

# CROSS-INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

## ISAM: 2020 highlights and a preview of the 2021 Congress

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The International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM, <http://www.isam.org>) is a scientific organization with a mission to stimulate and further the interdisciplinary cooperation and exchange of information in all aspects of aerosol research in medicine, including health effects of inhaled aerosols and pulmonary drug delivery. The COVID-19 global pandemic has highlighted the need for a scientific organization with expertise in aerosol delivery and respiratory health. During this time, ISAM has worked diligently to provide its members and the scientific community with a broad range of resources. Several of these are discussed here.

In 2020, ISAM went through many of the same highs and lows as other organizations. The ISAM Pre-ATS Symposium in Philadelphia had to be canceled. The 12th annual Aerosol School, which was to be held for the first time in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, had to be canceled as well. Despite all of this, ISAM continued to help lead the scientific community with valuable information and content. Looking ahead, ISAM is particularly excited to announce that, for the first time, both virtual and in-person options will be available for its 23rd Congress in Boise, Idaho; details are listed in this article.

### COVID-19 resources

Throughout 2020, the ISAM board, ISAM members and scientists have served as experts in the scientific community, providing guidance and scientific consultation, hosting webinars and authoring peer-reviewed literature. As there was a clear need for science-based infor-

mation in the area of COVID-19, ISAM dedicated a portion of its website to COVID-19 (<https://www.isam.org/covid>) and made this available to all; ISAM members and non-members alike.

With 2020 falling between the 2019 and 2021 Congresses, ISAM focused on providing scientific content via webinars throughout the year. ISAM hosted webinars by Jie Li, Conor Ruzycki/Phillip Clapp, Arzu Ari and Gerhard Scheuch on topics from aerosol transmission to efficacy of face masks to COVID-19 transmission among healthcare workers. Additionally, ISAM board members and networking groups published key opinion papers on reducing aerosol-related transmission and on the consideration of the inhaled route for drug administration during COVID-19. Watch for more from ISAM scientists in this area to help lead the science around respiratory health.

### ISAM networking groups

As a member of ISAM, each person can select and join networking groups (<https://www.isam.org/networking-groups>). These include:

- New Devices, Emerging therapies and e-health;
- Environmental/Occupational Health/Toxicology;
- Imaging, Modeling and Physiology of Aerosols in the Lung;
- Regulatory and Standardization Issues;
- Women in Aerosol Research;
- Pediatrics and Cystic Fibrosis; and
- Young Investigator/Early Career

In 2020, the networking groups were active in ensuring year-round content and involvement for their members. The Regulatory and Standardization Issues networking group was the driver for the regulatory considerations paper published in the ISAM Journal (JAMPDD). The New Device, Emerging Therapies and e-health networking group organized webinars on high dose powder delivery (by Jeff Weers), regulatory success with digital combination products (by Samir Shah) and on microfluidic device featuring organ on a chip technology (by Fakhru Ahsaan). Other networking groups are busy supporting preparations for the 2021 Congress and activities yet to be announced.

### The ISAM Journal

The official journal of ISAM is the Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery. The Journal was created in 1988 and has grown to include six issues per year. In an era of electronic content, 2019 saw more than 70,000 full-text downloads. The Journal strives to provide its readers with high-quality, peer-reviewed articles whose topics include aerosols in the lungs, CFD modeling and nebulizer delivery in the ICU, to name a few. Many of the recent articles have been directly related to aerosols/transmission/respiratory drug delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### The 23rd Congress

The 23rd ISAM Congress will be held in Boise, Idaho May 22-26, 2021 (<https://www.isam.org/website/2021%20Congress/congress>). The overall objective of

the Congress is to foster scientific discussions around the current state-of-the-art for aerosols in medicine. Being one of the world's largest pulmonary drug delivery and respiratory health conferences, the Congress brings together leading healthcare professionals from pharmaceutical, biotech and academia, aerosol engineers, formulation scientists and regulatory representatives. The wide-ranging scientific program includes six continuing education workshops, poster sessions and 13 unopposed scientific symposia plus a Basque market dinner gala social event.

This year, workshops preceding the main program will include aerosol basics, inhalation toxicology and preclinical research, product development, regulatory planning, and aerosols in acute and critical care medicine. Each of these will be half-day workshops that offer hands-on focused content from leading experts. The workshops serve as a lead into the Congress, which will include a first-rate scientific agenda focused on such diverse aerosol-related topics as pediatric and adult critical care medicines, environmental aerosols, pathobiology and treatment of various pulmonary diseases, inhalation toxicology, advanced lung imaging techniques, device/formulation strategies and emerging aerosol therapies and technologies. In addition, a special symposium on Viral Pandemics—Transmission, Protection and Treatments (for COVID-19) will be presented.

To be prepared for whatever 2021 holds for us, the ISAM Congress will be offered in a hybrid format, allowing attendees to attend either in-person in Boise or virtually.

Please consider submitting your current research as an abstract for the Congress (<https://www.isam.org/website/2021%20Congress/abstracts>). The organization committee has held specific program slots to present novel research submitted from abstracts! Also, please consider nominating your peers for

one of the ISAM awards (<https://www.isam.org/website/2021%20Congress/awards>). We very much hope to see you in Boise and online!