

## **Minutes from the KBS Coordinating Committee meeting, Munich 2015**

**Sunday, May 31st 2015**

**16:00 – 19:00 hours**

**In attendance:** Kim Bloomfield (KB), Henk Garretsen (HG), Matilda Hellman (MH), Michael Livingston (ML), Petra Meier (PM), Norman Giesbrecht (NG), Robert Parker (RP), Nazarius Mbona Tumwesigye (NAZ) and Claire Wilkinson (CW), Sandra Kuntsche (SK, minutes)

**Guest (incoming CoCom Members):** Kyp Kypri (KK), Matilda Hellman (MH), Anne-Marie Laslett (AML), John Holmes (JH), William Pridemore (WP), Jonas Landberg (JL), Justyna Klingemann (JK)

**Regrets:** Sally Casswell, Jason Bond, Myriam Muneer, Elin K. Bye

**Invited guests:** Robin Room (RR), Ludwig Kraus (LK), Jenny Cisneros (JC)

### **1. Welcome to incoming officers and observers: Kyp Kypri, Sally Casswell, Matilda Hellman, Anne-Marie Laslett, John Holmes, William Pridemore, Jonas Landberg, Justyna Klingemann**

KB welcomed the new members and explained the program of the day; she also informed the new members that at the present meeting they only have a role as observers without voting rights as their official term will start on Friday morning.

- 2. Approval of agenda 2015: approved** (NG, second RP)
- 3. Approval of minutes 2014: approved** (ML, second HG)
- 4. Munich meeting: report by Ludwig Kraus**

Attendance: 220 abstracts were submitted and 173 presentations were included in the program with some presentations given by people other than the submitting author. The conference has 191 attendees; 37 persons withdrew their submissions, some of them quite late, which explains the last minute program changes. Ludwig suggested having a pool of local people to replace discussants who withdraw from the conference.

Finances: In total, 9'000 Euro of travel support was granted; 29 participants submitted an application for travel support, all were granted and 21 researchers attend the meeting; financial support allocated to those not attending was re-allocated to the 21 applicants attending. A good share of developing countries and PhD students from developed countries was achieved. The total budget including dinner and social tours of the conference was 92'000 Euro with 78'000 Euro from participants, and 15'000 Euro from the Bavarian Ministry of Health and Federal Ministry of Health. LK explained that the dinner price needed to be raised to have a private location (no other guests) and to cover catering costs. This may be a barrier for delegates with meagre financial resources. He also suggested changing the registration website to allow delegates to be invoiced and pay separately for dinner. PM asked about the final accounts; LK will provide a final balance of accounts to KBS to see whether money can be given back to the society.

**ACTION:** New president (KK) to request final accounts from LK

Programming challenges: NAZ mentioned that the deadline for travel support came before people were informed about the acceptance of their abstract. KB asked whether the organizers encountered any particular problems. LK described the difficulties in setting up a final program arising from late withdrawals, late registrations, and people not responding to attempted contact from the organizers. To include them in the program is difficult as it is unclear whether they will attend or not. Publishing the program later may be a solution but may increase the questions of the participants to the organizer. KB thanked Ludwig for his and his group's efforts at organizing the conference.

## **5. Updates on future meetings: Stockholm 2016**

30th May to 3rd June, 2016; JC presented the current conference budget, possible locations for the reception and social dinner. She also presented the current status of additional financial support. The local organizers gained 30'000 Euro from external funders and an additional application is on its way; the logo was presented. The conference venue will be at the University campus a bit outside of Stockholm (about 10 minutes travel by public transport); hotels will be proposed near the venue and the city centre. KB suggests that the CoCom needs to find a way of providing more travel support than just covering the registration fees. PM mentioned that all oncoming meetings will be held in Europe, suggesting that those coming from outside Europe may face greater costs and therefore need additional support. KB encouraged the next organizers to look into other possibilities for financial support and that they may ask help from the CoCom and president. NG suggested that the presented budget is a good template for future organizers and that it should be made available; KB informed that the organizers of the Torino meeting in 2014 provided a program to build up the conference program; KK asked whether there is a section on the website for organizers, KB answered that the Guide for Organizers will be updated and having such a section of the website would be good but it may need to be password protected.

### *Sheffield 2017*

5th to 9th of June, 2017; PM informed the CoCom that venue will be the University of Sheffield, ideas on the social tours were presented, as well as a location for the social dinner; within Sheffield there is a good choice of accommodation and hotels are in walking distance to the venue; the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies (UKCTAS) will help in organization of the meeting; there is a good chance for additional financial support from different funds and organizations. Travel to Sheffield is about 1 hour from Manchester, and 4 hours from London; Manchester flights should also be an option for international visitors, Manchester airport has a direct train connection to Sheffield;

KB thanked both organizers.

## **6. President's (brief overview of past year's work) report (Kim Bloomfield):**

KB summarized her two years in service as president of the society. The central tasks of her presidency were: A) finding new candidates for future meetings (Stockholm 2016 and Sheffield 2017), B) advancing the work on the paper archive, C) finding a new webmaster, D) revising the bylaws [inclusion of (1) the new position of a president-elect, (2) committee of Ole-Jorgen- Skog award, (3) separate positions for secretary and treasurer], E) creation of two ongoing working groups on ICARA and conflict of interests. Tasks that will also be handed over to the oncoming president are: A) finding a new host for the

listserver, B) revising the conference guide for organizers. KB was thanked by the CoCom for her immense efforts for the society.

#### **7. Report from 2014 Melbourne alcohol policy thematic meeting by Claire Wilkinson**

A four-day meeting held in Melbourne September 2014 followed by a festschrift for Robin; 80+ attendees and 45 presenters, 38'000 Dollars financial support used to invite presenters; presented topics were mixed; attendees were mainly European, American, Australian, two additional workshops on ethics and social disadvantage were held; and from the meeting 21 papers have been or will be published: seven in IJADR, four in Drug and Alcohol Review; five in Contemporary Drug Problems (already online), and five in Alcohol and Alcoholism

#### **8. Report on ICARA meeting Chicago, September 2014 (Sharon Wilsnack, given by Kim Bloomfield):**

Sharon Wilsnack attended the meeting. She wrote a report presented by Kim. At last year's CoCom meeting ICARA was presented and the organizers asked for a KBS representative to attend the meeting. After having attended the Chicago meeting Sharon recommends joining ICARA to form a "bulwark" of advocacy against the alcohol industry. The participant list represents the public health interest and a critical view on the industry's practice. In addition, capacity building in low income countries is of interest for KBS; but two concerns remain: (1) financial costs due to the membership of KBS (75 or 150 US Dollar) plus the travel costs of a member attending the annual meeting, and (2) high overlap between members of ISAGE and ICARA. Agreement on the fact that if the society participates, the participating member should be a person that is representing both organizations. This year's ICARA meeting will be held in Budapest. First motion: KBS become a member of ICARA (NAZ, second: HG): eight votes in favor, one abstention, none against. Second motion (ML, second: RP): KBS will send a representative to the meeting if the person can finance the travel costs otherwise no representative will be sent: nine votes in favor.

#### **9. Overview of 2015 workshops (IAC, GENACIS-H2O, Gambling Policy Book)**

- a. International Alcohol Control (IAC) Study (JH reported on the progress of the study)
- b. GENACIS (KB reported that the main discussion around the new application with NIAAA, Robin and Ann-Marie gave an update on Thai-Health/WHO)
- c. Gambling Policy Book (MH reports on the progress of the book)

#### **10. Upcoming thematic meetings: Helsinki Harms to Others, September 2015 (Kim Bloomfield); others?**

Meeting theme is "Alcohol Harm to others" be held on September 14-17, 2015 in Helsinki; 55 abstracts were submitted, 71 preliminary registrations. About 45 presentations will be given. Organizer's aim is about 60 attendees; posters will be allowed and parallel sessions will be avoided; the total budget is 20'000 Euro. Possibilities for other thematic meetings were discussed and will be transferred to the new president. [KK note: ideas were presented in the Business Meeting and are recorded in the minutes]

## **11. Treasurer's report**

Accounts were presented by KB (accepted: KB, second: MH); after the annual meeting in Munich 2015 the balance of the KBS account was 23'100 Euro. The Treasurer highlighted that in recent years the society's spending (e.g. higher amounts on travel support) exceeded the annual revenue from membership fees; whether the current organizers can refund some of the travel support provided needs to be clarified after the final financial balance of the Munich meeting . [Note from KK 15OCT15: I have since been reminded by Sandra that in recent years KBS has given a grant of 8,000 Euro to conference organisers to provide travel support, which is why there is a hope that some or all of that will be returned to KBS if conference organisers can obtain separate funds for this purpose]

KK asked that the Treasurer please report the membership revenue separately for members paying the institutional membership fee and those paying the individual membership fee; and that members be reminded that paying the higher institutional fee (if possible) contributes to the financial health of the society, facilitating support for early career and low income country participation.

## **12. Approval of new members: all new members were approved. Corrections need to be made on the contact details for number 3 on the list.**

## **13. O-J Skog award committee by Petra Meier**

PM noticed that the criteria for Eligibility for the OJS award differ between the different websites. This needs to be unified prior the next applications in 2016.

### **a. Report on submissions in 2015**

Those who did not meeting criteria were asked to withdraw; seven papers fulfilled the criteria and were reviewed by the committee. Although the correlations between members' scores were rather low one paper achieved support from all reviewers; the final decision was made based on papers as some presentations will be held only at the end of the conference week. The committee was thanked.

### **b. Status of current committee membership, appointments of new members**

PM and Siri Hettige will drop out this year and two new members need to be found. KB suggests some kind of a handbook for future committees; PM suggests to base decisions only on papers as otherwise it is difficult to come to an agreement as presentations can be held throughout the week incl. Thursday afternoon and Friday morning; next year's committee will be chaired by AML and suggestion for the two new members will be made by PM and AML.

## **14. Conflict of interest working group proposal by Kyp Kypri:**

KK presented the progress of the working group (KB, KK, Nick Heather, MH) made since the Torino meeting; he suggested to discuss the pre-distributed formulations within the CoCom and the business meeting on Friday. Different propositions were discussed within the CoCom. There is agreement that the proposal on the conflict of interest has to be presented to the membership and discussed there. It was decided that the progress of the working group will be presented at the Friday business meeting.

The working group will take the input from the CoCom and Friday's discussion, reconvene after the annual meeting, and prepare a proposal for discussion by CoCom ahead of the Stockholm conference.

**15. Report from IJADR – International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research by Sandra Kuntsche**

An overview of last year's publications was given and problems of the journal were described (e.g. with the submission and review system of ScholarOne, finding reviewers for a not yet indexed journal without impact factor). RR mentions that CDP has a good submission system (other than Scholar One). RR highlighted the service the journal brings to the field. Editors were thanked.

**16. Report from webmaster (Florian Labhart, given by Kim Bloomfield)**

KB highlighted the tremendous amount of work of our new webmaster. As all this is voluntary work she will thank him personally and he will be thanked at the social dinner. Florian also provided support to meeting organizers by making the website used in the Lausanne meeting 2010 available for Munich 2015. CoCom thanked the webmaster.

**17. Update on search for new discussion list home and manager (Kim Bloomfield and Henk Garretsen):**

Both presented the efforts in finding a new home for the listserv; since last year several institutes had been approached. Nancy Vogeltanz is willing to continue her work for the list server until a successor is found; KK will look into possibilities hosting the list server at his university. ML will do so, too. Nancy is thanked by the CoCom for her investment.

**18. Other issues**

Regarding the paper archive NAZ will get in contact with KB and the webmaster to see what can be done about the paper submissions 2013.

CW agreed to take the minutes on Friday from 12h00 and 12h30 (many thanks from the secretary<sup>2</sup>)

**19. Thank you and farewell to outgoing officers: Jason Bond, Matilda Hellman, Michael Livingstone, Nazarius Mbona Tumweisgye, Petra Meier, Henk Garretsen, Kim Bloomfield**