

A plan of policies and activities for 2024

The primary policies and objectives of the ICASA does not change and stay the same as in 2023. 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, the director 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 2024

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 2023. 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 2023 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 2022. Data has now been transferred to a secured place at the RadboudUMC, Nijmegen and will be analyzed at the end of 2023 and continue to be analyzed in 2024. The outcomes will be reported in a publication.

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, two papers were published based on IASP-2 data. In 2024, further possibilities for data analysis and publication will be explored.

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 2023, an new International Survey concerning ADHD and SUD in adolescents has been developed. 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 that is carried out selects possible candidate countries to participate in research project.

International Survey

Treatment of comorbid ADHD and addiction problems in youth is challenging and may differ across countries and treatment systems. Since we have no international data on this topic, ICASA has taken the initiative for this survey. We are looking for national key resource persons to participate in an international survey on treatment for youths with ADHD and addiction problems across different countries in the world.

The main objective of this survey is to obtain information about the organization and clinical practices related to the treatment of comorbid ADHD and addiction problems in youth (12-20 years) in different states and countries. Study outcomes will be reported in a scientific publication and will be used as a preparation for a collaborative international research project. We plan to finish data collection in the next year and write up the first study results.

Consensus statement

The plan for the coming 2 years is to write towards a new consensus statement from ICASA. With a focus on writing a clinical guideline. The status of the statement will be followed up during every network meeting.

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.

The next ICASA Network meeting is scheduled for November 2023. 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.

The future ICASA-Network meeting in person is considered to take place in Gibraltar in July 2024. If possible, this event will include writing retreat for the ICASA members.

Furthermore, members of ICASA will be present at the World association of dual disorder (WADD) conference in 2024. They will present a talk on a symposium on the topic of neurodevelopment disorders as trans diagnostic perspective. This 8th World congress in Mallorca will be held on the 17th till the 20th of April 2024. Furthermore, we contribute with an ICASA symposium to the 9th International Conference on Behavioral Addictions (ICBA) in Gibraltar 2024. Five members of ICASA will share their work on various ICASA projects during the gambling conference.

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.

During the first board meeting the financial report from a previous year will be discussed and approved. Budget and the new year planning for 2025 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 and Director. Details on how money are managed is documented in the Financial report and Budget documents that can be found on the website.