

ADAI HISTORY

In 1948, State Initiative 171 was placed before the voters to permit the sale of liquor by the drink in hotels and bars in Washington State. As part of this initiative, a provision was made that some of the revenue generated from the sale of these licenses would go toward the support of research into the problems created by alcohol abuse. When the law was passed in 1949, it was decided that the dedicated research monies should be distributed to the University of Washington and Washington State University, who were charged with carrying out the research.

For many years, a variety of administrative procedures were used to determine the distribution of these research funds within the University of Washington. Eventually, in 1973, the Board of Regents established the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI) at the University of Washington which became the administrative structure for the Initiative 171 funds. The Institute was structured so as to be an independent unit within the Health Sciences, reporting directly to the Vice President for Health Sciences. It was conceived as a multidisciplinary center, whose initial primary function was to promote and support campus-wide research in the addictions field. As part of that support, the Institute was to be the major resource center for abuse studies and information for faculty and students at the University of Washington.

During the first three years of the Institute's existence, it was directed by a faculty committee (Dr. Alan Marlatt, Psychology; Dr. Roger Roffman, Social Work; and Dr. Albert Carlin, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences), who established the basic operational structure of the Institute. This comprised a Small Grants program, a library and research information program, and a Research Affiliate program for University researchers. These functions remain as the cornerstones of the present Institute's organization.

In 1975, the first permanent director of the Institute, Dr. Marc Shuckett, was hired. During his tenure, Dr. Shuckett continued to develop the above programs, while establishing an intramural research program which consisted predominantly of the Director's own research efforts.

Dr. Shuckett left the University in 1978, and a search for a new Director was begun. In 1980, Dr. Ruth Little was appointed director, a position she held until 1985. Again, during this period, the main programs, as initially conceived in 1973 were maintained, with the only intramural research conducted at the Institute being that of the Director.

In 1984, Dr. Herman Samson was appointed Acting Director while Dr. Little was on a leave of absence. When Dr. Little decided to resign, Dr. Samson was appointed Director in 1985, a position he currently holds.

Under his direction, a major reorganization of the Institute was planned and approved in 1986. While retaining the initial programs of Small Grants and Library Services, the reorganization placed a new and important emphasis upon the development of a strong intramural research program. This was a major change in the direction and function of the Institute. It was not intended to replace existing programs but to make ADAI a research facility in its own right.