

AMERSA E-LETTER

March 2004

AMERSA Executive Committee: Maryann Amodeo, MSW, PhD, President; Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, President-Elect; Gail D’Onofrio, MD, MS, Secretary; Peter D. Friedmann, MD, MPH, Treasurer; Mark Werner, MD, Immediate Past President; Marc Galanter, MD, Editor-in-Chief, Substance Abuse; Theresa Madden, DDS, PhD, Member-at-Large; Michael P. Melendez, LICSW, BCD, Member-at-Large; Kimber P. Richter, PhD, MPH, Member-at-Large; Celeste R. Wilson, MD, Member-at-Large; David C. Lewis, MD, Emeritus Director

“A Word From Our President” by Maryann Amodeo, MSW, PhD

Greetings:

Hope the signs of Spring weather are lifting your spirits after a difficult winter. Just hearing birds chirping outside my door when I leave for work in the morning has made me irrationally elated. No telling what mood disorder I might develop if the temperature hits 60!

We’ve had a busy few months at the AMERSA national office. We received a 5-year NIAAA conference grant to help support our national meetings. This will ensure that alcohol research and education continue to have a high profile in our plenaries and workshops. The grant includes scholarship money for new attendees. This will help us recruit members from the full spectrum of health professions working in substance abuse, and also increase our racial and ethnic diversity. We’ll be putting together an advisory group soon to help us recruit new members and select applicants for scholarships.

The Executive Board held a day-long retreat earlier this month focused on fund-raising and membership. Although AMERSA is stable financially, we need to broaden the financial base of the organization to ensure future stability and to make AMERSA activities available to a wider group of educators and researchers.

AMERSA sent representatives to several national summits and meetings to discuss collaboration between national substance abuse organizations and the role of health professionals in the substance abuse field. Michael Melendez, LICSW, BCD, represented us at the workforce development meeting of trade associations representing the addiction field convened by the SAMHSA/CSAT; Rich Saitz, MD, MPH represented us at the ACP NHTSA NIAAA SAMHSA National Medical Leaders SBI meeting; Peter Friedmann, MD, MPH will be representing us at the 2nd Annual Providence Summit on Addiction in Providence; and Hoover Adger, Jr. MD, MPH and Mary Haack, PhD, RN, FAAN represented us at an ONDCP press conference highlighting ONDCP’s new focus on prescription drug abuse, the second most abused drug category by young people and adults. Further, I attended a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Advisory Council meeting chaired by Charles Currie, SAMHSA Director, and Mark Werner and I have been representing AMERSA in conversations with selected national organizations that support policy issues that are similar to those supported by AMERSA.

We’ll keep you posted on all these activities and let you know of specific roles you could play to help us move forward.

Information from the National Office by Isabel Vieira

AMERSA's 28th Annual National Conference: "Scientific Advances in Substance Abuse: Patients, Populations and Policy"

AMERSA's 28th annual conference will be held November 11-13, 2004 at the Hilton Embassy Row in Washington, DC. Each year, the conference has been notable for its in-depth focus on substance abuse education and research and the high quality of its workshops and presentations. The objectives of the National Conference are to bring together researchers and health professional educators to learn about scientific advances and exemplary teaching approaches. AMERSA's members are from multiple professions, including medicine, nursing, social work, public health, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy and allied health professions. For further information, please visit our web site www.amersa.org.

Confirmed plenaries include:

- Ting-Kai Li, Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, speaking on "alcohol research in the post-genomics era"
- J. Scott Tonigan, PhD, University of New Mexico, speaking on "alcohol and spirituality"
- Raul Caetano, MD, MPH, PhD, University of Texas – Houston Health Science Center, speaking on "disparities in substance abuse treatment of minorities"
- Barbara Turner, MD, University of Pennsylvania, speaking on "alcohol, illicit drug use, and chronic diseases: making the connection"
- Richard Saitz, MD, MPH; David Fiellin, MD; Gail D'Onofrio, MD, MS, speaking on "brief interventions: do they work?"
- Andrea Barthwell, MD, FASAM, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, speaking on "translating science to policy: the National Drug Control Strategy"

Call for Abstracts

A call for abstracts and workshops will be mailed out this week with a deadline for receipt of May 15, 2004. Submission forms and abstract guidelines are available at www.amersa.org. Should you have any questions, please contact Isabel Vieira at the AMERSA National office at Isabel@amersa.org or (401) 349-0000. The AMERSA Conference is a highlight of our year and we look forward to seeing you in November and hearing about your work!

Call for Nominations

In order to support and recognize outstanding individual achievements in the field of substance abuse, AMERSA is now accepting nominations for the following awards.

The *New Investigator/Educator Award* is given to an AMERSA member who has made significant contributions to substance abuse education or research at an early stage in his/her career, and demonstrates the potential for future achievements in the field. The recipient must have completed a doctoral level degree or post-doctoral advanced training (e.g. clinical or research fellowship) in any discipline within the five-year period preceding the award. Nominations are welcome from all AMERSA members and should consist of a letter of recommendation (not to exceed two single-spaced pages) and the nominee's Curriculum Vitae. The recipient will be selected by the AMERSA Award Selection Committee, after a review of all nominations. The New Investigator Award includes funds for conference registration and travel expenses, and a commemorative plaque.

The *Excellence in Mentorship Award* is given to an individual from any discipline who has provided outstanding mentoring to junior faculty and/or trainees, resulting in the faculty member's or trainee's increased scholastic productivity and career advancement in the area of substance abuse education or research. We invite you to nominate an individual who has provided exceptional mentoring to you, resulting in your increased scholastic achievement and career advancement in the area of substance abuse education or research. Nominations are welcome from AMERSA members who are receiving or have received mentorship from such

individuals. The Excellence in Mentorship Award includes conference registration and a commemorative plaque.

To nominate an individual for one of the above-mentioned awards, please contact Isabel Vieira at the AMERSA National Office or visit our web site www.amersa.org.

Membership Highlights by Theresa Madden, DDS, PhD and Kimber P. Richter, PhD, MPH, Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

We're pleased to be serving as co-chairs and have developed a two-pronged approach that includes (a) profession-specific recruiting: targeted recruiting of members of health professions that are underrepresented in our membership, for example, dentists, allied health professionals, and social workers, and (b) regional recruiting: attracting health professional faculty from the mid-Atlantic region of the country who would find it especially convenient to travel to our national conference. You'll hear more from us as our work progresses.

Other Opportunities

National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD)

This year, NASD will be held April 8, 2004. NASD is a program of the non-profit parent organization Screening for Mental Health, Inc. and is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Reach out to your community: reach out to college students, clients or patients in your clinical practice, employees in your organization, or members of the general public. Be part of the 6th annual National Alcohol Screening Day. As a mental health or substance abuse professional and/or community advocate, you can host an NASD event to raise awareness about alcohol's effect on health and screen for at-risk drinking. NASD is a ready-to-use education and screening program that explores alcohol's effect on health and connects people who need treatment with a referral. Register now at www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org to receive your kit of materials.

Hazelden Faculty Training Program on Addiction

Since 1949, Hazelden has been a pioneering leader in the care of chemically dependent people and their families. It is internationally recognized for its broad spectrum of interrelated services and continuum of care. Its mission is to help build recovery in the lives of individuals, families and communities affected by alcoholism, drug dependency and related diseases. Jointly sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Medical School, the Faculty Training Program on Addiction integrates the core competencies of addiction medicine as identified by the professional medical community into medical curricula and training. This is a five-day, 30 hour program. The program dates are as follows:

July 26th - 30th, 2004 - Hazelden Springbrook, Newberg OR

October 4th - 8th, 2004 - Hanley-Hazelden, West Palm Beach FL

December 6th - 10th, 2004 - Hanley-Hazelden

For more information contact: Anne Fitzgerald, CSW 212.420.9520 ext145 or afitzgerald@hazelden.org.

Attention Medical Students

Scholarship assistance is available to attend the 53rd Annual Session of the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies, Physicians Section. Expert faculty will provide the latest information and research on drug abuse, addiction and treatment. This event will take place on June 20-25, 2004 at the University of Utah, in Salt Lake City, Utah. All medical students are invited—first-come, first-serve. Scholarship includes full tuition, six nights in campus dormitory housing and up to \$300 travel allowance. Contact Elizabeth F. Howell, M.D. beth.howell@marrinc.com for additional information and

application or write: University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies, P. O. Box 2604, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2604, Email:slangston@utah.gov, Web site: <http://uuhs.c.utah.edu/ads>

Advanced Training Institute in Health Behavior Theory

The National Cancer Institute will sponsor an intensive, 8-day session for early career investigators during July 10-18, 2004 in San Diego. The primary objective of the institute is to allow 25 attendees to extend their knowledge of and experience with the conceptual, methodological, and statistical underpinnings of health behavior theories. Lead instructors include researchers Neil Weinstein, Alex Rothman, Susan Curry, and Barbara Curbow. You must have a doctoral degree (MD or PhD) and have completed at least one graduate level course in the behavioral sciences and one graduate level course in statistics in order to be considered for acceptance. There will be a \$400 registration fee to participate in the institute. For further information please visit their website: <http://www.scgcorp.com/ati2004>.

ASAM 2nd Annual Legislative Day

ASAM will be holding its 2nd Annual Legislative Day from April 21-22, 2004. Meet and educate your elected officials! Join the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and supporters in their effort to educate Congressional representatives about both the value of addiction medicine in treating addiction disorders and ASAM's mission to achieve parity in healthcare coverage.

Registration is free and will begin with legislative advocacy training held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel followed by visits to U.S. Senators and Congresspersons on the Hill. To find out more information and to register for the Legislative Day conference, please visit their website: <http://www.asam.org/advocacy/agenda.htm>.



ADD YOUR POSITION VACANCY OR CONFERENCE HERE FOR FREE! EMAIL ALL REQUESTS to Isabel@amersa.org.

