

CROSS-INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

ISAM: 2019 highlights and a preview of 2020 activities

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The International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM, www.isam.org) is a scientific organization with a mission to promote and advance aerosol science internationally, focused on health effects of inhaled aerosols, including inhaled drug delivery for prevention and treatment of human diseases. Over the past year, ISAM has worked to provide scientific engagement for its membership and evolve as a leading scientific organization within aerosols in medicine. Some of the most exciting events over the past year are highlighted below.

The 22nd Congress

The biannual ISAM Congress was held in Montreux, Switzerland on May 25-29, 2019. The congress attracted more than 230 international attendees, including clinicians, respiratory health care professionals, aerosol engineers, formulation scientists and regulatory representatives. The pre-congress workshops, networking groups and nine scientific sessions were highlights of the 2019 program. In response to its membership and strong leadership commitment, a new networking group was organized at the congress: the Women in Aerosol Research's networking group. This networking group will engage in activities designed to increase the engagement and retention of women in ISAM. The new ISAM board was also initiated during the congress (<https://www.isam.org/board>).

The Aerosol School

In October 2019, the Aerosol School (<http://aerosolschool.com/>) was presented by St. Joseph's Healthcare, McMaster University and ISAM at the Firestone Research Aerosol Laboratory. The school is a hands-on, three-day course offering participants expert information and training in the field of medical aerosols. The course was hosted for the final time by its founder, Professor Myrna Dolovich. After 11 years, the 2020 Aerosol School will be moving to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and be hosted by Andrew Martin, Warren Finlay and Reinhard Vehring. Registration is now open on the Aerosol School website (<https://www.isam.org/aerosolschool>) and space is limited. So sign up early to save your place and stay tuned to the ISAM and Aerosol School websites for more details.

ERS participation

As a part of the 2019 European Respiratory Society (ERS) meeting in Madrid, Spain, ISAM was present at the World Village and hosted a joint session on "Recent Clinical Advances in Inhalation Therapy." The session included a pro/con debate on the role of government in patient utilization of low global warming potential inhalers, and presentations on pediatric disease and non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis. ISAM is already planning its participation in the 2020 ERS Congress in Vienna in September 2020.

The ISAM Journal

Underlying all of ISAM's activities is the presentation and publication of cutting-edge scientific research. The official journal of ISAM is the *Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery*. JAMPDD focuses on pulmonary drug delivery, advances in aerosol medicine and formulation and toxic effects of inhaled aerosols. Over the past year, the impact factor for JAMPDD has risen to 2.866 and the journal has seen a 51% increase in manuscript downloads.

2020 Activities

Looking further into 2020, ISAM is excited to announce a one-day symposium prior to the American Thoracic Society (ATS) on May 15, 2020 in Philadelphia (<https://www.isam.org/2020Symposium>). The organizing committee has created a program that includes nanotechnology therapies for the lung, e-cigarettes, US requirements for generic orally inhaled drug products, gene therapy delivery to the respiratory tract and pre-clinical models of lung disease. For anyone attending ATS, this symposium will provide an additional venue for novel scientific presentations. Registration is open on the symposium webpage. ISAM also welcomes sponsors for this event, at the following link: <https://www.isam.org/2020SymposiumSupport>.

Additionally, on May 16, 2020, ISAM will host its 6th pre-conference ISAM/ATS ses-

sion on “Current Practice and Future Developments in Aerosol Medicine” at no additional cost to ATS attendees. This pre-conference session will highlight new, exciting research from ISAM and non-ISAM members who submitted abstracts to the 2020 conference in Philadelphia. This ISAM pre-conference session is held in addition to the regular presentation of these abstracts during the ATS conference. It is designed to allow aerosol-related work to be highlighted in greater depth for conference attendees. This session will be advertised in the ATS program and is open to anyone attending ATS.

Due to COVID-19, the Symposium on May 15 and presentation at ATS on May 16 have been canceled.

The 23rd Congress

The 23rd ISAM Congress will be held in May 2021 in Boise, Idaho, US. The organizers, led by Jim Fink and Andy Clark, are currently developing the program. Post-graduate workshops will precede the conference, including hands-on programs about Basics of Medical Aerosols, Respiratory Toxicology, and Aerosols in Acute and Critical Care Medicine. The congress will provide opportunities for discussion, collaborations and fellowship as well as innovative and cutting-edge topics showcasing the interests and expertise of clinicians, researchers, academics and pharmaceuticals professionals and students. Watch the ISAM website for abstract and award nomination submission dates.

To stay in touch with ISAM, to become a member or to learn more about the Society, please visit the ISAM website: <https://www.isam.org/index.htm>.