THE RIGHT TO BE SICK WITHOUT PUNISHMENT

After AMSAODD's and the AMA's recent official recognition of drug dependence as a disease, observers speculated about the economic implications—particularly the possible effect on expansion or extension of third party payments.

But there was little if any discussion about the impact that this stance of organized medicine might have on the disturbing trend to re-stigmatize drug-takers and to tout punishment over treatment. Yet the "drug dependence as disease" stance may well exert its greatest influence in just that context.

The signs of punishment are being posted everywhere. Government officials use the slogan "zero tolerance" to establish prevention goals. Calls to come down hard on the demand side of the equation are seen in arrests, in intimidation through testing, and in proposing such approaches as being preferable to education or treatment—or even as a form of education or treatment. Drug users, including alcoholics, are again being characterized in newspaper columns as weak-willed, perverse, or morally unfit.

The current climate has been shaped by the pervasiveness of the AIDS epidemic, by the override of cost containment, and through deepening frustration over inability to make significant inroads on illegal drug supplies. Despite the gloomy prospect, however, patienthood is not without its allies, who now have an added string to their bow and a chance to use it. How? By taking an active part in the White House Conference on a Drug Free America next February.

Just as important as attending the national White House conference will be participation in the regional meetings to help to shape its agenda. We need to make sure that treatment issues are not trampled by the stampede to get tough. (See p. 10 for information about regional meetings.)

There may be no universal right to treatment, but there is a right to be sick without being thrown into jail or otherwise persecuted or maligned. That is the true message of "drug dependence as disease" and we now have the opportunity to carry it even unto the highest places.

E. M. Steindler
AMSAODD Executive Director

On Sept. 23, ADPA (Alcohol and Drug Problems of North America) presented an award to AMSAODD for its certification program, its work on AIDS, and its efforts to persuade the AMA to adopt the concept this year that drug dependence is a disease. Margaret Bean-Bayog, president, accepted the gold cup on behalf of AMSAODD at ADPA'S 38th annual meeting in St. Louis.
'88 CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER

Deadline to apply for the 1988 AMSAODD certification exam will be Feb. 1, 1988.

Applications will be mailed to AMSAODD members on Dec. 1, 1987. An extension of this deadline will be made for anyone not passing the 1987 exam who wishes to apply for the 1988 exam.

In 1988, the required "one year full-time (or one year FTE) involvement in the field of alcohol and/or drug dependency" will be:

--involvement must be in clinical care of patients, education, research, or administration.
--at least 50% of the time must be clinical care of patients.
--the FTE must be accumulated within the five years immediately preceding the year of the application.

Beginning in 1988, three letters of reference will be required: one from a director of clinical service or official of a medical society, and two from physicians in applicant's medical community that attest to his/her one-year involvement in CD field.

Reminder: no exam in 1989.

(Anthony B. Radcliffe, MD, chair)

BOARD CONSIDERING AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

A necessary 75% of the AMSAODD board was not present in New Orleans Sept. 20 to approve proposed changes in constitution and bylaws. Consequently, board will vote by mail on proposed amendments. Amendments will go to the entire membership for ratification following the vote by the board.

107 responded to the new name survey published in July Newsletter. Results of the straw vote poll:

59--American Medical Society on Addictions.
37--American Society on Addiction Medicine.
11--American Medical Society on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies.

Name change is a suggested constitutional amendment.

(Max A. Schneider, MD, chair)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SHOWS RAPID GROWTH IN 8 STATES

AMSAODD has over 2800 members including some who have not yet paid 1987 dues.

Largest regions: Southeast with 563; Midwest and California with 455 and 437 respectively.

Re states: California surged from 289 to 437 in past 15 months; Mississippi from 20 to 35, Texas from 98 to 142, Tennessee from 40 to 70. Wisconsin, Florida, Michigan, Maryland, also show rapid growth. "Maybe they have something to tell us" suggests Dr. Bissell.

In two years, Canada has jumped from 45 to 79, but International has dropped from 40 to 19.

(LeClair Bissell, MD, chair)

AMSAODD AIDS CONFERENCE SET FOR FEBRUARY

Program for Second National AIDS and Chemical Dependency Forum 1988 in Phoenix, AZ, Feb. 18-20 is all set. Watch for announcements to be mailed soon.

(Larry Siegel, MD, chair)

OTHER NEWS FROM AMSAODD BOARD

Certification Exam: AMSAODD's scoring policies for 1987 exam will be the same as in 1986: examinee must achieve a score 1.2 standard deviations or less from the mean, and must pass each of the two sections of the exam (multiple choice questions and patient management problems).

Proportional emphasis in exam will remain 50% alcohol, 50% other drugs; 50% clinical, 50% basic science.

(Sidney Schnoll, MD, chair)

Credentialing: 716 AMSAODD members applied to sit for the certification exam to be given Dec. 5, 1987. Not accepted: 26, most because they did not meet the requirement of one year full-time involvement in the CD field.

Of those certified after the 1986 exam, 32% were family practice, 28% psychiatry, 24% internal medicine; 54% office based, 39% full-time staff at hospitals in addictions services.

(Marc Galanter, MD, chair)
AIDS—The single most important issue facing the field of addictions in this century.

Plan now to attend the 2nd Annual Forum on AIDS and Chemical Dependency, February 18–20, 1988 in Phoenix. This conference will be authoritative, current and timely—an intensive examination of the subject by knowledgeable experts.

Presented by: The American Medical Society on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies. Larry Siegel, M.D., Chairperson and Lori Karan, M.D., Co-Chairperson.

Send for free agenda and registration information today. Conference Fee: $190.00.

Exhibitors: Excellent exhibit space is still available—contact us for additional information.

Call (404) 458-3382 or send to Conference Information, AMSAODD Forum on AIDS, P.O. Box 81691, Atlanta, GA 30366.

For additional information mail to: Conference Information, AMSAODD Forum on AIDS, P.O. Box 81691, Atlanta, GA 30366. Telephone (404) 458-3382.

Name ____________________________
Facility __________________________
Address __________________________
City ______________________________
State _____________________________ Zip ____________

CEU and CME—Cat. Torecids applied for.

1988 Review Courses will be limited to three sites. New York City: Oct. 6-8, 1988; New Orleans: Nov. 3-5, 1988; California: date to be announced.

Committee suggests that the Review Course Syllabus be revised in 1989. Minor revisions planned in 1988.

Major goal in 1988: to publicize CME's available from Review Course (the 1987 Review Courses offered 18.5 hours/AMA, AOA, AAFP).

(Ane Geller, MD, chair)

Budget & Finance: Committees being asked to justify in detail all their expenses.

(P. Joseph Frawley, MD, chair, William Hawthorne, MD, Treas.)

AIDS & Chemical Dependency: 11,000 copies of AMSAODD's "Guidelines for Facilities Treating Chemically Dependent Patients at Risk for AIDS or Infected by HIV Virus" have been distributed. Suggestions for revisions solicited.

Regional AIDS and CD conferences planned for San Francisco (David E. Smith, MD), Seattle (Sandra Jo Counts, MD) and Midwest (Richard Morin, MD).

(Larry Siegel, MD, chair)

Medical Education: AMSAODD is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 34 meetings this year in continuing education.

(James A. Halikas, MD, chair)

Standards and Economics of Care: Committee recommends that AMSAODD have input into DSM-IV. New DRG's effective Oct. 1 should be closely reviewed and AMSAODD's efforts be coordinated with NAPPH, APA, and NAATP.

(David Mee-Lee, MD, chair)

Impaired Physician: Name changed to Physicians Assistance Committee, to refocus emphasis on disease state and recovery.

(Charles L. Whitfield, MD, chair)

Tobacco Dependence: Has two dozen members and three subcommittees. Public Policy subcommittee: preparing policy statement for AMSAODD, deadline April 1988 board meeting.

Clean Air and Treatment in Chemical Dependency Units subcommittee: report on a telephone survey of over 70 CD units should be ready before 1988.

Conference subcommittee: AMSAODD to sponsor "First National Conference on Nicotine Dependence" for physicians and other CD health care professionals; two-day conference in 1988. Board approved concept of this conference if no temporal interference with AMSAODD Review Courses. Committee would welcome suggestions for speakers.

(John Slade, MD, chair)

Executive Committee: met July 25-26 in Chicago. Discussed AMSAODD's perceived strengths and needs/weaknesses, new committee structure (see below), internal management, state/regional options, clinical issues committee, liaison/networking issues, environmental issues. Also 5-year direction of the society: financial self-support and sufficiency, expanded membership, journal publication, achieving board status for certification, leadership in clinical issues, chapters in majority of states, increased involvement in medical education, strengthened ties with other organizations, cohesive internal management.

Proposal that AMSAODD committee structure be revised and streamlined: Most committees would be in one of five sections, and would report to section chairs, who in turn would report to the AMSAODD Board and/or its executive committee. The five sections would be: Certification, Medical Education, Treatment & Clinical Issues, Membership Services, Public Affairs.

Appeals, Nominating & Awards, Constitution & Bylaws, Budget & Finance, and Personnel & Compensation (new committee) would continue to report directly to the board and/or its executive committee.

Ad hoc study group to evaluate and streamline committee functions. Ad hoc committee to study what AMSAODD certification will/should mean by April 1988, when AMSAODD will have over 1,000 certified members.

(Margaret Bean-Bayog, MD, chair)

AMSAODD Committee Heads: Appointed or reappointed by Dr. Bean-Bayog but not announced elsewhere:

International--Frank A. Seixas, MD;
Program for Medical-Scientific Conference--Marc Galanter, MD.
WHEN THE "MERRY-GO-ROUND" ISN'T SO MERRY ANYMORE

For those who have gone round and round with alcohol getting nowhere... for those who want to get off drugs but can't... and for their families who've been taken along on the ride... there's treatment and recovery at Mediplex managed facilities.

Alcoholic or Addict. Adolescent or Adult. Male or Female. Cocainist, Chronic Relapser or Recovering Individual "in crisis." There's a Mediplex treatment program clinically tailored to stop the cycle of use and abuse and start a new life of hope and healing, using the principles of AA, NA and Alanon.

And there's a choice of Mediplex Chemical Dependence Treatment Facilities dedicated to that purpose. All modern, attractive and located in tranquil rural settings. All thoroughly, competently staffed.

And all supported by an extensive aftercare network designed to serve client needs throughout transition and into that new way of life.

If we can help you help one of your patients get off the "not-so-merry-go-round of addiction," call the Mediplex-managed facility nearest you.

Mediplex
The Mediplex Group, Inc.
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Division
Dr. William Hawthorne, Medical Director
15 Walnut Street, Wellesley, MA 02181
(617) 446-6900

Arms Acres, Carmel, NY (914) 225-3400
Conifer Park, Scotia, NY (518) 399-6446
Mountain Wood, Charlottesville, VA (804) 971-8245
Spofford Hall, Spofford, NH (603) 363-4545

And opening soon, Cedar Ridge, Shawnee, KS

ADDICTIONOLOGISTS
PHOENIX/DENVER

Medical Doctors certified as Addictionologists needed to serve as Associate Clinical Directors/Directors of Addictive Disease inpatient programs located in Phoenix, AZ, Denver, CO, plus anticipated openings in other major U.S. cities nationwide. Directors receive stipend for part-time clinical/administrative responsibilities. Generous income guarantees plus relocation and office practice assistance.

Join Mental Health Management, Inc., the nation's largest provider of contract mental health services in the U.S. Send resume to: Gary M. Smith, Dept. PD-1, Mental Health Management, Inc., 1500 Planning Research Drive, Suite 250, McLean, VA 22102, or call 800-368-3589 or (703) 749-4683. EOE.

Mental Health Management, Inc.
A subsidiary of Mediq, Inc.
WHEN THE "MERRY-GO-ROUND" ISN'T SO MERRY ANYMORE

For those who have gone round and round with alcohol getting nowhere...for those who want to get off drugs but can't...and for their families who've been taken along on the ride...there's treatment and recovery at Mediplex managed facilities.

Alcoholic or Addict. Adolescent or Adult. Male or Female. Cocainist, Chronic Relapser or Recovering Individual "in crisis." There's a Mediplex treatment program clinically tailored to stop the cycle of use and abuse and start a new life of hope and healing, using the principles of AA, NA and Alanon.

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Mental Health Management, Inc.
A subsidiary of Mediq, Inc.
EXCITEMENT MOUNTS IN
FAST-PACED REVIEW COURSE

"I took the AMSAODD certification exam
last year," declared Anne Geller, MD,
chair of AMSAODD's Review Course Com­
mittee, in her welcoming speech to 170 regis­
trants at the Review Course in New Or­
lleans. "It's difficult for most of us even
to contemplate taking this exam. Many
have never taken a multiple-choice exam,
and most not for many years. This Review
Course is designed to help you all to
pass."

Dr. Geller's speech on Sept. 17 initia­
ted an intense, two-plus days of lectures,
case discussions, open AA meetings, and
pretests covering the entire chemical dep­
endency field. Fifteen faculty offered a
fast-paced, comprehensive kaleidoscope of
clinical highlights, pharmacology, metha­
done maintenance, recent research, test­
taking strategies, epidemiology, diagno­
sis, managing psychiatric problems, family
and addiction, medical management, over­
dose, and models of treatment in recovery.
Each registrant was given a 1987, 394-page
AMSAODD Review Course Syllabus.

Everyone took an 18-question multiple-
choice pretest the first evening. It
included six "Type K Questions"--a multi­ple true/false format of four answers to a
statement or question which can be com­
bined in five possible ways. Type K Ques­
tions traditionally give physicians the
most trouble on written board and licen­sure exams; a handout for those unfamiliar
with this format was an article "How to
Score Better on Those Tough Type K
Questions." Overall scores were posted.
Results (self-scored) in the New Orleans
group: 74% got 12 or more answers right;
21% got 15 or more; no one answered all 18
correctly.

Registrants sat at assigned tables of
about ten each for the whole course. Four­
teen facilitators--one at each table--led
the five case discussions, and answered
other questions throughout the course.

The atmosphere seemed tense as they
registered. Usually, AMSAODD physicians
are cheerful--even ebullient--when they
arrive at a conference. Many are in
recovery and know one another. Most of
the rest work with alcoholic patients
and/or have chemical dependents in their
personal lives. But on the afternoon of
Sept. 17 in New Orleans this group of over
170 physicians was clearly uneasy.

Why? Fear. Fear of the AMSAODD cer­
tification exam on Dec. 5, which was the
reason most had come. But what were they
afraid of?

The following answers were given by
physicians who wished to remain anonymous:

"I'm a medical director in a CD unit,
so I work with chemically dependent
patients. I teach CD. Even so, I would
not have felt confident about taking the
certification exam without going through
this Review Course first. I believe as of
now that if I study the Syllabus very care­fully I have a good chance to pass. But
I'm still nervous about it, because I
haven't taken a test for twenty years."--
Oklahoma ....

"I'm pleased to know that I know more
than I thought I knew. The course is very
well organized, and the Syllabus most help­ful. The practice test and case discus­
sions are very useful. Having facilita­
tors was an excellent idea, to guide case
discussions and share their experiences in
taking AMSAODD or other exams. I'm most
fearful of the K-Type multiple-choice ques­
tions. I missed the test-taking lecture
last night [the lures of New Orleans cuisi­
ne!]--Ed.] and deeply regret that now."--
Texas ....

"I didn't get my application to
AMSAODD in time to take the exam this Dec­
ember, but the Review Course was terrific:
intensively comprehensive. I'll take it
again next year, before I take the 1988
exam. That gives me an extra year to
study!"--Florida ....

"I was scared about taking the exam
until I came here and talked to some doc­
tors who took it last year. Now I'm not
afraid."--Texas ....

"I'm less nervous about the exam now
that I've taken the Course. It's a good
way to get an overview of what I need to
do to prepare. AMSAODD ought to put out a
Yearbook on Alcoholism like other
specialties have."--Minnesota ....
(Review Course, cont'd)

"I learned more from going to those two [open] AA meetings than I did from any of the lectures. I'd never been to an AA meeting before."--Florida

And from two physicians who previously passed the certification exam:

"I took the exam three years ago in California. I've always been afraid of failing any exam. I was particularly afraid because I was president of the California Society for the Treatment of Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies, and how it would look if I failed."--Max A. Schneider, MD, (Facilitator)

"I think we tend to take exams the same way all our lives. No matter how long we're out, we still revert back. I crammed the night before exams in medical school, I did the same for boards, and also for the California Society exam (pre-AMSAODD certification exam).

"The Review Course is very important. We cover areas where a physician might have less experience. I recommend target reading to get an idea of what areas need further study.

"We didn't have Type K Questions when I was in medical school (early 1960s). The patient management practices sections will also be new to many—and the material in the PMP's. The Review Course helps doctors to learn how to think each question through.

"Would you believe that I missed a Pretest question that was taken right out of my own book because I overthought the question?"--David E. Smith, MD, (Faculty)

**AMSAODD SYLLABUS**

The 394-page Review Course Syllabus is not only packed with medical/scientific information, but physicians reading the book will know that it contains, in the judgment of the AMSAODD Review Course Committee, the most up-to-date, valid, and pertinent information in the CD field.

Contents include nosology, pharmacology, epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, intervention, management of emergencies, sub-acute care, medical complications, psychiatric disorders, recovery, recommended reading. Some material was written

specifically for this Syllabus; some consists of reprinted medical/scientific articles.

For those not registered in a Review Course, the Syllabus can be purchased: $35 AMSAODD members, $45 non-members, from the New York AMSAODD office. Discounts in quantities over ten.

Tapes of each Review Course can be purchased on-site, or from InfomediX, phone toll-free 1-800-367-9286. In California: 1-800-992-9286.

Space was still available at press time at the Review Courses in San Francisco Oct. 22-24, and in Washington, DC, Nov. 5-7. Phone Calif. Society (415) 428-9091 re San Francisco course; phone AMSAODD New York (212) 206-6770 for information about Washington course. It is not necessary to be registered for the exam to take the Review Course.

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCY TREATMENT PROGRAM**

The Southern California Permanente Medical Group has an immediate vacancy at the Fontana Medical Center for a physician with a background and interest in providing treatment to patients and their families with Alcohol and Drug Dependency conditions. The physician will be part of an interdisciplinary treatment team and participate in ongoing training for residents and fellows. This innovative setting offers excellent opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

Salaries are competitive and benefits offered are outstanding. They include: professional liability, medical and dental coverage, vacation and sick leave, continuing education, life insurance and retirement plans. After two years full-time employment, physicians are eligible for consideration to the partnership.

Please call (818) 405-3224 for a physician application or submit your curriculum vitae to:

**Kaiser Permanente Southern California Permanente Medical Group**

Physician Recruitment Dept. 14AMSOD99 Walnut Center Pasadena, CA 91188-8654

Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H
ST. PATRICK'S HOSPITAL
DUBLIN IRELAND

CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST
(With Special Interest in Alcoholism)

The Governors of St. Patrick's Hospital invite applications for the above position. The hospital, which caters mainly for short-stay psychiatric patients, is a university teaching hospital and has a long established and comprehensive treatment programme for alcoholism. Further information may be obtained from:

The Secretary/Manager
St. Patrick's Hospital
P.O. Box 136, James's Street, Dublin 8, Ireland

to whom formal applications should be submitted before 30th October, 1987

Full time staff physician needed at Fenwick Hall Hospital, a 42-bed addiction treatment hospital located outside of Charleston, S.C. Must be B/C or B/E in psychiatry. Must be knowledgeable about addictive disease; AMSAODD certification desirable. Will have ability to do some private practice. Send CV to: Douglas F. Crane, MD, Medical Dir. Fenwick Hall Hospital, PO Box 688 Johns Island, SC 29455

Clinical Director for Impaired Physicians Program of state medical assoc. 1/2-time. Competitive salary. Responsible for assessment, referral, monitoring impaired physicians (CD, psychiatric disorders, etc.). Advocacy for recovering drs. w. employers, state agencies, insur. co's, and coord. education. Administration & public speaking skills.

Send resume: PO Box 190, Manchester, ME 04351
No phone calls. EOE (Equal Opportunity Employer)

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The Southeastern Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse 
December 2-6, 1987
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P. 9
FUTURE MEETINGS
Sponsored or co-sponsored by AMSAODD (one-time listing for co-sponsored conferences).
To assure listing, please send announcement to Newsletter editor Lucy Robe.

AMSAODD Review Course:
San Francisco: Oct. 22-24
Washington, DC: Nov. 5-7

AMSAODD Certification Exam:
Same 4 sites as Review Courses (New Orleans, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington).
AMSAODD, 12 West 21st St, New York, NY 10010.
Phone: (212) 206-6770.

Freedom '87, c/o Marworth, Waverly, PA 18471, Attn: Alan Hulsman.
Phone: 1(800) 451-4442
In PA: 1(800) 622-8926

AMSAODD's 2nd Annual Forum on AIDS and Chemical Dependency: Phoenix, AZ.

Conference Information (AIDS), PO Box 81691, Atlanta, GA 30366.
Phone: (404) 458-3382

AMSAODD Board Meeting:

AMSAODD Board Meeting:
Apr. 20.
Ruth Fox Course for Physicians: Apr. 21.
AMSAODD, 12 W. 21 St, New York, NY 10010.
Phone: (212) 206-6770.

OTHER MEETINGS

NIAAA

ARUS/AMERSA: "Future Directions in Medical Education."
Washington, DC, Nov. 10.
Hope Levy Kott, Conference Manager, Technassociates, Inc., 2101 East Jefferson St, Rockville, MD 20852.
Phone: (301) 881-0033.

NEW BOOKS
To assure listing, please send announcements of new books by AMSAODD members to Newsletter editor Lucy Robe.

LeClair Bissell, MD, and James E. Royce, SJ, PhD: "Ethics for Addiction Professionals" (Hazelden)

AMSAODD: "Review Course Syllabus" (AMSAODD)