

# Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*

## SEPTEMBER 2021

### President's Message

#### It is Time to Pass the Baton

During the past two years as President of WISAM, the world has faced unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic - challenges on a scale not seen since the 1918 influenza pandemic. While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented society with significant challenges, and many will unfortunately only remember the negative aspects of the past two years, I would like to take this opportunity, my last as President of WISAM, to share with you some of the ways WISAM has remained committed to its mission despite this adversity.



On the education front, our Annual Conference Committee, the Education Committee, and the WISAM Board faced the daunting task of transitioning from an in-person event in 2020 to a virtual event. With the steadfast leadership of our 2020 Conference Committee Chair (Ted Hall, PharmD, BCPP, RPh) and Co-Chair (Melissa Milne, DNP, APNP, FNP-PC), and with the indispensable assistance of Badger Bay Management (Rebecca Liebers), WISAM was able to host a virtual education event in 2020 despite the COVID-19 Pandemic. Because of the ongoing pandemic, following the success of last year's endeavor, and having learned from the experience, WISAM's Annual Conference Committee, the Education Committee, and the Board of WISAM opted to host a virtual education event again this year with the hope that the pandemic will be behind us by 2022 so that we can once again gather safely for in-person events.

WISAM also continued its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (Wisconsin DHS) to provide Buprenorphine X-Waiver Training courses throughout 2020 and 2021. As with the annual conference, WISAM had to pivot from in-person learning opportunities to virtual coursework. WISAM was likely able to reach more people in this manner as it eliminated travel requirements and made it easier for prescribers to fit the training into their busy schedules. Through this partnership with DHS, WISAM has been able to provide the Buprenorphine X-Waiver Training free of charge to over 800 prescribers across Wisconsin who are now eligible to obtain their buprenorphine X-waiver to treat opioid use disorders! WISAM leadership plans to continue this fruitful partnership with Wisconsin DHS to be able to provide additional complementary X-Waiver and Buprenorphine-related trainings in 2022.

WISAM also continued to provide an "Open Exchange" forum monthly during the first 8 months of the year to allow professionals in the field to have conversations about issues affecting the field of addiction medicine. These forums have provided members with an opportunity to get to know each other and discuss clinical issues, barriers to care, or

innovative new approaches to treating patients with addiction. I invite all our membership to consider attending some of these discussions in 2022.

On the advocacy front, WISAM was actively involved in working closely with ASAM to ensure that SAMHSA would permit flexibility in use of telemedicine (including audio only visits) during the pandemic so that our providers would be able to continue to provide care for our patients at the peak of the pandemic. WISAM leadership did our best to keep membership apprised of rapidly changing rules and new developments resulting from the Public Health Emergency. WISAM leadership was also involved in providing input to DHS regarding the rewrite of DHS-75 rules for certification of addiction treatment programs throughout the State. WISAM has coordinated responses with the Wisconsin Medical Society leadership on issues pertinent to the field of addiction medicine including opposition or support for legislative efforts on numerous fronts.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, or perhaps because of it, WISAM has continued to grow in relevance as an advocacy voice for the appropriate treatment of individuals who suffer from addiction in Wisconsin.

It has been an honor to serve as the President of WISAM during the past two years with an outstanding group of leaders in the field of addiction. I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank several individuals who have contributed in innumerable ways to the success of WISAM over the past few years including: Dr. Michael Miller, for his leadership of the Public Policy Committee, steadfast support, and guidance; Dr. Nameeta Dookeran (WISAM's Education Committee Chair for the past several years) for her ability to lead WISAM's education efforts during difficult times; Melissa Milne, DNP, APNP, FNP-PC, Ted Hall, PharmD, BCPP, RPh, and Dr. Charles Schauburger for leading the WISAM Conference Committee during the past two years; Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar for agreeing to take on the role of WISAM's new Public Policy Chair; for all the members of the WISAM board; for Badger Bay Management Company (Eric and Becca); and to Dr. Ritu Bhatnagar whose assistance these past two years in her role as President-Elect have been invaluable, and whom I look forward to support as she assumes her role as the new President of WISAM beginning in October. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE!

Sincerely,  
David Galbis-Reig, MD, DFASAM

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## WISAM 2021 Virtual Conference

WISAM's Annual Conference is scheduled to be held virtually on Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16! Registration is now open. Registration will remain open until the start of the conference, but registering before September 30 will ensure you receive the virtual attendee care package in the mail to enjoy at the start of the event! Please [visit the WISAM website](#) to view the schedule, list of speakers, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities, and more!



[Register Here](#)

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## Public Policy Committee

WISAM is looking for individuals who are interested in becoming more involved in the Public Policy Committee. Our current Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, is ready to help lead a team with a keen interest in public policy matters around issues that affect addiction medicine, the practice of addiction medicine, and public policies that may impact the social determinant of health for our patients. **Please contact us in order to get connected and learn more about the opportunities we have available to get involved.**

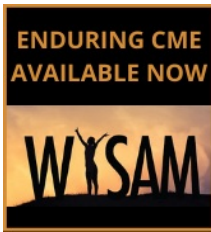
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## Additional Events

Click on the title for more information:

- [WISAM Virtual Conference](#) - October 15-16, 2021
  - [WISAM Annual Business Meeting](#) - October 15, 2021
  - [AAAP 2021 Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium](#) - December 9-12, 2021
  - [National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® \(NDAFW\)](#) - January 20-26, 2022
  - [Wisconsin Doctor Day](#) - February 8, 2022
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## Access Recordings, Claim CME



The 2020 Virtual Conference Series consisted of three days with 4-5 live sessions available each day. In order to view the recordings and claim credit, [register on our website](#). You will then be provided the link to access the recordings. To view the conference schedule and list of presentations/ speakers, [please click here](#). Contact us with any questions you may have. **These recordings are available to view and claim credit for until October 2021.**

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## Helpful Links

[WISAM Website](#)

[WISAM Event Calendar](#)

[WISAM News](#)

[ASAM Website](#)

[Membership Information](#)

[ASAM CME Events](#)

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