2009 SALIS Conference, Halifax, May 5-8, 2009
Ruth Hart, Conference Host

Registration is open!!

The 31st SALIS conference will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 5 to May 8, 2009. For those of you who haven’t visited Nova Scotia, Halifax, the first British town in Canada, was founded in 1749. It is now a thriving small city with a population of approximately 359,500 on the east coast of the province.

Highlights of the conference programme include presentations by guest speakers, Mark Asbridge and Dr. Greg Marquis. Dr. Asbridge, an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health, Dalhousie University, will speak on his research into automobiles and injury with emphasis on the use of substances, violence and aggression while driving. Dr. Greg Marquis is an associate professor in the Department of History and Politics, University of New Brunswick in Saint John. His current research involves the “Alcohol and Canadian Society Project” which focuses on alcohol control policy in four Canadian provinces from the 1920s through the 1980s. Dr. Marquis has published extensively. See his current publications list at http://www.unbsj.ca/arts/hist/gregmarquis/asr/pages/currentresearch.htm. This promises to be an interesting presentation.

An electronic “show and tell” of Web 2.0 will give SALIS members an opportunity to provide a short demonstration of what they are doing in their organizations with wikis, blogs, Facebook, and other social marketing tools, and tell us why they think that they are creating best practices for the future.

In complete contrast to the electronic “show and tell” is a tour of Nova Scotia’s Legislative Library. Located in Province House, this Library has been in existence since 1867. Province House, a Palladian style architectural gem is the oldest provincial seat of government in Canada.

Across the street from Province House in downtown Halifax is the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the conference’s venue: http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/en/home/default.aspx. Spend some time between conference sessions exploring the gallery, or squeeze in a tour on Thursday evening at 7:00pm.

(Continued on page 6)
Way back in the early days of Wikipedia, many of us in the information/research world were pretty disdainful of it on the whole. What we heard most often about Wikipedia was that it was the work of the hoi polloi instead of actual experts, wasn’t vetted in any serious way, and was prone to pranksters and vandals who liked to do things like credit comedian Stephen Colbert for single-handedly tripling the world’s elephant population.

Things in the Wikipedia world have changed, though, and while it is still the victim of the occasional headline-grabbing prank (the page about Sarah Palin was a big target there for a bit!), a number of external sources have made their own examinations and comparisons between Wikipedia and other similar information sources (Encarta, Encyclopedia Britannica, e.g.) and found it to have a high ratio of accuracy. (Wikipedia itself keeps track of these “external peer reviews” here, if you are interested: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:External_peer_review.)

In 2005, the scientific journal Nature did a head-to-head comparison of several science articles in Wikipedia and Encyclopedia Britannica, and found that the two were roughly comparable. Though Britannica was quick to dispute their findings, in January 2009, they announced the startup of their own online, user-generated-content encyclopedia at http://Britannica.com. Apparently they’ve decided the best way to beat Wikipedia’s model is to join it!

Over the last few years, I’ve heard a number of SALIS members talk about potentially adding a page to Wikipedia about our organization. Now that the online encyclopedia seems to be garnering more and more “info cred,” a lot of library groups and associations have developed pages for their organizations, profiling their history, mission, activities, and more. Here’s a sampling:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Library_Association

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Libraries_Association

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_Library_Association

Find these and more here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_library_associations

Turin, Italy, or “Torino,” as it is known to Italians, is a Victorian city, and one usually missed by Americans who jaunt further south to Florence and Rome. But after having the great opportunity to visit last October when I attended the 20th Elisad Annual meeting, “Addictions Information: Designing the Future,” I can heartily say, it should not be missed!

The Board meeting on October 8 took place in a very old convent high in the hills overlooking Torino, and it was a great adventure just trying to find the place as we wound up the narrow roads to the hill top where it was situated.

Jorun Moen, Elisad Chair-elect, chaired the meeting, as Christine Goodair, Elisad Chair, was not able to be there due to a business trip to Iran (see last issue of SALIS News). Much discussion concerned ways in which Elisad and SALIS might work together. Things mentioned as possibilities were a member directory, newsletter, and in general just trying to create more links for a SALIS/Elisad connection. Brian Galvin was very concerned about partnerships with other networks, and really kept the conversation coming back to this. He suggested forming a committee to look at ideas for closer links and continuing partnerships.

It was reported that Elisad membership had decreased from 2007 with the loss of several SALIS members and others. A very important decision made by the Board was the reduction of the membership fee for SALIS members from 60 Euros to 35 Euros, making it very reasonable for non-Europeans. At the current rate of exchange that translates to approximately $45.00.


There was lively discussion following the presentations and lots of down time for networking at the in-house espresso bar just across from the meeting room. Also a plus was the fact that the Gruppo Abele library was just down the hall from the meeting, giving participants the chance to tour and talk with library staff during breaks.
News From Canada
Sheila Lacroix, CAMH
Chair, Canadian SIG

Come to Halifax, Canada for SALIS 2009!
There is a glimmer of a silver lining in the dark clouds hovering around us in these tough economic times, because, to survive we must prioritize, focus on the positive, and celebrate our strengths. Do consider coming to Halifax for the SALIS Conference this May if at all possible. SALIS has survived many ups and downs, including recessions, yet we remain a strong organization with members who continue to streamline and add value to their services through the networking opportunities and support that SALIS offers. For further details, see Ruth Hart’s conference update.

National News
Mental Health Commission of Canada
http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca
Canada now has a publicly funded national organization committed to ensuring the development of an integrated mental health system serving all Canadians. Establishing the Commission was a recommendation of the Senate Committee to study mental health, mental illness and addiction in Canada. The groundbreaking report, Out of the Shadows at Last, set the course for its work. Of the Commission’s four primary goals, one is to reduce the stigma of addiction and mental illness and another is to disseminate evidence-based information to government, stakeholders and the public. For the latter, there is a role to play for information professionals. The CAMH Library has offered to become involved.

CCSA Reorganizes
If you visit the CCSA website frequently, you will find evidence of restructuring. Fortunately, the old familiar resources we expect to find and consult are still there! The traditional library services now fall under the Knowledge Centre. This really fits well with the current direction of knowledge work, as so many of us find ourselves doing both traditional library tasks as well as broader knowledge management work. See CCSA’s recently released 20th anniversary annual report called Common Ground = Points communs. (link from the main page: http://www.ccsa.ca). CCSA followed five steps to reorganize and settled on four strategic directions, one being to “foster a knowledge translation environment where evidence informs policy, practice and action”.

One priority to note is CCSA’s international role in leading consultations for the Beyond 2008 international forum of the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna last July. Michel Perron, CCSA’s CEO, is Chair of the Beyond 2000 Steering Committee. The purpose of the forum was to bring the collective voice of the NGOs from all over the world to the table for the ten year review of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Illicit Drugs, (UNGASS). For further information, visit the UNGASS 10-year Review site at: http://www.ungassondrugs.org. CCSA also has achieved consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Local (Toronto) News
Toronto Drug Court’s 10th Anniversary
CAMH and partners recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Toronto Drug Court, slated as Canada’s pioneer drug court. See http://www.tdc.ca. So far there are 108 successful graduates and counting.

Honourable Justice Paul Bentley started the drug court as a pilot because he believed there was a better way to deal with the endless cycle of nonviolent, drug-involved offenders. With partners such as CAMH, and a community advisory board, it got off the ground. After 10 years, Justice Paul Bentley is still the presiding judge; his vision has contributed to a change in direction from incarceration to the more humanitarian approach of rehabilitation.

How YOU Can Help SALIS!
Barbara Weiner, SALIS Treasurer

It is so important now--in our challenging global economic environment--that SALIS diversify its income possibilities! Remember that you can have a direct impact in creating additional dollars for SALIS, simply by ordering what you would naturally be ordering through Amazon or Hazelden, via bookmarking these links in your browser:

Amazon
Hazelden

You can also find these links on the SALIS web site, “New Books” page: http://salis.org/resources/new_books.html. Friends and family can use these links as well (either the direct ones above or the ones one the SALIS web site).

This is for any purchase -- professional or personal, books or AV or any of the many other products that Amazon and Hazelden sell.

Amazon.com provides SALIS with 4% of your purchase amount, and Hazelden shares 12% of your purchase amount directly with SALIS. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers, and bookmark these links today!

THANK YOU for participating!!

SALIS News, Vol. 28, No. 4 3 Winter 2009
To get a comprehensive understanding of the factors involved in drug-related deaths (DRDs) it is necessary to collect a range of information that does not appear on death certificates, such as living arrangements, mental and physical health history, substance use/abuse history, prescribed and post-mortem drugs, circumstances of death. This is best suited to the work of a Specialist Mortality Register (SMR).

There is only one SMR in the UK that publishes information on DRDs - the National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths based in the International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP), St George's Hospital Medical School.

For more than 30 years, ICDP's Director – Professor Ghodse - has been interested in the survival rates of drug addicts. Members of his team collected data from the author and his predecessors at the Home Office relating to the deaths of addicts notified to the Department's Addicts Index. Some of the data came from coroners, and formed the nucleus of the Dead Addicts Database, and enabled the publishing of academic papers by the ICDP.

Prior to the closure of the Addicts Index in April 1997, discussions were held between the Home Office and St George’s about continuing the flow of information on deaths of notified addicts. A joint letter from the Home Office and Coroners' Society went to all coroners inviting them to redirect information on DRDs to St George's. An article was included in the Coroners Newsletter; information started flowing into St George’s on a regular and increasing basis.

A small team was established, headed by Professor Ghodse, and since 2004 the work has been funded by the Department of Health to provide a data collection, analysis, and reporting system for drug-related deaths, helping to monitor progress on the Government’s aim of reducing drug-related deaths. The full-time team now comprises a Programme Manager, epidemiologist and a data entry officer.

Since 1997 we have been publishing and disseminating our findings in regular reports and academic papers. Each coroner receives copies of the reports as a ‘thank you’ for their voluntary support of the Programme. The first report, published in April 1998, included information on 17/135 coroners’ areas. We now have 93% of coroner’s areas in Eng-
In the most recent surveillance report the presence of methylamphetamine and piperazines in post mortem toxicology reports is noted.

An np-SAD case is defined as a relevant death where any of the following criteria are met at a completed inquest, fatal accident inquiry, or similar investigation:

- One or more psychoactive substances directly implicated in death;
- History of dependence or abuse of psychoactive drugs;
- Presence of Controlled Drugs at post mortem; or
- Cases of deaths directly due to drugs but with no inquest.

The use of a broad definition means that records can be selected using ICD-10 codes to make comparisons with statistics based on other definitions, such as the national drug strategy or EMCDDA DRD standard definitions.

Information is provided on data-collection sheets, usually generated electronically by a bespoke computer software package used by most coroners in England & Wales. Most forms are submitted on paper, although some are now being submitted electronically. In addition to the information contained on death certificates, the database receives further demographics, medical history, and other details of the deceased and the circumstances of their death. Increasingly, toxicology and post mortem examination reports are submitted. The lower level of geographical information means that specific ‘hot-spots’ can be identified and a closer examination made of the cases in those areas to see what interventions may be appropriate. The Programme has conducted a number of such studies for “Drug and Alcohol Action Teams,” “Primary Care Trusts,” and police forces.

The coroners' database acts as part of an early warning system in quickly identifying new drugs including licit ones implicated in deaths, or new patterns of abuse of existing drugs. For example, the first UK case involving oxycodone was notified in 2002, the first UK case of PMA was notified during 2001. GHB (a “Prescription Only Medicine” widely used by recreational drug users) was found in 4 cases in 2002. This information formed part of the evidence examined by the ACMD when they reviewed the status of this drug during 2001. In 2008 information on GBL provided by the np-SAD was used by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in its consideration of placing this substance under the same controls as GHB. In the most recent surveillance report the presence of methylamphetamine and piperazines in post mortem toxicology reports is noted.

In addition to the above activities, the Programme:

- is the official custodian of the national UK Addicts Index Access database and paper files covering the period 1968-1997 – and is currently seeking funding to microfilm the files to make them more accessible for research;
- holds a copy of the official Dead Addicts datafile;
- responds to request for information from national and local government as well as drug agencies and researchers in the field; and
- collaborates in research and training with bodies such as the World Health Organisation, EMCDDA, UNODC, and the European Collaborating Centres for Addiction Studies.

As a consequence of the work by np-SAD to date, information on the trends and patterns of death among UK drug misusers, including the impact of illicit and prescribed drugs as well as the relationship with other drug indicators, has been made available to the scientific community, clinicians, and policy makers. It is known as the key source of data and information on substance abuse deaths in the UK.

Selected bibliography


The conference hotel, a five-minute walk from the Art Gallery, is the Marriott Residence Inn: http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yhzri-residence-inn-halifax-downtown/. This all-suite hotel has full kitchens, complimentary high-speed or wireless internet, and hot buffet breakfast. The hotel has also won awards from Marriott for its cleanliness. I was most impressed when I visited it last summer. Close to the Inn, you’ll find museums, pubs, restaurants, coffee shops – try “Just Us” on Barrington Street, my favourite, and the “Neptune Theatre”: http://www.neptunetheatre.com/. Disney’s “High School Musical” is playing during the conference.

We received good news recently. The Atlantic Canada Council on Addictions has made a generous donation in support of SALIS 2009. This is very encouraging.

I am working with Sheila Lacroix to provide a stimulating daytime programme and some evening activities. If you’ve never attended a SALIS conference before, make this the year to start. Check out the conference website -- you might be eligible for a scholarship. It would be great to see you here next May. Even better if you can give a presentation or take part in the electronic “show and tell.” Tell us what you are doing with new technology, everyone’s interested!

Don’t Forget Your Passport!

Coming to the 2009 SALIS Conference from outside of Canada? Remember: To enter Canada, a passport from your country is required, including visitors from the US!

From some countries, a visa is required as well.

Check out your country’s travel and passport requirements for returning home.

For information about visa requirements to enter Canada, visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada, http://www.cic.gc.ca.

Contact details
John M Corkery, BA Hons, MSc, MPhil
Senior Research Fellow in Drug Epidemiology
International Centre for Drug Policy
St George’s University of London
Cranmer Terrace
London SW17 0RE
jcorkery@sgul.ac.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 8725 2675
Fax: +44 (0)20 8266 6494

[Article reprinted with permission from Elsad Journal.]
In addition to supplementing the information found on the SALIS web site itself, a Wikipedia page about SALIS could also potentially increase our organization’s “findability,” directing more users to our web site who are looking for resources (databases, serials, etc.) about substance abuse.

Adding an article to Wikipedia isn’t exactly simple, but they do provide a page with instructions on both how to enter the information and how to ensure that your page is accepted (Wikipedia’s editors routinely reject pages that amount to simple advertising or are articles about, for example, your best friend Fred and how awesome he is): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:YFA.

So, what do you think, SALISers? Time to add an entry about our organization to the largest encyclopedia ever compiled?

---

**Periodical News**

Nancy Sutherland, MLS
Director, ADAI Library

The *Open Addiction Journal* (ISSN: 1874-9410) began publication in 2008 as an open access online journal which publishes original research articles, reviews and letters in the field of pre-clinical and clinical addiction and substance abuse research. Topics covered in this interdisciplinary journal include: pharmacology; neuroscience; co-dependence; epidemiology; genetics; psychiatry; diagnosis; prevention; therapy; policy of addiction and substance abuse. The journal is peer-reviewed by an international board of reviewers, and edited by Joris C. Verster at the Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Utrecht University in the Netherlands. The publisher is Bentham Open.

Also, Chris Goodair brought to our attention a new journal which covers drug matters in Iran: The *Quarterly Journal of Addiction*. QJA is an Internet- and print-based forum for timely information and developments in addiction-related research, policy, phenomenology, literature, and treatment, focused on specific regional (Middle East and Central Asia) problems. Articles are written in Farsi and English, and the target audience is addiction therapists and other stakeholders. The editor is Dr. Hamed Ekhtiari of the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The journal's website is not yet active, but is expected to be online within a few months at: http://www.JournalofAddiction.com. In the meantime, you can email the editor at: journalofaddiction@gmail.com.

---

Anne Singer, editor of the *Elisad Journal*, did a most informative poster on the history of Elisad for this anniversary meeting which can be viewed here: http://www.elisad.eu/images/elisadposters.pdf

Participating in an Elisad meeting is always exciting, just for the fact that one is meeting people from other parts of the world, yet discovering so many common experiences in our work activities. Like Brian Galvin, I do see the need for more cross-cultural connection not only for our organizations, but for the enrichment it brings to us as individuals, as well. Bravo to Daniela Zardo and her team at Gruppo Abele for creating such an opportunity.

---

**Introducing . . . The Book!**

This hilarious video from the Norwegian Broadcasting channel will make you feel a lot better about your next call to tech support. Watch as a medieval-era user struggles to figure out how to open, read, and “save text” in a book, while a “tech support” guru stands by patiently explaining the necessary procedures. [Hat tip to Nancy Sutherland for passing this along!]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFAWR6hzZek
Chad Dubeau
Information Specialist
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

How long have you been a member of SALIS?
Since 2004.

What organization do you work for and what is your position?
I’m an Information Specialist at the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Canada’s national addictions organization. CCSA has a legislated mandate to provide national leadership and evidence-informed analysis and advice to mobilize collaborative efforts to reduce alcohol- and drug-related harms.

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?
In many ways, actually. The listserv is invaluable for discussing tricky information requests and conferences are always so valuable since the sessions are all extremely relevant to my work and of course the networking opportunities are great.

Hobbies outside of work:
I have too many! Mostly sports like basketball and soccer. Screenwriting is a huge passion of mine (my writing partner is also a librarian) and I had a stage play produced in Washington DC a few years back.

Favourite colour:
Green

Favourite food:
Splurge food: lobster; bacon-wrapped scallops
Comfort food: poutine (don’t ask)

Favourite book:
*The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson (which was suggested to me during a walking tour of Chicago while attending the 2005 SALIS conference).

Is there anything else you would like SALIS colleagues to know about you?
Feel free to get in touch with me for questions specific to substance use in Canada (or to chat about screenwriting) at cdubeau@ccsa.ca.
able nowadays...thinking of the time-consuming security controls in these unstable days in the world.

Dottie Blackwell
Video Library Manager
Idaho RADAR Network Center

How long have you been a member of SALIS?
Four years.

What organization do you work for and what is your position?
http://hs.boisestate.edu/RADAR/
Idaho RADAR Network Center, Video Library Manager.

How has being a member of SALIS enriched your life?
My experience with SALIS is enhanced by the efforts of George Marcelle who continuously shares his wealth of knowledge and introduces new information and resources. His service helps me to reach out to our patrons and assist them as they seek to prevent Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco use among our children.

Hobbies outside of work:
Gardening, reading, baking, and playing the piano.

Favourite colour:
Yellow

Favourite food:
Dark Chocolate orange creams from Lee's Candies
http://www.leescandies.com/

Favourite book:
Since I work with media, I have selected my favorite video for 2009: The Totally Disgusting Tobacco Gross Out Video (cc).

As the title suggests, this video goes for the gross-out factor, presenting students with a graphic look at all things vile and disgusting (and there are many!) about using tobacco products. The story revolves around Josie, a middle school student who is preparing a video on the dangers of tobacco use for a health class assignment, despite the disbelieving attitude from her peers—including her boyfriend, Miguel, a smoker himself. As she develops her video project, she shows her friends clips of hairy tongues, yellow teeth, dripping phlegm, oozing tar, diseased lungs, laryngectomies (neck breathers), wrinkled skin, cancerous tumors and more, until they just can’t take it anymore. Not for the fainthearted, this video’s imagery will linger long in students’ minds and remind them to never consider using tobacco products. (Grades 5-9 18 min.)

“In nearly 40 years of teaching drug resistance, this is the best discussion of tobacco I’ve seen.” Idaho Middle School Teacher

Here's a review from School Library Journal:
http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6532522.html

Is there anything else you would like SALIS colleagues to know about you?
I have an extensive cookbook collection and am always looking to add to my library. I also collect Gingerbread House designs and love to make Gingerbread cookies. There's something about frosting and decorating that sparks my creative side.

Oscar Watch:
Rachel Getting Married
by Nancy Sutherland, ADAI Library

If you skipped Rachel Getting Married because you assumed it was a just chick flick, you missed a really good movie about the impact of a young woman's drug and alcohol abuse on her family. Kym has been in and out of rehab for years when she returns home for her sister Rachel's wedding. Her re-appearance elicits a difficult family history and dynamic in ways that are both funny and heart-wrenching. Anne Hathaway is nominated for an Oscar for her performance as the troubled daughter, and the rest of the cast is also very good. So, if you ditch work some afternoon to see the movie, just tell your boss it's a professional learning opportunity.


Sznitman, Sharon Rodner, Borje Olsson, and Robin Room, eds. *A Cannabis Reader: Global Issues and Local Experiences: Perspectives on Cannabis Controversies, Treatment and Regulation in Europe*. (Series: EMCDDA monographs; 8) Lisbon: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2008. 2 Vols. Vol. 1 $45.00, Vol. 2 $45.00 ISBN: 9789291683116 (v. 1) 9291683116 (v. 1); 9789291683123 (v. 2) 9291683124 (v.2)


We’re on the web! http://www.salis.org

SALIS News (ISSN: 1072-4567) is the official publication of the Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists.

Editor: Andrea L. Mitchell  
E-mail: amitchell@salis.org  
P.O. Box 9513  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
Phone: 510-769-1831  
Fax: 510-865-2467

Desktop Publishing: Meg Brunner

Subscription Information: SALIS News is a quarterly newsletter. Subscription rates are for calendar year only. $20.00 for United States, Canada and Mexico. $25.00 for all others. FREE to SALIS members. Prepayment must accompany all subscription requests.

Mail to: SALIS News  
P.O. Box 9513  
Berkeley, CA 94709-0513