Chicago — SALIS 27th Annual Conference, May 3-7, 2005

Creative Connections:
Linking Research to Practice with Information Technology

Please make plans to join us at the 27th Annual SALIS Conference in Chicago! The conference will be held at the Homewood Suites By Hilton in downtown Chicago, close to numerous museums, theaters, shops and restaurants. There will be an opening reception on Tuesday, May 3rd, and the conference program will end on Saturday, May 7th. Hotel room rates are $159.00 plus tax for a single or double room. Please see the Homewood Suites web site for further information, at http://www.homewoodsuiteschicago.com. Rooms are guaranteed at the conference rate until April 3, 2005.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Creative Connections: Linking Research to Practice with Information Technology.” A call for papers will be placed on the SALIS web site. Early-bird registration deadline is March 4, 2005. This year the early-bird rates are $275 US (members) and $375 US (non-members). After March 4th, the rates are $325 US (members) and $425 US (non-members). Registration forms will be available on the SALIS web site by mid-January.

United Airlines discounts are available up to 7 days in advance, with an additional discount available if tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance. To obtain the best fare and schedule information, call United’s Specialized Meeting Reservations Center at 800-521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID Number 531CC. The travel period for discounts is April 29, 2005 - May 10, 2005. We look forward to an exciting and stimulating conference—hope to see you there!
Sic Transit Gloria DEA. Drug Enforcement Agency reneges on carefully negotiated medical pain management document.

U.S. medical practitioners have long been reluctant to prescribe potentially addictive opioid pain relievers such as morphine and oxycodone, even to terminal patients in severe pain from cancer, AIDS, or other diseases, due to fear of prosecution by an overzealous Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Doctors have been especially afraid to provide powerful painkillers to patients with any history of addiction, as these prescriptions would be most likely to be scrutinized by the DEA.

Thus it was with a feeling of great progress when in August 2004 the DEA jointly with the University of Wisconsin Medical School Pain & Policy Study Group (PPSG) and Last Acts Partnership promulgated a new consensus document entitled, “Prescription Pain Medications: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Health Care Professionals and Law Enforcement Personnel.” The FAQ document was the product of two years of work by leading pain experts at PPSG, New York’s Beth Israel Medical Center, and elsewhere and two top officials at the DEA; according to PPSG, the FAQ had gone through approximately 20 drafts. The FAQ was posted at the DEA, the PPSG, and Last Acts websites. As time went on several other websites allied with pain programs also posted the FAQ. While some in the medical community believed that any joint statement with the DEA was a mistake because law enforcement does not have a legitimate voice concerning the practice of medicine, it seems that most practitioners were happy to find a reasonable middle ground with the DEA on this problematic issue.

Less than 2 months later, however, on October 4, the DEA shocked the pain management community when it abruptly pulled the FAQ document from its website and asked PPSG and Last Acts to do the same. Asked why, the DEA would say only that it “contained misstatements” and “was not approved as an official statement.” However, subsequent news accounts made it clear that the DEA was reacting to a plan by defense attorneys for Dr. William Hurwitz (a respected member of the pain-

The 16th annual European Association of Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and other Drugs (ELISAD) meeting was held in Florence, Italy on October 21-23, 2004. A better location could not have been selected for this conference, as Florence is an inspiring city. It is home to Michelangelo’s David, the Duomo cathedral and of course excellent food, my personal favorite, gelatos. From the stimulating sessions, conversations with other librarians and the twelve course dinner, I was in motion. The town was full of culture, art, history, great food, good company and wonderful weather.

The theme for this year’s conference was “Problematic Drug Use and Lifestyles: Trends and Social Representations.” I had the honor of attending and representing SALIS. Mariella Orsi from CeSDA, with the help of Daniela Zardo from Gruppo Abele were the hosts for this year’s conference. The location they chose was the Florence Region Auditorium which was centrally located and perfect for the meetings. The conference sessions were offered in either English or Italian. Both women should be commended for the topics and speakers that they selected to speak on this theme.

Approximately 65 individuals from all over Europe including Ireland, Norway, Spain, Finland, Slovenia, Germany, France, Netherlands, and the UK, as well as Italy and the U.S. attended the conference. Over an intense filled two days, we learned about many topics and the current trends of drug use in various countries. Highlights of the first day included Leopoldo Grosso, Vice President of Gruppo Abele, who discussed Italy’s use of drugs over the last 35-40 years. He explained the history of specific drugs, laws and the cycle of their addiction in Italy’s society. Italian professor and editor of Fuoriluogo, Grazia Zuffa presented her viewpoint on drug policies and how they influence and contribute to the “junkie myth”. She did this by comparing addiction through two theories, the “disease or biological approach” versus the “normalization approach.”

Linda Montanari from EMCDDA gave an update on cannabis use in the European Union and the results of their latest annual report. It appears that more cannabis users are requesting treatment than in the past. I presented an update on the current trends of teen drug use in the US,
management community who stands accused of trafficking in pain pills) to introduce the FAQ as evidence. (Hurwitz’s attorneys were not allowed to introduce the FAQ.)

After more than a month of silence, on November 16 the DEA printed an Interim Policy Statement in the Federal Register, describing the agency’s new position, several details of which contradicted the FAQ document that it had so carefully and at such length negotiated just a few months earlier. The Washington Post (11/30/04) quotes a local physician as saying that 90% of patients and doctors could face investigation under the interim guidelines. The PPSG has posted a detailed response, pointing out misstatements in the interim guidelines and contradictions with other DEA statements and actions. (The correspondence between PPSG and the DEA is available at http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/DEA)

DEA’s decision to remove the FAQ from the web is one more, albeit egregious, example of the transitory nature of Government information in these fractious times, a condition which presents tremendous collection management and preservation problems for librarians and information specialists. DEA’s failure to keep its word has much more serious consequences, however, when one considers the potential impacts on M.D.’s and persons with severe pain.

As of December 9, 2004, the FAQ is still obtainable via a Google or Yahoo search.

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focusing on what the rates were and the increase of student drug testing. DrugScope’s head of policy, Marcus Roberts, discussed the issue of doping and sports. He talked about how we need to realize this is an issue in drug policy which needs to be addressed and not ignored. Raimondo Pavarin from the Metropolitan Observatory for Epidemiology and Pathology in Bologna spoke of his study on street rave parades there. He explained how they gather and collect the data that’s used in research, which helps track the trends of drug use in ravers.

On the second day attendees could select from several workshops, “Choose Life? The Images for Prevention Between Fiction and Reality”, “Drugs and Sports: Sources of Information” and “Languages of Drugs: Perspectives for a European Core Thesaurus on AOD.” The first two workshops ended up being combined as some of the presenters were unable to come. I attended the session on constructing an AOD thesaurus as I was curious to see if other countries had the same problems we do when it comes to selecting terms or the language to use. It really came as no surprise that they do. The afternoon’s presentations included CeDoStar’s Fiorenzo Ranieri on the theory of “extreme risks” and how it effects addictions and those who are or can become addicted. Next Toine Ketelaars of the Trimbos Institute showed us their new evidence based electronic library (EELDA) which they plan to have available online in early 2005. And last, but of course not least, was Thomas Rouault of Toxibase. He spoke on methadone maintenance treatment in France and the difficulty of creating a bibliography of resources on this topic.

I’m so glad that I got to attend this year’s conference and that I’m a member of two wonderful organizations of substance abuse librarians/information specialists. I won’t ever forget my trip to Italy and this ELISAD conference.

I have to say that I’m looking forward to next year’s ELISAD conference already. It is to be held in September in the city of Oslo, Norway and hosted by our dear friend Jorunn Moen. I hope that more of you will be able to attend. It is an incredible experience to be able to meet other librarians from around the world and hear that we all share the same library stories.
Periodical News

Journal of Dual Diagnosis is a new journal from Haworth Press. Peter F. Buckley, MD is the new editor. Will include "original scientific papers, brief reports, clinical case reports and review articles important to the clinical and therapeutic aspects of dual diagnosis." Send for FREE sample issue from http://www.HaworthPress.com or email <orders@HaworthPress.com>


Social History of Alcohol and Other Drugs An Interdisciplinary Journal is the new name of the former Social History of Alcohol Review. W. Scott Haine and Jon Miller, Editors President of ADHA Alcohol and Drug History Association is Ian Turrell. Publisher Hazelden-Pittman Archives, Hazelden Foundation, Centre City, Minnesota

Announcement from Howard Shaffer, Editor-in-Chief of The WAGER (Weekly Addiction Gambling Education Report):

“In celebration of the 10th anniversary of The WAGER, the Harvard Medical School Division on Addictions is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the Brief Addiction Science Information Source (BASIS). The BASIS is a virtual institute for the advancement of addiction science, and addiction-related education and clinical services. The BASIS is comprised of three primary sections: (1) Science & Education, (2) Self-Help Tools, and (3) Addiction Resources. Starting January 5, 2005, we will continue to publish The WAGER once a month as part of the Science & Education section of the BASIS website.

The Science & Education section of the BASIS consists of four online journals, each addressing a different aspect of addiction. As one of those four journals, The WAGER will continue to examine and summarize the latest gambling related research; in addition, it will continue to provide access to all back-issues, editorials and op-eds, a glossary of relevant terms, and the opportunity for readers to submit their own articles and editorials. New journals include The Drinking Report for Addiction Medicine (The DRAM), Addiction Smoking Health Education Source (ASHES), and Addiction and the Humanities. The first two journals will focus on drinking and smoking, respectively, and will offer resources similar to those found in The WAGER. Addictions and the Humanities, will discuss literature, art, music, and contemporary culture as these relate to addictive behaviors. This journal will shed light on cultural elements and settings that affect how we perceive addiction. Each of these four journals will have a new issue once a month; the current monthly issue will remain available for a month before being moved to the archives. Please note that if you have an email subscription to The WAGER, it will automatically carry over to a subscription to the BASIS unless you unsubscribe.

Mark your calendars. The BASIS will begin January 5, 2005. We hope you will take advantage of these new online resources and we welcome you to explore the new website at http://www.basisonline.org.

Conference Scholarships

Apply for a SALIS Scholarship NOW!

Each year SALIS is pleased to offer scholarships to assist members in conference attendance.

Full and Institutional members in good standing are eligible to apply, with conference presenters and first-time attendees being given priority for funding. Applicants must have been SALIS members for at least one year, and not have received a scholarship the previous year.

Qualified applicants should submit a letter of application in writing to the SALIS Treasurer no later than Monday, February 21, 2005. Letters of application should include:

• statement of your goals for participating in the conference;
• estimated costs for your attendance; and
• statement from your home organization indicating availability and amount of matching funds or other partial support, if any.

For the complete detail—what expenses the scholarship covers, how recipients receive the scholarship, etc.—please see the SALIS home page at http://www.salis.org/conference/2005scholarships.html.

The SALIS Board encourages you to consider applying. SALIS scholarships lower attendance costs, show your organization that you value SALIS (and that SALIS values you), and quite possibly gets you to a conference you wouldn’t be able to attend.


Conference Elections 2005

Calling all Candidates! It’s time to get out the nominations for the SALIS Executive Board. Here are the positions on this year’s ballot:

Chair-Elect
Treasurer
Member at-large (3 positions)

If you feel the incumbent in any or all the positions should be re-elected, by the way, please submit your nomination for that person to run again. If you feel you’d like the inside scoop on what goes on in the SALIS Executive Board meetings, don’t be shy, nominate yourself!

To read up on the duties of each position, please visit the SALIS website, under ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS:
http://www.salis.org/about/bylaws.html

To nominate an individual, or for more information, please contact Clare Imholtz (cimholtz@cesar.umd.edu) or Sheila Lacroix (sheila_lacroix@camh.net). Both Clare and Sheila have been members of the Board. Nominations are due by February 16, 2005.
New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
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Note: New Books may also be found at http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html


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We’re on the web!
http://salis.org