Inside

Note from the President

Current Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Members

Help Support ISBRA

Call for ISBRA Members to Serve on New Communications Committee

ISBRA Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO): ISRBA's Contribution to Gaming Disorder in ICD 11

ISBRA 2018 Congress in Kyoto, Japan

RSA/ISBRA 2020 Joint Scientific Meeting

ISBRA Early Career Investigator Award

Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR)

European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA): Past and Future Congresses

Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS): The Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference

Latin America Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA): Past and Future Congresses

In Memoriam of Dr. Ting-Kai Li

ISBRA Member Publications from January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 Provided for the 2019 Newsletter

On the Cover: The International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism has a wide representation of members from throughout the world. The logo on the cover is a celebration of this and the flags represent the 39 countries from which our 586 members reside.
Note from the President

It has been a busy several months since my Presidency officially began at the end of the September 9-13, 2018 ISBRA meeting in Kyoto, Japan, which was co-hosted by the Japanese Medical Society for Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS). Due to the impact of Typhoon Jebi, which hit western Japan on September 4th, ISBRA President Dr. Rainer Spanagel was unfortunately unable to attend the 2018 meeting and as Senior Vice President, I was honored to assume his duties. Typhoon Jebi was the strongest such storm to come ashore in 25 years and it caused power outages and flooding that halted trains and led to an airport closure impacting the travel plans of several who planned to attend. Our local host, Dr. Susumu Higuchi, describes these events and the meeting in greater detail in his article in this issue of the ISBRA Newsletter. He and all members of the local organizing committee and staff exerted heroic efforts to put on a highly successful and scientifically stimulating meeting, despite the difficult circumstances, for which all who attended were extremely grateful.

In recent months, we have worked to populate our ISBRA standing and advisory committees, taking the initiative to solicit interest and engagement in committee involvement from the ISBRA membership. I was pleased to see a large number of members expressing an interest in serving the society in this capacity. The committees have developed proposed activities and are working toward several accomplishments, including increasing our membership. I encourage EACH OF YOU to identify just one individual at any career level to join ISBRA. If each of us added just 1 new member to the roster, there would be a vast improvement in our financial viability and the collaborative mission of our society would be strengthened – ISBRA’s mission is to promote excellence internationally in all aspects of biomedical research on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena. I believe that many investigators who have more recently joined the field of alcohol research or are in early stages of their careers are unfamiliar with ISBRA. Our society members are deeply committed to educating and assisting our new and early stage investigators. Please take the time to introduce them to ISBRA and encourage their membership. AND, if you are reading this and are not a member, please join! Here is the link: https://isbra.com/membership/. Finally, we have begun the establishment of a Communications Committee to increase our social media presence. A call for committee members was distributed by email and is repeated herein. We need the help of our social media-savvy members to make this a success!

Please take note of the 2019 meetings of our affiliate societies. Information regarding each affiliate society is described in the newsletter in separate articles. I will be attending the meeting of our affiliate society, the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA), in late June in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. The venue for the upcoming European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA) meeting to be held September 21-24, 2019 will be Lille, France 21-24, 2019, and an ESBRA-JMSAAS joint symposium will be a feature. The Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA) will be holding a meeting this year in Córdoba, Argentina November 7-9, 2019. JMSAAS is also planning to collaborate with the APSAAR meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur in November, 2019. I hope that many of you can attend the meetings of our affiliate societies.

To highlight the research accomplishments of our members, we have initiated a call for new publication citations. We have included a list of the citations received at the end of the current ISBRA Newsletter and plan to continue this practice each year, as well as posting the citations on the ISBRA website. The citations here are for the period of January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019, and your citations for the period of January 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 are now invited and should be emailed to isbra@isbra.com. Included can be on-line publications during that period.

The world continues to experience tumultuous times. It is important to treat each other with dignity and respect. ISBRA is united by a common interest, and we continue to make significant progress toward identifying risk factors for alcohol use disorders and treatments that must be considered on a person-by-person basis. The global status report on alcohol and health 2018, by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that the harmful use of alcohol has a significant role in 27% of traffic injuries, 18% of interpersonal violence episodes, large percentages of multiple cancers and some other diseases, and 18% of suicides. There is much yet to be done, not only on the scientific front, but in regulation, implementation of treatment, and community awareness and action. Creativity and innovation abound across all areas of science and offer us new tools and methods to incorporate into our own research, with the possibility of more rapid advancements in the field.

The ISBRA Board is beginning deliberations for the selection of the 2022 meeting venue. A European location is favored, based on the rotation of locations across years. I look forward to a productive year for all and safe travels, wherever your destination.

Tamara J. Phillips, PhD, President, ISBRA
Current Officers

President
Tamara Phillips, USA

Immediate Past President
Rainer Spanagel, Germany

Senior Vice-President
Rosana Camarini, Brazil

Junior Vice-President
Sung-Gon Kim, South Korea

Secretary
Jennifer Thomas, USA

Treasurer
Paula Hoffman, USA

2018-2022 Board of Directors
Ina Bergheim, Germany
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Paula Hoffman (ex officio), USA
Kenichi Ikejima, Japan
Sung-Gon Kim, Korea
Andrew Lawrence, Australia
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Tamara Phillips, USA
Marisa Roberto, Italy/USA
Helmut Seitz, Germany
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Jennifer Thomas, USA
Katie Witkiewitz, USA

Committee Chairs and Members

Education Committee
Chair: Marisa Roberto, Italy/USA
Ina Bergheim, Germany
Heiner Brinnel, France
Rita Cervera-Juanes, USA
Helmut Seitz, Germany
Kristy Donald, South Africa
Sean Farris, USA
Carolina Haass-Koffler, USA
Christian Hendershot, Canada
Vijay Ramchandani, USA

Communication Committee: Initial members
Chair: Robert Leeman, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Vatsalya Vatsalya, USA

Executive Committee
Chair: Tamara Phillips, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Kenichi Ikejima, Japan
Sung-Gon Kim, South Korea
Harbans Lal, USA
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Jennifer Thomas, USA

Finance Committee
Chair: Helmut Seitz, Germany
Paula Hoffman, USA
Kusum Kharbanda, USA
Karl Mann, Germany
Tamara Phillips, USA

Liaison Committee
Chair: Susumu Higuchi, Japan
Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand
Tatiana Balachova, USA
Rosana Camarini, Brazil
Tatsuya Fujimiy, Japan
Mary Larimer, USA
Sebastian Mueller, Germany
Ricardo Pautassi, Argentina
Rainer Spanagel, Germany
Robert Swift, USA

Membership Committee
Chair: Katie Witkiewitz, USA
Onyemaechi Azu, South Africa
Eric Claus, USA
Sun-Gon Kim, South Korea
Penelope Lind, Australia
Julianne Price, USA
Ayumi Takano, Japan

Publication Committee
Chair: Andrew Lawrence, Australia
Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand
Katerina Burina, Russia
Joydip Das, USA
Natalia Osna, USA
Karl Mann, Germany
Andrey Ryabinin, USA

2020 Joint Congress Organizing Committee
Co-Chair: Terrence Deak, USA
Co-Chair: Christian Hendershot, Canada
Co-Chair: Amy Lasek, USA

2022 - 2026 Board Nominations Committee
TBD
Help Support ISBRA

Dear ISBRA Member,

One of the greatest health challenges of the present and the future is successfully fighting alcohol use disorders and alcohol related diseases. To face this challenge, the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) was founded in 1982. Over more than three decades, ISBRA scientists have continuously contributed much to the understanding of the pathophysiology and to the improvement of diagnostics and treatment possibilities for this ubiquitous disease. Unquestionably, this has saved lives, has reduced the burden of disease, and importantly, has saved money for health systems and societies. ISBRA meetings have contributed to these successes through face-to-face dissemination of important findings, leading to critical and insightful discussions that have launched important new initiatives. Without the financial support of many granting agencies and of many of you, this could not have been achieved. To continue to achieve excellence internationally in all aspects of biomedical research on alcoholism and alcohol-related biomedical phenomena, which is the mission of ISBRA, we need your further financial support. We all know people, relatives, friends and acquaintances who suffer from alcohol-related problems, and we all want to help them. To do so, every cent you donate to ISBRA is of great benefit. ISBRA, with more than 570 members from 39 countries of all 5 continents, has and will use science to provide clinical options and practical guidance to help people with alcohol-related disease. Do not hesitate, do it now, the future has just started.

Sincerely,

Helmut K. Seitz, MD, AGAF, Germany
ISBRA Board of Directors
Chair, ISBRA Finance Committee
ISBRA Education Committee

Call for ISBRA Members to Serve on New Communications Committee

The International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) is seeking members for a new Communications Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert Leeman. This committee will serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. As a society, we need to enhance ISBRA’s online presence through the use of social media platforms.

We wish to engage ISBRA members in this new endeavor, which will involve activities such as posting information intended to promote ISBRA and ISBRA activities on social media sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc.) and monitoring those sites. For example, we can post photos of the biennial international congresses, announcements of upcoming events, publication citations of our members, announcements from affiliated societies and funding organizations, etc. We can also use these sites to solicit donations for the Early Career Investigator Award and other awards. The ISBRA website has been updated and can be used toward this endeavor; e.g., the Twitter feed can be embedded into the website, to encourage more involvement. We are hoping to attract creative volunteers for this committee who are willing to interact with the Board of Directors and other ISBRA members to keep the site(s) up to date, and to monitor and reply to posts from members and others.

This is a great opportunity to be an involved ISBRA member and reach out to others across the world. Please reply to Michelyn Lintz (isbra@isbra.com) if you have an interest in serving on this committee.

Sincerely,

Tamara J. Phillips, PhD, USA
President, ISBRA
Chair, ISBRA Executive Committee
ISBRA Finance Committee
ISBRA Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO): ISBRA’s Contribution to Gaming Disorder in ICD-11

Health, social, and familial problems associated with excessive playing of digital games, especially among young people, are global concerns and are expected to grow significantly worse. Reflecting the global situation, the DSM-5 included diagnostic criteria of Internet Gaming Disorder. However, these are preliminary criteria, located in Section III, which comprise conditions for further study.

A definition of gaming disorder (GD) was included in the draft of the 11th revision of WHO’s International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11). This was based on a careful review of the existing literature and intensive worldwide discussion by experts in the fields of addiction. The draft was released by WHO on June 18, 2018 and the inclusion of GD will be officially approved at the World Health Assembly, which will be held in late May 2019. However, the inclusion of a GD definition in ICD-11 may be at risk, due to possible opposition from some WHO member states. Interests from the gaming industry, including IT giants, have strongly opposed the inclusion of GD and this may influence the decision of some member states. I explained this situation at the Board of Directors meeting held during the ISBRA meeting in Kyoto and the inclusion of GD definition in ICD-11 was supported.

Following that meeting, a group of international experts in the field of behavioral addictions lent their support for the inclusion of GD in a joint letter, and invited many scientific societies and organizations to be part of the initiative. ISBRA has an official relationship with WHO and this unique position enabled us to take the lead in collecting supporting letters and signatories from a wide range of stakeholders.

Just before the WHO Executive Board (EB) meeting in January 2019, 14 international societies, including our society, and more than 60 national societies lent their support to the inclusion of GD in ICD-11. As chair of the liaison committee of our society, I forwarded these supporting letters and details of signatories to the Director-General of WHO prior to the meeting.

An additional benefit of our society’s privileged position with WHO was that I was able to participate in the WHO EB meeting itself, as a representative of ISBRA, and delivered a statement to attendees. No EB members opposed the inclusion, with the exception of USA. I was pleased to observe that all other member states were supportive and there were also non-governmental organizations, such as the World Federation of Mental Health, which made supportive statements at the meeting.

As of now, we are still awaiting official approval of the inclusion of gaming disorder in ICD-11. However, I am optimistic of a positive result. Notwithstanding the eventual outcome, the contribution of ISBRA in this process has been significant and greatly appreciated.

Susumu Higuchi, MD, PhD, Japan
Chair, ISBRA Liaison Committee

ISBRA 2018 Congress in Kyoto, Japan

The 19th World Congress of ISBRA was held between September 9 and 13, 2018 at Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan. The congress was co-hosted by the Japanese Medical Society for Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS), one of ISBRA’s affiliated societies. This event was also jointly held by JMSAAS, the Japanese Society of Alcohol-Related Problems (JSARP), and the International Symposium on Alcohol Liver and Pancreatic Diseases ALPD and Cirrhosis (ISALPD/C). The annual meetings of the two Japanese societies were held between September 8 and 10 at the same venue, and more than 1,000 participants attended the meeting.
The lead-up to the congress was marked by calamitous weather, when a powerful typhoon struck the Kansai area, including Kyoto, on September 4th. This caused the closure of Kansai International Airport, a major airport for international visitors to Kyoto, and the subsequent cancellation of many overseas flights. It was extremely challenging for international participants to reschedule flights and secure transportation to get to Kyoto. Two days later, on September 6th, the situation was exacerbated when a major earthquake struck the prefecture of Hokkaido, which includes the city of Sapporo, the venue for the 2012 ISBRA congress.

In the face of such adversity, we were delighted and humbled to welcome more than 550 participants from Japan and all over the world. Approximately 50 delegates, who had registered for the congress, were unfortunately unable to come to Kyoto, mainly due to these two natural disasters.

Across the globe, alcohol is raising serious health and social concerns. According to the WHO Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health in 2018, the harmful use of alcohol is a component cause of more than 200 disease and injury conditions. In 2016, around 3 million deaths, or 5.3% of all global deaths, were attributable to alcohol consumption. In Asia, alcohol consumption has been increasing in many of the region’s developing nations, which is likely to lead to a further rise in alcohol-related harm in those areas.

In light of this trend of rising alcohol consumption, it was both timely and meaningful to host the ISBRA Congress in Kyoto last year. The main theme was “Global Alcohol Research - Expanding Our Knowledge, Supporting Our Members” and attendees were presented with cutting-edge scientific information on alcohol-related harm in biomedical, behavioral, and psychosocial areas. In addition, the ISBRA 2018 program also included joint training sessions with WHO for young investigators, particularly focusing on those from developing countries. This ISBRA-WHO workshop comprised of six sessions and there were active
contributions from many of the delegates, evidenced by the awarding of certificates of participation. We are extremely grateful to those senior investigators who played the role of workshop facilitators.

Prior to the event, we had encouraged both members and non-members of ISBRA to submit symposium proposals and abstracts for poster presentations. I am delighted to report a total of 72 symposia, including ALDP symposia, and 170 poster presentations - a reflection of the contributors’ keen interest and dedication to the pursuit of scientific progress. In addition, we were proud to welcome six world-renowned scholars from diverse fields, who broadened our understanding of areas such as basic and clinical studies, and policy development and implementation. They were, in alphabetical order: Prof. Markus Heilig, Dr. Vladimir Poznyak, Dr. Vijay Ramchandani, Prof. Jurgen Rehm, Prof. Yoshiyuki Takei, and Prof. Reinout Wiers. These excellent presentations facilitated the exchange of information and undoubtedly increased the collective knowledge of participants. Perhaps this will also lead to future collaborations.

Kyoto was chosen as the congress site in 2018, due to its status as one of the most historic and well-known cities in Japan and its preeminence as a global tourist destination. In addition to an innovative and exciting scientific congress program, I believe many participants had an opportunity to experience firsthand, elements of authentic Japanese culture - magnificent ancient buildings, the arts, and unique cuisine during their stay in Kyoto.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all participants for their dedication and contribution to the 2018 ISBRA congress. I also wish to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee and the International Program Committee, who provided great assistance, both intellectually and technically, for the congress preparations. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my colleagues, friends, and especially my family for their continued dedication and support.

I very much look forward to the next ISBRA meeting. Let’s see all of you again in June 2020 in New Orleans, USA.

Susumu Higuchi, MD, PhD, Japan President, ISBRA 2018 Congress Chair, ISBRA Liaison Committee
The RSA/ISBRA Joint Scientific Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Louisiana. Over 1600 attendees are expected from around the world. The 3 appointed Chairs of the program committee, Amy Lasek, Terrence Deak and Christian Hendershot, will select members from across the globe and from both RSA and ISBRA to jointly develop the program. There will be opportunities to attend plenary lectures, and to propose and attend symposia and workshops. Scientific posters will be featured at multiple sessions. The joint meeting stimulates international connections and the sharing of perspectives and ideas that benefit all fields of alcohol research and addresses the issues associated with alcohol-related problems.

The RSA/ISBRA Joint Scientific Meeting welcomes trainees (students and post-docs) and hosts special events including a student lunch, a post-doc dinner, and special poster awards to recognize trainees and to facilitate networking with scientists from around the world.

Initial meeting information (program proposals and abstract submissions, plus additional details) will be posted October 15, 2019 at www.rsoa.org. The second set of meeting materials (program outline, poster session details, registration, lodging, plus additional details) will be posted March 10, 2020. The ISBRA website will have a direct link to the RSA Conference pages.

The Hyatt Regency New Orleans is centrally located within 10 minutes by foot from beautiful Lafayette Square and 1.1 km from the Contemporary Arts Center. Lafayette Square is one of the numerous parks of New Orleans that you may enjoy visiting, during your free time. However, for those more interested in the lively New Orleans scene, visit the French Quarter, where you can hear live music and enjoy jambalaya and other local specialties.

Robert Swift, MD, PhD
Vice President, RSA
ISBRA Liaison Committee

Tamara J. Phillips, PhD
President, ISBRA

ISBRA Early Career Investigator Award

In 2010, ISBRA established an award for young ISBRA members in the field of alcoholism. Twenty-eight awards have been given to individuals in 12 countries. The ISBRA Early Career Investigator Award acknowledges stellar contributions by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the advancement of knowledge in the alcohol/alcoholism field. Through an application process, the potential recipients’ abstracts and posters or talks are judged by the Education Committee during each biennial congress. Each recipient receives a partial cash award to travel to the biennial congress and a commemorative plaque.

We encourage young investigators to apply for the Early Career Investigators Award for the 2020 joint ISBRA/RSA Congress, in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, June 20-24,
The 2020 application process will be announced and posted early 2020.

Below is the history of the recipients of the ISBRA Early Career Investigator Awards:

2010 Congress, Paris FRANCE: Rebecca (Reba) J. Howard, Ph.D., USA; Ricardo Marcos Pautassi, Ph.D., ARGENTINA; Wataru Ukai, Ph.D., JAPAN; Daya Perkins, Ph.D., USA; and, Dmitri Govorko, M.D., USA

2012 Congress, Sapporo, JAPAN: Jin-Seok Byun, D.D.S., KOREA; Robert J. Lipinski, Ph.D., USA; Kristen Pleil, Ph.D., USA; William Giardino, B.S. USA; and, Angela Renee Ozburn, Ph.D. USA

2014 Congress, Seattle, USA: Laura Broccoli, M.S., GERMANY

2016 Congress, Berlin, GERMANY: Leon G. Coleman Jr, Leon, M.D., Pre-doctoral Student, USA; Olli Kärkkäinen, Ph.D., FINLAND; Alexander Glahn, Pre-doctoral -medical Student, GERMANY; Lucia Marit-Prats, Ph.D., Spain; Sean Farris, Ph.D., USA; Esi Domi, Ph.D., SWEDEN; Maria Vrettou, Pre-doctoral Student, SWEDEN; David Vallöf, Pre-doctoral Student, SWEDEN; Michael E. Price, Pre-doctoral Student, USA; Oren Even-Chen, Pre-doctoral Student, ISRAEL

2018 Congress, Kyoto, JAPAN: Erin Campbell, Ph.D., AUSTRALIA; Esi Domi, Ph.D., SWEDEN; Sheila Engi, Ph.D., BRAZIL; Emily Petruccelli, Ph.D., USA; Ayumi Takano, Ph.D., JAPAN; Som Bohora, M.S., NEPAL; Zachary Gursky, B.S., USA

Marisa Roberto, PhD, Italy/USA
Chair, ISBRA Education Committee
ISBRA Board of Directors

Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR)

The Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR), affiliated as a regional Society of the ISBRA was established in October 2007 in Kyoto, Japan, and officially began operations on January 1, 2008. The goal of APSAAR is to improve the quality of life of people in the Asia-Pacific region through extensive and constructive research on alcohol and addiction problems. APSAAR currently has members from about 20 countries and territories and is constantly aiming to expand its base. Members reside in countries in our region, or have interests or links to the Asia Pacific whilst working elsewhere. This diversity of membership is one of our great strengths and we work hard to maintain and expand it.

The APSAAR conferences are held biennially in the years between ISBRA congresses to facilitate and promote interactions and collaborations among our members we hold. Past conferences have been in Seoul, Korea, 2009; Bangkok, Thailand, 2012 (postponed from 2011); Shanghai, China, 2014 (postponed from 2013); Sydney, Australia, 2015 and Taipei, Taiwan 2017.

The 2019 meeting will be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 27-29 November 2019. The Congress venue is Bangi Resort Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia. http://www.bangiresorthotel.com/en-us/home. This hotel has free daily shuttle service from the hotel to KL central and is about 35 mins away from Kuala Lumpur International Airport.
Some plenary talks include Development of treatment and services for online gaming disorder (Susumau Higuchi, Japan), Challenges in managing HIV in people who use drugs (Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Malaysia), Expansion of opioid pharmacotherapy treatment throughout China (Min Zhoa, China) and Alcohol finding in NHMS 2015: What are the gaps? (Chris Bullen, New Zealand). More detailed information on the APSAAR Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA): Past and Future Congresses

ESBRA-Nordmann Award Meeting 2018

From 11.-12. October 2018 the ESBRA-Nordmann Award Meeting was successfully organized in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, by Prof. Roberta Ward (Belgium) and Prof. Henriette Walter (Austria).

The topic “Alcohol and the Immune System” addressed the important role of alcohol interactions with the immune system in the gut, liver and brain. Participants where from Europe and the USA. Outstanding keynote lectures were given by Prof. Gyongyi Szabo from the Univ. Massachusetts Medical School, USA on the “The immune system in alcoholic liver disease” Prof. Lorenzo Leggio from the NIAAA, USA and one of the Chief editors of Alcohol & Alcoholism on “Gut-liver-brain axis in alcohol use disorder: Peptides, Bugs and Lancets”. The 2018 Nordmann Award was given to Dr. Olli Kärkkäinen from Finland for his pioneering work on metabolomics and alcohol consumption. Finally, and besides a very intensive meeting, six young investigators received a YOUNG INVESTIGATOR award (see picture). The symposium finished with a highly educative and interactive trip to the ancient battle field of Waterloo and a visit to the newly opened museum.
JMSAAS-ESBRA joint meeting at ISBRA 2018 in Kyoto

On 10.9. 2018, the now already traditional JMSAAS-ESBRA joint meeting was organized within ISBRA 2019 by Prof. Saito and Prof. Mueller. Topic was “Alcohol-induced organ damage” that was broadly covered by speakers from both from Japan and Europe (see picture). The symposium generated several highly interesting discussions on the various types of cell death in the alcohol-exposed liver including the role of iron. Prof. Mueller also welcomed Prof. Tatsuya Fujimiya, the newly elected JMSAAS President from Yamaguchi University and all participants agreed to continue these series of symposia at the next ESBRA 2019 in Lille.

Future ESBRA meetings
ESBRA 2019 in Lille/France

The upcoming biannual congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA) will be held in Lille from September 21-24, 2019 (www.esbra2019.org). Congress president is Prof. Mickael Naasila. This meeting will cover all aspects of alcohol-related diseases ranging from alcohol addiction to epidemiology and alcoholic liver disease. At this meeting, Young investigator Awards will be given for scientists under 36 years and awardees will present their work at the two Young Investigator Symposia. In addition, the prestigious Manfred-Lautenschläger-Award which will be also given. The deadline will be end of June 2019 and a separate call will be sent out in April and available on the ESBRA webpage.

The next ESBRA Nordmann award meeting 2020 will be held in Madrid, Spain in October 2020. Local Organizing Committee will be guided by Prof. Jose Antonio López Moreno, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Prof. Maria Pascual, Universitat de València and Prof. Joaquim Fernández-Solà, Universitat de Barcelona. More details about topic and exact date will be communicated soon per email and at the ESBRA webpage.

Sebastian Mueller, PhD, Germany
ESBRA President
ISBRA Liaison Committee

Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS): The Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference

The Japanese Medical Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies (JMSAAS) became an academic corporation in August 2018. At this occasion, Dr. Toshikazu Saito, the 1st president of JMSAAS retired, and Prof. Tatsuya Fujimiya was elected as the 2nd president. Prof. Fujimiya will try to stabilize the management of the academic corporation systems smoothly and promote the activities of the young and female scientists in related fields. He is a forensic pathologist and interested in the pharmacokinetics and legal aspects of the alcohol-related problems.

The Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference 2018, which was joint meetings of JMSAAS and The Japanese Society of Alcohol-Related Problems (JSARP), were held at Kyoto, September 8-10, with ISBRA 2018. The congress presidents at the meeting were Prof. Yoshiyuki Takei of Mie University (JMSAAS) and Dr. Shiro Tsujimoto (JSARP). The principal themes were “The Addictions studies and new biomedical sciences” (JMSAAS) and “The hope of recovery” (JSARP).
JMSAAS has continuously facilitated international liaison in cooperation with the ISBRA and other affiliated societies. In the ISBRA-JMSAAS joint congress in Kyoto last September, JMSAAS supported 5 joint symposia with ISBRA; “The current situation and treatment systems for drug addiction in Asia” chaired by Toshikazu Saito and Tomohiro Shirasaka, “The current situation and treatment systems for alcoholics in Pacific countries” chaired by Hisatsugu Miyata and Tomohiro Shirasaka, “How should we promote a strategy for healthy drinking?” chaired by Koshi Nakamura and Kohji Takada, “Alcohol and organ damage: bridging the gap between bench and bedside (Part I “Bench” & Part II “Translational”)” chaired by Kenichi Ikejima and Gavin E Arteel, and “The current situation of internet gaming addiction from the standpoint of young researchers” chaired by Yoko Nishitani and Tomohiro Shirasaka. Further, a joint symposium with ESBRA entitled “Alcohol-induced organ damage” was held in collaboration with Prof. Sebastian Mueller, the ESBRA President. JMSAAS also provided travel award to three foreign symposiasts; Ming-Chyi Huang (Taiwan), Leo Yoshida (Ireland), and Visnja Banjac (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

To this extent, the next ESBRA-JMSAAS joint symposium will be held at the ESBRA Congress in Lille, France, up-coming September 2019. The proposed session is entitled “Novel concepts in alcoholic liver disease” organized by Prof. Sebastian Mueller and Kenichi Ikejima, where four young investigators from Europe and Japan will be invited as symposiasts. In addition, JMSAAS is also planning to collaborate with the APSAAR meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2019.

The Japanese Alcohol, Nicotine & Drug Addiction Conference 2019 will be held at Sapporo, October 4-6, 2019. The congress presidents at the meeting are Dr. Tomonobu Shirasaka (JMSAAS) and Dr. Takeshi Ashizawa (JSARP). The principal theme is “Dependence and addiction problems as historical background”. Sapporo had ISBRA Congress 2012 and is a native city of Dr. T. Saito. It is known for its delicious food and its good natural fields and activities.

Tatsuya Fujimiya, MD PhD
JMSAAS President
ISBRA Liaison Committee
&
Kenichi Ikejima, MD PhD
ISBRA Board of Directors
ISBRA Executive Committee

Tatsuya Fujimiya, MD PhD
JMSAAS President
ISBRA Liaison Committee

Kenichi Ikejima, MD PhD
ISBRA Board of Directors
ISBRA Executive Committee
Latin America Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (LASBRA): Past and Future Congresses

LASBRA (Latin American Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism, http://bit.ly/LASBRA123) is the Latin American branch of ISBRA. It was founded in 1993 during a symposium supported by NIAAA and ISBRA, in Bethesda, MD, USA. The 1st Executive committee was composed by Dr. Maristela G. Monteiro (Brasil), Dr. Jorge Mardones (Chile), Dr Juan Carlos Molina (Argentina), Dr Raul Caetano (USA), Dr Gina Struffaldi Morato (Brasil), Dr Harold Kalant (Canada), Dr Gloriza Canino (Porto Rico) and Dr Elvia Velasquez de Pabon (Colombia).

The 1st LASBRA meeting was held in Santiago, Chile in 1994, and it was organized by Dr. Jorge Mardones (Chile) and Dr. Maristela Monteiro (Brazil). Speakers at the event were Dr. John Crabbe (USA), Dr. Adron Harris (USA); Dr. Maristela Monteiro (Brazil); Dr. Juan Carlos Molina (Argentina); Dr. Miguel Belascuain (Argentina); Dr. Raul Pucurucu (Ecuador) and Dr. Alfredo Pemjean (Chile) also participated.

The 1996 meeting was organized as a satellite meeting of ISBRA, whereas the 3rd LASBRA meeting (Recife, Brazil, 1997) was as a satellite meeting of ABEAD (Associação Brasileira de Estudos do Álcool e outras Drogas). The 4th Meeting (1998) was organized by Dr. Juan Carlos Molina and Dr. Roberto Rovasio, at the events center of the National Academy of Sciences of Cordoba, Argentina. There were close to 150 attendees from Argentina, Chile and Brazil.

After a period of quietness, the society was relaunched the in the symposium “Advances in Alcohol Research in Latin America”, at the 2008 RSA/ISBRA meeting in Washington, DC, USA. A year later, during the 2009 RSA meeting at San Diego, CA (USA), Dr. Rosana Camarini from Brazil organized the symposium “Determinants of Ethanol Consumption: From Genetic to Environmental Influences”. After the symposium, Latin-American researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and United States elected an official LASBRA Board, with Dr. Rosana Camarini (Brazil) and Dr. Ricardo Pautassi (Argentina) as President and Vice-president, respectively. Dr. Camarini, along with Dr. Maria Lucia Oliveira de Souza Formigoni (Brazil), Dr. Roseli Boergnen-Lacerda (Brazil) and Dr. Ricardo Pautassi (Argentina), organized the 5th LASBRA meeting, which was held in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2011, under the title “The Neuroscience of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism”.

In 2012, the LASBRA meeting took place at Valparaiso (Chile) and was a joint event with the Latin-American Research Network in Drug Addiction (LARNEDA). Dr. Luis Aguayo was then designated president of LASBRA. The 7th LASBRA Congress was another joint event, in this case in cooperation with the 15th ESBRA meeting at Valencia (Spain). Subsequently, Dr. Aguayo organized the 8th (“Alcohol and other Drugs of Abuse: from molecules to human disorders”) and 9th (“Neurobiological basis of alcoholism: from molecules to behavior”) LASBRA meetings in Chile, at Concepcion (2013) and at the Chilean coastal city of Puerto Varas (2017), respectively. In the latter event, Dr. Pautassi (Argentina) and Dr. Cruz (Brazil) were designated president and vice-president of the society, respectively.

LASBRA is currently organizing or co-organizing three events. The “Jornadas de investigación e intervención sobre consumo de alcohol en Uruguay” will take place at Montevideo, Uruguay, on June 3-6; whereas the regular LASBRA meeting will take place at Córdoba (Argentina) on November 7-9. A workshop will also take place in Brazil, in a date to be announced.

Ricardo Pautassi, PhD, Argentina
LASBRA President
ISBRA Board of Directors
ISBRA Communications Committee
ISBRA Executive Committee
ISBRA Liaison Committee

Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism

June 22-26, 2019
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN
www.RSoA.org

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) will take place in Minneapolis, MN. The 42nd 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 biomedical/preclinical 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. Plenary Sessions will include Dr. Crystal Hoyt on Sunday morning presenting “Mindsets Matter for Diversifying Scientific Leadership”, and a tribute to Dr. Ting-Kai Li on Monday morning featuring several RSA members.

Things to do in and around Minneapolis: Families will appreciate the Minnesota Zoo and Fort Snelling, while those interested in local culture can marvel at the distinct design of the city’s hallmark buildings, such as the Walker Art Center, or see a show at the Guthrie Theater. Those who enjoy shopping can peruse the wide array of merchandise available in the Mall of America or in downtown’s Nicollet Mall. Last but not least, the Chain of Lakes, a scenic byway located southwest of downtown, is popular among visitors who enjoy jogging or boating. If you still have more energy, hit the food spots on Nicollet Avenue for dinner, and later, check out the bars and live music scene in Minneapolis (First Avenue nightclub is highly recommended).

Mark your calendars for these future RSA meetings June 20-24, 2020 New Orleans, LA (joint meeting with ISBRA – our 6th collaboration) and June 19-23, 2021 San Antonio, TX.

I look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis for RSA 2019!!

Mary Larimer, PhD, USA
President, Research Society on Alcoholism
ISBRA Liaison Committee

**In Memoriam of Dr. Ting-Kai Li**

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of Ting-Kai (T-K) Li, MD, one of the founders of ISBRA, on November 18, 2018. T-K’s wonderful and distinguished academic and public service career spanned almost five decades. Born in Nanjing, China, T-K fled with his family to South Africa during World War II. He began his collegiate career at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa but soon made his way to Chicago and Northwestern University where he obtained his undergraduate degree. He graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (Boston). During residency he first became interested in the clinical disease of alcoholism. Following his residency in Internal Medicine, TK conducted research at the Nobel Medical Research and Karolinska Institutes in Stockholm. He then served his country during the Viet Nam war and was stationed at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research where he was Deputy Director of the Department of Biochemistry. In 1971 he joined the faculty at Indiana University as Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and later served as Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Li held the school’s John B. Hickam Professor of Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry endowed chair; he was later named as a Distinguished Professor, IU’s highest rank.

As a physician scientist, T-K turned with a passion to alcohol research, focusing on different biological factors of the disease, including its genetic bases. Using the alcohol flushing response as a phenotype, he explored alcohol metabolism, including the role of acetaldehyde and the important impact that variations in genes encoding alcohol- and aldehyde-dehydrogenases have on alcoholism vulnerability. In parallel, he worked on the development of the alcohol preferring / non-preferring rat as a model organism to enable neurobiological studies of alcohol metabolism. Dr. Li was the founding director of the Indiana Alcohol Research Center (IARC) at the IU School of Medicine (1985), where he also was Associate Dean for Research. In 1989, Dr Li, along with Drs. Henri Begleiter and Theodore Reich, led the development of the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA). Dr. Li was a prolific scientist, incisive thinker, and a superb colleague. The author of more than 400 journal articles and book chapters, Dr. Li was also invited to deliver many major national and international lectureships.

Over his illustrious career, Dr. Li provided extensive service to the alcohol research field. His many contributions included being a founding member, and later President, of both the Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) and the International Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA). In addition, he was instrumental in
founding the Asian Pacific Society on Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR). His service to both RSA & ISBRA also included serving as editor of the societies’ journal, Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research. As an expert scientist, T-K also served as a reviewer on numerous NIH study sections and on NIAAA’s National Advisory Council.

T-K was frequently recognized by RSA for his many scientific and service contributions, receiving the society’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the Henri Begleiter Excellence in Research Award, and the Sexias Award for Service. Other scientific societies honored Dr Li for his work on alcoholism and he was the recipient of the Jellinek Award, the James B. Isaacson Award for Research in Chemical Dependency Diseases, the R. Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Science Award, and the Tharp Award for Research Excellence on Alcoholism.

Elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1999, Dr. Li was also an honorary fellow of the United Kingdom’s Society for the Study of Addiction.

Dr. Li was appointed as Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institutes of Health in November 2002, a position he held until 2008. As Director of NIAAA, Dr. Li was a staunch advocate for both basic and clinical alcohol research science within the NIH and with the US Congress. As Director, he was a strong advocate for international collaborations and established formal ties with countries in Europe and Asia. After retiring from NIAAA, T-K took on another challenge, helping found the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore Neuroscience and Behavioral Disorders.

Dr. Li, “T-K” to his friends and colleagues, was a staunch advocate for the development of young investigators and worked to enhance the careers of countless investigators at all stages of their professional life. While he was well known to be scientifically critical, T-K was always approachable and provided supportive guidance to both young and older scientists whenever asked. He was truly a monumental figure in the field of alcohol research and leaves an enormous legacy in the many lives he touched, personally and professionally.

Dr. Li was the devoted husband of Susan Li, proud – some would say doting – father of Jennifer Li, MD and Karen Koide, MBA, and he took great delight in his grandchildren. We fondly remember his tremendous intellect, his mischievous smile, his sharp wit, and his warm friendship. In lieu of flowers, T-K’s family has asked that donations in T-K’s name be made to either the Research Society on Alcoholism, the Ting Kai Li Lectureship [http://www.rsoa.org/donations] or to the Indiana University Foundation [https://www.myiu.org/give-now].

Victor Hesselbrock, PhD, USA & Michie Hesselbrock, PhD, USA

---

**ISBRA Member Publications from January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 Provided for the 2019 Newsletter**

This year we would like to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions made to the field of biomedical research on alcoholism by the members of ISBRA. Below is a collection of published work from 41 members totaling 353 peer reviewed publications spanning January 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019. These are member submitted publications from our recent call for publications and thus is a partial representation of the influence of ISBRA members on this important field of research.

**Giovanni Addolorato**


Onyemaechi Okpara Azu


Kapur Bhushan

Stephen Boehm


Katherine Burina


Rosana Camarini


**Fabio Caputo**


Guerzoni S, Pellesi L, Pini LA, Caputo F. Response to: “Drugs for treatment for alcohol use disorders expose to interactions with others...for little benefit if any”. Pharmacol Res, 134: 220, 2018


**Fulton Crews**


David Eddie

Howard Edenberg


Edenberg HJ, McClintick JN. (2018) Alcohol dehydrogenases, aldehyde dehydrogenases and alcohol use disorders:
a critical review. Alcohol Clin Exp Res. 42, 2281-2297. PMID: 30320893


RA Harris


Blednov, Y.A., Bajo, M., Roberts, A.J., Da Costa, A.J., Black, M., Edmunds, S., Mayfield, J., Roberto, M., Homanics, G.E., Lasek, A.W., Hitzemann, R.J., Harris, R.A. Snc4b regulates the hypnotic effects of ethanol and other sedative drugs,


Bruce Hetzler

Victor Lasebikan

Lasebikan VO, Ayinde OO, Odundleye M Assessment of the Alcohol Consumption among Outdoor BarDrinkers in Nigeria by Qualitative Methods. BMC Public Health 18 (1) 318 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5250-y


Lasebikan VO (2018) Psychoactive Substance Use in Adolescents and Its Emerging Trends: Faculty Lecture: Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Leadcity University, Ibadan April 5, 2018.


Lasebikan VO, Ola BA, Lasebikan TO Shisha Smoking in Selected Nightclubs in Nigeria Study Design: Descriptive Cross Sectional Study. Pan African Medical Journal. Accepted February 14 2019
Andrey Ryabinin


Amy Lasek


Andrew Lawrence


an effect dependent on AMPK in AgRP neurons. Endocrinology, 159, 3605-3614.


Robert Leeman


Lorenzo Leggio


Karl Mann


King DL, Gaming Industry Response Consortium (2018) Comment on the global gaming industry’s statement on...

Rosendahl J, ... Mann K et al. and the members of the PanEuropean Working group on ACP (2018) Genome-wide association study identifies inversion in the CTRB1-CTRB2 locus to modify risk for alcoholic and non-alcoholic chronic pancreatitis. Gut 67: 1855-1863.


Aqilah McCane

Robert Messing


Margarite Martinetti

Margaret Martinetti
Dieter Meyerhoff

Meyerhoff DJ, Murray DE, Durazzo TC, Pennington DL. Brain GABA and glutamate concentrations following chronic gabapentin administration: A convenience sample studied during early abstinence from alcohol. Frontiers Psychiatry 9: Article #78 (2018)


Durazzo TC, Meyerhoff DJ, Yoder KK. Cigarette smoking is associated with cortical thinning in anterior frontal regions, insula, and those demonstrating atrophy in Alzheimer Disease, Drug Alcohol Depend 192:277-284 (2018)


Leslie Morrow


Sebastian Mueller


Seitz, H. K.; Bataller, R.; Cortez-Pinto, H.; Gao, B.; Gual, A.; Lackner, C.; Mathurin, P.; Mueller, S.; Szabo, G.; Tsukamoto,


Natalia Osna
Murali Ganesan, Irina Tikhanovich, Shiva Shankar Vangimalla, Raghubendra Singh Dagur, Weimin Wang, Larisa I. Poluektova, Yinim Sun, David F. Mercer, Dean Tuma, Ste-
Ricardo Pautassi


Loney GC, Pautassi RM, Kapadia D, & Meyer PJ. (2018)


Tamara Phillips


Eva Redei


Mario Rivera


Erysodine, a competitive antagonist at neuronal nicotinic acetylcholine receptors, decreases ethanol consumption

**Dorit Ron**


**Rich Saitz**


Saitz R. Post TW (Ed). UpToDate. Approach to treating alco-

Saitz R. Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder and Predicting Severe Withdrawal. JAMA. 2018 08 28; 320(8):766-768.


Rainer Spanagel


Paul Thomes


Li Yang, Changqing Yang, Paul G. Thomes, Carol A. Casey, Mark A. McNiven Kusum K. Kharbanda, Terrence M. Donohue Jr. Lipophagy and Alcohol-Induced Fatty Liver. In Press,
Vatsalya Vatsalya


Jennifer Warmingham

Katie Witkiewitz


Frederick Wolf
Todd Wyatt


Applying for ISBRA Membership

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

ISBRA Contact Information:

Michelyn Lintz, MPA
Email: ISBRA@ISBRA.com
Telephone: (303) 355-6420
FAX: (303) 355-1207

P.O. Box 202332
Denver, Colorado 80220, USA

Website: https://www.isbra.com