
Current Officers

President
Tamara Phillips, USA

Immediate Past President
Rainer Spanagel, Germany

Senior Vice-President
Rosana Camarini, Brazil

Junior Vice-President
Sung-Gon Kim, South Korea

Secretary
Jennifer Thomas, USA

Treasurer
Paula Hoffman, USA

2018-2022 Board of Directors
Ina Bergheim, Germany
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Paula Hoffman (ex officio), USA
Kenichi Ikejima, Japan
Sung-Gon Kim, Korea
Andrew Lawrence, Australia
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Tamara Phillips, USA
Marisa Roberto, Italy/USA
Helmut Seitz, Germany
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Jennifer Thomas, USA
Katie Witkiewitz, USA

Committee Chairs and Members

Education Committee
Chair: Marisa Roberto, Italy/USA
Ina Bergheim, Germany
Heiner Brinnel, France
Rita Cervera-Juanes, USA
Helmut Seitz, Germany
Kristy Donald, South Africa
Sean Farris, USA
Carolina Haass-Koffler, USA
Christian Hendershot, Canada
Vijay Ramchandani, USA

Communication Committee: Initial members
Chair: Robert Leeman, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Vatsalya Vatsalya, USA
Karina Abrahao, Brazil

Executive Committee
Chair: Tamara Phillips, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Kenichi Ikejima, Japan
Sung-Gon Kim, South Korea
Harbans Lal, USA
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Jennifer Thomas, USA

Finance Committee
Chair: Helmut Seitz, Germany
Paula Hoffman, USA
Kusum Kharbanda, USA
Karl Mann, Germany
Tamara Phillips, USA

Liaison Committee
Chair: Susumu Higuchi, Japan
Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand
Tatiana Balachova, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Tatsuya Fujimiy, Japan
Mary Larimer, USA
Sebastian Mueller, Germany
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Robert Swift, USA

Membership Committee
Chair: Katie Witkiewitz, USA
Onyemaechi Azu, South Africa
Eric Claus, USA
Sun-Gon Kim, South Korea
Penelope Lind, Australia
Julianne Price, USA
Ayumi Takano, Japan

Publication Committee
Chair: Andrew Lawrence, Australia
Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand
Katerina Burina, Russia
Joydip Das, USA
Natalia Osna, USA
Karl Mann, Germany
Andrey Ryabinin, USA

2022 Joint Congress Organizing Committee
TBD

2022 - 2026 Board of Directors Nominations Committee
TBD
Note from the President

In the June 2019 ISBRA Newsletter, I reminisced about the 2018 ISBRA meeting that had occurred in Kyoto, Japan in September, which was highly successful and scientifically stimulating, despite being impacted by Typhoon Jebi and the 6.6 magnitude earthquake on Hokkaido just a few days earlier. Now, our planned joint meeting with the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) to have occurred in June of 2020 has met with the tragic circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in cancellation. It is particularly noteworthy that we are an international society with members all over the world and are sharing this tragic protracted event. I know that many of our labs have contributed to efforts to ensure the safety of those on the front lines by donating laboratory supplies and equipment, or perhaps engaging in research relevant to treatment and prevention. Some have worked personally to provide screening or even direct care for patients. I am hopeful that all countries will make sound decisions during this critical time that focus first on preservation of life. On a positive note, the break in our normal research activities provides an opportunity for some of us to throttle back and think deeply and creatively about our research, focus on publishing papers, and spend time writing reviews that significantly contribute to the alcohol research literature.

I am excited that ISBRA and RSA have decided to hold a joint meeting in 2021 in San Antonio, June 19-23. When we made the difficult decision to cancel the meeting, ISBRA decided that it was appropriate to choose the ISBRA Early Career Investigator and Tabakoff Awardees from the current nominations and roll them forward to be announced and conferred at the 2021 meeting. In addition, the ISBRA/RSA made the decision to automatically consider the content that was to be included in the 2020 program for the program in 2021, after confirmation with session Chairs and participants, and to also consider new applications for inclusion in the 2021 program.

In 2022, we are excited to announce that ISBRA will convene a joint meeting with the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA) September 17-20 (to be confirmed) in Krakow, Poland. This will be the first time in ISBRA history that we convene ISBRA meetings 2 years in a row, in this case, as the result of the necessary cancellation of the 2020 meeting. Holding our meetings jointly with our affiliate societies has benefits, with one of the most significant being international interactions at the meetings, leading to potential collaborations that hold the promise of enhancing our research and clinical practices. Please take note of the information regarding activities and plans for each of our affiliate societies, described herein in separate articles.

During the past year, members of our ISBRA standing and advisory committees have been working on several initiatives. Of special note is the new ISBRA BULLETIN presented by the Communications Committee, Co-Chaired by Drs. Robert Leeman and Vatsalya Vatsalya. The BULLETIN will be distributed to the membership and posted on our website quarterly, with the inaugural issue distributed and posted August of 2019. Topics include Publications You May Have Missed, Funding Opportunities, and News and Events, among others. The BULLETIN can be found on the ISBRA Home Page https://isbra.com/under News and Events.

In his letter herein, Dr. Seitz describes the need for additional support for ISBRA and he describes how to donate. We are sensitive to the current situation and know that directing finances toward ISBRA may not be currently feasible for some. Because many of us are restricted in our movements and ordering many items on-line, I wanted to reiterate that if you order through Amazon and designate that your order go through Amazon Smile, 0.5% of the price of the eligible purchases will go to ISBRA, at no extra cost to you, if you designate it as your targeted charity. I have done this a lot lately! Please see the details in Dr. Seitz’s article.

We continued to add new members to ISBRA this year, but have also lost some to non-renewal of memberships and for other reasons. The number added in 2019-2020 is 39, with a wide range of career progress, including directors, professors, research scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students. Our current total membership is 573. As I did last year, I encourage EACH OF YOU to identify just one individual at any career level to join ISBRA. If each of us added just 1 new member to the roster, there would be a vast improvement in our financial viability and the collaborative mission of our society would be strengthened – ISBRA’s mission is to promote excellence internationally in all aspects of biomedical research on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena. Our society members are deeply committed to educating and assisting new and early stage investigators. Please take the time to introduce investigators who have more recently joined the field of alcohol research or are in early stages of their careers to ISBRA and encourage their membership. Here is the membership link: https://isbra.com/membership/.

To highlight the research accomplishments of our members, last year we initiated a call for new publication citations that we now include in our newsletter. You will find them herein for the period of April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020. Each year Michelyn Lintz invites you to send her publication citations for a particular period. We wish to honor your research activities and findings by including your citations in the newsletter, but their inclusion is de-
dependent on your initiative to submit them. In addition, we will include the citation list on the ISBRA website entitled “ISBRA RESEARCH NOW: April 2019-March 2020 PUBLICATIONS OF ISBRA MEMBERS” for the current period.

The ISBRA Board is beginning deliberations for the selection of the 2024 meeting venue. An Asian location is favored, based on the rotation of locations across years. I wish you all good health and look forward to a return to more freedom in our movements once travel and in-person meetings can occur safely. In the meantime, keep up the electronic and video interactions. They make enduring the necessary isolation more bearable.

Tamara J. Phillips, PhD, USA
President, ISBRA
Chair, ISBRA Executive Committee
ISBRA Finance Committee

A Force for Good
Dear ISBRA Member,

COVID-19 has changed our lives tremendously in almost all aspects. Besides the threat of viral infection, social lockdown, isolation, and existential fears resulted in an increase in alcohol consumption, as recent European data has shown. Thus, especially in this situation, chronic alcohol consumption, binge drinking episodes and relapses into alcoholism seem to be more frequent than ever before. Thus, more than ever we have to be aware that one of the greatest health challenges of the present and the future is successfully fighting alcohol use disorders and alcohol-related diseases. To face this challenge, the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) was founded in 1982. Over more than three decades, ISBRA scientists have continuously contributed much to the understanding of the pathophysiology and to the improvement of diagnostics and treatment possibilities for this ubiquitous disease. Unquestionably, this has saved lives, has reduced the burden of disease, and importantly, has saved money for health systems and societies. ISBRA meetings have contributed to these successes through face-to-face dissemination of important findings, leading to critical and insightful discussions that have launched important new initiatives. Without the financial support of many granting agencies and of many of you, this could not have been achieved. To continue to achieve excellence internationally in all aspects of biomedical research on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena, which is the mission of ISBRA, we need your further financial support. We all know people, relatives, friends and acquaintances who suffer from alcohol-related problems, and we all want to help them. To do so, every cent you donate to ISBRA is of great benefit. ISBRA, with more than 570 members from 39 countries of all 5 continents, has and will use science to provide clinical options and practical guidance to help people with alcohol-related disease. Do not hesitate, do it now, especially in this critical time period, the future has just started.

Sincerely,
Helmut K. Seitz, MD,

A Donation Request from ISBRA:

Thank you for considering a donation to the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA). Your donation would be greatly appreciated for the ISBRA Early Career Investigator Award that includes US $1000 in travel support to attend the biennial congress and a plaque and/or the advancement of the ISBRA mission (see below).

ISBRA promotes excellence internationally in biomedical research on alcoholism and is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Your donation would greatly benefit the following mission activities:

i. To promote research and disseminate information on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena, as well as associated psychosocial factors and comorbid disorders and diseases;

ii. To promote the training and international exchange of scientists and trainees who are studying and researching problems related to alcohol use and abuse;

iii. To advise national and international agencies on alcohol-related research and policy;

iv. To promote the spirit of fraternity and international collaboration among and through its members via the organization of international scientific meetings, production and distribution of written materials, collaboration on possible research funding opportunities, and the organization of seminars, workshops and clinics.

Please support the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA)!

A. You can now donate to ISBRA via Amazon Smile. If you shop Amazon, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the International
Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) through AMAZON SMILE! ISBRA is an official non-profit organization recognized by the United States federal government, the World Health Organization, and Amazon. Please follow the steps below:

1) Go to: https://smile.amazon.com/
2) In the Charities Search field type: “International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism”
3) Press “SELECT”
4) Indicate “YES” Amazon will donate .5% of your order to ISBRA.

B. If you chose to donate online, please see: https://www.isbra.com/donate/

C. If you chose to send a check, please send your support to:
ISBRA
Attention: Michelyn Lintz, MPA
PO Box 202332
Denver, CO 80220-8332

Helmut K. Seitz, MD, AGAF, Germany
ISBRA Board of Directors
Chair, ISBRA Finance Committee
ISBRA Education Committee

ISBRA Communications Committee: History, Mission, Framework, Activities and Milestones

The Communications Committee of the International Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (Comm-ISBRA) was founded in May 2019 to provide a common platform within the International Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) for scientists, clinicians, policy makers, educators, public media and other interested parties. The Communications Committee is responsible for disseminating society-relevant information pertaining to research, education, and policy, for the purposes of facilitating scientific discourse and forging research collaboration. On the first anniversary of its creation (June 2020), the Comm-ISBRA would like to take the opportunity to highlight its purpose, mission, establishment, activities, and milestones.

Membership, Roles and Terms, and Framework of the Communication Committee

Comm-ISBRA was founded within the bylaws and framework of ISBRA to promote dissemination of information on the activities and objectives of ISBRA pertaining to research, education, discussions and policy regarding alcohol use and misuse. In its core structure, two ISBRA board members participate in the communication committee as regular members and advise per need. There are two selected co-chairs in this committee; and ISBRA members who serve for anticipated two-year terms. Ad-hoc ISBRA members can also participate in this group.

Overview of Our Objectives and Activities

The Comm-ISBRA created a set of bylaws within the framework of ISBRA mission, delineating a structure, leadership and member roles and terms. To date our two main tasks have been to create and publish our periodic Bulletin and to establish a presence on social media outlets.

Bulletin

The information is divided in different sections addressing new research findings, job openings, international funding opportunities, and updates from conferences. We are excited about a new, upcoming feature in which we will interview distinguished scientists.

The following is a brief description of the regular features in the Bulletin:

“Publications You May Have Missed” Column

With the high number of journals publishing addiction-related content, it is particularly challenging to keep up with the state of science. With time being limited, many of us probably tend to gravitate to high-impact, general-interest journals in our disciplines (medicine, public health, psychology, etc.) and top addiction specialty journals. This is not a bad strategy but there is a great deal of quality work relevant to addiction scientists that is published in other outlets. Thus, we attempt to make a unique contribution by highlighting high-quality articles in other types of outlets. Many of these publications directly relate to addiction science but not always. We have also included methodologic papers, for instance. While the main focus is on new papers, we have also included outstanding, potentially “missed” papers from the past. We welcome your input and suggestions if you have
either published yourself or have come across an outstanding paper that you are concerned colleagues in the field may have missed.

“Funding” Column

Comm-ISBRA provides information and analysis of new research funding on alcohol-based pathology and treatment their directions and budget by area of research and region. This column provides details on the topics of research grants, eligibility and mechanisms that are used in different countries. Such information bridges the cohesiveness of ongoing research agendas that are specific and useful for each individual world region and interactions between different regions.

“Global Jobs” Column

Professionally, there is little that is more important than securing a position that will provide opportunities for us to be trained and conduct the best possible research and clinical care. To that end, in each bulletin, we include a column made up of employment postings at all levels (post-doctoral to senior faculty/investigator). We make every effort to keep the material in this column as up to date as possible though this is challenging with positions constantly being posted and filled. In particular, we post positions from a variety of countries and positions that are particularly likely to lend themselves to international research and collaboration. We welcome postings from your organization and postings you may have come across that you think would be relevant to this column.

“New Directions” Column

Everyday new articles emerge that help steer the direction and effectiveness of the efforts of scientists and policymakers. In this column we select and summarize articles, and sometimes preliminary reports of ongoing projects, of broad interest, that can help us better understand the directions in which the fields of alcohol and addiction science are moving forward. In a similar fashion to the “Publications You May Have Missed” column, we will be glad to receive your inputs and suggestions on potential material for this section.

“News and Events” Column

The “News and Events” column broadcasts updates on research, policy, recognitions, and other important news from various important media feeds from international agencies associated with alcohol use and misuse. The “events” sub-section provides information on upcoming conferences, workshops, training, and advocacy events happening around the world.

“Conferences” Column

ISBRA’s regional societies are extremely active and dynamic, which makes it hard to follow all of their activities. The latter includes regular congresses along with seminars, continuing education activities and calls for papers. In this column we do our best to cover these activities, with a focus on past and upcoming conferences, also covering those outside of the realm of our mother society.

Upcoming “Meet a Scientist” Column

Ever wondered what the very latest discoveries on alcohol research are? Curious about the work of scientists, their career choices, the joys and hardships of lab life? Look no further! We want this new section to be a channel between the community and yours truly, the alcohol scientists. Do not hesitate to send us your most pressing questions. A guest scientist will be happy to address them all.

Social Media Presence

Undoubtedly, we are living in an online era. Social media is part of our daily life. Scientists and scientific societies should be aware of the importance of being active on social media. The Comm-ISBRA outreaches using various media platforms like Twitter and LinkedIn to engage alcohol researchers to discuss their findings and direction of science.

We are on Twitter!

The Communications Committee is in charge of ISBRA’s official Twitter account. We use this outlet to disseminate news and updates from our society, as well as for communicating urgent matters related to job offers, grant calls or publishing opportunities. We also repost and highlight selected articles in our feed. We appreciate you following us (and saying hello) at @ISBRAComm. Please do not hesitate to send us material you would like to be covered.

We are on LinkedIn!

The Communications Committee maintains the official channel of ISBRA on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/isbra-communication-committee-4955b4190 . We will use this outlet to share new information relevant to researchers/practitioners doing work in/around alcohol, to bring global researchers together, share new/interesting papers, and to make people aware of job opportunities. Looking Forward
We have plans to expand to ResearchGate and potentially Facebook after that. New members would be particularly helpful in establishing and maintaining a presence on these new outlets, which brings us to . . .

Call for New Members!

If these activities advanced by the Communications Committee sound like the type of work you would like to be involved in, please reach out and join us. We are a collegial group of addiction scientists and clinicians from around the world with a sincere interest in advancing communication regarding addiction research and treatment. We are more than open to new directions and ideas and would be happy to have you join us regardless of the amount of time you are able to commit. We are proud of the steps we have taken so far, but there is much more that could be done were our numbers to increase. For instance, while we have taken steps to get the word out about our activities and about addiction research and care on social media, with additional membership, we could post and inform the addiction research world to a much greater extent. Please feel free to reach out to us isbraisbra@gmail.com or individually to any of the committee leaders with any questions and, of course, with your message of “Yes I would love to join!” Thanks for considering!

By - Karina P. Abrahao, Ricardo Pautassi, Robert Leeman, Rosana Camarini, Vatsalya Vatsalya

2022 Collaborative Congress of ISBRA and ESBRA. Cracow, Poland, September 17 – 20, 2022

We are pleased to invite you to attend the 2022 ISBRA/ESBRA Congress in Cracow, Poland, which will be held in September 17-20, 2022. The congress will be an exciting hub of international science and unique cultural experiences. Fall will be a beautiful backdrop to our many discussions.

Cracow is a historic city, former capital of the country, and today one of the most important European metropolises. The Krakow Old Town is a unique treasury of works of art, historical souvenirs and monuments that represent almost all architectural styles – from the Middle Ages to modern times.

Cracow is also a city of intensive cultural life; in 2000 it served as the European Capital of Culture. Annually, nearly 100 festivals and other events take place here, often of world rank, such as Misteria Paschalia, Sacrum Profanum, Jewish Culture Festival or Film Music Festival. It is also a city of modern museums in which visitors can interact with history. Cracow has its own atmosphere – unique and inspiring.

The Congress Gala will be in the “Wieliczka” Salt Mine, one of the most valuable monuments of material and
spiritual culture in Poland, visited by over a million tourists from around the world every year. It is also a world-class monument, entered as one of the first twelve sites on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List and is a one-of-a-kind experience.

Additional information will be announced over the coming months.
Sincerely,

Sebastian Mueller, MD, PhD
President, ESBRA
ISBRA Liaison Committee
&
Marcin Wojnar, MD, PhD
ISBRA/ESBRA 2022 Congress President
Vice-President, ESBRA

News from APSAAR 2020
The sixth biennial congress of the Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSSAR) was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27th – 30th November 2019, under the theme of “The Science of Addiction, Treatment & Recovery in the Community”. The Congress was incorporated with the 10th National Conference on Addiction Medicine (NatCAM) and co-organised by the University of Malaya Center For Addiction Sciences (UMCAS) and Addiction Medicine Association of Malaysia (AMAM). The opening ceremony of the Congress was presided over by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Hj. Dzulkifly Bin Ahmad (Minister of Health, Malaysia) and joined by Professor Sawitri Assanangkornchai, the APSAAR President on November 27th, 2019. Over 200 participants from 12 countries in the region participated in the Congress. This event has created a great opportunity for scientists, researchers, academicians, local government officials, practitioners and private sectors to interact and promote networking, as well as to expand their research cooperation with both distinguished local and international speakers. Thanks to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rusdi bin Abd Rashid and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Muhsin bin Ahmad Zahari, Chair and Co-chair and Assoc. Prof Anne Yee Hway Ann, Scientific Chairperson of the Congress for their year-long hard work in preparation of this Congress.

In its 12 years of the operation, APSAAR has seen its role in providing platform for networking between researchers and practitioners in the areas of health science and social science in the Asia-Pacific region. The seventh APSAAR Congress will be held in Bali, Indonesia, on 2nd – 4th September 2021, with the dedicated aim to advances in research, medical and clinical aspects of alcoholism, including addiction, abuse, social issues, substance use and treatment. The 2021 Congress will be organized by
the APSAAR committee in collaborations with Addiction Psychiatry of the Indonesian Psychiatric Organization and supported also by several medical universities in Indonesia. It will showcase various new findings in addiction science, treatment and application, as well as offer the participants to experience the rich cultural heritage of Bali and stunning beaches. KEEP YOUR DATE & SEE YOU ALL IN BALI IN 2021.

ESBRA CONGRESSES: Past and upcoming

From 21-24 September 2019, the 17th ESBRA congress (http://esbra2019.org/) was held in Lille, France, by Prof. Mikael Naas-sila. The conference was very successful with 400 attendees around the globe, 7 keynote speakers and 42 symposia. The abstracts of the congress have been in the last issue of the journal of the French Society on Alcoholology (SFA - http://www.sfalcoologie.asso.fr) and is freely downloadable here: http://www.sfalcoologie.asso.fr/download/AA-Esbra2019-abstracts.pdf. All aspects of alcohol-related disorders were covered. Joint symposia were organized with the NIAAA chaired by Kathy Jung (USA) together with ESBRA (Sebastian Mueller) and the Japanese Society (JMSAAS) by Prof. Kenichi Ikejima.

The prestigious “Manfred Lautenschläger Award” was given to Prof. Markus Heilig from the Center for Social and Affective Neuroscience, Linköping University, Sweden. ESBRA’s Life Time Achievement Award, the only second in ESBRA’s history, went to Prof. Philippe de Witte, Co-founder of ESBRA and long-term chief editor of Alcohol & Alcoholism.

The next ESBRA Nordmann AWARD Meeting will be held in Madrid, Spain and the local organizer of the meeting is Jose Antonio López Moreno (congress homepage https://namadrid2020.com/). The topic will be “Alcohol and Microbiota”, and the meeting will take place from October 15th to 17th 2020 at the Hotel Holiday Inn “Las Pirámides”. The hotel is located downtown Madrid, with good connections to the airport as well as central Madrid.

The 18th ESBRA Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism will be held in Timisoara (Romania) and organized by Prof. Sporea. The meeting will also include a CME-accredited postgraduate course on addiction medicine and alcohol-related disorders.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that the 2022 Nordmann Award meeting will be jointly organized with the ISBRA 2022 meeting in Krakow (Poland) most likely from September 17th-20th (to be confirmed). This meeting will further strengthen the tight bonds between ISBRA and ESBRA!

All information will be regularly updated on our ESBRA homepage https://www.esbra.com/.
Some picture memories from the 17th Congress of ESBRA from September 21st-24th 2019 in Lille, France

Opening of ESBRA 2019 by Sebastian Mueller

Mickael Naassila (right), congress president 2019

Lifetime Achievement Award for Prof. Philippe de Witte, Co-founder of ESBRA and longterm chief editor of Alcohol & Alcoholism

JMSAAS-ESBRA joint meeting organized by Prof. Kenichi Ikejima (right) and Sebastian Mueller (left). Young investigators from left: Ryuta Kitagawa, Tomomi Kogiso (both Tokyo, Japan), Anna Laitakari, Oulu, Finland), Hammad Seddik, Mannheim Germany.

The Manfred Lautenschläger Award Winner 2019 is Prof. Markus Heilig (Sweden) from the Center for Social and Affective Neuroscience, Linköping University, Sweden

Sebastian Mueller, MD PhD, Germany
President, ESBRA
ISBRA Liaison Committee
JMSAAS CONGRESSES: Past and upcoming congresses.

The Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference 2019, which was joint meeting of the Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS) and the Japanese Society of Alcohol-Related Problems (JSARP), were held at Sapporo, October 4-6, 2019. The congress presidents at the meeting are Dr. Tomonobu Shirasaka (JMSAAS) and Dr. Takeshi Ashizawa (JSARP). The main theme was “Dependence and addiction problems as historical background”. Many medical personnel participated in the Conference and discussed significantly.

The next Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference is currently scheduled July 10-11, 2020 in Fukuoka. The congress presidents of the meeting are Dr. Yoko Nishitani (JMSAAS) and Dr. Masayuki Kumagaya (JSARP). The principal theme is “The Diversified research and cooperation among the alcohol health problems and dependences”. We hope the outbreak of COVID-19 will settle down by the date, and the congress will be held successfully in safe.

Tatsuya Fujimiya, MD PhD
President, JMSAAS
ISBRA Liaison Committee

&

Kenichi Ikejima, MD PhD
ISBRA Board of Directors
ISBRA Executive Committee

The State of LASBRA

The Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA) promotes research and the acquisition and dissemination of scientific knowledge. The aims of the Society are to: a) disseminate information on recent studies on the neuroscience of alcohol use disorders, as conducted by Latin-American researchers or from other countries, b) provide opportunities for young investigators to interact with senior scientists from around the globe, as well as promote student exchange between research groups and c) promote research in all areas related to alcohol use, abuse and dependence, from basic research to treatment and epidemiology. LASBRA was founded in 1993 during a symposium supported by NIAAA and ISBRA, and since then has organized nine regular meetings plus several other activities in cooperation with other entities, such as ESBRA.

Last year was a period of intense activity for the Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA). The society helped organize the “Research and intervention on alcohol consumption Workshop” at Universidad de la República (Uruguay), a 4-day event chaired by the professor and LASBRA member Dr. Paul Ruiz, that featured keynote presentations of current ISBRA president, Dr. Tamara Phillips, and former LASBRA president Dr. Ricardo Pautassi. Later during the year, the society had its own regular meeting at Córdoba, Argentina, in which distinguished ISBRA board members (Dr. Rainer Spanagel, Dr. Jennifer Thomas and Dr. Rosana Camarini) served as keynote speakers. The proceedings of the events have been published at the Journal of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Risk and Prevention and are freely available at http://www.jfasrp.com/index.php/JFASRP/article/view/7.

At the end of the Córdoba meeting, new LASBRA authorities were established, with Dr. Fabio Cruz (Sao Paulo Federal University, Brasil) and Mario Rivera (Universidad de Chile) taking over the roles of president and vice-president, respectively. Recently, Dr. Cruz announced that preparations are already underway for the next LASBRA meeting, which likely will take in October 2021, at the beautiful seashore city of Juquey (Brazil), off Sao Paulo’s State coast. We will keep you posted on this event. Discussions were also
underway at the Córdoba Meeting to launch educational activities for graduate and undergraduate students, organized by LASBRA.

As LASBRA past-president, I would like to express my gratitude to all of those who were involved in the society’s activities during my term. I am particularly grateful to the graduate and undergraduate students that gave their time and effort to make the Córdoba meeting a success and to Luis Aguayo, Rosana Camarini, long-term members of the society and its directory board, who were key in the success of LASBRA’s activities.

Ricardo Pautassi, PhD, Argentina
President, LASBRA
ISBRA Board of Directors
ISBRA Communications Committee
ISBRA Executive Committee
ISBRA Liaison Committee

Letter from President of RSA

Colleagues,

These are extraordinary times. If these were normal times, we RSA and ISBRA members would be looking forward to attending the joint RSA/ISBRA Meeting in New Orleans in June. We would be frantically preparing our scientific talks and posters for presentation. We would be finalizing our travel plans. But alas, it is not to be. This year, instead of alcohol research being foremost on our minds, COVID-19 has become our foremost preoccupation. This year, we will have to miss exposure to cutting-edge alcohol science and the chance to meet with enduring friends and national and international academic collaborators. And we will miss the opportunity to celebrate NIAAA’s 50th anniversary.

The joint RSA/ISBRA Program Committee, co-chaired by Terrance Deak, Amy Lasek and Christian Hendershot, with the scientific contributions of the RSA and ISBRA members, had planned a truly outstanding scientific program. However, all is not lost! Fortunately, the Boards of RSA and ISBRA have agreed to hold a joint meeting next year in San Antonio. The Program Committee co-chairs have all agreed to serve again next year and to retain the elements of the excellent Scientific Program from this year. The RSA Board and Executive Committee believe that it is still critical to have an event that recognizes the accomplishments of our membership by holding a virtual awards banquet on June 24th. We will honor those who have contributed to alcohol research through discovery and/or service to the Society. We will have an opportunity to present the Gordis Awards to young scientists, to recognize their outstanding work and to encourage them to join RSA and to continue as participating members as their careers advance. Please join us for the live Awards Ceremony on June 24th at 5:00pm EDT.

As RSA President, I want to formally thank all of you RSA and ISBRA members for your support and your flexibility in adapting to the changed meeting. RSA is fortunate in having a group of Officers and Board Members who have guided the Society well through these challenging times. Thanks to all the Committee Chairs and members who do the work of the RSA. I have enjoyed working with Tamara Phillips, President of ISBRA in planning the joint meeting. Patricia Molina, who will serve as incoming President for the past year will be guiding the RSA through uncharted waters. Thanks to William Corbin, our Secretary and to Devanshi Seth, our Treasurer and to Mary Larimer, Immediate Past President for their wise counsel. And of course, thanks to Debby Sharp, our Executive Director. Debby is the force that maintains the infrastructure that permits RSA to do all its great work in supporting alcohol research and researchers.

During the last Annual RSA Meeting held in Minneapolis MN, several members came up to me and told me some variation of “RSA is my favorite scientific meeting”. I cannot agree more. Although we will not have the usual meeting this year, there will be many future opportunities to celebrate alcohol research together with our national and international colleagues, including next year in San Antonio.

Robert Swift, MD, PhD
President, RSA
ISBRA Liaison Committee
We would like to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions made to the field of biomedical research on alcoholism by the members of ISBRA. Below is a collection of published work from 61 members totaling 395 peer reviewed publications spanning April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020. These are member submitted publications from our recent call for publications.

### Karina Possa Abrahao


### Onyemaechi Okpara Azu


### Patrick Bach


Segev Barak


Jacqueline Barker


Joyce Besheer


Paula Cristina Bianchi

Steve L Boehm II
Millie LA, Boehm II SL, Grahame NJ (2020) Attentional set-shifting in HAP3, LAP3, and cHAP mice is unaffected by either genetic differences in alcohol preference or an alcohol drinking history. Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, in press.


Katerina Burina


Rosana Camarini


Fabio Caputo


Carol Casey


Mauro Ceccanati


Fulton Crews


Raghubendra Dagur

Ganesan M, New-Aaron M, Dagur RS, Makarov E, Wang W, Kharbanda KK, Kidambi S, Poluektova LY, Osna NA. Alcohol


Joydip Das


Leila Gobejishvili


Consuelo Guerri


Elisabet Jerlhag


Finn Jung

Rasmon Kalayasiri


Anna Klintsova


Kazuyoshi Kon


George Koob


Victor Lasebikan


Akinlade, KA, Adedokun, KA, Rahamon, SK, Lasebikan VO “Elevated Levels of Visfatin and Fetuin-A in Patients with Major Mental Disorders Arch. Bas. App. Med. 8 (2020) 49 – 53


Amy Lasek


Andrew J Lawrence


Anne Pascale Le Berre


Robert F. Leeman


Karl Mann

Witkiewitz K, Heather N, Falk DE, Litten RZ, Hasin DS, Kranzler HR, Mann KA, O’Malley SS, Anton RF (2020) World Health Organization risk drinking level reductions are associated with improved functioning and are sustained among patients with mild, moderate and severe alcohol dependence in clinical trials in the United States and United Kingdom. Addiction, ahead of print


Sachio Matsushita


Richard Meisch


Ganesan M, Poluektova LI, Kharbanda KK, Osna NA. Human immunodeficiency virus and hepatotropic viruses co-morbidities as the inducers of liver injury progression.


Donohue TM, Jr, Osna NA, Kharbanda KK, Thomes P. Liposome and proteasome dysfunction in alcohol-induced liver injury. Liver Research 2019 In Press


Dieter J. Meyerhoff


Durazzo TC, Nguyen LC, Meyerhoff DJ. Medical Conditions linked to Atherosclerosis are Associated with Magnified Cortical Thinning in Individuals with Alcohol Use Disorders. Alcohol & Alcoholism. In press (2020).


Mario Rivera Meza


R. Sebastián Miranda Morales


Rajesh C. Miranda

Leslie Morrow

Morrow AL, Boero G, Porcu P. A Rationale for Allopregnanolone Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorders: Basic and


Sebastian Mueller


Mueller S, Luderer M, Zhang D, Meulien D, Brach BS, Schou MB. Open-label Study with Nalmefene as Needed Use in Alcohol-Dependent Patients with Evidence of Elevated Liver Stiffness and/or Hepatic Steatosis. Alcohol Alcohol 2020;55:63-70.


Ricardo Pautassi


Qian Peng


Marta Yanina Pepino de Gruev


Christie Petrenko


Daria Piacentino


Cappelletti S, Piacentino D, Ciallella C. The role of sepsis in the pathogenesis of myocardial calcification. Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 2020 [In press]

Rizwana Quraishi

Andrey Ryabinin


Richard Saitz


Jeffrey Samet


Olimpia Carreras Sánchez


Dipak Sarkar


John B. Saunders


Marc Schuckit


Michael Smoker


Rajanikanth Vadigepalli

Fernando F. Valenzuela

Vatsalya, Vatsalya


Ryan P. Vetreno


Valerie Voon

Voon V. Towards personalized medicine: individualized prediction of deep brain stimulation targets for obsessive compulsive disorder (invited commentary). Biol Psychiatry, 2019; 85:708-710


Schmidt C, Skandali N, Glesborg C, Kvamme TL, Schmidt H, Frisch K, Moller A, Voon V. The role of dopaminergic and serotonergic transmission in the processing of primary and monetary reward. Neuropsychopharm (accepted)


Zhao D, Li Y, Liu T, Voon V, Yuan TF. Accelerated theta burst stimulation of the prefrontal cortex for methamphetamine dependence. Front Psychiatry 2020;14:208


Samantha Yeliger
Applying for ISBRA Membership

If you are already a member in good standing of one of ISBRA’s affiliated regional societies (ESBRA, JMSAAS, RSA, APSAAR or LASBRA) you need only complete the online ISBRA Membership Application Form, which can be found at http://isbra.com/membership (if you have questions, please contact Ms. Lintz at isbra@isbra.com). Annual dues for these members are $45. 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. 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.

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