

International Confederation of ATOD Research Associations (ICARA)

Report from the Annual Meeting 2016 held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK

Overview

The third official meeting of the International Confederation of ATOD Research Associations (ICARA) took place at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, July 23-25, 2016. The meeting was attended by 9 persons (Tom Babor, Sungsoo Chun, Niamh Fitzgerald, Ralph Hingson, Matej Kosir, Andrea Mitchell, Diana Rossi, Kerstin Stenius and Peter Vamos), representing ATOD research associations and funding bodies in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

The vice president, Tom Babor, introduced the meeting and expressed regrets that the president, Gerhard Buhringer, was unable to attend. The purpose of the 2016 meeting was to follow up and develop the organization's first two year work plan for 2015/16.

Babor provided a brief overview of the activities of ICARA during the past year, which included (see also the president's report 2016):

- ICARA sponsored an international seminar in Seoul, South Korea, June 19-20, 2016, and helped to organize an earlier international meeting in Seoul in 2015.
- An ICARA website has been created (icara.uconn.edu).
- ICARA has been mapping alcohol and drug education and training programs internationally, and other parts of the addiction science infrastructure and will be posting White Papers describing these activities on its website.
- ICARA has begun to define a role for itself in key areas of addiction science and addiction studies, including translation of research to practice, education and training, and sharing information with member societies

Day one

The theme of the first day was **addiction education**.

Sungsoo Chun presented a conceptual overview of the role of addiction studies in the millennial development goals for WHO and described how professional associations, education and training institutions, multilateral development partners, international organizations and civil society could and should join their efforts in partnership, to prevent and reduce substance abuse related problems, focusing on the most vulnerable groups (slides available on the ICARA website). The gap between needs for research, prevention and support and available human resources is, he pointed out, biggest in the least developed countries.

Sungsoo Chun presented a vision of ICARA' further training activities, including as a first step training of facilitators, followed by regional training developments and the provision of platforms for the development of core competencies, credentialisation and development of evidence based training programs, and finally strong translational efforts.

In Korea, the addiction education programs at Sahmyook University provide competencies for bachelor level addiction professionals, as well as graduate level (master and PHD) and training programs, which are all linked to research programs and a clinical practicum. Working with multilateral development partners (e.g., WHO, ICARA), Sahmyook University is moving toward a model to improve health services locally as well as regionally/internationally.

Tom Babor described the results of the International Seminar in Seoul (Building capacity and Competency in Addiction Studies) which was sponsored by the Korean Center for Alcohol Science, Sahmyook University, the World Health Organization, ICARA and the University of Connecticut. The seminar was attended by 150 national and international guests. A major outcome of the meeting was the planning of a collaborative project with the World Health Organization. The project will be divided into three interlinked but sequential phases: 1) Development of an Addiction Science Competency Framework; 2) Mapping of Education Needs and Challenges; 3) International Consensus on Core Competencies and Standards for Priority Health Professionals.

In addition to the International Seminar, a satellite workshop was organized by Sahmyook University and the University of Connecticut Alcohol Research Center. The workshop was devoted to screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment using the World Health Organization's AUDIT and ASSIST training packages. Twenty-nine people were trained, including five facilitators. The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity in Korea for screening and brief intervention, and to develop a model for disseminating the WHO AUDIT and ASSIST training packages on a national level. A full report of the meeting and the workshop can be found on the ICARA website

Tom Babor presented an overview (led by Michal Miovsky) of ICARA efforts to map current addiction education programs on the bachelor, master and doctoral levels in Europe and the rest of the world. He also described model certification requirements for addiction education programs and current state of development (infrastructure, talk with clinical institutes etc).

In the discussion on addiction training and education it was stressed that ICARA is a confederation of research associations; that training is not ICARAs primary task, but that ICARA as a network, a platform and resource for its member associations should identify, assemble and provide guidelines for addiction education, possibly agree on some guidelines in sub-areas; as a society of societies clearly can compile information about addiction research training activities. Further that ICARA can do surveys, that will map resources and gaps in resources, particularly in the research field but possibly also in the prevention and treatment training areas. This can be done in collaboration with WHO and other agencies. It is obvious that there is a growth of addiction research programs in the world and much ongoing training efforts, but little communication between the programs so far.

Tom Babor informed that he has received funding for a training program in ATOD Research, which will lead to an international certificate in ATOD research. This project can develop into a model that ICARA can use.

Diana Rossi in her comments stressed the need to include human rights aspects in discussion about education and training of both staff and researchers. Also, she stressed the need to map research funding mechanisms in different countries.

In the field of professional training and implementation collaboration between ICARA and INEBRIA around SBI was discussed. The possibility of having the 2018 meeting in Chile, in conjunction with the INEBRIA meeting was discussed. This solution could include a training workshop on SBI.

Day two

The first topic was **ethical issues**. Tom Babor, Peter Vamos, and Kerstin Stenius described work on a Declaration of Principles for Addiction Research Associations. A draft Declaration was presented and discussed. In addition to being a statement of ICARA principles, the Declaration could be used to guide the development of and new societies. It was decided to revise the document based on the feedback received, so it could be sent to member societies for further comments and possible support. It was noted that the Declaration contains recommendations, not requirements.

Niamh Fitzgerald presented work led by Gerhard Bühringer on the development of Guidelines for funding/sponsoring of ATOD research societies by organizations with vested interests. Tom Babor also presented a description of his draft guideline for Alcohol industry funding guidelines. The idea behind both documents is to draw attention to potential conflict of interest issues that associations may face, especially in the search for financial support. The risks are likely to be distributed along a continuum of "moral jeopardy" ranging from minor questions about external influence to major reputational risks of receiving funds from organizations whose purpose is antithetical to good science and practice (e.g., the tobacco industry).

The role for ICARA was discussed in terms of what services ICARA could provide, including disseminating model funding/sponsorship policies, providing guidance on how to set up a Stewardship Committee for oversight of funding and gifts, and running a conference on COI issues. It was suggested that ICARA at this stage could merge the two guideline documents to one, check that the guidelines are in accordance with the Declaration of Principles and author an article on the sponsorship/funding issue that shall be submitted to a journal.

The next issue was **Member Support Activities**. Kerstin Stenius presented an ICARA survey of core characteristics of ATOD societies being conducted by Gerhard Bühringer and Robert Czernecka. (slides available on the ICARA website). The response rate so far has been 20 percent (8 replies); efforts will be made to get more replies, and report them either for members or possibly in an article. Already these responses gave valuable information about core activities, most important funding sources and (the lack of) conflict of interest- and funding policies in ATOD research associations.

The following discussion about implications of the survey for ICARA priorities was fruitful. Tom Babor described the need to map research resources and funding mechanisms at the national and international levels. He noted that funding sources could be identified from the acknowledgements published with research reports. Ralph Hingson noted that a US organization called CADCA has been trying to estimate the workforce needs for prevention activities, including research, in the USA. This could be done for treatment, basic science and policy, possibly also in other parts of the world. Other suggested tasks for ICARA include producing and posting various documents: white papers on matters relevant to the global ATOD research community, the production of journal supplements on topical issues, and

sponsorship of books like Publishing Addiction Science. Other ideas that gained support include developing a Universal database of the addiction literature. The facilitation of international comparative research is an obvious future product of the ICARA network.

Possible funding sources for these projects (and support for meeting attendance) were discussed and included IOGT, NIDA, NIAAA, FORUT, WHO, national and state governments, the Institute for Alcohol Studies, and individual research societies. Tom Babor will look into the possibility of applying for a conference grant to fund a joint meeting of ICARA, ISAJE and SALIS to address infrastructure and funding issues in addiction research.

Day three

After the Annual General Meeting (see minutes below), the meeting continued with Ralph Hingson who presented a very informative and thought provoking overview of surveillance and monitoring systems that can be used around the world to identify needs and indicators of policy research designed to decrease the burden of disease from drug use. Traffic safety was used as an example. Hingson presented conclusions about what an international research society could do, including reporting and disseminating research, report on effective prevention programs, and encourage surveillance collection of survey data, periodic report of surveillance results, cross-national research and recruitment of researchers especially from low- and middle- income countries. (slides available on the ICARA website).

Robert West talked about the British Society for the Study of Addiction and its support for research through fellowships, travel scholarships, bursaries for post graduate study, implementation of communication projects, commissioned papers, journal supplements, publications to support research activity, and sponsorship of conferences and books. The SSA also provides guidance for grant writing, study design, paper writing, research ethics, measurement, theory development, funding.

Venue for next annual meeting

The ICARA Board will hold its next Skype call on August 23. The venue of the next annual meeting of the society will be discussed by the board. The following sites will be considered: Bled, Slovenia, Washington, DC (hosted by PAHO), in conjunction with the INEBRIA conference in New York 13-15 Sept., , or in conjunction with the KBS meeting in Scheffield, England, June 5-9, 2017.

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of ICARA, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, July 25, 2016

Present: Tom Babor (chair), Niamh Fitzgerald, Andrea Mitchell, Matej Kosir, Sungsoo Chun and Kerstin Stenius (secretary)

1. It was affirmed that the meeting had been called according to the bylaws and formed a quorum.

2. The President's (Gerhard Bühringer) report was presented by Tom Babor, the accounts and the auditors' report by Kerstin Stenius.
3. The accounts were accepted and the board granted freedom from liability.
4. The reports from the working group on declaration of principles and ethics, on education and training and on the survey to associations had been presented during the meeting and were summarized orally.
5. The discussion on activity plans for 2016-2017 decided to continue these three working groups.
 - The working group on Ethics and declaration of principles, with Tom Babor, Niamh Fitzgerald, Gerhard Bühringer, Peter Vamos, possibly Peter Adams and additions of younger researchers will aim at integrating the documents about sponsorship and relations to the alcohol industry and check that they are harmonised with the Declaration of Principles presented this year. The writing of a paper/article on funding guidelines and principles based on these documents was suggested. It was hoped that Gerhard Bühringer could chair this group.
 - The Education and training group, with Sungsoo Chun (chair of the group), Matej Kosir, Michal Miovsky and Niamh Fitzgerald (as a link to INEBRIA) will continue to map training efforts. The general aims are to share information about existing training programs, and possibly assist in providing workshops about evidence-based interventions, such as early intervention policy and further to consider a pilot trial with addiction-research training certification as an ICARA model. Sungsoo Chun will start the work with Asian countries, with Thailand as a base. The possibility of a workshop at the next KBS-meeting, June 2016, in Thailand was mentioned. Tom Babor will talk to Victor Hesselbrook about forming possible contacts to Japan. Possible contacts in China were discussed.
 - The Survey and Membership group (Kerstin Stenius as chair, possibly with continuing help from Gerhard Bühringer and Robert Cernezka) will continue to collect survey responses (sharing the information collected so far to inspire new responses). The aims of the group are to provide services to members, communicate with members, use members and associations as knowledge channels and find new members. Together with the Education and training group an effort will be made to produce good information about research resources (centres, associations, workforce etc.) starting with South America, for an ICARA meeting in the region either in 2017 or 2018 (with possible support from PAHO).
 - ICARA will publish a number of white papers (for instance the Publishing Addiction Science 3rd edition chapter on addiction science infrastructure) and other reports and documents from this meeting or produced by the members on the website.
 - ICARA's board will also consider how to promote an application for support to an international database of ATOD literature, based on the document produced by Andrea Mitchell and Tom Babor.
 - ICARA needs a logo that should be produced during the next year.
6. The meeting decided to keep the present membership fees, 75 or 150 US dollars, with the explicit expectations that associations from high-income countries should pay 150. Associations without any means could apply for exemption from membership fees.
7. Tom Babor, now vice president, was elected the next president, Niamh Fitzgerald was elected vice president, Kerstin Stenius will continue as secretary/treasurer, and Sungsoo

Chun, Diana Rossi and Isidore Obot as members of the board. Gerhard Buhringer, who is stepping down, was thanked for his hard and fruitful work for ICARA. Sharon Wilsnack and Matej Kosir were elected auditors and Andrea Mitchell will substitute for them.

8. It was decided to have a meeting in 2017, preferably late in August. Different options were presented: Slovenia, Washington (in PAHOs location) or in Argentina or another Latin American country. The final decision will be taken by the board as soon as possible.

Signed

Kerstin Stenius