



# Entre nous ... Just Between Us

The President's Circular Letter - June 2009

Dear Friends,

## Strategic Planning

Life at ICAA has been extremely busy since I last wrote to you. This past winter, the board spent three memorable and productive days at the beautiful Knappenhof Health Centre in Austria engaged in continuing our strategic planning. With much enthusiasm and energy the board established a number of sub-committees charged with operationalising the goals and objectives that emerged from our retreat. Some of the objectives of our annual plan have already been realized with many more expected to be achieved in time for our conference in Estoril this October.

## Update: ICAA Estoril 2009

Speaking of Estoril, the ICAA board met there in May of this year in conjunction with the meeting of the International Organizing Committee for the forthcoming conference and put the final touches to what is expected to be an outstanding event. The line up of speakers is truly outstanding and the venue on the seashore of Estoril is truly magical. The very modest cost and wide choice of accommodations will make this conference not only worthwhile but also extremely affordable and enjoyable. Our local hosts the Portuguese National Institute for Drugs and Drug Addiction (IDT), possess the expert organizational capacity to insure the success of the conference at every level.

We are introducing a new concept at this conference. Aside from ten extremely interesting and relevant plenary sessions, this conference will also offer five experiential, hands on, workshops, led by international experts. These workshops will introduce the participants to a number of best practices through lectures and demonstration. These special workshops will be limited to 25 participants each on a first come first served basis; your early registration therefore is strongly encouraged.



Dr. Peter A. Vamos, President of ICAA

For further information on both the conference and these workshops, please consult information available on [www.icaa.ch/ICAA\\_Estoril\\_2009.html](http://www.icaa.ch/ICAA_Estoril_2009.html) or on a special conference website at <http://icaaestoril2009.com/>.

The weather in Portugal in early fall should be quite lovely and the beautiful Estoril conference centre (just a 5 minutes walk from the sea) offers us state of the art facilities. As mentioned earlier, the conference hotels in each category are incredible buys; do register early for best selection.

## ICAA Board

In the last year we have formally welcomed four new board members; Dr. Andrea Barthwell of the USA, Roel Hermanides, from the Netherlands, Dr. Jürgen Rink from Germany and David Templeman from Australia. These outstanding individuals bring with them a history of achievement and a wealth of experience and we are proud to have them as members of our board.

At our meeting in May, the board received the operating report from the ICAA Head Office and reviewed the progress against our annual plan.

*ICAA Estoril 2009 - Bemvindos a Portugal !*





### ICAA Head Office

Recognizing the challenges that the workload placed on our secretariat, the board authorized the engagement of Peter Rorstad, formerly of ADAPT in the United Kingdom, as a consultant to help assess the challenges and support the activities of our office manager. I am pleased to report that the synergy between our consultant and the secretariat has already resulted in shortening delays and increasing the efficiency of our office. During these crucial months leading up to the conference, this additional support is more than welcome, and we anticipate that it will result in lasting benefits in a wide range of areas.

### ICAA to open EU-Office

The board has reiterated its desire, first approved by the Board during its meeting in Magdeburg, Germany, to establish an office within the borders of the European Union. Since the decision was first taken in 2008, a number of alternate sites have been considered. It has now been decided that the "ICAA European Office" will reside in Vienna. We have commenced preparations to this end.

### ICAA Institute at CIJ's 2009 Conference in Mexico

In September of this year, ICAA - under the umbrella of the international conference hosted by our board member, CIJ - will offer a targeted training institute. Several members of our organization have been asked to serve as faculty and we are hopeful that these types of capacity building institutes will become regular annual events offered by ICAA around the world.

The CIJ conference and institute will take place in Mexico City from 23 to 25 September 2009 and I encourage all who can to consider participating. Additional information is available on CIJ's conference website at [www.cij.gob.mx/congreso2009](http://www.cij.gob.mx/congreso2009).

### Conference Planning

We are now planning to turn all our attention and energies to the upcoming conference in Portugal. The response to date has been encouraging and we are excited by the prospect of another highly successful event. To insure maximum exposure and attendance, I would like to ask that we all collectively do our utmost to promote this conference. Emails, phone calls to perspective registrants could help put this conference over the top. We all have our contacts; please participate actively in spreading the word.

In reviewing the conference program it occurred to me, that perhaps the conference theme should have been **"We have so much to talk about"**. With your participation, your sharing your experiences and wisdom, we will continue to be considered to be the conference of many voices, many visions in support of a common goal. I look forward to welcoming you in person in Estoril.

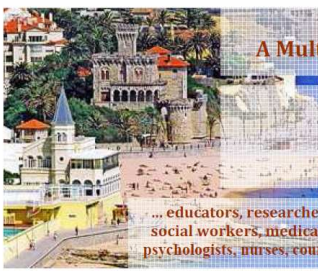
Have a wonderful Summer!

With warm regards,

Dr. Peter A. Vamos  
President

Conference Announcement





### Shaping the Future: A Multisectorial Challenge

52<sup>nd</sup> ICAA Conference  
on Dependencies

Estoril, Portugal  
11 to 16 October 2009

... educators, researchers, therapists, policy makers,  
social workers, medical doctors, community leaders,  
psychologists, nurses, counsellors, prevention workers ...

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