

A plan of policies and activities for 2022

The primary policies and objectives of the ICASA does not change and stay the same as in 2021. The projects objectives are different as research and data collection progress.

1. Objectives and activities

Objectives:

The *International Collaboration on ADHD and Substance Abuse (ICASA Foundation)* is an international research network. The two main objectives of ICASA are:

- Increase of the quality of diagnostic and treatment procedures for patients with both Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD);
- Prevention of development of SUD in children, adolescents and adults with ADHD.

Target group:

The ICASA foundation is specifically committed to the interests of children, adolescents and adults with ADHD and patients having both ADHD and SUD

Activities/actions:

The main activities of the research network are developing and conducting international multi-center studies, and dissemination of findings through publications in international peer-reviewed journals and presentations at national and international conferences. The topics of ICASA studies are within the scope of the main goals of ICASA.

Another research activity is writing reviews, consensus statements and/or other (scientific) documents, summarizing and commenting on existing research about ADHD-SUD. The network and its participants participate in scientific conferences and meetings, and in training activities (mainly for researchers and professionals) to inform the scientific community and professionals working with patients with ADHD-SUD on the results of the first two ICASA activities.

Management

The ICASA Foundation board consists of the chair, the secretary, the treasurer and three members. The ICASA board is the decision-making body of the foundation. The board is responsible for decisions on what actions (studies, scientific papers, conferences etc.) will be undertaken, and for formal matters like financial reports, the website of the foundation, organizing network meetings etc.

As ICASA is an international research network, it needs an Office to coordinate the activities. The ICASA research office is located at RadboudUMC/NISPA Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The ICASA Foundation Office coordinates following activities:

1.1. Coordination of the ongoing projects in 2022

INCAS Project

The International Naturalistic Cohort Study of ADHD and Substance Use Disorders (INCAS): clinical characteristics, treatment, and outcome (INCAS). The aim of this study is to describe the treatments provided and the outcomes regarding ADHD symptoms and substance use in adult treatment seeking SUD patients with ADHD.

Data collection that started in October 2017 continued until 31st May 2021. After the inclusion of the new subjects, the total of N=549 participants were enrolled in the study. The follow up recruitment will continue in 2022. Until now 60% of the three month follow up data and 40% of the 9 month follow up data were collected. In terms of data analysis, in 2022 the first publications will be planned including the baseline data. The analysis including the follow up data will continue in 2023.

IASP-Genetics Project

The IASP-Genetics-project is a continuation of the IASP projects. The extraction of the DNA was completed in 2021. Thus, the data analysis on the sampled DNA will start in 2022.

IASP-2 Project

The IASP-2 Project is a replication study of the IASP Project. The study additionally includes data on nicotine use and dependence in the groups of treatment seeking SUD patients with and without ADHD. The IASP-2 project includes data from Puerto Rican and South Africa. In 2022, the data analysis and publication of the results is planned.

1.2. Setting up new research projects and seeking funding for these projects

To keep on working towards the ICASA Foundation goals, it is necessary to set up new research projects, and find new funding resources. This is a joint effort of the board and the ICASA members network. The ICASA Foundation Research Office has a coordinating role in this activity.

In 2022, the preparation of a new study concerning ADHD and SUD in adolescents will continue. This in line with our mission, in particular with aspect of prevention of SUD in adolescent ADHD patients. We aim to gain more expertise on child and adolescence. More specifically, the online survey to select possible candidate countries to participate in research project will be prepared and carried out.

1.3. Organizing participation in International Conferences and training activities

In order to inform the scientific community, and professionals working in the SUD-ADHD field, ICASA participates in symposia, lectures and training activities. These activities are organized via the ICASA Foundation Research Office.

In 2022, due to Corona restrictions the regular meetings will take place on-line. The next ICASA Network meeting is scheduled for January 2022. During this event, members of the ICASA network will discuss recent results and provide an update on ongoing projects. The ICASA Board meeting is planned on the same day, during which the update of the planning for the rest of the year will be discussed.

Depending on the situation related to COVID-19 restrictions, the future ICASA-Network meeting in person is considered to take place in Paris in June 2022. If possible this event will include writing retreat for the ICASA members.

1.4. Formal activities

The formal aspects of the ICASA Foundation, including bookkeeping, payment of invoices, handling incoming financial resources, keeping the ICASA Foundation bank-account are handled by the ICASA Office.

Each year a formal financial report is required and needs to be signed by the ICASA chair and treasurer at the annual board meeting.

The yearly board meeting and network meeting need to be organized. When necessary, extra network meetings are being organized.

Formal documents need to be archived, and both other ICASA-related documents and research related documents need to be archived, in hard-copy and digitally.

In the beginning of 2022, due to Corona restrictions the Board meetings and the Network meeting will be organised on-line. During the first board meeting the financial report from a previous year will be discussed and approved. Budget and the new year planning for 2023 will be the main topics of the second board meeting that will take place the end of the calendar year.

2. Method of generating income

The ICASA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization. It seeks funding for its activities via voluntary participation fees of its participating institutes and via external funding organizations.

3. Management and use of the institution's assets

The ICASA office pays incoming invoices. Both the incoming and outgoing payments are accounted in the financial report, which is controlled by the ICASA Board. Details on how money are managed is documented in the Financial report and Budget documents that can be found on the website.