

# Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*

## DECEMBER 2021

### President's Message

Greetings from the end of 2021!

We have had quite a year! A lot has happened, and the pandemic has continued to highlight the difference between the ideal and the actual state of addiction and its treatment. It remains inherent on us to keep our minds on the things we can change rather than the many things that are outside our control.

This past month, we continued to have opportunities to make our voices heard on recent policies, including opposing the use of kratom for the treatment of opioid use disorder, weighing in on having a substance use disorder treatment platform for the state, and coordinating with the state for best practices for addiction treatment.

Hopefully you were able to join the WISAM Public Policy Committee Meeting on 12/8/21. We used the time to connect with the multi-disciplinary attendees, and discuss strategies for how WISAM can help use our voice to advocate for important policy changes that impact the lives of our patients and addiction treatment. If you missed it and you are interested in being more involved, please email [Dr. Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar](mailto:Dr.Elizabeth.Salisbury-Afshar).

I also continued discussions with the National Association of Social Workers and the National Advocates for Pregnant Women about providing evidence based information about treatment of people with SUD who are pregnant, including the realities of Act 292. We submitted information about this for their quarterly newsletter. It is a good partnership as our work is so inter-connected on this and many other issues. They would welcome participation in their conference next year. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in being more involved with this endeavor.

Looking forward to 2022, we will start our WISAM Open Exchange monthly sessions, with the first one about Moral Injury in Addiction Treatment on January 27, 2022 hosted by yours truly. As you have time over the holiday, consider if there are topics that are of particular interest that you would like WISAM to address in these sessions. Feel free to send them our way.

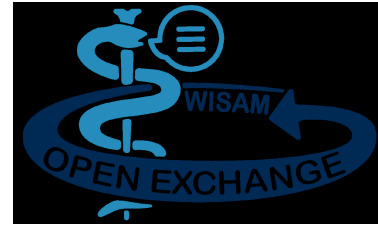
Here's to a happy, safe and healthy 2022!

Sincerely,  
Ritu Bhatnagar, M.D., M.P.H.



## WISAM Open Exchange - Back for 2022!

In 2021, WISAM rebranded the teleconference calls held in past years to be known as the "WISAM Open Exchange." We will have the full 2022 schedule released soon. In the meantime, you can mark your calendars for January 27, 2022 as the first one. The topic led by Dr. Bhatnagar is "Addressing Moral Injury in Addiction Treatment: what to do when the ideal world and local realities don't align".



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## Time to Renew your WISAM Membership!

In order to renew your membership with WISAM, please [visit the ASAM website and log-in.](#)

WISAM continues to work towards advancing the field of Addiction Medicine in Wisconsin through educational opportunities, creating a professional network, and the sharing of scientific information. We have some great things planned for 2022!



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## News

### Society, WISAM team up to warn Capitol about kratom legislation

The Wisconsin Medical Society (Society) and the Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine (WISAM) joined forces on December 8 to warn state policymakers about the potential harmful effects of kratom – a tree native to southeast Asia whose leaves can contain compounds causing psychotropic effects. The two organizations provided testimony to the State Assembly Committee on State Affairs, asking legislators not to support Assembly Bill 599 – legislation that would legalize two of the substances found in kratom products and create a regulatory scheme that would allow for kratom sales.

[Read more.](#)

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## Wisconsin Doctor Day



Doctor Day will take place at the Monona Terrace in Madison, WI and include a keynote presentation, priority issue briefing, policy breakouts and of course legislative visits!

The multi-specialty nature of Doctor Day makes Wisconsin's annual physicians' advocacy event unique compared to similar events across the country. Physicians and medical students from nearly 20 different physician organizations annually participate in Doctor Day.

Learn first-hand how you can make a difference in the legislative process!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## WISAM 2022 Annual Conference



### SAVE THE DATE!

The WISAM Board and Conference Planning Committee is excited to host the Annual Conference in-person on Thursday, October 13 and Friday, October 14 at the Pyle Center in Madison, WI. Mark your calendars. We will be releasing more information in the new year!

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## Helpful Links

[WISAM Website](#)

[WISAM Event Calendar](#)

[WISAM News](#)

[ASAM Website](#)

[Membership Information](#)

[ASAM CME Events](#)



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