

INEBRIA
[International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol Problems]

INEBRIA Business Meeting, 9.00am, 21/10/04, Barcelona

NOTES

Prof. Heather chaired the meeting with the support of members of the INEBRIA Steering Committee (Dr. Anderson, Dr. Colom, Dr. Gual, Dr. Obot, Dr. Rist, Ms. Segura). The following points and decisions were made:

1. INEBRIA legal status

INEBRIA does not yet exist as a legally-constituted body. It was agreed that it should be legally constituted as an ASSOCIATION under Spanish law. The Steering Committee (SC) will draw up a constitution which will have to be ratified by all members. This was seen as a matter of some urgency.

ACTION: SC to draw up a constitution and make arrangements for INEBRIA to be legally recognised as an Association under Spanish law, as a matter of urgency.

2. Membership fees

The recommendation by the SC was accepted that INEBRIA should not have membership fees, at least for the time being. This was mainly because the management costs involved in collecting fees would exceed the revenue raised. It might be decided in future to introduce membership fees.

3. INEBRIA membership

A membership form will be developed and sent for completion to all present at the meeting and to other individuals with a current interest in the Network. The resulting database of members will be used to confirm current membership and serve as a base for recruiting new members fitting the stated criteria for membership.

Dr. Bendtsen suggested having a Server List like the one of the KBS.

ACTION: SC to develop a Membership Form and send it to all those with a current recognised interest and to other potential members. A database listing the membership to be established. The possibility of developing a Server List to be considered.

4. Funding

It was agreed that attempts should be made to attract funding for the Network but not from the alcohol industry. Dr. Leo Pas mentioned that there were EC budgets for meetings that could be considered.

ACTION: SC and all members to make suggestions for sources of funding and SC to pursue these.

5. Organisation

The (SC) will continue in existence until next year's annual conference in Muenster when election of officers of a Co-ordinating Committee (CC) will take place. The CC will have the following permanent and minimum structure:

Chair

Secretary

Treasure

Ordinary members (i.e., experts on brief interventions [BI])

WHO representative

Representative of the Catalan Government (CG)

Chair of SC for each forthcoming annual conference (temporarily co-opted)

The SC may decide to include 2 secretaries on the CC, one to be a Membership Secretary.

Dr. Babor agreed to serve on the CC.

It was agreed that the CG would have a permanent place on the CC, in addition to the secretary of the Network, since it is providing the administrative support to the Network.

Each year the Chair of the local Scientific Committee responsible for organising the annual conference would be co-opted onto the CC. The Chair of the main INEBRIA CC would always be included on the local Scientific Committee. The local Scientific Committee would set up subcommittees to make practical arrangements for the conference (e.g. Programme Committee, Organising Committee).

It was proposed that officers should stay on the CC for a maximum of 3 years when they would be required to seek re-election. Dr. Pas commented that 3 years should be seen as the minimum length of tenure necessary to start the Network up and suggested that the current SC should remain in place as the CC for a longer period than 3 years.

Dr. Schlesinger asked for a rationale for choosing 3 years tenure but considered it reasonable if combined with the possibility of re-election.

Prof. Heather said that he intended to retire as Chair at the next annual meeting and a new Chair would therefore have to be elected.

Dr. Obot commented that the WHO representative should remain on the CC for a longer period to be able to continue the necessary work. It was agreed that WHO should have a permanent representative on the CC, to be nominated by the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse, for as long as WHO continued to support the Network.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the maximum number of CC members should be 9, with 3 coming up for re-election every year.

Dr. Pas suggested the merits of including a representative from all continents of the world (Europe, North American, South America, Asia, Australasia, and Africa) if possible.

It was agreed that unresolved issues concerning the structure and organisation of INEBRIA should be left to the SC to decide, taking account of the views expressed at this meeting.

ACTION: SC to decide unresolved issues regarding the structure and organisation of the Network.

6. Conference 2005

It was agreed that next meeting will take place on the 15 and 16 September (Thursday and Friday) 2005 in Muenster (Germany), beginning at 9.00 on the 15th.

Details of the meeting and a Call for Papers will be circulated to all Network members early in 2005.

ACTION: SC to develop and distribute a Call for Papers among members

All members will be able to present their own work. Small group meetings, workshops and posters (walking posters) will be welcomed and not only plenary presentations. The final programme will depend on the response to the Call for Papers. Arrangements will be made to allow more time for discussion than occurred at the 1st INEBRIA conference just past.

An example of a workshop that can be proposed is one (or more) on the products from PHEPA. Dr. Anderson suggested using the main objectives of the INEBRIA as a guide to develop ideas for presentations.

Depending on funding raised, it may be possible to invite distinguished speakers who are not members of INEBRIA in order to be able to attract non-members, particularly from Germany and the Netherlands.

Dr. Colom suggested contacting other relevant organisations and networks to hold joint conferences, including the forthcoming Muenster conference.

ACTION: SC to appoint local Scientific Committee for the conference in Muenster (chaired by Dr. Rist) and this to proceed with conference programme and organisation.

7. Conference 2006

Dr. Rist mentioned the need to decide the place of the meeting for 2006.

Dr. Babor said that he believed NIAAA would respond favourably to a request to fund a conference on state of the art in BI research, with the promise of a book to emerge from it. This meeting could be an INEBRIA conference or could be a joint meeting coordinated with the INEBRIA annual conference. Dr. Babor and Dr. Cherpitel will work on developing this idea and how to approach NIAAA for funding.

ACTION: Drs. Babor and Cherpitel to develop approach to NIAAA for funding of INEBRIA meeting.

Dr. Cherpitel also suggested combining the INEBRIA meeting in 2006 with a KBS meeting in Europe.

Dr. Pas suggested that, if the central aim of INEBRIA was to achieve widespread implementation of BI around the world, it would be useful to have thematic meetings in developing countries. The governments of Flanders and South Africa could be approached to raise funds for this. He and Dr. Peltzer would think about this suggestion for later meetings.

ACTION: Dr. Pas and Dr. Peltzer to think about raising funds for thematic meetings in developing countries.

Dr. Pas also said that he was willing to consider the possibility of hosting the 2006 conference in Brussels.

Dr. Anderson mentioned that, if it becomes possible to continue the PHEPA project, it would be a good idea to ask someone from one of the new EU member countries (e.g. Poland) or candidate states to host a PHEPA meeting and to combine this with INEBRIA again. If this idea did not work, we should look for Flemish support.

Dr. Colom added that, if nothing else works, we could have the meeting somewhere else in Catalonia.

Prof. Heather summarized that the following had been agreed: if PHEPA is renewed the 2006 meeting will be held in an eastern European country. If that did not work, we should try to hold it in Brussels. The remaining choice would be somewhere in Catalonia. The idea suggested by American colleagues could proceed independently of these plans since it would be quite possible and advantageous to hold both meetings. The possible meeting sponsored by NIAAA would probably take place after 2006.

8. Additional activities.

The following were suggested as other activities INEBRIA might engage in.

A website to include:

- Regular searches of the literature to inform members of developments in BI research and implementation
- Updated documents, guidelines and materials.
- A list server (important).

English native language-speakers all around the world would be asked to help with English on the website. Dr. Schlesinger volunteered to provide this service after speaking to Dr. John Saunders.

ACTION: Dr. Schlesinger to consider possibility of providing help in English to Ms. Segura and colleagues in Barcelona in developing a website.

Other ideas were:

-Collaborative research funding (NIAAA a strong possibility for this)

-Edited books and journal publications produced by INEBRIA members

-Collaboration with Cochrane Review centres to update BI literature reviews

9. INEBRIA objectives

Dr. Colom suggested linking with other WHO networks (e.g. the ASSIST network) concerned with other drugs in addition to alcohol but without losing the focus on alcohol. Dr. McCambridge suggested having a broadened epidemiological view of alcohol problems to be able to accommodate other approaches in the objectives. Dr. Ribeiro suggested attention to interventions that included other drugs besides alcohol. It was agreed that interventions for combinations of substances would be of interest to INEBRIA, provided alcohol was always included in these combinations and that the main focus of the Network remained on alcohol.

Dr Struzzo said that it was important to explore different levels of decision-making and action in order to influence policy on alcohol.

There being no further discussion, the meeting closed at 10.15am.