

ISAJE**NEWSLETTER**

MAY 2009

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INTRODUCING THE ISAJE NEWSLETTER

The Executive Board of ISAJE is pleased to launch this, the first issue of the ISAJE Newsletter. It is meant to be a forum of discussion, ideas and information exchange relevant to our members. We are very pleased to present the Newsletter's Editors, Sally Monaghan and Daryl Boshart, who have worked hard to develop the Newsletter's identity and pull together the contents of this first issue. We plan to publish twice a year. Needless to say, we welcome items and ideas from our members.

The Newsletter will feature short articles about the resources and benefits provided by ISAJE, and information about other organisations and associations that should be useful for ISAJE members. It will also include feature articles, journal profiles, book reviews, an international calendar of events, and much more.

As you know, the field of addiction publishing is expanding rapidly. It is part of a much larger world that we constantly have to be exploring in order to survive and prosper. We hope the ISAJE Newsletter will serve that purpose.

—Tom Babor, President

—Molly Jarvis, Executive Officer

**ISAJE NEWSLETTER
NEEDS A NAME?**

- Do you have an idea for the name of our biannual newsletter? If so, send it to:
- daryl_boshart@camh.net

ISAJE ANNUAL MEETING—REGISTER SOON

The ISAJE annual meeting will take place in Trieste, Italy from 24 to 27 September 2009.

The programme will focus on two main topics: journal-sponsoring organisation relations and open access publishing. Other planned sessions for the meeting include: journal conflict of interest policy, case studies of ethical dilemmas that journals have faced and presentations from new member journals.

If you are planning to attend, please be sure to register and make your hotel booking no later than **30 June 2009** through the dedicated meeting website at www.theoffice.it/isaje09.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

New members

The ISAJE Executive is delighted to welcome two new members for 2009: David Balfour, Editor-in-Chief of *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, and corporate member Margareta Nilson, head of the Scientific Partners and Documentation Unit at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).



Fundraising

We are pleased to report that Elsevier has confirmed their continued sponsorship of ISAJE for 2009, with generous contributions from their journals *Addictive Behaviors*, *Alcohol, Drug & Alcohol Dependence* and *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.

ISAJE is seeking to gain further support from new corporate members and sponsors. If you think that your journal's publisher may be interested in getting

involved, please contact Executive Officer Molly Jarvis, molly@addictionjournal.org

ISAJE is also looking to recruit new members from journals who are not already part of our organisation. If you are aware of any addiction journal editors who you think would be interested in joining, again, please write to Executive Officer Molly Jarvis, at molly@addictionjournal.org.

Publishing Addiction Science—tutorial and workshops

In 2008, the second, updated edition of *Publishing Addiction Science* was published, and five new modules based on the updated material have been added to the online tutorial available on the ISAJE resource website www.parint.org. These modules were videotaped live at a workshop conducted in September 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts.

ISAJE will be running some *Publishing Addiction Science* workshops at two forthcoming international addiction meetings (listed adjacent, with tutors' names in brackets):

Ketil Bruun Society annual symposium

Copenhagen, Denmark; Friday 5 June 2009, 13.00 - 18.00

- "Practical Issues in Publishing Addiction Science" (Kerstin Stenius, Richard Pates, Florence Kerr-Corea, Jacek Moskalewicz)
- "Ethical Issues in Publishing Addiction Science" (Thomas Babor, Ilana Pinsky, Robin Room)

NIDA International Forum, at the annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence

Reno, Nevada, USA; Saturday 20 June 2009, 15.00 - 17.30

- "Practical Issues in Publishing Addiction Science" (Thomas Babor, Robert Balster, Isidore Obot)
- "Ethical Issues in Publishing Addiction Science" (Thomas Babor, Peter Miller, Dominique Morisano, Erin Winstanley)



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE CONT'D

Journal Conflict of Interest Survey

The ISAJE Executive has started work on a survey of journal conflict of interest policy, to be sent out to all ISAJE member journals so that a report can be prepared for presentation at the annual meeting in Trieste. The information will allow us to determine how many journals have conflict of interest policies and whether some of them can be used as models if a particular journal wants to improve its policy. The survey has been adapted from a *COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)* publication

ethics audit tool.

ISAJE President Tom Babor and Tom McGovern are leading the work on the survey. Tom Babor has enlisted a student to complete initial responses for all journals, using information available on their websites. The partially completed surveys will then be sent to the journal editors for checking and completion. Once responses have been received, the information will be entered anonymously on a database for analysis.



Results of the first Journal COI survey will be presented at this year's annual conference in Trieste.

ISAJE/WHO Young Scholars Award

Applications are invited for the 2009 ISAJE/WHO Young Scholars Award. This award aims to provide recognition for the contributions to addiction science of young scholars from low and middle income countries and to promote their involvement in the field. The award is given for the best paper published by a young scholar from a low or middle income country on any topic related to addiction. The winner will receive a certificate and financial support to attend an international scientific or clinical meeting in the addiction or substance abuse field, to be chosen by the winner in consultation with the Award Committee. The 2008 winner was Dr. Rijo John, a research scientist from Kerala, India who received the award for his paper "Crowding out effect of tobacco expenditure and its implications on household resource allocation in India", published in

Social Science & Medicine.

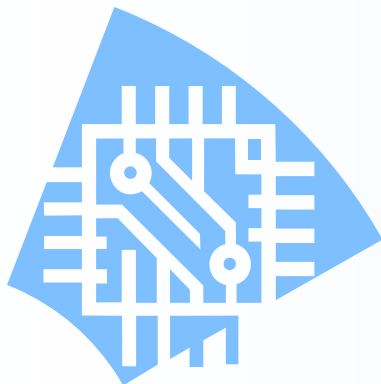
To be eligible, the paper must have been published either online or in print form in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal between 1 July 2006 and 30 June 2009. The research reported should have been carried out predominantly in a low or middle income country, as specified by the World Bank classification. Applicants must be less than 35 years old and should be the lead author in the paper being submitted for the award. They should hold a current academic or research position in a low or middle income country, or should have held such a position at the time the research for the paper was carried out. The deadline for receiving applications is 31 July 2009. Further details, including information on the application procedure, may be obtained from the ISAJE Executive Officer, Molly Jarvis. She can be reached by

***Congratulations
to the 2008
winner of the
ISAJE/WHO Young
Scholars Award,
Dr. Rijo John—
research scientist
from Kerala,
India***

email at:
molly@addictionjournal.org.

The award is sponsored by ISAJE, WHO and Virginia Commonwealth University.

ISAJE REVIEWER DATABASE



We would like to remind you about this unique resource that is only available to ISAJE member editors and their staff. The database contains details of researchers from low and middle income countries who have attested scholarly competence and who you may wish to consider for reviewing papers submitted for publication to your journal, write

book reviews or serve as members of your journal's editorial board. The database can be accessed on the ISAJE resource website www.parint.org, entering your PARINT username and password. If you would like a reminder of these details please email the Executive Officer Molly Jarvis at molly@addictionjournal.org.

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR EDITORS

In addition to the resources and benefits provided by ISAJE, other organisations and associations may also be very useful and interesting for ISAJE members, and worth exploring. This section of the newsletter will highlight some of the other resources available for editors and editorial staff:

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): Established 10 years ago by a group of medical journal editors concerned about publication ethics and scientific misconduct, such as plagiarism, redundant publication, scientific misconduct, and breaches of confidentiality. Their website, found at www.publicationethics.org, gives full details of the membership benefits of COPE. One of COPE's greatest resources (and certainly the most practical) are the 17 flowcharts that provide algorithms for editors to follow when they suspect publication misconduct. The following publishers are all members of COPE, and membership benefits extend to the journals they publish: Elsevier, Wiley-

Blackwell, Springer, Taylor & Francis (including Routledge, Haworth Press and Informa Healthcare titles in the addiction field).

International Society of Managing & Technical Editors (ISMTE): Launched in 2008, this organization aims to enhance the professionalism of editorial office staff by providing networking and training infrastructure, establishing best practices and studying and reporting on editorial office practices. In addition to providing annual conferences (see Calendar of Events) ISMTE reports on relevant publishing news and provides a career forum for individuals looking for work or employers who wish to post openings. Members are also able to post questions on various discussion forums, network with others and access training materials.

World Association of Medical Editors (WAME): Established in 1995, WAME is a voluntary organization of editors from countries throughout the world

who seek to foster international cooperation among editors of peer-reviewed medical journals. Membership is free, and all decision-making editors of peer-reviewed medical journals are eligible to join.

This organization's Listserv is particularly active and informative. Recent topics that have been discussed include conflict of interest policies, alternative metrics to impact factor (IF), the publishing of theses, and variations in declaring statistical significance.

AuthorMapper: Created by Springer, this is an online tool for visualising scientific research that enables manuscripts to be sorted by author location and geographic maps. This dynamic interface allows users to explore patterns in scientific research, identify new and historic literature trends, discover wider relationships and importantly, locate experts in specific fields. Available at www.authormapper.com.

Job opportunity

The *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment (JSAT)*, one of the leading journals in its field, is seeking an Editor-in-Chief. The position is scheduled to officially start on 1 January, 2010 with preliminary transition work during the second half of 2009.

The most important qualifications for the editorial position are the vision and energy to sustain and further develop this important journal. Applicants should be able to develop and implement a plan that maximizes the journal's appeal to practitioners. Editorial experience and strong organizational skills are essential. Responsibilities of this part-time position include actively soliciting high-quality manuscripts, providing timely and thorough peer review of submissions and assuring a scientifically-excellent and intellectually-stimulating publication. Applicants must be willing to serve for a term of three to five years.

Applicants should submit the following material to the address below as soon as possible, and no later than 1 July, 2009.

- Curriculum vitae and list of publications;
- Letter of intent, which should include a one-page assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of *JSAT*, your vision for the journal's future, and your general plans for directing it, as well as a statement of practicalities, incl. estimation of time available, relevant experience, and a description of administrative support required for the editorial office;
- Disclosure of possible conflicts of interest.

Applicants should submit materials to:

Herb Niemirow
 Publisher, US Health Sciences Journals
 Elsevier
 360 Park Avenue South
 New York, NY 10010
 Email: h.niemirow@elsevier.com

EASE Conference

The *European Association for Science Editors (EASE)* is holding their 10th annual conference 16-19 September, 2009 in Pisa, Italy. This conference, entitled 'Integrity in Science Communication' will discuss the issues of physical and moral integrity and editorial independence and responsibilities. Parallel sessions include misconduct in science communication, the role of editors and journals in fostering responsible conduct of research and promoting the public perception of science through clear communication. The conference will also include an optional workshop on managing an editorial office. Early bird registration discounts close 30 June, 2009. Given the proximity in timing and location to the ISAJE conference, members may consider taking this opportunity to learn and exchange ideas with European colleagues. Further information can be found at: www.ease.org.uk.

Future ISAJE meetings

Please note the dates and locations for our 2010 & 2011 meetings:

2010: Prague, Czech Republic
 30 September to 3 October, Hotel Hoffmeister, www.hoffmeister.cz

2011: Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA
 11 September to 14 September, Hilton Oceanfront Resort, www.hiltonoceanfrontresort.com

Calendar of Events

Editorial Manager User Group Meeting

- 18-19 June 2009
 Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

ALPSP Training Course—Journal Development

- 24 June 2009
 London, UK

International Society of Managing & Technical Editors American Conf.

- 4 August 2009
 Baltimore, MD, USA

International Society of Managing & Technical Editors European Conf.

- 25 August 2009
 Oxford, UK

EQUATOR Network Workshop "Key Guidelines for Reporting Health Research Studies"

- 9 September 2009
 Vancouver, BC, Canada

2nd EQUATOR Annual Lecture Richard Horton, EIC of *The Lancet*

- 9 September 2009
 Vancouver, BC, Canada

6th International Congress on Peer Review & Biomedical Publication

- 10-12 September 2009
 Vancouver, BC, Canada

10th European Association of Science Editors General Assembly & Conference

- 16-19 September 2009
 Pisa, Italy

ISAJE Annual Conference

- 24-26 September 2009
 Trieste, Italy

ALPSP Training Course—Commissioning Book and Journal Content

- 25 November 2009
 London, UK

BOOK REVIEW

Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals: Guidelines for Good Practice. Irene Hames. Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2007. 293 pp. ISBN 978-1-4051-3159-9

Reviewed by: Elisabeth Heseltine

If you want to have an intimate look into what life is like in the editorial office of a scientific journal, this eminently readable book will take you into that world of conflicts, frustrations, difficult decisions and satisfactions. You will also have a glimpse into the lives of peer reviewers, dictating manuscript reviews into their mobile phones as they rush from one conference and one country to another.

The author, Irene Hames, has been the Managing Editor of *The Plant Journal* for many years and has been a member of a number of working parties on peer review. The goal of this book is to provide a basic 'how to' guide for people involved in editorial peer review, that is journal editors, editorial office staff and publishers. Ms Hames mentions one previous book on the subject, *Peer Review in Health Sciences, 2nd edition*, edited by Fiona Godlee and Tom Jefferson (2003, BMJ Books, London). It fills an apparent gap in helping journal editors to conduct the process of peer review.

It certainly achieves that goal. It covers every conceivable aspect of what must be done before, during and after peer review, describing the many pitfalls, terrifying eventualities and (thankfully) the solutions. The steps are outlined clearly, with summary boxes and warnings in 'Beware' boxes and a series of checklists in an appendix. A whole chapter is devoted to

online systems and service providers of online submission and review systems.

One of the obvious qualities required of a reviewer is an intimate knowledge of the subject to be reviewed. The author of this book review has never worked in an editorial office but has been involved from the author's point of view, from submission of manuscripts to what is euphemistically known as 'dealing with reviewers' comments'. It was therefore fascinating to find out what goes on in the journal office.

"The goal of this book is to provide a basic 'how to' guide for people involved in editorial peer review"

This book goes far beyond peer review to the whole process of manuscript management. In fact, only about 80 of the nearly 300 pages and three of the nine chapters are devoted to peer review. The title might well have been 'Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals, including Peer Review'. Nevertheless, the subject is admirably covered within the overall flow of dealing with a manuscript, from submission to publication.

One of the main emphases of the book is the importance of being nice - to everyone. Again and

again, the editor is reminded that he or she must be fair, polite, thoughtful and considerate, with editorial staff, with authors and with reviewers. One of the three chapters that deals directly with peer review consists mainly of suggestions for thanking, recompensing and maintaining the loyalty of reviewers, going so far as 'sending them things they may not be able to get in their own countries and develop a craving for, such as certain chocolate bars!' Authors and reviewers are also reminded to be polite and patient. Certainly, such consideration is desirable and editors should be reminded of its necessity, but the extent to which it can be ingrained by advice such as this is doubtful.

I would have liked to know more about what the policy of journals actually is, for instance with respect to giving feedback to reviewers, and whether they ask authors submitting a manuscript to a journal after it has been rejected by another to send on the reviews they have already received. Some examples are given in the appendices, for instance with respect to authorship, but more concrete examples of actual practice would have been helpful.

These small carpings do not detract from the fact that this is an excellent book for any journal editor, whether novice or experienced, which will be a valuable guide to either setting up a peer review system from scratch or improving an existing system.

COLUMN: PORTRAIT OF AN EDITORIAL OFFICE

Gambling on an Editorial Office

By Alex Blaszczynski

By chance, in 1977 my research career shifted tact somewhat from studying paraphilia (compulsive sexual behaviours) to pathological gambling. In those early years, the majority of mental health professionals, gambling operators and governments tended to dismiss pathological gambling as a serious public health issue. There were limited numbers of peer-reviewed articles on pathological gambling appearing in the literature, and certainly no scientific journals specifically devoted to the topic.

Little did I imagine that within a few years, pathological gambling would become a recognised psychiatric condition listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Third Edition (American Psychiatric Association, 1980), and that I would become the Editor of one of the field's leading journals, *International Gambling Studies*, and a Assistant Editor for *Addiction*, both journals published by Taylor and Francis [*Addiction* is now published by Wiley-Blackwell —Ed.].

On reflection, chance has played many a role in shaping many aspects of my career. Having majored in economics and psychology, I was keen to pursue further studies in industrial relations. Just married and in tough economic times with high unemployment rates, I accepted a temporary position as a research assistant to Professor Neil McConaghy, a decision which

subsequently sealed my fate as an academic researcher in psychology. In the final year of a commerce degree, I decided to abandon economics in favour of clinical psychology. I completed my diploma in clinical psychology in 1981 and PhD in 1988.

My doctoral dissertation explored the notion of controlled gambling with subsequent research focussing on treatment outcomes,



personality variables, the relationship between crime and gambling, and the development of an integrated conceptual Pathways Model of Pathological Gambling. In addition, I was involved in working parties for the Australian Psychological Society and Australian Medical Association developing position papers on problem gambling, and contributed to the foundation of the Australian National Council for

Problem Gambling and the National Association for Gambling Studies.

My early work as a clinical psychologist in a university-based teaching hospital allowed me to gain extensive clinical experience in treating problem gamblers and to maintain an active program of research. In this context, writing manuscripts, a self-help book (*Overcoming Problem Gambling*), preparing multiple submissions to government reviews, and administrative responsibilities honed multiple skills that subsequently proved invaluable in my role as an editor.

In 2001, Jan McMillan, a sociologist, successfully negotiated with Taylor and Francis to publish *International Gambling Studies*. In 2007, Jan McMillan decided to retire from her position as editor and suggested that I throw my hat in the ring. While excited by the concept, I had much trepidation given my minimal knowledge of what was actually involved in editing a journal. Nevertheless, I decided that the gamble was worth the risk and took on the role. The bet has paid off.

There were several initial challenges that I faced: a steep learning curve, and advancing the journal's reputation and standing. The transition phase involved frequent calls and request for advice and assistance from Jan McMillan as I attempted to become

Gambling on an Editorial Office cont'd

familiar with the policy and procedures of the journal, allocating substantial time to find and correspond with potential reviewers, and manually managing manuscripts submitted via email. This proved to be a time-consuming task resulting in some delays and the inevitable frustrations on my part and that of some authors.

It became clear that while I had an extensive number of international experts as co-editors and editorial board members, I desperately needed to recruit a competent Associate Editor, and a more efficient management system. Solutions presented themselves in two ways; Sally Monaghan, a PhD student under my supervision enthusiastically agreed to provide administrative assistance. As Editor, I could not have been more pleased; Sally's enthusiasm, diligence and contributions to all facets of the journal's publication exceeded all expectations. Acknowledging her efforts, Sally quickly assumed the mantle of Associate Editor and this has resulted in significant gains and improvement in all aspects of peer-review and administrative procedure, particularly in meeting deadlines and publication schedules.

I could not have been more fortunate in 2008 on two counts. Firstly, the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC) through its CEO, Robert Simpson, agreed to provide financial and promotional support for the journal. This has enabled the editorial staff to gain training in

Manuscript Central online software, and through the application of Amy Perry's skills, the active promotion of the journal through the OPGRC website and exposure at conferences. Secondly, the

"Unfortunately, one element that Manuscript Central cannot overcome is the perennial problem of accessing the expertise of reviewers able to provide good quality, constructive feedback in a timely fashion".

transition to the online Manuscript Central system has resulted in a far superior management of manuscripts and correspondence with reviewers. Setting aside the complexities of learning the system, life as an Editor has been transformed greatly; automated emails are a boon to civilization as we know it! One cannot thank enough the staff of Taylor and Francis for their support and provision of vital hands on training.

Unfortunately, one element that

Manuscript Central cannot overcome is the perennial problem of accessing the expertise of reviewers able to provide good quality, constructive feedback in a timely fashion. The burden soon falls on a handful of excellent reviewers. The fear is that the demands imposed not only by this journal's Editor and Associate Editor but also by others in the field will eventually exhaust the good will of such reviewers. Some colleagues have indicated that they will only accept a manuscript from a journal of which they are listed on the editorial board, while others are pickier in their choices. In a competitive field, some journals are beginning to offer financial incentives to review manuscripts within designated time-frames. Whether or not this becomes standard practice is yet to be determined.

International Gambling Studies is a relatively new journal but one that is achieving a place of prominence in the field. Its primary strength lies in its multidisciplinary approach to theory and empirical research on all aspects of gambling participation, culture, regulation and policy, and the social and economic impacts of gambling and problem and pathological gambling. The task ahead for Sally Monaghan and I is, with the support of Taylor and Francis and the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, to develop strategies that will increase the exposure and reputation of the journal within the field, and to market it to as wide an audience as possible. I look forward with relish to what the future will bring.

THE BACK PAGE

Who Edits the Editors? Introducing the ISAJE Newsletter Editors

Sally Monaghan

I am the Associate Editor of *International Gambling Studies (IGS)*, a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that focuses on gambling-related issues. I have completed a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology at the University of Sydney, am a registered Psychologist, and now in the process of finalising my PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Sydney, supervised by Professor Alex Blaszczynski. As part of my studies, I completed an Internship in Montreal working at McGill University's International Centre for Gambling & High Risk Behaviours, and Pavillon Foster, a drug, alcohol & gambling treatment centre. After this was completed I chose to remain in Montreal—although still a student at the University of Sydney—as an example of how collaborative work

and research can be conducted internationally with the aid of modern technology.

My role as Associate Editor for *IGS* has opened up a new world, allowing me in-depth knowledge of the processes involved in editing a journal. This experience has involved a steep and potentially never-ending learning curve, but has also been thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward to continuing to learn about academic publishing, and meet as many other editors and editorial staff as possible. I hope that through *ISAJE* we can all come into contact and assist each other through the newsletter and, of course, the annual meetings.

Let us know your thoughts about the newsletter. I can be reached at: sallym@psych.usyd.edu.au.

Daryl Boshart

In 2007 I was contacted by Phil Lange, a key founder of the *Journal of Gambling Issues (JGI)*, to consider succeeding him as Editor of the journal he helped pioneer. The challenges in editing and publishing a successful academic journal have been made easier by the solid reputation and legacy of ethical editorial practice left by Phil. I owe a debt of gratitude for his tutelage and confidence.

Over the past five years, I have been coordinating research at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and St. Michael's Hospital. My goal in the coming years is to develop the *JGI* by expanding its editorial structure and fostering partnerships.

To contact me with your feedback on this newsletter, or material that can be included in our next issue, send your correspondence to: daryl_boshart@camh.net.



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ISAJE is registered in England as a company limited by guarantee. Registration number 4333494.

Please register for the 2009 ISAJE Conference. Visit www.theoffice.it/isaje09 for details. See you in Trieste.

