From the President

Early and current considerations

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since I took over from Dr. Karl Mann as President of ISBRA and in hindsight, although I had so many great ideas that I wanted to implement, somehow the time just simply passed too quickly to accomplish all but a few. One of my objectives was to try to increase the membership, and to clean-up our membership rolls, updating the online directory. It seems to me that ISBRA, being an international organization with five affiliates (ESBRA, JMSAS, RSA, LASBRA, and APSAAR), should have a membership close to the sum of these affiliates, which is far from the case. Perhaps it is because our name implies “a biomedical research society” while in actuality, over the years we have had a large number of submissions from the broader alcohol research and addiction community. This consideration of composition may be something that we will need to discuss in the future, but I am pleased to report that our Membership Committee, chaired by Tamara Phillips, did an outstanding job and in the last two years and our membership has grown by over 90 individuals. In addition, to follow-up on something that Karl Mann initiated during his presidency, ISBRA again increased the number of female alcohol researchers becoming involved in the Society. In addition, our online directory is now more current and easier to use.

Another issue that I wanted to resolve during my presidency was one of finances. Dues for belonging to ISBRA are relatively modest, and in no way come close to meeting the infrastructure needs of the Society. However, no one wants to raise the dues. We have resources, but we have a cash flow problem. We primarily derive our support from the biannual congress. So, we have a Society that undergoes a lean year between Congresses, and then, depending upon the financial success of the Congress, we secure enough revenue to allow us to function for another year. Nevertheless, no society can maintain this type of structure, where on average we are spending more than we are bringing in. This will be a topic of discussion at our Board meeting in June: how to cut costs and/or increase revenue so that we are not living congress to congress. On a positive note, in regards to finances, during my tenure, I was able to secure a meeting grant from the NIAAA, to help defray travel costs to this Congress as well as to the next Congress in Berlin, Germany, particularly for young investigators and underrepresented groups.

Recent and upcoming meetings

Last year, I attended the ESBRA meeting in Warsaw, Poland, which was simply fantastic, both in terms of the science and atmosphere. In fact, I have never seen more food at any meeting I have ever attended. I believe that many participants had to let out their belt buckles for the plane ride home. Marcin Wojnar should be especially proud for doing an outstanding job in organizing this meeting in conjunction with Helmut Seitz, the Past President of ESBRA. ESBRA will be meeting in Valencia, Spain in 2015, so you might consider joining ESBRA and attending. I am sure that Tomas Zima, the current President of ESBRA, will put on an impressive show. More recently, I attended the 3rd Congress of APSAAR, our Asian-Pacific affiliate, held in Shanghai, China. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Chinese Alcohol and Drug Abuse Congress. There were over 200 participants from about a dozen countries. George Koob, the recently appointed Director of the NIAAA gave the opening Plenary Lecture, “The Neurobiology of Addiction: A Neurocircuitry Perspective.” It was an excellent meeting and APSAAR is certainly growing, both in terms of its membership and its reach in this region of the world. I would urge my colleagues from this part of the world to go to the APSAAR website and join, or to contact Peter Dodd, the incoming President of APSAAR, for information.

The big news, of course, is about our upcoming meeting in Bellevue, WA, held in conjunction with the RSA. In particular, I want to thank the Program Committee (Chaired by Howard Becker, Kim Fromme, and Robert Swift) and the members of ISBRA, particularly Susumu Higuchi, the ISBRA representative, who served on that committee. I am pleased to announce that Karl Mann, the Past President of ISBRA, will be presenting the opening T.-K. Li Plenary Lecture “What Works for Ted May Not Work for Ed – About Biology and Treatment Response In Alcoholism.” Additionally, Helmut Seitz organized a joint ISBRA/ESBRA Joint Symposium on Alcohol and Interaction with Drugs, Xenobiotics and Carcinogens. Finally, Susumu Higuchi and Robert Swift organized a joint ISBRA/APSAAR session on Pharmacotherapy of Alcohol Use Disorders: International Perspectives. Beyond these sessions with our affiliates, ISBRA members are represented in a large number of symposia and it looks to be a very successful and scientifically productive meeting.

Necrology

The last two years also brought me some sadness in terms of the passing of some of my friends in ISBRA. Roger Nordmann, the founder of ESBRA, passed away in January 2014. I first met Roger when I was a postdoc at Rutgers, and he was an inspirational character with class and charm. We had spent time together in September 2013 at the ESBRA meeting in Warsaw, where Roger gave an outstanding lecture. His passing is a tremendous loss to the alcohol research community. He will be missed, and if you have the time, you should read the obituary written continued on page 5
Committee Members 2013-2014

Education Committee
Peter Dodd (Chair) – Australia
Rosana Camarini – Brazil
Michael Charness – USA
Helmut Seitz – Germany
Sachio Matsushita – Japan

Executive Committee
Edward Riley (Chair) – USA
Karl Mann – Germany
Susumu Higuchi – Japan

Finance Committee
Michel Reynaud (Chair) – France
Raymond Anton – USA
Paula Hoffman – USA
Rainer Spanagel – Germany
Shih-Jiun Yin – Taiwan

Liaison Committee
Susumu Higuchi (Chair) – Japan
Sawitri Assanangkornchaid – Thailand
Karl Mann – Germany

Membership Committee
Tamara Phillips (Chair) – USA
Raymond Anton – USA (Ex Officio)
Susan Barron – USA
Rosana Camarini – Brazil
Peter Dodd – Australia
Mary-Anne Enoch – USA
Claudia Spies – Germany
Tomas Zima – Czech Republic
Lindsay Squeglia – USA
Sungwon Roh – S. Korea

Publication Committee
Victor Hesselbrock (Chair) – USA
Ihn-Guen Choi – S. Korea
Jan Hoek – USA
Karl Mann – Germany
Boris Tabakoff – USA
Eri Hashimoto – Japan

Nomination Committee
Karl Mann (Chair) – Germany (Ex Officio)
Toshikazu Saito – Japan (Ex Officio)
Edward Riley – USA
Collaboration of ISBRA with World Health Organization

ISBRA has an official relationship with WHO and collaborative activities between the two organizations have been conducted for long period of time. Plans for collaboration based upon mutually agreed objectives and outlining activities and their results have been reviewed by the WHO Executive Board every three years. The report of ISBRA for the period between 2011 and 2013 has been reviewed and approved by the Board, and we have entered the next three-year period. The tentative plan for the period between 2014 and 2016 was proposed based on the preparatory meeting between Dr. Poznyak of WHO and Dr. Higuchi in March 2013. The ISBRA Board of Directors (BOD) discussed and approved the plan during the RSA meeting in 2013 in Orlando. The plan includes preparation of a report on biological markers of alcohol use for use in primary health care settings, ISBRA’s contribution as an expert body to various WHO-sponsored projects associated with alcohol, ISBRA’s involvement of the field trials of ICD-11, and collaboration between the two organizations at scientific society meetings. The plan will be implemented and the progress of the plan will be reviewed periodically by the BOD. The BOD is expected to discuss future relationship between the two organizations during the upcoming ISBRA/RSA meeting in Bellevue, Washington.

Susumu Higuchi
Incoming President

continued from page 3

by Tomas Zima in ACER. Gene Erwin, from the University of Colorado, also passed away in late 2013. I first met Gene in Boulder in 1976 where he gave me my first fly fishing lesson catching green trout in the Rocky Mountains. He was not only an outstanding scientist, but an outstanding man as well. Most recently, we were all saddened to hear that Ron Alkana, from USC, passed away very unexpectedly. Ron and I were contemporaries, growing up in alcohol research together, and his loss has had a tremendous impact on us all.

Retirements
There was also another transition, but this one a bit happier. Toshi Saito, a Past President of ISBRA, retired recently from his academic position at Sapporo University. The University honoured him with a retirement party that was simply unbelievable. However, those who know Toshi, realize that retirement will only give him more time to pursue his interest in alcohol studies. Retirement should also help his golf game improve, but I hear he is already starting a new job. Toshi’s contributions to ISBRA, both in leadership and financial support, cannot be overstated and we wish him the best in his retirement.

Acknowledgments
In concluding, I need to thank a number of people. First, Michelyn Lintz has made my job a lot easier and for that I am grateful. Without her telling me what I needed to attend to and when, I would have been lost. I want to thank Laura Nagy, the current President of RSA, and Deb- by Sharp, the Director of RSA, for their help and support in planning the upcoming joint meeting of ISBRA and RSA. They went out of their way in bringing this joint congress together and did all they could to make sure it was indeed an international meeting. I also want to thank ISBRA’s Board of Directors and the members serving on its diverse committees. In particular, Paula Hoffman, who has served as the Treasurer of the Society for as long as anyone can remember. In addition, thanks to Dr. Ken Warren, who served as the acting director of the NIAAA during my tenure as President, for his support and the NIAAA for their generous support of ISBRA by providing travel grants for young investigators and senior scientists from countries underrepresented in alcohol research; and also to Jennifer Thomas, the co-investigator on the NIAAA travel grant and Jill Vander Velde for helping to administer this meeting grant. I also need to thank Karl Mann, the Past President of ISBRA, for leaving ISBRA in a great state when I took over. Last, I need to wish Susumu Higuchi from Japan, good luck in presiding over this growing and truly international alcohol research Society.

Last, I would like to acknowledge H. Lundbeck A/S, which provided funds for the printing of the 2014 ISBRA Newsletter for the 2014 Joint ISBRA/RSA Congress.

Edward Riley
President
Dear Incoming Board of Directors 2014-2018,

Thank you for your commitment to serving the Society. I am looking forward to working with you during the next four years. We have a lot to accomplish, but I am confident that with your advice and knowledge, we will be successful in our service to the Society. Please feel free to provide any comments and/or advice you might have to either me or to each other. Thank you for your support of ISBRA.

Sincerely,
Susumu Higuchi
Incoming President

Outgoing Board Of Directors 2010 – 2014

Raymond Anton, USA*  Peter Dodd, Australia*  Victor Hesselbrock, USA*
Susumu. Higuchi, Japan*  Paula Hoffman, USA (Ex officio)  Ting-Kai Li, USA
Karl Mann, Germany  Michel Reynaud, France  Edward Riley, USA*
Toshikazu Saito, Japan  Helmut Seitz, Germany*  Rainer Spanagel, Germany*
Shin-Jiun Yin, Taiwan

* continuing on to the 2014-2018 BOD

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**ISBRA Board of Directors Announcements and Letters**

**Incoming Board Of Directors 2014 – 2018**

Raymond Anton, USA  Rosana Camarini, Brazil  Peter Dodd, Australia
Victor Hesselbrock, USA  Susumu. Higuchi, Japan  Sung-Gon Kim, Korea
Tamara Phillips, USA  Edward Riley, USA  Helmut Seitz, Germany
Bo Söderpalm, Sweden  Rainer Spanagel, Germany  Yoshiyuki Takei, Japan

Dear Incoming Board of Directors 2014-2018,

Thank you for your commitment to serving the Society. I am looking forward to working with you during the next four years. We have a lot to accomplish, but I am confident that with your advice and knowledge, we will be successful in our service to the Society. Please feel free to provide any comments and/or advice you might have to either me or to each other. Thank you for your support of ISBRA.

Sincerely,
Susumu Higuchi
Incoming President

**Outgoing Board Of Directors 2010 – 2014**

Raymond Anton, USA*  Peter Dodd, Australia*  Victor Hesselbrock, USA*
Susumu. Higuchi, Japan*  Paula Hoffman, USA (Ex officio)  Ting-Kai Li, USA
Karl Mann, Germany  Michel Reynaud, France  Edward Riley, USA*
Toshikazu Saito, Japan  Helmut Seitz, Germany*  Rainer Spanagel, Germany*
Shin-Jiun Yin, Taiwan

* continuing on to the 2014-2018 BOD

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**Announcing the 2016 Joint ISBRA-ESBRA Congress**

The first joint ISBRA & ESBRA World Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism will take place in BERLIN from 11th to 15th of September, 2016.
Dear ISBRA Board of Directors 2010-2014,

I sincerely want to thank you for all of your many contributions to and support of ISBRA over your recent term on the Board. Truly, with our busy schedules, it takes all of us collectively to make the Society successful. We hope that your invaluable advice and knowledge will continue for many years to come. With that said, please feel free to provide any comments and/or advice you might have either to me or to Susumu Higuchi (incoming ISBRA President). Thank you again for your support of ISBRA.

Sincerely,
Edward Riley
Outgoing President

Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA) – a Long Short History

LASBRA, currently a thriving scientific society, was created in 1993. Curiously enough, it came about not in Latin America, but in Bethesda, in the U.S., during a symposium supported by NIAAA and ISBRA. The pioneering group that launched our Society was headed by Dr. Maristela G. Monteiro (Brazil), alongside Dr. Jorge Mardones (Chile), Dr. Juan Carlos Molina (Argentina) and one honorable non-Latin American: Dr Harold Kalant, from Canada, to this day a close supporter of LASBRA.

As the first spark went off, interest in the Society spread quickly and widely. One year later, in 1994, the I LASBRA meeting was held in Santiago, Chile, organized by Dr. Monteiro and Dr. Mardones. In 1996, there was the II LASBRA, a satellite meeting of ISBRA (International Society for Biomedical Research Alcoholism), in Washington, D.C. Things were looking good, and the III LASBRA took place in Recife, Brazil, in 1997, followed by the IV Meeting one year later, organized by Dr. Juan Carlos Molina and Dr. Roberto Rovasio, in Córdoba, Argentina.

The fall & rise of LASBRA

From then on, unfortunately, LASBRA went through a very long hiatus.

It was only in 2006, during lunch at the ISBRA Congress, in Sydney, that Dr. Maria Lucia O. Souza-Formigoni and I, over a thai chicken curry and a meat pie, came up with the idea of reviving LASBRA.

Over the following months, I and Andrezza Kim, our secretary, dealt with all the necessary, and apparently endless, paperwork — rewriting the Bylaws in accordance with the new Civil Code (having ISBRA Bylaws as template), registering the Society, and organizing a Committee to revitalize LASBRA.

The Period of Growth

Two years later, in 2008, LASBRA was re-launched, during the 2008 RSA/ISBRA meeting in Washington, D.C. (again not in Latin America!). The Organizing Committee was comprised of members from Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and the U.S. During the opening ceremony at the 2008 RSA/ISBRA meeting, Dr. Toshikazu Saito, the President of ISBRA, introduced me as President of LASBRA and the President of APSAAR, Dr. Dongyul Oh, to give a brief introduction of our Societies.

The V LASBRA Congress finally took place in 2011, in São Paulo, Brazil. It was an immense pleasure to organize the meeting, together with Dr. Maria Lucia O. Souza-Formigoni (Brazil), Dr. Roseli Boerngen-Lacerda (Brazil) and Dr. Ricardo Pautassi (Argentina). We were deeply honoured to host so many leading alcohol researchers from Latin-America (Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Mexico), Spain, and U.S. The program included a section aimed mainly at young researchers and graduate students.

In 2012, during a CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Meeting organized by LARNE-DA (Latin American Research Network in Drug Addiction), continued on page 8
members from Chile (Dr. Luis Aguayo and Dr. Yedy Israel), Brazil (Dr. Rosana Camarini) and Argentina (Dr. Ricardo Pautassi) initiated discussions on how the two societies (LASBRA and LARNEDA) could work together to expand addiction meetings in Latin America. The VI LASBRA Meeting (and I Joint LASBRA-LARNEDA Meeting) put together a program that included speakers from Latin America, Spain, UK, Australia, and U.S. During this meeting, in Concepción, Chile, I stepped down as President, after a 5-year term. A new board was then elected, with Dr. Luis Aguayo as President and Dr. Ricardo Pautassi as Vice President.

As a last mention, I’d like to thank Dr. Yedy Israel (Chile) and Dr. Consuelo Guerri (Spain), who supported the Society throughout its history, even in the hardest of times. My sincere gratitude also goes to everyone that believed in LASBRA and to the students who work for the growth of our Society.

We continue to work to make LASBRA even better! Join us!

Sincerely,
Rosana Camarini
Past President, LASBRA

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**News Briefs**

Prof. Dipak Sarkar Delivers Prestigious Memorial Lecture in India.


Dr. Andrew Holmes of the NIAAA Intramural Research Program has been selected as the 2014 winner of the A. Bennett Award of the Society of Biological Psychiatry for basic research. Dr. Holmes’ work has a strong focus on the neurobiology of alcoholism.

In close collaboration with the Medical University of Warsaw and the Polish Society on Addiction Research, ESBRA organized the 14th Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism. The meeting took place in Warsaw, Poland in early September 2014. Over 550 scientists from 35 countries around the world participated in the congress in order to share their expertise and most recent experience in research on alcohol. The latest studies in the area of alcohol use disorders were presented and discussed. Programs of the Congress comprised multidisciplinary approach to diagnostic and treatment strategies, and covered recent progress in basic research and clinical aspects of alcohol use. International experts during the four plenary lectures presented advances on the field of alcohol research. Marc Shuckit (USA) presented his talk on “Four Decades of Research on the Level of Response to Alcohol as a Risk Factor for Alcoholism: From Idea to Prevention.” Charles O’Brien (USA) focused on “A New Genetic Subtype of Alcoholism.” Helmut Seitz (Germany) discussed relationships of “Alcohol and Cancer” and Philippe de Witte from Belgium gave a talk on the role of the glutamate in alcohol dependence. During the Charles Lieber Memorial Lecture Mikihiro Tsutsumi from Japan presented his talk “Binge produces NASH from obesity-induced simple steatosis.”

During the 14th Congress of ESBRA various awards were given to outstanding scientists: the distinguished Manfred-Lautenschlager Award was given to Prof. Helmut Seitz. Six young scientists were recognized for their research in the field of alcohol for the best poster presentations. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Prof. Roger Nordmann, the Founding President of ESBRA. We were honored to host such a prominent scientist at our meeting; his passing on Friday, January 24, 2014 was very sad news for all of us.

During the congress, new leadership of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism was established. A new ESBRA President, Tomas Zima from Czech Republic, was elected, and the new Board has been approved. Most of participants took part in the social program, which potentiated the establishment of many new initiatives for international collaboration. The congress was fruitful and valuable. That outcome would not be possible without help and engagement of many people who made great effort in preparing our meeting. I would like to thank all of the participants for visiting us and express my appreciation to Helmut Seitz and members of the organizing committee for their outstanding input.

Marcin Wojnar
2013 ESBRA Congress President

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Do you require brain tissue for your research?

The New South Wales Tissue Resource Centre (NSW TRC), located in Sydney, Australia, is a brain bank established for the purpose of facilitating research into alcohol-related brain damage. The NSW TRC provides well characterised tissue and associated clinical information to researchers worldwide. In addition to tissue from donors with alcohol use disorders and neurologically normal controls, the facility also houses tissue from subjects with schizophrenia, major depression, and motor neuron disease. Characterisation of donors is performed using standardised instruments, notably DSM-IV, and includes a wide range of information on health and lifestyle. Tissue undergoes an extensive neuropathological examination and many donors have a full autopsy. The facility has operated since 2000 with funding from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (USA), the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, and the Schizophrenia Research Institute of Australia.

For enquiries contact the facility manager, Ms. Donna Sheedy
donna.sheedy@sydney.edu.au
or visit http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/pathology/trc/index.php
APSAAR: an Unreliable History

Background
The Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research, APSAAR, is ISBRA’s farm team for the Asia-Pacific region. We cover a reasonable area of the globe: the whole of Asia from as far north as Korea, Japan, and China all the way South to Australia and New Zealand; from the borders of Europe in the West to the shores of the Pacific. Although we think tend to think of “Pacific” as the Western rim, we do have members on the other side of the ocean and are grateful for that. We also encourage membership by nationals from our corner of the planet who are currently working overseas, and indeed from any colleague who is keen to promote research and scholarship in our region.

Origins
For many years local interests for ISBRA members were served by JMSAS and related Japanese Societies: JMSAS membership still qualifies applicants for fast-track membership of ISBRA. Applicants from other countries, including Australia, Korea, China, India, Thailand, and so on, had no local affiliate society, and could only apply to join ISBRA on an individual basis. It is to the great credit of our Japanese colleagues, and to two in particular, that they recognised this situation as unviable in a region that is seeing explosive growth in science, if ISBRA is to continue its global outreach and development.

The Founding Fathers
In September 2007, Japanese colleagues called a meeting in Kyoto, Japan, as an adjunct to the Japanese Society for Psychiatric Research on Alcoholism (JSPRA) conference in Ohtsu, to discuss the establishment of a regional society. A number of old ISBRA friends from Japan were among the hosts, including Kinya Kuriyama, but the key protagonists were two current members of the ISBRA Board, Toshi Saito and Susumu Higuchi. It is impossible to overstate the contribution of these two stalwarts to the foundation and continuing development of APSAAR: their generosity of spirit and foresight were, and still are, vital.

To inaugurate the Society, potential members came from Korea, India, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and Australia to join our Japanese hosts. Discussions concentrated on the aims and objectives of the Society, and the establishment of bylaws based upon those of ISBRA. As one example, an initial proposal that the name should be the “Asian-Pacific Society for Alcohol Research” led other participants to propose out that the name should cover problems in this region and as many disciplines as possible, and it should be more comprehensive; ultimately, the current name was adopted. The bylaws were developed over a couple of iterations via email and ratified at the 2008 ISBRA Congress. To help us through our teething troubles, a group of sages graciously agreed to act as Advisors: Clive Harper, Hiromasa Ishii, Kinya Kuriyama, and Toshikazu Saito. In turn, an executive board was assembled and a registered office established. It is again to the credit of our Japanese protagonists that they strongly urged the view that the first President should not come from Japan in order to emphasise the regional nature of the Society. Dongyul Oh duly accepted the role of first President.

Development
The first meeting of APSAAR was held in Seoul in 2009, the second in Bangkok (2011 postponed to 2012 by heavy floods), and the next will be in Shanghai in April 2014. The Society has developed a membership base from many countries in the region under the diligent direction of Sungwon Roh and Susumu, and an Executive reflective of our regional diversity. To quote from the inaugural meeting, “Number of countries [represented on the Executive]: Balance is very important. A minimum of 5 different countries was accepted.” We continue to grow, and welcome membership enquiries. We also follow with keen interest the re-establishment of LASBRA, and support their continued success. We have enjoyed holding joint symposia with our sister fledglings, including a joint APSAAR-LASBRA-ESBRA session in Warsaw, and hope to continue this practice. I participated in the recent LASBRA meeting in Chile wearing my APSAAR hat, and there will be a symposium at ISBRA Bellevue Congress with speakers from all four regional Societies.

Peter Dodd
Vice-President, APSAAR
Joint APSAAR/CADAPT Meeting

4th Chinese Alcohol & Drug Abuse Congress and 3rd Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol & Addiction Research Congress

April 24-26, 2014, Shanghai, China

The Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR) held its 3rd Congress as a joint meeting with the 4th Chinese Alcohol and Drug Abuse congress on the 24-26 April 2014. The congress was organized by the Chinese Association of Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (CADAPT) with the Shanghai Mental Health Center (SMHC) as the local host. There were over 200 participants comprising addiction scientists, clinicians, nurses, and social workers, many of them from all parts of China. As well, many overseas speakers from USA, Australia, UK, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and Taiwan actively participated by giving talks. For example, NIAAA director Dr. George Koob, ISBRA President Ed Riley, Walter Ling, and others, including many from the region and China, gave very informative and, at times, entertaining plenary lectures.

The congress was opened by Drs. Wei Hao (Chair) and Min Zhao (co-chair) with Heads of CADAPT, SMHC, NIAAA, ISBRA, and APSAAR presiding. The meeting consisted of two parallel sessions covering many areas, with an emphasis on alcohol addiction. Topics included regional issues on alcohol and substance use, behavioural addiction, psychotherapy for alcohol dependence, genetics of alcoholism, harm reduction in China, and the diagnosis and treatment of alcohol dependence. There was also a special symposium on the state of alcohol research in USA. This was a timely conference because alcohol-related disorders are emerging in China following the rapid increase in alcohol consumption over recent years. During the conference CADAPT also launched the “Guideline for diagnosis and treatment of alcohol-related disorders,” which was a major event for the host country.

The 4th APSAAR conference will be held jointly with the International Drug and Alcohol Research Society (IDARS) in Sydney in the latter half of 2015 (watch this space). The efforts of APSAAR to hold joint meetings with local or International addiction societies enables closer ties to be forged amongst its member countries, which facilitates information transfer and future collaborations.

Alfreda Stadlin
CBNU, South Korea

Necrology

USC Mourns the Passing of Associate Dean Ronald Alkana

February 26th, 2014

Ronald Alkana, 68, associate dean for graduate affairs and interdisciplinary programs at the USC School of Pharmacy, died on February 23 while jogging near his home in Seal Beach.

Dr. Alkana was a distinctive leader at the School with expertise in both pharmacy and basic science research. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy from USC in 1970 and his Ph.D. in Psychobiology from the University of California-Irvine in 1975. Having both clinical and research backgrounds allowed him to traverse two primary areas of the School and made him an especially insightful and inspiring mentor to students in both degree programs.

He joined the USC School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor in 1976. In addition to serving as associate dean, he was also a professor in both the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy and the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Over his career at USC, he was honored with dozens of teaching and mentoring awards, including Professor of the Year in six different years.

His research used an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the mechanisms of action of psychoactive drugs at the cellular and molecular levels. His persistent goal was to develop new prevention and treatment strategies for alcoholism, drug abuse, and psychological disorders. He and his collaborator, Daryl Davies, a former student of his, carried out numerous grant-funded studies at the Alcohol and Brain Research Laboratory at USC.

Just last week, Dr. Alkana presented a paper about alcohol receptor sites in the brain and their potential as brain mapping tools at the Gordon Research Conference: Alcohol & the Nervous System, in Galveston, Texas. Alkana was active in the Gordon Research Conference, among the most prestigious meetings on alcohol research, throughout his career.

Dr. Alkana championed dual and joint degree opportunities for students at the School. He was instrumental in establishing the PharmD/JD and PharmD/MS Global Medicine, among others. As a member of the science advisory board for the USC International Center for Regulatory Science, he actively worked to make the M.S. in that
discipline also available to students pursuing Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degrees at the School.

“Dr. Alkana was a dedicated teacher who loved USC and treasured his students,” said School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen. “He leaves an impressive legacy of scientists and pharmacists who have been inspired by him.”

His passion for his students and his work was only outpaced for his passion for his family and the sport of surfing. Those who knew Dr. Alkana were likely to know about his love of surfing. However, many probably did not know that he held a rare distinction in the Guinness Book of World Records for eating the most bananas in 2 minutes. He achieved this feat back in his graduate school days in the 1970’s.

While he abandoned his banana eating prowess decades ago, Dr. Alkana never lost his passion for neuroscience. He was among the early members of the Society of Neuroscience which today has over 42,000 members and is the largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to brain and nervous system understanding. He also served as vice-president of the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology and on the Neuron and Glia National Science Foundation Grant Review Panel.

In 1999, Dr. Alkana was named the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year for the USC School of Pharmacy. Phi Delta Chi recognized him as Alumnus of the Year in 2012. Dr. Alkana was on the Board of Directors of the USC School of Pharmacy Alumni Association, the Board of Directors of the QSAD Centurion support group of the School, and Board of Directors of the Phi Delta Chi Omicron Chapter Alumni Association. He has served on dozens of national and international professional societies and editorial boards and has published well over 100 papers on pharmacology and toxicology of drugs that affect the brain and behavior.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda Alkana, a history professor at California State University at Long Beach; his son, Alex, a law student; his daughter Lorna, an artist and writer; his mother, Madelyn Davis of Huntington Beach; his father, Sam Alkana of Long Beach; and his sister, Joyce Fink of Riverside.

Friends held a memorial gathering at the Huntington Landmark Community Recreational Room, 8641 Atlanta Avenue, Huntington Beach to honor Dr. Alkana on Saturday, March 1, between 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, friends may honor Dr. Alkana’s memory by donating to the Dr. Ron Alkana Memorial Research Fund at the USC School of Pharmacy. Donations may be sent to USC School of Pharmacy, Attention: Jennifer Watson, 1985 Zonal Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90089-9121. Please make checks payable to the USC School of Pharmacy, noting “Dr. Ron Alkana Memorial Research Fund” in the memo of the check.

A Tribute to Roger Nordmann

Professor Roger Nordmann, founder of the pioneering European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA) passed away on Friday, January 24, 2014, in Paris. His tireless dedication to the organization, which recently paid tribute to his memory and efforts after his recent sudden death and his lifelong academic contributions to medicine leave us with a remarkable profile of achievement, devotion, and activism.

Born on May 24, 1926, and raised in the city of Strasbourg, he attended high school at the College Lycee Fustel de Coulanges. Nordmann graduated as a young doctor in 1950 at Institut Pasteur in Paris, and was endowed with a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Paris in 1954. He won particular recognition for his thesis, which marked just the beginning of his steps in humanitarian
Continued from page 12

research and progression in the study of alcoholism and cancer.

Following his laboratory work as an assistant biochemist, at the young age of 28, his talents earned him the notable appointment to Head of Clinic at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris at the university. Nordmann remained in these positions until 1955. The specific commitments ended in 1962, when he switched to teacher as Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the National School of Medicine and Pharmacy of Poitiers, based in west-central France, which is one of the oldest universities in Europe and a member of the Coimbra Group. In 1965, he assumed a professorship for the next thirty years at the famously modern Faculty of Medicine, West Paris, in Medical Biochemistry at the University of René Descartes.

Nordmann’s multi-talented and spirited temperament chartered an engaging and broad working life in many fields, as he tirelessly attended to multiple responsibilities right up until the end of his wonderful life. Nordmann fronted strenuous research into alcohol and addiction, eventually narrowing specifically on the involvement of free radicals in the body and metabolism, establishing the effects and toxicity of ethanol on the liver, the central nervous system, and the brain. Reflecting his philanthropic work later on, he took eager interest in cures for and preventative measures of alcoholism and its disastrous effects on the body. His gift of leadership saw the founding of the French Society of Alcoholism (SFA), where he was a key member of the Board of Directors until 2002, as well as an active member of ESBRA. He held numerous seats on influential panels such as the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA), the Biological Society (until 2001) and in the Permanent Commission of the Alcohol and Public Health High Committee (HCSP) from 1992 on. Conclusively, his archive of social and academic influence was astounding. His substantial body of work made him a highly respected point of reference and expertise for many, including the Top Study Committee and Information on Alcoholism for 16 years. His membership, chairmanship, and opinions were highly sought and mirror his seemingly impossibly interdisciplinary strengths and passions to all he left behind. He served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Association for Research Support and Communication on Alcoholism (ARCA), President of the Commission on Mental Disorders & Addiction, President of the Addictions Committee until 2011, Secretary of the Section of Biological Science (1994-1997), and Chairman of the Division of Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences (3rd division, 2002-2003), to name just some. Nordmann too, in his modesty and balance, persisted as an active associate as well as a leader, being a member of the National Academy of Medicine until 2003 and of Editorial Boards of various international journals on addiction biology, alcohol, alcoholism, and contemporary research.

He was a natural and keen speaker, presenter, and teacher, participating in various forums in the later years of his life such as the Council of Moderation of Prevention (from 2009 on) and the Alcohol Prevention Alliance (from 2010 on). Other campaigns and roles he gave himself to included the “Fight Against Alcoholism” with the National Academy of Medicine and as Officier de l’Ordre national de la Légion d’Honneur and the Officier de l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques. However, his most inspiring role was arguably his founding and presidency of ESBRA, bringing together academics, ideas, journals, and leading research across the borders of Europe. The foundation was widely recognised and applauded, hosting well regarded and well attended conferences and creating prestigious medical award titles such as the Nordmann Award in 1990.

We lost our founder, friend, and colleague, but Roger lives on in our memories and our appreciation of his substantial legacy.

Tomáš Zima
President of EBSRA Board of Directors
Gene Erwin Remembered

Virgel Gene Erwin died November 30, 2013, at his home in Montrose, Colorado. He was born November 1, 1937, in Cahone, Colorado, a small town in western Colorado. He is survived by his wife of fifty-four years, Sally, two sons, Gary and David and a daughter, Jennifer.

He attended the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy where he received his B.S. and M.S. degrees. He then obtained his Ph.D. at the Department of Pharmacology at the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado where he was the first to study brain aldehyde dehydrogenase, a mitochondrial enzyme. Subsequently, he took a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Physiological Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University. While at Hopkins, he and colleagues carried out important work on monoamine oxidase, showing that it resided in the outer membrane of the mitochondrion. This study meshed nicely with his interest in aldehyde dehydrogenase and later with his pioneering studies on aldehyde reductase.

Erwin returned to the School of Pharmacy at Boulder and eventually became Dean of the School. He served in this capacity from 1974 to 1984. Simultaneously, he was instrumental in establishing one of the first Alcohol Research Centers in the nation. This was a collaborative effort between the School of Pharmacy, Institute for Behavioral Genetics, and the Department of Pharmacology at the School of Medicine. He was either Scientific Director or co-Scientific Director of this enterprise for 26 years.

During this time, he became well known for his studies on selective breeding for alcohol-related behavioral traits. He studied the Short and Long Sleep mice, publishing many important papers. He was the first to show that the differential sedative reaction of these mice to ethanol was not due to differences in metabolism of ethanol. He selectively bred mice for High and Low Acute Functional Tolerance to ethanol. In addition, he made seminal contributions to the role of neurotensin in the actions of ethanol and the role of aldehyde reductase in the metabolism of biogenic aldehydes. He was awarded the Research Society on Alcoholism Excellence in Research Award in 2001. During his academic career he published over 120 papers, reviews, and edited books. He trained many graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, most of whom are active in alcohol and other research fields. He was a stimulating research collaborator and tireless worker in the laboratory.

Gene was an avid and consummate fisherman. He and his fishing companions had many adventurous and productive days fishing. This group went on an annual fishing trip from 1968 until 2011, fishing mainly in Colorado but also in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Alaska. He and his wife, Sally, have a summer home between Creede and Lake City, Colorado that was the center of many fishing trips. After his retirement from the School of Pharmacy, he moved to Montrose, Colorado, where he became active in teaching young fishermen the rudiments of fly fishing. He always had his fly tying kit on fishing trips and could “match the hatch” with impressive alacrity.

Richard Deitrich
Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado School of Medicine
From the Joint APSAAR/CADAPT Congress

April 24-26th, 2014, Shanghai, China
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 $35. 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.