

## *Message from the President*

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to all the members of WADD my first "Presidential Message".

I am, of course, very proud because we have achieved another positive step for WADD. This message is written in the official Newsletter of WADD; thus, achieving another success for WADD.

For several years, Dr Miguel Casas worked very hard and effectively planned the creation of a "Dual Diagnoses" concept; subsequently, Dr Nestor Szerman joined him in converting this "concept" on a reality; over the years additional leaders within the field of "Addiction", including myself, joined them on a worldwide effort to make this "idea" a reality. Last April, 2015, this idea became a reality during the "Barcelona Congress", the WADD Association was created with a very large international support, and I was elected President of WADD for 3 years.

Today, as a manifestation of reality and our combined strong efforts, the first issue of the WADD Newsletter was created, without question, I feel proud, satisfied and inspired to continue with the expansion and effectiveness of WADD at a worldwide level.

During our Barcelona Congress of April 2015, the Executive Committee of WADD, was elected and created; It is composed of: Prof. Pedro Ruiz (USA), President; Prof. Miguel Casas (Spain), Vice President; Dr. Nestor Szerman (Spain), Secretary; and Prof. Icro Maremmani (Italy), Treasurer.

Additionally, a group of outstanding worldwide leaders were elected as Country Representatives; the following have already answered positively: Dr. Yatan Balhara (INDIA), Dr. Javier Didia (ARGENTINA), Dr. Nady El-Guebaly (CANADA), Dr. Johan Frank (SWEDEN), Dr. Andrej Kastelic (SLOVENIA), Dr. Arturo Lerner (ISRAEL), Dra. M<sup>a</sup> Elena Medina Mora (MEXICO), Dr. Medhi Paes (MOROCCO), Dr. Wim Van Den Brink (THE NETHERLANDS) and Dr. Elvia Velasquez (COLOMBIA).



During the last several months a series of worldwide leaders in the "Addiction" field were additionally selected/elected to the group of Country representatives; Dr. Gabriele Fischer (AUSTRIA) has already agreed.

Without question, I am pleased and proud of my position of First President of WADD for the first 3 years of its existence, and look forward to do my very best together with all of you to convert WADD on the most respected organization worldwide on the field of "Addiction".

Best regards,

**Pedro Ruiz, M.D.**  
**PRESIDENT, WADD**

## *Need for a World Association on Dual Disorders*



Dear Friends and colleagues,

We would like to introduce and explain, from a scientific point of view, why we consider necessary a worldwide Association on Dual Disorders: Addiction and other Mental Disorders (WADD).

The reason why we need to provide clear explanations on the above issue is due to the fact that the concept of Dual Disorders (DDs) remains controversial and even its own name is not worldwide accepted in clinical settings.

Psychiatry is complicated, and nobody seems to have the key to integrate cutting-edge science into a profession which basic concepts, empirical standards, professional institutions, founding sources and intervention methods are decades old.

An additional common difficulty is that there are many different and conflicting schools of thought with diverse theories on the nature of this condition.

The concept of Dual Disorder, as a co-occurrence of Addictions and other Mental Disorders, has not been recognized by Psychiatry at large until very recently and, is still now, frequently not acknowledged in academic instances, as recently exemplified by the absence of specific diagnostic criteria in DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). This lack of recognition has been responsible for present difficulties in diagnosing and treating such disorders in everyday practice.

Without doubt, at present we can consider that beyond the scientific controversies, Dual Disorders are a strong clinical reality as is demonstrated by the fact that a vast majority of patients treated for

addictive behaviors (to substances including tobacco or pathological gambling) have co-occurrence with other mental disorders. More than 50% of patients requiring care for different mental

disorders will also present at some point in their lives a substance use or behavioral addictive disorders.

In most countries, treatment facilities often address addiction disorders and classical mental illnesses treatment networks, based on the old philosophical separation between the mental health and the substance abuse treatment field.

In fact those different barriers have hindered the recognition and acceptance of the reality of dual disorders.

The new theories in addictions are moving away from old paradigms, centered exclusively in the effect of drugs, to new ones focusing on individual vulnerability to suffer addictions, being the more relevant vulnerabilities the strong association of addictions with certain pathological personality traits or the vast majority of mental disorders.

We consider that it is necessary to redesign not only the theoretical basis but also the care pathway of those patients, according to the new insights that come from neurosciences.

This new association, WADD, aims to focus on these scientific issues in order to clarify concepts and advance diagnosis and treatment procedures looking for the benefit of our patients.



### **WADD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Prof. Pedro Ruiz (President), Prof Miguel Casas (Vice President), Dr. Nestor Szerman (Secretary) and Prof. Icro Maremmanni (Treasurer)

## *Message from the Treasurer*



Dear Friends and colleagues,

The increase of patients suffering from Dual Disorders all around the world, has pushed a group of professionals, among whom I can include myself, to work hard towards the creation of a World Association on Dual Disorders, WADD which was finally launched in Barcelona this year.

A Committee has been elected in which I have been designated Treasurer. I feel committed to my friends and colleagues, and certainly to our patients, in this new engagement. We look forward to hard work; to form a network that can face the many challenges which patients suffering from one, or multiple addictions, plus a psychiatric disorder have to cope with daily.

We ourselves, as professionals, as psychiatrists, are also hindered by the diverse regulations and stigma accompanying these disorders.

This first number of our Newsletter is an invitation to you all to work together seeking to improve the condition of our patients, their families. Do not hesitate to contact us and give us news and information from your side of the world. You are Welcome.

Warm regards,

**Prof. Icro Maremmani**  
**TREASURER, WADD**

# ***WADD Founding Meeting***

## ***Barcelona, April 19th, 2015***

Earlier this year, in Barcelona, during the IV International Congress on Dual Disorders, the foundational meeting of WADD took place. We wish to specially thank the numerous attendees who so highly contributed to the launching of WADD



## ***ABOUT WADD***

The growth across the world of what is now referred to as “Dual Disorders” brings about the need to create a World Association which will bring together professionals whose clinical, teaching and research activities are related to Dual Disorders.

WADD “World Association on Dual Disorders » was founded on April 19th, 2015 and its registration has been formally requested in the corresponding official Registry Office in Madrid in July 2015.

This association has been created to achieve the following purposes : To increase the study, research and divulgation of Dual Pathology from a bio-psycho-social perspective, Dual Pathology being defined as the coincidence in the same person of an addiction, or addictive conduct and another mental disorder. Being a priority to address the concept ‘Dual Disorders’ and its future role in the world.

WADD contemplates organizing every other year a World congress (the first one to be held in Spain) and motivating, encouraging and scientifically supporting, 2- 3 annual Regional meetings. WADD will also co-sponsor meetings achieving WADD’s scientific standards, organized by other agencies or institutions.

WADD officers were decided , a President, elected for 3 years, who can be re-elected for a second term, a Vice-president, elected for 3 years, will remain in that position for another 3 years term if the President is re-elected. The Secretary is elected for 3 years and the Treasurer for 4 years. Country representatives are elected for 3 years and can be elected for another 3 year term.

The Candidacy for the office of the Executive Committee and Country Representative needs to be submitted at least 3 months before the election day. Information regarding this issue will be publicized six months in advance.

WADD is building a website and will publish a Digital Newsletter every four months, we wish the impact of Dual Disorders in the different parts of the world to be clearly presented and acknowledged.

We invite all professionals in Dual Disorders to join WADD, to send us their feedback, their proposals for regional meetings and to express how Dual Disorders is affecting life at large in your environment, making WADD’s Newsletter a live instrument.

For any question please contact:

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# *Future Scientific Meetings*



 **SEPD**  
Adicciones y otros  
Trastornos Mentales 

**30 March - 2 April, 2017**  
**Madrid - Spain**

**V INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

**DUAL**  
**DISORDERS**  
Addictions and other  
Mental Disorders

**DUAL**  
**PSYCHO-PATHOLOGY**

**[www.icdd-congress.com](http://www.icdd-congress.com)**

**Save the date!**

*Sponsored by WADD:*



**Addictions Toxicomanie Hépatites SIDA (ATHS)**

**Les Rencontres de Biarritz**

**29 septembre - 2 octobre 2015**

# ***BECOME A WADD MEMBER!***



**Are you facing daily individuals with addictions and psychiatric disorders?**

There is a need to create new approaches, to propose new techniques and procedures to national and international health institutions.

Dual Disorders are a major issue in our world of today.

**Join the World Association on Dual Disorders and  
address the future role of the “Dual Disorders”  
concept at a worldwide/international level**

**[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)**

CATEGORY	ANNUAL FEE
Full member	\$ 25

For any questions, please contact:

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