International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism

Volume 6, June 2016

World Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism
September 2nd - 5th

ISBRA
ESBRA BERLIN 2016

ISBRA 2018

Global Alcohol Research - Expanding our knowledge, supporting our members

September 9 (Mon) - 13 (Fri), 2018
Kyoto International Conference Center

Upcoming ISBRA Congresses
Newsletter

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From the President

The ISBRA Berlin meeting is coming soon. Prof. Rainer Spanagel is to be congratulated for organizing the meeting and preparing an outstanding program, details of which are accessible on the event website. Prof. Spanagel advocated for the “Four-Track System” in which research areas are divided into four groups, each of which is allocated a different track. This will allow participants to enjoy all presentations relevant to their field, from the same meeting room for the entirety of the event. Personally, this will be my first experience using this kind of system and I am keen to see the pros and cons prior to the next ISBRA meeting, which will be held in Kyoto. There is every reason to expect that the Berlin meeting will contribute to raising the scientific bar for ISBRA meetings.

Fortunately, I was able to attend all the affiliate society meetings last year, and was pleased to observe the slow but nonetheless significant development of each society. I have not mentioned the RSA meeting very much, which was held in San Antonio, but can relay that progress has been solid and steady. The number of participants was sizeable and the quantity and quality of presentations was generally high. It serves as an exemplar of how a domestic meeting in the field of alcohol should be conducted. However, we note that this area of research has been supported by abundant research grants from the US government, a situation unlikely to be replicated in the case of most of our affiliate societies.

The APSAAR meeting was held in Sydney last August. Due to enormous efforts made by Profs. John Saunders and Peter Dodd, the meeting attracted many participants and was a great success. You can read more about the meeting in this newsletter. Following the event, Prof. Dodd was elected president of APSAAR. He has devoted himself to reorganizing the society, and increasing the number of financial members. Thanks mainly to his efforts, the society has become stronger and is on a much surer footing. We very much look forward to seeing further progress by the next meeting, which will be held in Taiwan in 2017.

The ESBRA / LASBRA meeting in Valencia in 2015 was a joint meeting between two ISBRA affiliate societies. The history of LASBRA is not long. It became one of the ISBRA affiliate societies only quite recently. I understand that the society is active in several areas and is committed to growing its membership. Currently this is not large, hence the decision for LASBRA and ESBRA to hold a joint meeting. This proved to be a wise choice. The two societies complement each other in many respects and this collaborative effort multiplied the reach of both organizations, increasing the number of presentations and the quality of the program. We also saw many ISBRA members participating in this meeting. This joint venture is excellent strategy for a young society to further its development into a larger and more mature society. It demonstrates the advantages for affiliate societies of co-hosting events. Collaboration is key! In the near future, APSAAR and JMSAAS may follow.

On a separate point. JMSAS has merged with the Japanese Society for Neuroscience of Dependence and effective from April 1, 2016, has become a new society, the Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS). Dr. Toshi Saito, president of JMSAAS, took the lead in this merger, which has resulted in a larger overall society with a more secure financial outlook. We can point to this as another example of the growth of ISBRA affiliate societies. I look forward to participating in the inaugural JMSAAS meeting, which will be held in Tokyo in October this year, and to observing the progress firsthand.

In my note in the previous newsletter, I mentioned the low popularity of this society in some parts of the world, particularly in Asia and Africa. Following this and with the generous support of colleagues, I was able to get in touch with investigators in the field of alcohol and addictions in countries in the South-East Asian region. I asked them whether they had heard of our society and if so, whether they participated in previous ISBRA meetings. The results were disappointing. None of the individuals I corresponded with knew of our society, or in some cases even recognized our organization’s name, much less participated in meetings. This is a situation we must address, particularly considering that the alcohol consumption in a country usually parallels its economic development. With the rapid growth in the economic status of countries in the region, the magnitude of alcohol-related problems will most likely increase in the near future.

I strongly believe that an important mission of this society is to provide young investigators with learning opportunities. This is especially true for those from developing countries, including those in the aforementioned area. These investigators will be expected to play a crucial role in tackling alcohol-related issues that will arise and worsen
International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) Mission

Promoting excellence internationally in alcohol-related research

ISBRA is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including the following:

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.

Tamara Phillips, USA
Junior Vice President

Susumu Higuchi, Japan
President

in these countries. I will be hosting the ISBRA meeting in Kyoto in 2018 and am considering organizing training for these young investigators as a satellite program of the main ISBRA meeting. I hope this can be a joint ISBRA-WHO program the two organizations agree. Of course, this should be discussed by the meeting’s program committee and will need the approval of the ISBRA BoD and WHO.

We have high hopes that the upcoming ISBRA meeting in Berlin will serve to expand our scientific knowledge in the field of alcohol research. I hope that the meeting planned for Kyoto will achieve as much and will also succeed in improving the visibility and popularity of the society in untapped areas.

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Susumu Higuchi, Japan
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Tamara Phillips, USA
Junior Vice President
2016 Congress Planning

It is our privilege and special pleasure to welcome you to the First World Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism. This is a joint meeting of the International Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) and the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA). Both societies have chosen Berlin for its First joint World Congress in September 2nd-5th, 2016.

Both societies are promoting excellence either on the European or international level in biomedical research on alcohol and alcoholism. ISBRA was founded in 1982 and ESBRA in 1988 as non-profit scientific organisations and the executive boards of both societies felt that it is time to join forces.

During this 1st World Congress key opinion leaders will share with us the recent innovations in their respective fields which impact on basic and preclinical knowledge on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena, as well as on diagnosis, treatment and quality of life of our patients. High scientific level sessions will be organized: plenary lectures, symposia, interactive and educational workshops and debates. Therefore our World Congress will offer a wide range of outstanding data in scientific fields from the biomedical basis of alcoholism in animal and human experimental models to alcohol-related treatment issues, all the way to alcohol-related psychosocial aspects and epidemiology and health economics. Cross-fertilization, so to speak mutual exchange, as between dissimilar findings, concepts and ideas will be the motto of this meeting as it will enhance understanding and will produce something beneficial to our research.

The organizers give a warm welcome to the First World Congress – enjoy best science and friendship in Berlin – one of the top attractive places to be!

The Format of the World Congress

The conference welcomes 800 to 1000 attendees in total. We plan to have two plenary lectures each day - in total we will have 8 plenary lectures given by key opinion leaders in their respective field of research. We will introduce a track system (Preclinical CNS, Clinical CNS, Psychosocial & Epidemiology, Alcohol-induced organ damage and other comorbidities) for symposia where 4 (or more) symposia will be held in parallel – in total we will have 56 symposia including interactive and educational workshops and debates. The participating researchers shall submit and organize those symposia (see call for symposia) (four invited speakers 20’ talk and discussion,
10’ conclusions by the discussant - duration of a symposium in total 90 minutes). During lunch time, we will have plenty of time for poster sessions. Furthermore, there will be coffee/tea breaks to get together and talk science.

The meeting will be an umbrella for other societies: The International Symposium on Alcoholic Liver and Pancreatic Diseases (ALPD – organizer Hide Tsukamoto) will be integrated into the program and the last day of the World Congress – Monday September 5, 2016 – will be held together with the German Addiction Meeting (DG-Sucht – organizer Falk Kiefer).

On Sunday evening we will have our social event in the Schillertheater – following a reception, a keynote lecture, award ceremony (poster awards, ESBRA Nordmann Award, James B. Isaacson Award, and other awards), will be followed by a concert - that will make a great night for all of us.

Rainer Spanagel, Germany
ISBRA Senior Vice President and 2016 Congress President

ISBRA 2018 in Kyoto, Japan

I am pleased to announce the details of the ISBRA meeting in Kyoto, Japan in 2018. The outline of the meeting is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>September 9th (Sun) - September 13th (Thu), 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Kyoto International Conference Center, Kyoto, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host Organizations</td>
<td>• The Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Science Council of Japan (to be confirmed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Theme</td>
<td>Global Alcohol Research: expanding our knowledge - supporting our members (tentative title)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Meetings With</td>
<td>• The 53rd annual meeting of the Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS) (Congress president, Prof. Yoshiyuki Takei)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The 40th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Alcohol-Related Problems (Congress president, TBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satellite Meetings</td>
<td>• International Symposium on ALPD (Alcoholic Liver and Pancreatic Diseases) and Cirrhosis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Additional satellite meetings in other cities, including Tokyo</td>
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The ancient city of Kyoto was the imperial capital of Japan for one thousand years. The city has an abundance of breathtaking sights and points of interest. Around 20% of Japan’s national treasures can be found here and parts of the city have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. Kyoto is also located close to another famous ancient capital of Japan, Nara, which has many beautiful temples and gardens of its own to offer visitors. The local organizing committee will invite you to visit famous temples and shrines, in addition to other cultural experiences such as the memorable and elaborate traditional tea ceremony and Japanese flower
Meeting Report: 4th APSAAR Conference

The Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR) held its 4th conference jointly with the 5th International Drug Abuse Research Society (IDARS) on 18-21 August 2015 at the Westin, a beautiful 5★ hotel in the heart of Sydney, Australia. Prof John Saunders, a senior APSAAR Advisor, hosted the meeting. A full day, plus additional sessions later in the meeting, was devoted to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, both to highlight this issue in our societies, especially in indigenous communities, and in honour of Ken Warren and his contribution to the field. The main session included a talk by the Honourable Sharman Stone, Member of Parliament in the Australian Federal Government, on the role of governments in addressing FASD, as well as many speakers from our region and across the world.

The conference attracted 202 delegates comprising addiction scientists and basic researchers, clinicians, nurses, and social workers, from 20 countries: 14 in the Asia-Pacific region (Australia, Cambodia, Chile, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Réunion, Singapore, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States of America), plus Brazil, France Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. The gender balance was almost even, with 96 female and 106 male attendees. Over 100 abstracts for oral and poster presentations were received.

The congress was opened by Prof Saunders (Chair) and Dr Syed Ali (for IDARS), with the Heads of NIAAA, ISBRA, and APSAAR presiding. The meeting comprised two concurrent oral sessions on each of three days, with three concurrent sessions on the Wednesday. The sessions covered many areas. In addition to FASD, topics included The Impact of Addictive Disorders in Asia (both alcohol and substance use), Internet Addiction, Infection and Addiction, The Vulnerable Brain, Preventing Drug-seeking and Relapse, The Victims of Alcohol Misuse (Impacts on Indigenous Children), Genetics, Behavioural Sensitization, Substance Use & Relaxation, The Nature & Diagnosis of Addictive Disorders, Translational Research, and Pharmacology & Toxicology, together with sessions devoted to particular drug classes: Anaesthetics, Psychostimulants, Opiates, Cannabis, & Medicinal Cannabinoids. There was an Early Career Psychiatrists’ Symposium, several sessions for free oral communications, and daily poster sessions. There was very good appreciation by attendees of the
broad range of topics covered, as well as of the opportunities provided for young researchers & professionals from our region to present their work in talks and posters: the latter element was strongly advocated by Ken Warren and colleagues. The meeting also provided a recruiting ground for APSAAR, a task we are still actively pursuing.

The 5th APSAAR conference will likely be held in Taiwan in the Spring of 2017, with Prof Ru-Band Lu as the local host. Further details will be provided as they become available.

**APSAAR 2016 Update**

Since the Sydney Meeting in August 2015 we have more than doubled our membership and regional range, and now have members from 17 countries and territories across the Asia Pacific.

In compliance with our Bylaws, we instituted a major changeover of Directors. A total of 9 new Directors were nominated to the 15-member board to cover retirees and transfers to the Executive. The new Board voted for nominees to the Executive by email ballot.

The new APSAAR Executive is composed of the following members:

President:
- Peter Dodd, Australia

Vice-Presidents:
- Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand
- Sung Gon Kim, Korea

Secretary-Treasurer:
- Susumu Higuchi, Japan

Secretary/Membership:
- Sungwon Roh, Korea

Secretary/Amanuensis:
- Alfreda Stadlin, Korea

Past President Ihn-Geun Choi has joined our panel of Advisors ex officio after many years of outstanding service.

We are now working to continue our growth, revise and rejuvenate our ByLaws, maintain our turnover of Directors, and regularize our electoral processes. I hope to extend the regional range of the Executive to better reflect our membership base.

In my next communication, I will apprise you of the next APSAAR Conference, which will be held in 2017.

Peter Dodd, Australia
President, APSAAR

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**15th ESBRA/ 7th LASBRA Congress, Valencia (Spain)**

The 15th Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA) in conjunction with the 7th Congress of the Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA) was held in the beautiful and sunny Valencia, Spain, from September 12 to 15, 2015. The Congress was very successful, attracting more than 300 participants from 30 different countries, including researchers from European countries, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Canada, Russia, United States, Australia, Japan, and Saudi Arabia. The scientific program included 6 plenary lectures (Dr. E. Riley, Dr. M.M. Murray, Dr. R. Spanagel, Dr. A. Lingford-Hughes, Dr. M. Salaspuro and Dr. R. Batalle), 30 symposia covering an array of basic and clinical alcohol research topics (e.g. pharmacology and alcohol addiction, liver disease, inflammation and related disorders, cancer, genetics and epigenetics, biomarkers, adolescence, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, new therapies in alcohol dependence, etc); as well as oral (35 selected) and poster (86) presentations. Awards to the best posters and young investigators were given during the gala dinner. Four investigators under 36 years old were selected as speakers for the Young Investigator’s Symposium.

Joint symposia with the ISBRA affiliate societies are highly appreciated for the purpose of representing the world wide efforts to understand alcohol related actions. The 2105 ESBRA/LASBRA Joint Meeting hold two joint symposia: the presidents of ISBRA (Dr. S. Higuchi) and Japanese Medical Society for Alcohol and Drug Studies (JMSAS, Dr. T. Saito) attended and participated in a ESBRA/ISBRA/JMSAS joint symposium on “Alcohol-Induced Organ Damage” that was chaired by Dr. T. Zima (ESBRA president), Dr. S. Higuchi and Dr. T. Saito. In addition, Dr. R. Camarini and Dr. L. G. Aguayo (president of LASBRA) organized a ESBRA/ISBRA/LASBRA symposium on “An international and interdisciplinary approach to characterize new models of alcohol addiction in rodents and novel therapies for AUD”. All of the abstracts were...
published in Alcohol and Alcoholism, the official ESBRA Journal. The congress received financial support from the Valencian local Government (Generalitat Valenciana), Lundbeck SA and NIAAA which helped to defray the cost of travel for international speakers and students.

The joint Meetings between ISBRA Affiliated Societies put into clear evidence how important is to collaborate and foster the exchange of experiences and the formation of young scientist in the field of alcohol issues. And as a last mention, but not least, the LASBRA directorate would like to thank Dr. Consuelo Guerri for her generosity in organizing a wonderful and stimulating Congress.

Consuelo Guerri – 2015 ESBRA Congress President
Luis Aguayo – LASBRA President
Rosana Camarini – LASBRA Past President

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RESEARCH SOCIETY ON ALCOHOLISM

June 24-28, 2017
Hyatt Regency Denver
www.RSoA.org
Initial meeting details to be posted October 15, 2016

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) will take place in Denver, Colorado. The 40th Annual Meeting will begin on Saturday, with satellite sessions, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Study Group and the RSA Opening Reception. On Sunday-Wednesday, there will be full days of plenary sessions, symposia, poster sessions, special workshops and events, including the annual Student Networking Lunch, Post-Doc Dinner, Legislative Workshop and Grantsmanship Workshop. The meeting will end on Wednesday evening, with the Closing Ceremony – dinner, award presentations and slideshow.

The research areas that will be covered include biological/preclinical, medical/clinical and psychosocial. The primary goal of the meeting is to provide a forum for alcohol researchers - from all disciplines - to present their latest findings and to learn about new research developments in an environment that will promote interaction at both the professional and personal level.

This is a city of great cuisine, shopping, and nightlife. When not busy at the meeting, explore this city that is nestled at the foot of some this country’s most dramatic peaks, this 19th century frontier town has emerged as a vibrant, influential business and cultural mecca dotted with historic neighborhoods and a year-round flurry of natural adventures and exciting nightlife enough for any explorer. You will find a treasure trove of attractions including: Denver Botanic Gardens, the revitalized South Platte Riverfront, Larimer Square, Denver Art Museum, Denver Zoo, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Washington Park, the State Capitol Building, Children’s
Museum of Denver, and the Wings over the Rockies Air & Space Museum.

Mark your calendars for these future RSA meetings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 16-20, 2018</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22-26, 2019</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20-24, 2020</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA (joint meeting with ISBRA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19-23, 2021</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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I look forward to seeing you in Denver.

Rueben Gonzales, PhD, USA
President, Research Society on Alcoholism

ISBRA-WHO Collaboration

ISBRA is an organization that has an official relationship as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) with the World Health Organization (WHO). The society has collaborated with the Management of Substance Abuse (MSA) section at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. Between 2015 and 2016 ISBRA was invited to contribute to the development of the latest edition of the International Classification of Diseases: ICD-11. In August 2015 a meeting was held concerning “Behavioral Disorders Associated with Excessive Use of Internet, Computers, Smartphones and Similar Electronic Devices: Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Guidelines and Priorities for International Research.” Participants comprise: MSA of WHO and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Korean Association of Addiction Psychiatry and the Kurihama Medical and Addiction Centre, with the support and consultation of the Korean Government. An ISBRA representative was also invited to this meeting. Following a careful review of the existing literature and discussion, a draft clinical description and diagnostic guidelines for gaming disorder (GD) were developed. This draft is in the process of being extensively reviewed and field tested for clinical utility, validity and reliability for consideration of inclusion in ICD-11. ISBRA has been invited to participate in this process.

Another collaboration will be the WHO-ISBRA Joint symposium at the upcoming ISBRA meeting in Berlin. Two such symposia are included in the program. The title of the first is “Alcohol and drug diagnoses in the International Classification of Diseases” which will be chaired by Drs. V. Saunders and K. Mann. The speakers include Drs. J. Saunders, S. Assanangkornchai, H.J. Rumpf, J. Chick, V. Poznyak and S. Higuchi (discussant). The second symposium is related to the aforementioned behavioral addictions, providing an opportunity to discuss the draft clinical description and diagnostic guidelines of GD in the meeting. The session entitled “Are behavioral addictions true addictions? Discussion of controversies and their relevance to ICD-11 development” will be chaired by Drs. V. Poznyak and S. Higuchi and will have five speakers and one discussant including Drs. V. Poznyak, M. Potenza, H. Bowden-Jones, J. Billieux, S. Higuchi and J. Saunders. ICD-11 has a tentative release date of 2018 and topics related to ICD-11 development are impending. We are grateful to the Program Committee of the ISBRA meeting for allowing us to have two symposia at the meeting including one focusing on behavioral addictions.

Susumu Higuchi, Japan
President

A new society was founded in 2016: Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol & Addiction Studies (JMSAAS)

As presented in the 2015 ISBRA Newsletter, Japan had three alcoholism and addiction related scientific societies. The Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Drug Studies (JMSAS) was founded in May, 1966, the first of any such society in Japan. The Japanese Society for Psychiatric Research on Alcoholism (JSPRA) was established in July, 1989, when it separated from JMSAS to concentrate research in the discipline of Psychiatry. A third society, the Nicotine and Drug Dependence Research Forum, was founded by Dr. Tomoji Yanagita. Global scientific and human exchange between so-
Societies has been increasing since the early 2010s, and efforts to adapt to the increasingly global landscape has led to the merger of several alcohol and drug related societies. The JSPRA merged with the Nicotine and Drug Dependence Research Forum in September 2012, becoming the Japanese Society for Neuroscience of Dependence (JSND). JMSAS and JSND merged on April 1st, 2016, forming the Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol & Addiction Studies (JMSAAS). The first board meeting of the society was held on April 29th under Founding President, Prof. Toshikazu Saito, where it was decided to establish a Young Scientist Travel Award for the ISBRA/ESBRA 2016 Congress. The first annual meeting will be held on October 7th and 8th, 2016, in Tokyo, Japan under Prof. Kohji Takada, Congress President.

Toshikazu Saito, MD, PhD, Japan
President of Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol & Addiction Studies (JMSAAS)
Applying for ISBRA Membership

If you are already a member in good standing of one of ISBRA’s affiliated regional societies (ESBRA, JMSAS, 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.