



American Medical Society on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependencies, inc.

# NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Busy, busy, busy ... applications for the first certification exam are coming in as we near the Jan. 31 deadline ... AMSAODD has formed a Medical Student/House Officer Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Keith McManus and will work in cooperation with the American Medical Student Association. Our office staff and space are expanding. A new computer was purchased to assist with the certification project and our rapidly increasing membership. The Northeast region and the North Central region produced fine CME programs. Plans for the annual meeting in San Francisco April 18-22 are exciting and noteworthy.

Elsewhere--with many AMSAODD members participating, the JCAH is looking at its C.D. regulations; AMERSA together with NIDA, NIAAA, and ADAMHA, did a three-and-a-half day "think tank" to delineate basic C.D. educational needs for medical students and certain primary care physicians. The HFAC (Health Care Financing Admin.) agreed to use the terms "alcohol and drug" in lieu of "substance abuse" in DRG's 434 through 437, effective as soon as feasible.

The California Society and California Medical Association pilot physician education project is being expanded by the CMA and is a prototype for us to follow in the near future.

We're on a roll--and your ideas are solicited. Let's hear from you.

Happy New Year,

Max A. Schneider, MD, President  
2110 East First St, Suite 118, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
Phone: (714) 835-7665

AMSAODD Board Meeting

Thirty-one physicians attended the Oct. 21, 1985, meeting in New York City.

Certification Committee: (Margaret Bean-Bayog, MD) 1986 exam application deadline is Jan. 31 postmark. AMSAODD to give second certification exam fall 1987, requirements to be same as 1986 plus: one year full-time (or equivalent) clinical practice in alcoholism and/or other drug dependencies; post-1970 medical school graduates to have completed an approved residency in medical specialty.

AMSAODD to recognize periodic demonstration of competence ("recertification") as a component of the certification project.

Review Course Subcommittee: (Anne Geller, MD) Will meet Feb. 7 in Dallas/Fort Worth prior to AMSAODD board meeting. Returns on an October survey of AMSAODD indicated that nearly nine out of ten members intended to take the review course.

Standards & Economics of Care: (Sheldon Zimberg, MD) Alcoholism and drug dependence DRG's are postponed for one year. Committee to develop more up-to-date criteria for admission and for alcoholism, opiate, non-opiate, and polydrug abuse detoxification.

Ad Hoc Committee--Gay & Lesbian Alcohol/Drug Problems: AMSAODD position paper on AIDS approved (see story p. 3)

Membership: Total now close to 1900.

Nominations & Awards Committee: Dr. Schneider appointed Sheila B. Blume, MD (chair), LeClair Bissell, MD, and Irvin Blose, MD. Others will be added.

Public Policy Committee: (Dr. Blume) The 1984 AMSAODD Prevention Policy Statement was adopted, almost verbatim, by the Medical Society of the State of NY.

AMSAODD members are urged to write their congresspersons supporting proposed Bill No. H.R.2526--Fairness in Alcohol Advertising Act (TV stations to provide equal time for health warning messages about alcohol).

Publications: (Stanley E. Gitlow, MD) \$1,000 token payment to ALCOHOLISM journal editor Marcus A. Rothschild, MD, in appreciation for his efforts. Committee to renegotiate AMSAODD contract with Williams & Wilkins for ALCOHOLISM journal; RSA (Research Society on Alcoholism) has separate contract.

Dr. Rothschild reported that an additional 50 text pages will be added to the journal in 1986; that its citation index is high; and that the journal would welcome "submission of appropriate scientific manuscripts, including good clinical case reports, with new, unpublished data, that are adequately documented to pass critical peer review."

Other: Jess Bromley, MD, to formulate letters to APA and AAPA (American Academy of Psychiatrists in Alcoholism and Addictions) encouraging cooperation between AAPA and AMSAODD.

Discussion about new membership category: "retired physician." (The new constitution has honorary and emeritus memberships.

New committee members: International--Premkumar Peter, MD; Medical Student/House Officer--Martin Doot, MD; Public Policy--David E. Smith, MD.

Next Board Meeting: Saturday, Feb. 8, at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

<p><u>WESCAD I:</u> Western Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Vancouver, Mar 19-23; Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, BC Information: Wescad Management, Inc. Phone: (604)734-7812</p>	<p>MEDICAL DIRECTORS/STAFF PSYCHIATRISTS/PRIMARY CARE PHYS: Medical Recruiters of America has attractive opportunities for psychiatrists, primary care physicians in chemical dependency/psychiatric facilities, as well as private practices throughout the US. Send CV or call toll-free 1(800)237-5021 [FL collect (813)872-0202]. Attn: Katie Sherrill, Dir. Physician Recruitment MRA, 3421 W. Cypress, Tampa, FL 33607</p>
<p><u>SECAD WEST</u> Denver April 2-6 For info phone: Charter Medical Corp. 1(800)845-1567</p>	<p>MEDICAL DIRECTOR M.D. with strong administrative and marketing skills required. Experience in the field of chemical dependency desirable. Adult and Adolescent treatment. CareUnit Hospital P.O. Box 480, Kirkland, WA 98011 Phone: (206)821-1122</p>
<p>Board Certified/Eligible PHYSICIAN for Alcohol/CD Program. \$68-80,000. Contact: R. Sjogren, Chief of Staff, VA Med. Center, Martinsburg, WV, EOE/AA. Phone: (304) 263-0811, Ext. 4007</p>	<p>PHILADELPHIA, PA opening for PHYSICIAN exp. with substance abuse treatment. Full or part-time. Call E. Gusman at 1(800)535-7698 or at (504)893-4879. Other openings in IL, TX, WY. MEDICAL DIRECTOR: BC/BE (Int. Med. or Fam. Practice) for alcoholism treatment program. Contact Barbara Chaffee, MD, United Health Services, Mitchell Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903. Phone: (607)771-2256</p>

According to Larry Siegel, MD., chair of the ad hoc committee on Gay & Lesbian Alcohol/Drug Problems, "the problem of access to chemical dependency treatment facilities for people with AIDS or individuals who just test positive for HTLV-III antibody is a serious and growing one. Since about 70% of AIDS victims are gay men, the problem of access is compounded by homophobia.

"Example: a recovering alcoholic airline steward in Miami tested positive for HTLV-III. His primary facility would not accept him back into treatment because of fear that 'other patients would not accept him' on the unit. Another facility ultimately accepted the patient.

"Example: two men in New York City who had AIDS finally 'hit bottom' and desired treatment for substance abuse. No treatment facility could be found to accept these two patients. The stories go on and on.

"As with all issues of this type, fear is the problem and faith is the answer. That faith must be based on hard facts, carefully articulated, and repeated over and over.

"After several months of discussion and study by a special ad hoc committee, the following position was affirmed at the October 21, 1985, meeting of the Board of AMSAODD."

AMSAODD POSITION PAPER on AIDS

The American Medical Society on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies recognizes that some patients in need of treatment for alcoholism and/or other drug dependencies may have Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), AIDS related complex (ARC), or may have a positive test for HTLV-III antibodies. Intravenous drug users are a high-risk group for AIDS. The use of mood altering drugs (i.e. alcohol, marijuana and perhaps others) may depress the immune system and affect prevention and treatment of AIDS.

1. AMSAODD strongly recommends that physicians, other health professionals, and programs for the treatment of alcoholism and other drug dependencies, provide treatment for these patients.

2. Case by case assessment of the medical status of each patient should be made to determine physical capacity to undergo treatment for alcoholism and other drug dependencies. Continuing medical followup by a physician familiar with AIDS is recommended.

3. Currently there is anxiety amongst staffs and other patients about associating with AIDS patients. All personnel, including clinical, dietary, maintenance and housekeeping, should be educated with latest medical data.

4. Patients with AIDS do not require isolation techniques any different from patients with active Hepatitis B. Guidelines for the protection of staff and other patients from Hepatitis B should be followed. Caps, masks, gloves, and other kinds of protective wear are not necessary in routine contact, e.g. blood pressure checks and group therapy.

5. Continued medical monitoring after detoxification period is recommended for these patients.

6. The principle of confidentiality, critical to all aspects of alcoholism and other drug dependency treatment, is particularly important with these patients.

AMSAODD & RSA JOINT MEETING  
San Francisco April 18-22  
Ruth Fox Course for Physicians April 18

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(212)206-6770

CERTIFICATION DATES  
Applications Deadline: Jan. 31  
Exam: Saturday, October 18  
Review Courses: September  
Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta



## FUTURE MEETINGS

(January - March)

(Sponsored or co-sponsored by AMSAODD)

### Physicians Intervention Workshop:

Statesboro, GA, Jan. 24. Willingway Hospital, Statesboro, GA 30458.

Phone: (914)764-6236.

Annual Conference on Chemical Dependencies: Pittsburgh, Jan. 30-31. Greenbriar Treatment Center, 800 Manor Dr, Washington, PA 15301

Phone: (412)225-9700.

### 7th Training Institute on Addictions:

Clearwater Beach, FL, Feb. 6-11. Institute for Integral Development, PO Box 2172, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Phone: (303)634-7943.

### Physicians Day: West Palm Beach, FL,

Mar. 16. SE Conference on Addictions, c/o US Journal Training, Inc., 1721 Blount Rd, Ste #1, Pompano Beach, FL 33069.

Phone: (800)851-9100.

### WESCAD I, Western Conference on Alcohol and Drug Abuse: Vancouver, Mar. 19-23.

Wescad Management, Inc., 3075 Point Grey Rd, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6K 1A7.

Phone: (604)734-7812.

### Health and Addictions Seminar: Park

City, UT, Mar. 23-28. Institute for Integral Development, PO Box 2172, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.


Phone: (303)634-7943.

### Adult CoA's: starts Jan. 10;

### Leading Therapy Groups: starts Jan. 17.

The Resource Group, 7402 York Rd, Baltimore, MD 21204.

Phone: (301)337-7772.

 AMSAODD  
12 West 21st Street  
7th floor  
New York, NY 10010

## NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS

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Charles L. Whitfield, MD--Alcoholism and Spirituality (The Resource Group)

Sheldon Zimberg, MD; John Wallace, PhD; Sheila B. Blume, MD--Practical Approaches to Alcoholism Psychotherapy; 2nd edition (Brunner/Mazel, New York City)

AMSAODD/RSA: Marc Galanter, MD, editor--Recent Developments in Alcoholism, Volume 4 (Publication April 1986, Plenum)

## GRANTS

### NIAAA

5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857

Alcohol & Infectious Diseases Including AIDS. Inquiries to: (clinical and psychosocial) Ernestine Vanderveen, PhD; (biomedical) Helen Chao, PhD. Room 14C-17.

Phone: (301)443-4223.

Alcohol, Drug Abuse & Mental Health Aspects of AIDS. (ADAMHA) Inquiries to: Albert Pawlowski, PhD, Room 14C-20.

Phone: (301)443-1273.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Physicians Institute at Rutgers Summer School of Alcohol Studies: New Brunswick, NJ, June 22-July 11. Tuition, room, board, courtesy of Caron Foundation.

Physicians/medical students apply to AMSAODD, 12 West 21st St, New York, NY 10010. Deadline Mar. 15.

Please send us your region's news. Also tell us about your books, conferences, grants, scientific papers. We need your input in this newsletter.