



## **KBS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**Sunday, June 01, 2008, 5 pm**

Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria

**Present:** Kerstin Stenius (Chair), Scott Macdonald (conference chair), Pia Makela, Bill Kerr, Gerhard Gmel, Isidore Obot\*, Deborah Dawson, Ann Hope, Kim Bloomfield\*, Jakob Demant\*, Paul Lemmens, Tim Stockwell (Secretary), Dike van de Mheen, Mats Ramstedt.

- (\* present items 1-5)

### **Regrets:**

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was approved

**2. Approval of minutes of the 2007 meeting in Budapest**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Ole Jorgen Skog Award**

There were 13 submissions - it was difficult to decide because some were qualitative and some quantitative and others were reviews. It was agreed that papers accepted for publication would not be eligible. The next committee was suggested to comprise Mats Ramstedt, Jacek Moskalewicz, Bill Kerr and Florence Kerr-Correa. It was agreed that an application form should be developed so that it is clear all candidates are eligible against the stated criteria.

**4. Report on KBS 2009 from local organizerd (Kim Bloomfield, Jakob Demant)**

A budget was circulated which had to be corrected because some anticipated costs had been overestimated. Danish Ministry of Health contributions are anticipated on the condition that papers include coverage of alcopops, community interventions and treatment issues. A professional conference organisation agency will be hired as well as two students who will coordinate volunteers before and during the conference. So far 135 single rooms have been booked and there would be cheaper bed and breakfast accommodation. There was concern about guaranteeing programme content ahead of time. Scott described the unique exercise of calling for abstracts in November to achieve a draft programme demanded

by a potential funder. This was successful and may have increased awareness of the meeting. (It was requested that all taxes will be included in the registration fee – this is not an issue in Denmark). It was suggested that reduced rates should be given for students.

**5. The problem of too many parallel sessions**

Some suggested that four sessions was too many. Various options were discussed: having no plenary session on the Wednesday morning before the outings; extending the conference into Friday afternoon; being stricter about the rule of only including papers not already published; extending the sessions, poster session. Some felt four sessions was not a problem providing there were enough papers to fill them ie they were approaching 200 as was the case this year.

**6. Report for KBS 2008 in Victoria (Scott Macdonald)**

Scott Macdonald reported there were 197 registrations, a record. No external firm had been hired and most of the organisation and support had been provided from internal resources and the host centre. He consulted members and went for reasonably priced accommodation in a central location. He noted this meant expensive audiovisual equipment using a hotel instead of university setting. Scott was applauded for his efforts to date.

**7. Treasurer's report (Paul Lemmens on behalf of Elin Bye)**

There are 171 paid-up members and an increasing number who have not yet paid. It was decided to seek permission from the business meeting to "name and shame" people who have not yet paid.

**8. Changes to membership fees**

Two resolutions were discussed with different options for each for presentation at the business meeting: (i) membership fees would be collected and banked in Euros not US dollars recognizing the fall in the value of the latter (ii) options for the new fees were discussed with three alternative rates proposed: €20/€60 for private and institutional membership, €22/€66; €25/€75.

The idea of having a €40 reduction in registration fees for members was discussed as an incentive for people to renew membership each year. It was agreed to also put this as a proposal to the membership.

**9. Membership benefits**

Kerstin mentioned the reduced subscription available to members for *European Addiction Research*. It was agreed she would approach a number of other addiction journals to negotiate similar benefits which would necessitate providing lists of members names with approval from the membership.

**10. Proposals for future KBS meetings**

Two excellent alternatives have been proposed for 2010: Melbourne and Lausanne.

**11. Future thematic KBS meeting**

Four meetings have been proposed: alcohol and violence (Robin Room, Melbourne, March 2009); binge drinking by adolescents (Paul Lemmens, Holland, October 2009), treatment systems (Kerstin Stenius) and long waves of consumption (Tom Greenfield). It was recommended that the binge drinking meeting was renamed as being for "young people" instead of just adolescents.

**12. Nomination committee**

A three person committee was struck to identify eight suitable and willing candidates to serve on the coordinating committee for four years and four candidates willing to serve as President or Vice-President. The membership of the committee was agreed as Tim Stockwell (chair), Tom Greenfield and Pia Rosenquist.

**13. Approval of new members**

A list of five new members was identified, all of whom well-known and recommended by committee members and were approved. A motion to approve their membership was moved by Gerhard Gmel and seconded by Deborah Dawson.

**14. Norman Giesbrecht's student scholar award**

Norman Giesbrecht has made \$250 available for a young scholar, preferably from a developing country, with a paper on alcohol and trauma/caustics, to attend next year's KBS symposium. He will determine the successful applicants in conjunction with KBS President. Grateful thanks were expressed to Norman.

**15. Proposal to archive previous KBS proceedings**

Paul Lemmens proposed KBS commission the archiving of proceedings of KBS meetings from its origins in 1975. He referred to a collection held at the Alcohol Research Group which could be digitalised and placed on a website. It was suggested that there would be copyright difficulties placing this material on the public domain website but one closed to members might be fine. Pia Makela suggested such a collection should be limited to programmes of KBS symposia and abstracts of papers which would be unlikely to breach copyright. It was agreed to recommend an archive be established to the business meeting.

**16. Kerstin informed about a recent meeting in Dublin on the relation between the alcohol industry and research, with discussions of guidelines for researchers. Articles with commentaries around this issue will be**

published in several journals. She also informed about a new initiative to establish an international umbrella organisation for addictions research societies.

17. The meeting ended at 8 pm