Creative Connections:
Linking Research to Practice with Information Technology

If you haven't seen the program for the SALIS conference, check it out now on the SALIS website http://www.salis.org/conference/2005program_agenda.html. There is a big emphasis this year on information science issues in the broader arena, and the tools needed to keep pace with the profession. However, this does not mean that the topics related to substance abuse will be in short supply. Pamela Negro, Rowan University Center for Addiction Studies, will be giving a talk on prevention efforts for “party drugs”; Dr. Ira Chasnoff will do an overview on FAS; and Dr. James Zacny, Professor, University of Chicago, will give us highlights about two drugs which have been in the news quite a bit lately, Oxicodone and Oxycontin. In addition, Lonnett Albright, Director of the Great (Continued on page 4)

SALIS Board Elections

It is that time of the year, once again, when we are seeking members to run for office. Please refer to the Bylaws on the SALIS website for the responsibilities and terms of office for the Board positions.

Here are the positions to be filled this year, with the candidates to date (March 23), including those who have agreed to run for another term.

Chair Elect (1 year term, moves to Chair)
- Liz Foster, National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
- Jessica Hinkson, Higher Education Center

(Continued on page 9)
ADDICTION AND AGING

As the baby boom generation approaches retirement and the older population is expected to double by 2030 [Source: U.S. Administration on Aging, Statistics on the Aging Population; available at: http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/statistics.asp], issues related to the aging population have grown in priority. In the substance abuse field, the special concerns related to alcohol misuse and the elderly are becoming a pressing matter. Older adults are not immune to alcohol and other drug use problems; however, the problems often go undetected. Prevention initiatives and screening measures are geared toward younger people. The effects of alcohol may be amplified in seniors because of pharmacologic changes associated with aging. In addition, interactions between alcohol and medications may be more serious in seniors. [Source: Rigler, S.K. Alcoholism in the elderly, American Family Physician; available at: http://www.aafp.org/afp/20000315/1710.html]

This column is an annotated list of web resources on addiction and aging, with a primary focus on alcohol use disorders. There are few web sites devoted specifically to this topic. However, many government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the substance abuse and aging fields have been developing materials to address this issue. With a few exceptions, most resources are found within sites that address the broader issues of either aging or addiction.

GETTING STARTED

To get a summary of the special issues related to aging and alcohol use, check out these reviews:

Alcohol Use Disorders in Elderly People: Redefining an Age Old Problem in Old Age http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/327/7416/664
This 2003 BMJ article is a concise review of the research written in plain language. (Continued on page 5)

NEWS FROM CANADA

By Sheila Lacroix, Library Co-ordinator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada

After an absence from the last couple of issues, we’re back. Yes, Canada is still here and unfortunately, many Canadians are still drinking to excess - a good way to introduce our first bit of ‘not so new’ news.

The highlights of the first Canadian national population alcohol and drug use survey in a decade, the Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS), were released November 2004. A detailed report will be released in 2005 and many ‘spin off’ reports on specific issues are anticipated. For the Highlights report and the news release, see the links from CCSA’s main page, http://www.ccsca.ca. Since the last survey, 10 years ago, both heavy drinking and marijuana use have increased among young Canadians.

After years of preparation, the North American Opiate Medication Initiative (NAOMI) is underway. It is a clinical trial to test if medically prescribed heroin can ‘attract and retain’ street heroin users for whom successive attempts with intervention strategies, such as methadone maintenance, have not worked. The trial has begun in Vancouver and subject recruitment will begin this spring at the other two sites, Toronto (CAMH) and Montreal. The heroin is self administered under medical supervision, in special clinics. There is a website dedicated to the project: http://www.naomistudy.ca. User ID is naomi1 Password health.

Closer to home, CAMH released the third edition of its popular manual, Alcohol and Drug Problems: A Practical Guide for Counsellors, last fall. I wrote the appendix to the chapter, Case Management, entitled Drug Testing. When I learned that a new edition was being written, I advised the editors that there should be a section on drug testing, as there is not much information geared to those in the psychosocial disciplines. As a result, they asked me to write it. This is an example of how we, as information professionals, can contribute to information dissemination by recognizing information gaps and feeding this information back for inclusion in the literature. I am very appreciative that my voice was heard and that I was offered the opportunity to work with (Continued on page 4)
NIH’s Public Access Policy

By Clare Imholtz, Librarian, Center for Substance Abuse Research, College Park, MD

A Step Forward But Is It Enough?

On February 2, the U.S. National Institutes of Health issued a policy - long overdue - intended to ensure that effective May 2, 2005, everyone in the country will have access to any and all research funded by NIH. However, the policy is not all that was hoped. It differs significantly from the draft public access policy that NIH had floated last September which would have required that NIH-funded research be available free of charge within 6 months of publication; this interval was extended to 12 months in the official policy promulgated in February.

This change was met with dismay by librarians and public access advocates, cheers from journal publishers (including most nonprofits), and probably a few shrugs.

To announce the policy, NIH Director Elias Zerhouni and Deputy Director for Extramural Research Norka Ruiz Bravo held a 30-minute telephone briefing with stakeholder groups, followed by a Q&A session, which not only helped to clarify details, but pointed out some of the more interesting issues the new policy raises, not all of which have been resolved. The Q&A revealed the concerns of researchers and scientific societies, and it adumbrated some of the tensions that can be expected to develop during the first year or so of implementation.

Dr. Zerhouni began the briefing with a quick overview of the new policy, and then Dr. Ruiz Bravo outlined it in greater detail. Her major points were: (1) the policy refers to research funded in whole or in part by NIH; (2) researchers are requested, not required, to submit their final, accepted, peer-reviewed manuscript to PubMed Central; (3) it is up to the author (not the publisher) to specify when the manuscript will be available, with an expectation on the part of NIH that it will be available within 12 months; (4) the benefits of the public access policy will include increased visibility for author and publisher, a research archive for NIH, and increased access for the public at large.

In the Q&A, Dr. Zerhouni fielded most of the questions, occasionally calling on Dr. Ruiz Bravo for assistance.

Q. Isn’t this policy contrary to copyright law? (American Sociological Society)
A. This is a question for a lawyer. We will take this question under advisement and get back to you.

Q. How does this policy better serve the public than the existing system? Won’t it hurt scientific societies, who use their journal income to publish basic research and to help develop the next generation of scientists? (Council of Scientific Society Presidents)
A. Remember, the policy applies only to federally funded research. The existing system is not working as well as it could. Taxpayers should be able to find the scientific information that they fund on the Internet.

Q. We commend the policy but would have preferred that research be made freely available as originally planned in 6, not 12, months. Why was that changed? (American Society for Cell Biologists)
A. The policy was changed from a date certain of 6 months to a range of 0-12 months. This increased flexibility will maximize participation. We encourage authors to deposit their manuscripts as soon as possible, not to wait for the full 12 months. What is really important in this policy is that it establishes a central venue for all NIH-funded research.

Q. Will NIH set a good example by directing its employees to release their studies as soon as possible? (An advocacy coalition)
A. NIH will strongly encourage its intramural scientists to do so.

Q. What guidance will be provided to researchers about their rights to contribute to PubMed Central even if their publishers disagree? (SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)
A. NIH is working on a guidance statement; it is not yet finished.

Q. We are disappointed that the policy accommodates publishers, not patients. The onus is on the investigators—the policy could put them in conflict with their publishers. Will there be a report in 6 months on what has/not been accomplished? (Genetic Alliance)
A. An NIH Public Access Advisory Board will evaluate the policy’s impact on access and on the peer review process.

Q. What about disclosure of researchers’ potential conflicts of interest? Will NIH have a policy over and above the journals’ policy? (Center for Science in the Public Interest)
A. We will take this under advisement and respond later. We assure you, however, that our aim is to ensure transparency.

(Continued on page 4)
Q. Are authors really being requested, or are they actually de facto required, to deposit their manuscripts? (American Association of Immunologists)
A. There are no penalties planned for authors who do not participate.

Q. Will there be safeguards so scientists won’t feel they have to release papers as soon as possible? Will NIH keep records of when people deposit their papers, and could this affect researchers’ chances of future grants? (American Society for Plant Biologists).
A. We are not trying to keep records, although we will effectively have a record, since deposit can fulfill a grantee’s requirement to submit a quarterly report to NIH. Again, we have made it very clear that no one will be punished for not participating.

Q. Why does NIH require deposit of the paper rather than just put a link to publisher’s site? (Endocrine Society)
A. We do want to provide links, as well as receive deposits. Publishers can provide the final published version to PubMed Central if they choose, which would then supersede the author’s final version.

Q. We already have a 12-month rolling access policy. We like the flexibility of the new policy. How does the publisher provide input to the author concerning whether to contribute to the repository? (American Association for Dental Research)
A. We don’t expect there to be any conflict with rolling access policies such as yours. The publishing agreement between publisher and authors should specify the


Alcohol and Drug Problems has received the ‘highest distinction’ award by The Society for Technical Communication, Toronto and Southwestern Ontario chapters, in their annual competition. CAMH Marketing has promised me a copy to bring to the SALIS conference to give away as a prize. It looks like they will be supporting the conference as an exhibitor. For information about this book, check out “Publications” on our website: http://www.camh.net.

Lakes Chapter of the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) will be giving an overview of the network’s activities and future plans. Be sure and check out the full agenda for all of the speakers, and mark your calendars for Board, business and committee meetings too.

We want to welcome all of our new members in SALIS who are going to make it to Chicago to be a part of the 27th annual. There is much work to be done, and we want you to get involved with this very active organization. But do keep in mind we have fun too. Be sure and make it to the Tuesday night reception. See you
Alcoholism in the Elderly  
http://www.aafp.org/afp/20000315/1710.html  
This 2000 *American Family Physician* article reviews the literature on epidemiology, pharmacological issues, screening, and treatment issues related to alcohol use and seniors.

Alcohol and Aging  
This National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism *Alcohol Alert* reviews research on prevalence of alcohol use among the elderly, alcohol-aging interactions, and the treatment of alcoholism in this population.

For further exploration on these issues, check out the following sites that provide a number of resources on the topic:

Aging, Alcohol, and Addictions  
http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/schonfeld/GSA-Alcohol.htm  
The Aging, Alcohol, and Addictions interest group of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA; [http://www.geron.org/](http://www.geron.org/)) maintains this web page that provides links to information and resources about older adults' misuse of alcohol, illicit drugs, and prescription medications. This site is a good source to find researchers working in this area as the list of interest group members is provided.

Alcohol, Medications, and Other Drugs  
http://www.asaging.org/aod/  
The American Society on Aging (ASA) maintains this web site as part its contract with the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to provide free training and technical assistance to treatment providers in California working with older adults. While the training information is specific to those in California, the “Resources” section includes information that is useful to all, including a web-based training and annotated resources.

Alcohol and Seniors  
http://www.agingincanada.ca/  
Maintained by Charmaine Spencer, a professor at the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia. This site covers aging and addiction in general, as well as the specific issues related to alcohol use and older adults: statistics, treatment, prevention, and effects of alcohol. The focus is on resources and initiatives in Canada, but non-Canadian information is included. This “personal site” is updated regularly; however, the useful information is buried under a rudimentary navigation scheme. The site is organized by topic, and includes original content prepared by the site’s author with links to additional Canadian resources. Click on the “Site Map” link on the home page to get started.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Services to Older Adults  
http://www.samhsa.gov/Matrix/matrix_older.aspx  
Services to older adults are one of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) program priorities. From this web page, one can learn about the agency’s funded programs and resources. Other SAMSHA web resources are discussed throughout the column. A number of SAMSHA materials are not accessible online, so be sure to check the list of publications for available print materials on reaching this audience.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol Use Disorders in Older Adults  
http://www.americangeriatrics.org/products/positionpapers/alcohol.shtml  
The American Geriatrics Society has prepared recommendations for screening, interventions, and follow-up treatment with older adults. The guidelines updated in 2003 recommend that all patients 65 or older be asked about their use of alcohol at least annually to identify possible alcohol use disorders.

Older Persons and Alcohol Discussion List  
http://www.agingincanada.ca/SeniorsAlcohol/OPAAL.htm  
This open discussion list, maintained by the author of the *Alcohol and Seniors* web site, is for professionals working with older adults who have alcohol problems. The discussions focus on Canadian initiatives, but also include more general topics as well. The list’s archives are searchable and available on the site: [http://lists.mun.ca/archives/opaal.html](http://lists.mun.ca/archives/opaal.html)

Promoting Older Adult Health: Aging Network Partnerships to Address Medication, Alcohol, and Mental Health Problems  
https://www.ncoa.org [Under “Publications”]:  
This guide is a part of the kit, *Get Connected! Linking Older Adults with Medical, Alcohol and Mental Health Resources*, developed by SAMHSA in partnership with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and the Administration on Aging (AoA). The kit contains activities to

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prevent substance abuse and mental health problems in older adults. Learn details about the contents and ordering of the kit in this SAMHSA News article: http://alt.samhsa.gov/samhsa_news/VolumeXII_3/article9.htm

Substance Abuse Among Older Adults http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/govpubs/BKD250
SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) developed this Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) for treatment providers working with older adults. TIPs review the literature on a treatment issue and provide practical guidance for providers. This TIP covers guidelines for the screening, identification, and intervention of alcohol and prescription drug use among older adults. Accompanying this TIP, print reference guides for clinicians, social service providers, and physicians can be ordered from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (http://www.health.org).

TRAINING RESOURCES

Alcohol, Medications, and Aging: What Everyone Needs to Know http://www.asaging.org/aod/webtraining.cfm
This web-based course developed by ASA begins with an overview about the use of alcohol and prescription medications that is useful for consumers and providers alike. The bulk of the modules are for professionals and contain clinical information about identifying abuse or misuse, assessing an older person who may have a drinking or substance abuse problem, and finding an appropriate intervention and treatment. The course also provides a resources list.

At Any Age It Does Matter: Substance Abuse and Older Adults http://pathwayscourses.samhsa.gov/aaap/aaap_intro.htm
This online course on SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Prevention Pathways web site is for health professionals who want to learn about alcohol and medication misuse among seniors. The course includes an overview of the issues, as well as details on prevention, screening, and treatment. A list of resources is included; however, author or publisher information is not listed for the consumer literature. Continuing education credit hours are available from the National Association of Social Workers and the National Commission for Health Education Counseling. Be sure to read the instructions about receiving the credit hours before beginning the course.

This archived webcast, originally broadcast as part of CSAT’s “Road to Recovery 2004” series, addresses how to help older adults receive addiction treatment. The program’s panelists cover a variety of perspectives: research, consumer, treatment, and advocacy.

Substance Use Disorders in the Geriatric Patient http://www.alcoholmedicalscholars.org/ (under Special Populations)
This presentation is one of the many Alcohol Medical Scholars Program learning modules for medical students on the identification and treatment of alcohol use disorders and other substance-related problems. This unit reviews the epidemiology and morbidity of substance use disorders among the elderly and includes diagnostic and treatment considerations.

ADVOCACY

National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (NCMHA) http://www.ncmha.org/index.php
This coalition brings together agencies, organizations and individuals working together to improve and increase mental health and substance abuse services to older adults. NCMHA’s web site includes information about their activities, a directory of substance abuse service providers, as well as a list of members who serve as resources on the issue.

Older Americans Month http://www.aoa.gov/press/oam/oam.asp
The month of May is the annual health observance to acknowledge contributions of older adults. The AoA provides generic materials to support this event.

White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) http://www.whcoa.gov
The conference occurs once a decade and makes aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress. The next conference takes place in the Fall 2005. The National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging is leading an effort to ensure that mental health and substance abuse issues are addressed at the 2005 White

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FOR CONSUMERS

Alcohol, Medications, and Older Adults: For Those That Care About or Care for an Older Adult
http://pathwayscourses.samhsa.gov/aaac/aaac_intro_pg1.htm
Designed for caregivers, this CSAP Prevention Pathways online course outlines in lay language specific issues related to alcohol and prescription drug misuse among older adults. The site includes tips for medication management, signs of alcohol or medication misuse, and guidance on treatment options.

AgePage: Alcohol Use and Abuse
http://www.niapublications.org/engagepages/alcohol.asp
This National Institute on Aging fact sheet covers alcohol and aging, effects of alcohol use, and tips on identifying a problem and getting help. The fact sheet is also available in Spanish.

As You Age . . . A Guide to Aging, Alcohol, and Medicines
http://asyouage.samhsa.gov/
SAMHSA and the Food and Drug Administration launched this public education campaign to warn older adults about the dangers of misusing prescription drugs and using them with alcohol. The site includes downloadable materials, including print ads, and radio and television public service announcements.

Helping Older Adults Overcome Alcohol or Medication Dependence
http://www.agingandaddiction.net
This commercial web site promoting the Hazelden book, Aging and Addiction, provides family members with an overview of the issue, guidance on identifying an alcohol or medication use problem in seniors, and links to resources on treatment providers.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES/RESOURCE GUIDES

Alcohol Abuse and Aging (August 2003)
This compilation of web resources from the AoA includes information for consumers as well as links to full-text and abstracts of research and magazine articles. The focus of the content is on the United States; however non-U.S. resources are included. While created in 2003, many of the links are already out of date.

Annotated Bibliography on Substance Abuse and Older Adults
http://www.asaging.org/aod/bibliography.cfm
This annotated bibliography by the ASA includes books, training material, videos, and pamphlets. Full availability and links are included for each. The bibliography is not dated, but includes recently published materials.

Annotated Bibliography: Substance Abuse (December 2004)
http://www.elderabusecenter.org/default.cfm?p=cane_substanceabuse.cfm
The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly of the National Center on Elder Abuse prepared this selection of journal articles, reports, and books covering addiction and aging, and substance abuse as a risk factor in elder abuse. Abstracts are included.

CORK Bibliography: The Elderly (September 2004)
http://www.projectcork.org/bibliographies/data/Bibliography_Elderly.html
This bibliography includes citations and abstracts for journal articles and reports on substance abuse issues and the elderly from January 2003 to September 2004.

Selected References on Substance Abuse and Older Adults (July 2004)
http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/schonfeld/References.htm
This bibliography compiled by Professor Larry Schonfeld at the Department of Aging and Mental Health, University of South Florida, is provided on the GSA web site. While the list is entitled “selected references,” it is an exhaustive alphabetical list of references.

IN CONCLUSION

For those interested in the special concerns of older adults’ misuse of alcohol, prescription drugs, and other substances, the addiction and aging fields are coming together to produce helpful resources to address the special needs of older adults.
New Books

Compiled by Andrea L. Mitchell, Librarian
Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, CA


(Continued from page 1)

Treasurer (2 year term)
- Barbara Weiner (incumbent), Hazelden Foundation

Member-at-Large (MAL) (3 elected, 1 year term, eligible for reelection for 1 consecutive year)
- Christine Goodair (incumbent), DrugScope, UK

Please contact Sheila Lacroix or Clare Imholtz no later than March 31 if you would like to nominate someone, or run yourself, for any of the above offices. Also, please ensure a short (no more than half page) biography of the candidate is sent by March 31.

Voting
A ballot and biographies of the candidates will be e-mailed to you by Monday, April 4. Please be sure to vote! You may bring your ballot to Chicago, where the ballots will be counted and the results announced.

Having served as both Chair and Member-at-Large, I encourage you to consider participating as a Board member at some time or another. It is a great opportunity for professional development, working with an exceptional group of people, learning more about SALIS, and ensuring the future of our organization. If you don’t get elected the first time (I didn’t), don’t be afraid to try again!

Sheila Lacroix, MAL (Sheila_lacroix@camh.net)
Clare Imholtz, Secretary (cimholtz@cesar.umd.edu)
Deadline for next Issue of SALIS News, Vol. 25, No. 2, Summer 2005 is:

June 1, 2005

We’re on the web!
http://salis.org