

ISAJE ANNUAL MEETING, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, 26-27 SEPTEMBER 2014

DAY ONE

At the start of the meeting ISAJE president Kerstin Stenius invited participants put forward the issues that were important to them – these are some of the key issues that came up and were discussed during the meeting:

- Developments in electronic publishing
- Being informed about “predatory” publishers
- Distributing research findings/ Informing the general public about research findings
- Journal digitisation: going online only/ digitising archives
- Getting indexed/ getting an Impact Factor

New members/journals

There were brief presentations from three ISAJE members:

- Zsolt Demetrovics, *Journal of Behavioral Addictions*
- Nady el-Guebaly, *Canadian Journal of Addiction*
- Richard Saitz, *Addiction Science & Clinical Practice*

ISAJE training programme/ mentoring scheme

- ISAJE has received \$10k of funding from NIDA for its training programme, some of which must be used to hold a training workshop at the 2014 NIDA International Forum. Other possible workshops could be: Lagos, Nigeria in 2014; Asia in association with *Addiction* journal; Iran?
- ISAJE could also consider developing some e-learning training modules
- ISAJE would like to involve more universities in our training activities (a Michal Miovsky has been doing with Charles University in Prague), and promote addiction/substance use as an important field of study, given that in many universities/countries it is still thought of as a marginal subject area.
- The mentoring scheme will be incorporated into the training programme and relaunched. The scheme can be linked to the ISAJE training workshops and mentees recruited at the workshops.

ISAJE Publishing plans

- *Publishing Addiction Science* needs updating with a third edition. Possible new chapters could be:
- Careers in addiction research and practice; history of addiction science; addiction science for practitioners, how to write different types of article (systematic reviews, case studies, book reviews); the changing world of publishing from the author’s perspective; bibliometrics. The list of addiction journals needs updating.
- A working group is to be set up: Richard Pates, Tom Kettunen, Nady el Guebaly all volunteered.
- Gerhard Buehringer offered to get feedback from his students who have used the second edition of *Publishing Addiction Science* using a questionnaire.
- ISAJE agreed to sponsor Griffith Edwards last book, which Tom Babor is currently editing.

EASE Gender Survey results and common standard on gender balance

Tom Babor presented the results of the EASE survey with particular focus on ISAJE member responses. Most respondents did not think a gender policy was necessary. A discussion followed with diverging opinions about the need for journals to have a gender policy. EASE is developing a common standard which ISAJE can distribute to members for consideration to adopt/publish.

Improving the peer review process

Richard Saitz reported on some new/alternative peer review systems and the group then discussed ways of improving current review processes.

Some suggestions that came out of this session:

- encourage authors to respond to reviewer recommendations before submitting to another journal;
- find a way to make the job more rewarding for reviewers: e.g. thank reviewers in the decision letter and send them a copy of the decision letter;
- offer a free subscription for a set period; offer continuing education credits

Richard is going to compile some suggestions/guidelines for the recruitment and care of reviewers to share with ISAJE members.

Peer review working group to be set up: Richard Saitz, Torsten Kolind, Robin room, Gerhard Buehringer, Val Curran all willing to contribute

Revising the DSM and ICD

Robin Room gave an interesting lecture looking at the complex issues at stake, which was followed by an interactive group discussion chaired by Gerhard Buehringer. Some outcomes from the discussion:

- Journals might like to invite papers on this issue to inform readers/ encourage a critical evaluation of proposed diagnostic criteria
- ISAJE to appoint a sub-committee of editors to draft a model editorial to share with member journals (especially non-English language journals) to encourage readers to critically evaluate emerging systems/ call for more critical research. Gerhard Buehringer offered to start drafting an editorial.

DAY TWO

ISAJE four year plan – an introduction to the plan and three of the working groups: quality assurance, membership and managerial/technical skills

The leaders of three of the working groups presented their ideas and then participants broke out into three groups to discuss these issues further.

Quality assurance

- The Farmington consensus needs revising
- The resources on the ISAJE website need updating
- ISAJE to survey a sample of member journals to check whether they conform to the Farmington consensus and meet current membership criteria
- A working group (quality support committee) is to be formed to produce an orientation package for new and existing journals with the main sources of support available. Tom Babor, Nady el Guebaly, Gerhard Buehringer and Tom Kettunen volunteered to work on this.

Membership

- ISAJE should offer new members an “orientation package” – see above.
- ISAJE should consider holding the annual meeting in conjunction with another international meeting to make it easier for more members to attend.
- Membership criteria: it was agreed there should be some essential minimum criteria that must be met for journals to be accepted as members, and some additional criteria for members to meet a “gold standard” that would for example allow inclusion on Medline or Web of Science
- The ISAJE website needs to be redesigned and updated – this will require additional funding
- Kerstin and Molly will lead a recruitment drive, sending a marketing letter to potential members. Richard Saitz offered to write to *Journal of Addiction Medicine, Substance Use and Tobacco Control*
- ISAJE will aim to have more publishers join as members/ attend next year’s meeting in Chicago

Managerial and technical skills

There were discussions about open access publishing, the development of the publishing industry, new forms of media. ISAJE will aim to address some of these issues during the Chicago meeting.

Citation Analysis

Gregorio Gonzalez Alcaide of the University of a Valencia gave a very interesting update on his research (first presented at the Lisbon meeting last year): Citation analysis and co-citation analysis of papers published in Substance Abuse journals: intellectual structure and active current research fields (2001-2012). We hope that he will be able to write a summary of his presentation for the next ISAJE newsletter.

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

Andrea Mitchell chaired a panel discussion with Val Curran, Silvana Losito and Robin Room speaking on this issue. The discussion revealed that Impact Factor (IF) is less important in the US than it has been elsewhere; that in the UK and Australia evaluations are moving away from it. Some thoughts from the discussion:

- The growth of Google Scholar could bring big changes as it covers more than Web of Science. Citation analysis is too short-term and misses articles with long term impact.
- Thomson ISI are not transparent about how they get their data.
- We should try to evaluate impact of research in broader terms, e.g. policy changes, and be aware of the limitations of IF
- Part of the problem is that IF is the only universally understood indices, but was never intended for scientific evaluation.
- Group of librarians and publishers trying to create usage factor – but problem of being easy to manipulate.
- Altmetrics look at how much interest articles generate in social media/media/reference managers/number of downloads – but can be skewed by free content.
- There is a need to separate the impact of individual scientists/articles from that of journal
- Do journals enforce rules to minimize self-citation?