

International Society for Affective Disorders
Executive Committee Meeting
4th March 2006
Lisbon, Portugal, 9am

Present: Chris Thompson, President
Roger Pinder, President Elect – Company Secretary
Jan Scott, Director
Ray Lam, Treasurer
Cornelius Katona, Director
Caroline Holebrook, Administrator (Minutes)

1. External Affairs Committee Report

Chris as Chair of the External Affairs Committee, reported back on the breakfast meeting the group had just held. In particular, Chris highlighted the plan to launch an international collaborative campaign around depression and the need to fund a coordinator post to manage the campaign strategically.

Chris plans to continue his Chairmanship of this committee.

The committee discussed the possibility of the Coordinator being based at the IOP. This remains an option to be explored further once funding for the post has been secured.

2. Sponsorship

The Committee agreed that Organon had been extremely supportive but it would be desirable to have more than one main sponsor in order to reduce the risks surrounding long term funding commitments. Organisations such as private medical insurers, private medical providers, large employers and other foundations as well as the pharmaceutical industry should all be considered as potential funders and collaborators.

Action: Roger has made it a priority to broaden the spectrum of ISAD's funders and increase income from these sources.

3. ISAD Strategy 2006 to 2008

Recruitment

The Committee agreed that ISAD should encourage young researchers to become members and eventually Fellows of the Society.

To encourage participation from this group the Committee will offer 25 free memberships (2 years duration) of ISAD, including an online subscription to the Journal of Affective Disorders, by competition.

- I. The awards will be judged on submission of an abstract of their research. This should include projected outcomes and a paradigm of why they are undertaking it.
- II. Alternatively; a submission detailing the protocol for a project in Affective Disorders and a supporting testimonial from their Professor.

(Note – We need to clarify the judging criteria – In conjunction with Sagar Parikh, Education Committee Chair)

The awards will be allocated by geographical regions in accordance with the ISAD Zone structure. (See attached)

Zones:

1 = 5 awards

2 = 5 awards

3 = 5 awards

4 = 5 awards

5 additional floating votes which can be awarded anywhere excluding Zone 1

Award winners should be announced in the Journal of Affective Disorders and be encouraged to give JAD the first refusal on their publications.

Communication

The Horizons newsletter needs reviving. Articles and news should be sought from the membership.

4. Conference 2008 & Other Meetings

The Committee agreed that avoiding date clashes with other events was vital for 2008. If necessary the meeting could be pushed back to late February or forward to mid March. Currently the proposed date is Friday 14 to 17 March 2008.

The Committee agreed a strong local organising committee was fundamental to the success of the event.

Action: The Executive Committee will feed this into the Programme Committee

- 2010

The Committee agreed to consider Vancouver as the preferred venue for the 5th Biennial Conference in 2010.

- Regional meetings

Following interest from several Fellows regarding ISAD regional meetings the Committee agreed that there should be some guidance regarding how regional meetings would be managed by the Society.

- a) There should be no financial risk to ISAD when endorsement for an event is given.
- b) The programme will need to obtain formal academic endorsement from the Education Committee.
- c) Linking regional meetings to larger international meetings is to be encouraged

IOP Regional Meeting 2007

Rachel Churchill (Coordinating Editor, Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Review Group) has proposed a running an ISAD workshop around research methodologies.

Action: This is discussed further during the AGM which was held on the 6th March 2006 and was received with enthusiasm. Further consultation with the Education Committee will be needed to support the creation of a programme.

Regional Thematic Meeting at the IOP 2007

During further discussion of a regional thematic meeting at the IOP Jan Scott agreed to Chair a conference (one or two days) around the themes of “Social disadvantage and depression” (Chris) and “Early origins of mood disorders” (Jan)

The proposed working title for the event is:

“Early Interventions with mothers with post natal depression”

The format suggested would be 10 to 12 key opinion leaders/scientists in the field at a round table discussion/debate. There would then be a panel available to give a summary presentation to an audience.

There would need to be a clear output for publication which would identify future areas for exploration in the research agenda.

5. Institute of Psychiatry & daily management issues

The ISAD office moved over the Christmas vacation with the rest of Psychological Treatments to a completely refurbished open plan office. Caroline is now located very near to Jan which is advantageous. Caroline will liaise with the Institute of Psychiatry to ensure the continuation of the current arrangements.

Jan, Caroline and Chris are all signatories on the ISAD bank account. Roger will be added as soon as possible. This number of signatories is helpful for

the management of the account where dual signatures are required and it is good practice to have a “pool” of signatories.

Chris surrendered his ISAD Company payment card. Caroline will organise a company payment card for Roger. Caroline holds the only other company payment card.

6. Website update

Caroline felt that the website navigation and content needed some reorganising and editing. Caroline will consult with Nik Martin and get quotes for any technical work that may be required.

7. Date of next meeting

TBC – Possibly at an international meeting or via teleconference.

CH 21/03/06