



AMERSA NEWSLETTER

AMERSA’s 30th National Conference: Three Decades of Leadership

On behalf of the 2006 AMERSA program Committee, we invite you to celebrate our 30th anniversary at the Hilton Embassy Row in Washington, DC on November 2-4, 2006. The meeting will reflect AMERSA’s interdisciplinary strengths and its commitment to disseminate the latest developments in substance abuse education, prevention, treatment and research that challenge our students, trainees, patients, and us.

We are pleased to announce that A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania and founder and Executive Director of the Treatment Research Institute will receive AMERSA’s 2006 John P. McGovern Award, and Linda Sobell, Ph.D., ABPP, Professor and Associate Director of Clinical Training at the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University will receive AMERSA’s 2006 Betty Ford Award. Please join us in Washington, DC to recognize these two outstanding individuals who have given so much to the substance abuse field.

30th Anniversary Capital Campaign

AMERSA is excited to be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2006. It is a time of reflection and looking to the future—and for many of us, a time to recall our gratitude to AMERSA and our colleagues. AMERSA has personally touched the lives of many professionals, patients and clients, and their families. We have much to be proud of. To expand our important work, we are asking all AMERSA members and friends to contribute toward the Capital Campaign. The goal is \$250,000 with the Campaign concluding at the 2006 annual meeting. Your generous contribution will keep the spirit and impact of AMERSA growing for years to come. For further information, visit www.amersa.org. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law. Thank you for your continued support.

Call for Abstracts

A call for abstracts is available online for members and nonmembers interested in submitting abstracts for workshops, posters and oral presentations. Instructions and submission forms are available at <http://www.amersa.org/cfa.asp>. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Isabel at 401-349-0000 or by email Isabel@amersa.org. We look forward to seeing you in November and hearing about your work!

Substance Abuse Conference Travel Awards

AMERSA has NIAAA funding to underwrite a limited amount of travel/lodging for health professionals to attend our annual conference. Full or partial awards are available for up to 20 new attendees. Applicants must: (a) be health professional educators or researchers presently conducting alcohol-related research or interested in becoming involved in the field, (b) currently providing alcohol-related treatment or training to underserved popula-

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tions, particularly Latinos, African Americans, or women. For further information please visit our website www.amersa.org and click on "Conference Travel Awards".

Call for Interest Groups and Task Forces

Task forces are groups, meeting for a period of several or one to two years, to achieve specific goals and objectives related to the AMERSA mission. AMERSA members who wish to apply for task force status and a designated meeting space during the national meeting should submit a request to the Program Committee at Isabel@amersa.org. The request should include (1) name of the task force, (2) name of the group leader(s), (3) a brief summary of the group's goals and objectives, and (4) statement of preferred meeting time on Friday 3:45-5:00 pm, or Saturday 7:45-8:50 am, or both. Previous task forces have included Physician Education, Culturally Competent Clinical Practice, Assistance for Impaired Healthcare Professionals, and Faculty Development. All meeting attendees are invited to participate in task force meetings, and join in other task force activities if they occur during the year.

Special interest groups, less structured than task forces, provide an opportunity for attendees to have a focused discussion on topics related to addiction treatment, education, research and special populations. If you have an interest group that you would like to lead and need designated meeting space during the national meeting, contact the Program Committee at Isabel@amersa.org. The interest group should submit a brief request including (1) name of the interest group, (2) name of the group leader(s), and (3) statement of preferred meeting time on Friday 3:45-5:00 pm or Saturday 7:45-8:50 am, or both. Examples of interest groups include General Internal Medicine, Buprenorphine Training, Performance Improvement, and Health Professional Students Sit Here! All meeting participants are invited to attend special interest group discussions.

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, 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

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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 visit our website at <http://www.amersa.org/cfn.asp>.

Register for National Alcohol Screening Day

The Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse encourages clinicians to participate in National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD), a program that offers clinicians the chance to educate the public about alcohol's impact on health. Held nationally on April 6, 2006, the theme this year's program is "You Don't Have to Have an Alcohol Problem to Have a Problem with Alcohol." Sites that register for the program will receive a kit including screening forms as well as materials to educate patients about the effects of alcohol on overall health, a message relevant to anyone who drinks.

The NASD 2006 community kit includes the one-page NASD screening form - a validated screening tool that addresses the full range of alcohol use disorders, from at-risk drinking to dependence - along with videos, brochures, promotional materials, giveaways and other educational resources. Sites also receive an Event Planning Guide with comprehensive instructions for organizing, conducting and publicizing an NASD screening event.

To register for the program, visit www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org or call 781-239-0071.

Motivational Interviewing: Preparing People to Change: A Theory and Skill Building Seminar

Theory, Practice and Skill Building in the Miller/Rollnick Model of Motivational Interviewing will be the focus of this three-day seminar. March 13, 14 and 15, 2006, Hotel Lucerne, New York City. Presenter: Kathleen Sciacca, M.A.

Motivational Interviewing provides effective strategies and skills for working with many forms of behavior change including: mental health, chemical dependency, criminal justice, homeless services, domestic violence, employee assistance programs and primary health care including HIV. It is effective for both adult and adolescent populations.

- Understand Motivational Interviewing (MI) theory, concepts and philosophies.
- Understand the contrasts between traditional interventions and Motivational Interviewing strategies and interventions.
- Learn the Stages of Change (Prochaska/DiClemente) and interventions.
- *New!* Learn to measure client' readiness and utilize a worksheet to track progress.
- Learn the principles of Motivational Interviewing.
- Acquire Intervention Skills in Utilizing Motivational Interviewing Strategies and Techniques. Includes empathic/reflective listening skills.
- Build Motivation for clients at various stages of readiness and motivation.
- Learn and Practice Strategies to deal with Resistance.

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- *New!* Understand how the Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity (MITI) scale scores and interprets the quality of MI interventions.
- Learn to Develop a Plan.
- *New!* Learn to administer and interpret an MI compatible Functional Analysis.
- *New!* Learn the compatible elements of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to MI.
- Learn to use Motivational Interviewing Strategies in Groups.
- Learn Brief Intervention Strategies.
- Learn the Correlates between Dual Diagnosis Interventions & MI.

Full details and registration form regarding this training are on line at:
<http://users.erols.com/ksciacca/MIannounce.htm>

Scholarship/Stipend Opportunity for Training at the National Rural Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, June 4-8, 2006

Scaife Family Foundation Scholarship for Medical Students and Allied Health Professionals
Fifty scholarships are available for first or second year medical students, interns, residents or allied health professionals. Each scholarship recipient will have his/her registration fee fully paid. This includes all lectures and workshops, all meals, and lodging in a residence hall double room. In addition, each recipient receives a \$300 stipend to help defray travel and incidental costs. All applicants must be interested in learning more about alcohol and drug abuse and medical practice in rural America. Attendance is required through Thursday afternoon. Scholarship recipients must attend the Scaife Family Foundation Medical Scholars Track.

Application Deadline May 1, 2006. Questions or concerns: call 715-232-2793, email moultonm@uwstout.edu.

The Clinical Addiction Research and Education Unit at Boston Medical Center is seeking highly motivated individuals to assist with a newly NIH-funded clinical research study to implement a comprehensive disease management clinic to care for patients with substance dependence.

Nurse Clinical Care Manager:

The Nurse Clinical Care Manager (NCCM) is a full-time position in a specialized clinic in the Primary Care Center serving alcohol and drug dependent patients. NCCM will be responsible for attending half-day clinics, performing initial assessments, and managing patients with a multidisciplinary clinical team. Additionally, NCCM will be available to patients on a walk-in basis, will assist with relapse prevention counseling and medication management, and will coordinate patient care by actively facilitating communication among patients and various providers. Ideal candidate will have experience working with substance abusing populations, very strong organizational and communication skills, and an interest in research.

Clinical Social Worker:

The role of the Social Worker involves performing initial evaluations for alcohol and drug dependent patients in a specialized primary care clinic. The role involves both concrete services and counseling. Social Worker will be available to patients on a walk-in basis, and

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assist them with referrals to needed social services. Ideal candidate will have experience working with substance abusing populations, counseling experience, very strong organizational and communication skills, and an interest in research. Social Worker will be trained in Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET) and will offer MET to all patients in the study.

Research Associate:

The Research Associate (RA) position involves screening, enrolling, and conducting research assessments on patients in an urban hospital and detoxification unit. The RA will work independently and under supervision from Project Manager and Principal Investigator.

How to Apply: Please send cover letter and resume to Seville Meli, MPH Seville.Meli@bmc.org or 91 E. Concord St., Suite 200 Boston, MA 02118

3rd Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior Theory

The National Cancer Institute and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research will sponsor an intensive, 7-day workshop for early career investigators June 18-25, 2006 at the Fluno Executive Conference Center in Madison, Wisconsin. The objectives of the institute are to allow 25 attendees to extend their understanding of the assumptions underlying major types of health behavior theories, to explore how theories are tested and improved, and to examine how to use theories appropriately in designing interventions. Lead instructors include researchers Neil Weinstein, Rutgers University, Alex Rothman, University of Minnesota, Susan Curry, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Barbara Curbow, University of Florida. Applicants from all disciplines are welcome to apply. Eleven different disciplines were represented at the workshop held in 2005. An interest in cancer-related behaviors is desired, but not required. You must have received a doctoral degree by the beginning of the course and have completed at least one graduate level course in the behavioral sciences and one graduate level course in statistics. Participants must be U.S. citizens. There will be a \$500 meeting cost to participate in the institute. Travel, meals, and lodging will be provided. More information, an application, and comments from previous participants are available at:

www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/workshop.

Applications due by February 3, 2006.

The Second International Interdisciplinary Conference on Clinical Supervision

June 1-3, 2006, University at Buffalo, Adam's Mark Hotel (Buffalo)

This second annual interdisciplinary conference devoted to clinical supervision theory, practice and research is supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (National Institutes of Health) and The Clinical Supervisor journal published by Haworth Press. Both the conference and the Clinical Supervisor journal focus on core issues in clinical supervision that cut across professional disciplines as well as issues specific to particular fields. The conference provides an opportunity for psychologists (school, counseling, clinical), social workers, nurses, marriage and family therapists, psychiatrists, substance abuse counselors, speech therapists and other mental health professionals to meet and to learn from each other about current issues, practice and research findings related to clinical supervision of students and practitioners.

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For information on Call for Papers, Conference Program, Registration, and Schedule, please visit www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/csconference. Abstract submission deadline is March 31, 2006.

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Faculty Position – Addiction Psychiatrist

The University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine is seeking an Addiction Psychiatrist for a full-time faculty position. This position is being offered at the Assistant or Associate Professor level on a clinical non-tenure track. This psychiatrist will be responsible for substance abuse education for medical students, residents, and other clinical staff at our academic health center. He/she will also serve as the Medical Director of the clinical outpatient substance abuse programs in the Psychiatry Service. The Center for Substance Abuse Research and Treatment at UVM is nationally recognized for developing empirically-based substance abuse treatment programs, and the successful applicant will be encouraged to participate in ongoing NIH-funded research and scholarly activities within the Department of Psychiatry. Applicants must have a medical degree and be board certified or board eligible in Psychiatry. Applicants must have either completed or be enrolled in specialty training or have extensive experience in Addiction Psychiatry. The University of Vermont is located in a beautiful area, with recreational and cultural opportunities in the Lake Champlain region of Vermont and upstate New York, the Burlington metropolitan area and nearby Boston and Montreal. Interested applicants should send curriculum vitae and contact information for three references to:

Stacey C. Sigmon, Ph.D.
Search Committee Chair
UVM Department of Psychiatry
1 South Prospect St.; Room 1415
Burlington, VT 05401
Email: stacey.sigmon@uvm.edu

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled but we strongly encourage submission of required materials as soon as possible. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from women and individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

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

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