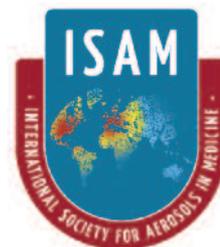


# CROSS-INDUSTRY *Organizations*

## An introduction to the International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM)

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*On behalf of the International Society for Aerosols in Medicine*



### ISAM's mission

The International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM) is a non-profit organization whose objectives are to stimulate and further interdisciplinary cooperation and the exchange of information in all aspects of aerosol research in medicine, including health effects of inhaled aerosols and pulmonary drug delivery. ISAM sponsors international conferences, publications, study groups and special research projects. To introduce new therapies into practice, ISAM has organized educational seminars and provided advice at the basic and advanced levels to staff and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Thoracic Society (ATS).

### A brief history

ISAM was founded in 1970, at a time when new drugs like beclomethasone delivered by a new device, the pressurized metered dose inhaler (pMDI), had revolutionized the treatment of asthma and immeasurably improved the quality of life of patients suffering from this disease. Aerosol therapy was new, innovative and complex. Aerosol science and medicine were not taught together to MD or PhD students. A new society was needed to combine expertise in aerosols from all parts of the globe to further this progress in aerosol therapy. Originally founded in Eastern Europe, ISAM first focused on promoting a dialogue between research

scientists and clinicians who had different backgrounds and training. In 1988, at the time of its first major congress in Rochester, NY, the need for an appropriate, peer-reviewed journal in this expanding field led to the creation of the *Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery* (JAMPDD), now in its 23rd year of continuous publication.

### Principal activities

There are currently about 350 members in ISAM, from all over the world, representing various disciplines in academia, industry, and government interests connected to aerosols in the lung; e.g. physicians, physicists, biologists, pharmacologists, respiratory care practitioners, mathematicians and others. ISAM fosters and encourages promising new researchers and recognizes eminent, long-standing, career achievements in aerosols in medicine through a generous awards program at its biennial congress. These awards include the T. T. Mercer Award (jointly sponsored by ISAM and the American Association for Aerosol Research [AAAR]), a Career Achievement Award, a Young Investigators Award and a Student Award.

ISAM Board Members for 2011-13 are: William D. Bennett, President (US); Gerhard Scheuch, Past-President (Germany); James D. Blanchard, President-Elect (US); Sunalene Devadason, General

Secretary (Australia); Gerald C. Smaldone, JAMPDD Editor (US) and Bruce Rubin, Treasurer (US). They are assisted by an international group of five additional board members: Ralph Niven (US), David Cipolla (US), Sabine Haussermann (Germany), Barbara Rothen-Rutishauser (Switzerland), and Rajiv Dhand (US). ISAM has recently established the following networking groups to facilitate communication among ISAM members and develop program content for its congresses and workshops: 1) Imaging, Modeling and Physiology of Aerosols in the Lung, 2) Regulatory and Standardization Issues, 3) Environmental Health, 4) New Devices and Emerging Therapies and 5) Pediatrics and Cystic Fibrosis.

Finally, JAMPDD, the official journal of ISAM, which is published bi-