

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL WORKSHOP
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON GENDER AND ALCOHOL
OSLO, NORWAY, JUNE 3-4, and JUNE 6, 2000

The eighth annual workshop of the International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol (IRGGA) was held June 3-4 and June 6, 2000, in Oslo, Norway, preceding the annual symposium of the Kjetil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol. IRGGA members share an interest in gender-related influences on drinking behavior and drinking-related problems, and many members have conducted social and epidemiological research on women's drinking. The Oslo workshop was attended by 37 persons from 16 countries and from the World Health Organization. Hungary and Switzerland were represented for the first time. A membership list updated after the Oslo workshop will be sent shortly after this report.

A major emphasis of the Oslo workshop was the further development of a core questionnaire to be used in IRGGA's multi-national study (MNS) of gender and alcohol. Thus a large portion of the agenda consisted of presentations from each of the working groups organized last year to develop specific parts of the core questionnaire (please see report of the seventh annual IRGGA workshop in Montreal for further details). Working group sessions on June 3 and 4, as well as the large group meeting on June 6, were devoted to identifying a "mini-core" set of questions. These questions will be recommended as an absolute minimum set of common items to be used by IRGGA members who have only very limited survey resources that can be devoted to MNS questions. The workshop also included an update on publishing and grant-writing activities as well on the status of MNS surveys in the IRGGA member countries. Additionally, presentations were given on how qualitative research methods could be integrated with quantitative methods in the MNS surveys, and on the progress of the IRGGA Ads Study Group. Finally, some time was devoted to discussing the possibility of submitting a grant proposal for a concerted action to the European Commission which could provide certain categories of funds for several countries of the multi-national study. Sharon Wilsnack (USA) served as workshop chair on June 3 and 4, and Kim Bloomfield (Germany) chaired the session on June 6th. This workshop report was drafted by Kim Bloomfield and supplemented by notes taken by Sharon Wilsnack, Richard Wilsnack, and Arlinda Kristjanson.

UPDATES

COLLABORATIVE IRGGA PUBLICATIONS. Sharon reported on the status of two collaborative papers by IRGGA members. (1) The article, "Gender differences in alcohol consumption and adverse drinking consequences: Cross-cultural patterns" by Richard Wilsnack and 26 additional IRGGA members from 10 countries, was published this year in *Addiction*, Vol. 95, pp. 251-265; and (2) the paper prepared by the consumption x consequences working group (Nancy Vogeltanz, Rudie Neve, Jillian Fleming, Tom

Greenfield, Ludek Kubicka, and Fredrik Spak) titled "The relationship between women's alcohol consumption patterns and drinking-related problems: Findings from the International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol" has undergone several revisions during the past year and shortly will be submitted to Addiction for publication.

Kim Bloomfield reported on the status of seven articles prepared by the EU Biomed concerted action "Alcohol Consumption and Alcohol Problems among European Women," which officially ended in June 1999. These papers have all been accepted by the journal Substance Abuse, pending shortening and revisions recommended by the reviewers. The seven papers are: Ahlström, S., Bloomfield, K. & Knibbe, R. "Gender differences in the drinking patterns in nine European countries: Descriptive findings"; Allamani, A., Voller, F., Kubicka, L. & Bloomfield, K. "Drinking cultures and the position of women in nine European countries"; Bloomfield, K., Gmel, G., Neve, R. & Mustonen, H. "Investigating gender convergence in alcohol consumption in Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland: A repeated survey analysis"; Cipriani, F., Landucci, S. & Bloomfield, K. "Alcohol-related mortality in Europe: A tentative analysis from the EU Project 'Alcohol consumption and alcohol problems among women in European countries'"; Gmel, G., Bloomfield, K., Ahlström, S., Choquet, M. & Lecomte, T. "Women's roles and women's drinking: A comparative study in four European countries"; Knibbe, R. & Bloomfield, K. "Alcohol consumption estimates in surveys in Europe: Comparability and sensitivity for gender differences"; and Plant, M., Miller, P., Thornton, C., Plant, M. & Bloomfield, K. "Life stage, alcohol consumption patterns, alcohol-related consequences and gender."

GRANT-WRITING AND FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY. Sharon Wilsnack (USA) reported on the drafting and submission of a developmental grant proposal (R21) to the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Kim Bloomfield (Germany) prepared a draft of the proposal and submitted it to the UND team who completed its final version and submitted it to NIAAA for the February 1, 2000 deadline. If approved, the grant would provide \$100,000 per year for two years in personnel costs for coordination of the multi-national study as well as modest stipends for the study country survey leaders. The proposal will be reviewed during July, with final notification of the decision about funding by October, 2000.

Kim Bloomfield (Germany) reported on further grant-writing to support the activities of the multi-national study. This included an application to the Rockefeller Foundation for use of its Bellagio Conference Center in Italy for a working meeting of the MNS. If the application is approved, the Rockefeller Foundation would provide room, board and use of the Center's conference facilities for three full days of meetings. The meeting is tentatively planned for October, 2001. Notification of the decision on the Rockefeller application will be made by the end of August, 2000.

Additionally, Dr. Bloomfield reported on the possibility of the MNS applying as a concerted action to the European Commission for support of certain expenses in the coordination of the project. This prospect was to be discussed in more detail later during the workshop. Dr. Wilsnack added that individual countries should also be trying to find

funding for their respective studies, and that both IRGGA and WHO would provide support in these efforts.

Moiria Plant (UK) raised the possibility of applying for EU funding in partnership with the Amsterdam Group. The Amsterdam Group is an organization of the alcohol industry which supports research on alcohol. The Group has worked successfully with certain departments of the European Commission, in particular in the area of traffic safety, and also with the Group "F3" which is responsible for health promotion and health protection. It was somewhat unclear, however, how the MNS application process would work, as it was not known if a call for proposals in these departments was in effect. Also, there would be complications for some IRGGA members who work for organizations which as a matter of policy do not collaborate with the alcohol industry (e.g., organizations which are members of Eurocare). After some discussion, IRGGA members agreed that those members interested in joining Dr. Plant in a collaborative application to the EU with the Amsterdam Group should approach her. Dr. Plant agreed to contact the Amsterdam Group again and obtain more specific information on the application process to the EU.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL/REGIONAL SURVEYS . All members who are planning a survey in their country which will be a part of the MNS gave a brief update on the status of their survey. For the Czech Republic Ludek Kubicka reported that he plans to apply for support in the next application cycle (March 2001), so that funding of a study could potentially be available for 2002. Heli Mustonen (Finland) reported that data collection for the Finnish national survey will be completed in September 2000. All of the items in the Family Factors section of the draft MNS questionnaire are included. Giora Rahav (Israel) reported that his application for funding for a national survey has been approved and that the survey will go into the field in October 2000. It will replicate previous surveys, so only a limited number of new items will be added from the MNS questionnaire. Dr. Rahav also mentioned that he is planning another study on violence, to begin at the end of 2000, which should be able to include more of the MNS questions. Shoshanna Weiss (Israel) reported that the data in her study of pregnant women have already been collected and that there is not too much comparability with the MNS questions. Franca Beccaria (Italy) stated that the only national study of drinking in Italy is conducted by the Observatorio Permanente sui Giovani e L'Alcool ("Permanent Observatory on Youth and Alcohol"), and the next survey will be carried out in December. Dr. Beccaria will be in touch with the Observatorio to try to have as many MNS items included as possible.

Shinji Shimizu (Japan) reported that he has not had great success in securing funds for a national study. His application was rejected by the Ministry of Education. However, he will try again to gain some funding for a regional survey. Martha Romero (Mexico) also has not yet been successful in gaining funding for a national study. She will submit an application to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) next year for a study of 1000 women to begin in October 2001; her questionnaire contains many questions comparable to the MNS questions. Isidore Obot (Nigeria) has received some funds from for a youth survey which contains some items on victimization and will be completed by

the end of the year. Dr. Obot also directs another youth study (funded by WHO) which includes some MNS items, and he intends to ask other colleagues to include MNS items in upcoming surveys in Nigeria. Galina Korchagina (Russia) is considering conducting a regional study with some of the MNS items. Edwin Zvartau (Russia), attending IRGGA for the first time, has just completed a survey of pregnant and non-pregnant women in St. Petersburg, with consultation from Sharon Wilsnack and Arlinda Kristjanson. A number of questions in the St. Petersburg questionnaire are adapted from the Wilsnacks' U.S. questionnaire and thus are similar or identical to many MNS questions. Drs. Korchagina and Zvartau have discussed the possibility of collaborating in a search for funding for a Russian regional or national MNS survey.

Karin Helmersson Bergmark (Sweden) reported that a national survey of men and women has been conducted which includes the AUDIT, but no other MNS items. Another Swedish national survey will take place in late 2001 with 5,000 – 10,000 respondents. It is not yet clear how many MNS items will be included. Fredrik Spak (Sweden) reported that his regional longitudinal study in Göteborg is ongoing. He has tried to include MNS items in questionnaires administered to 1,200 women in the newly added cohorts. Moira Plant (UK) hopes to conduct a survey in Scotland, England and Wales in Autumn 2000. The survey questionnaire will be based on the MNS items. She has submitted a funding application to the Alcohol Education and Research Department, and as noted above is also considering a joint application to the EU with the Amsterdam Group. Sharon Wilsnack (USA) reported that the University of North Dakota national survey will go into the field in 2001, following up 1,000 women and adding 500 new women age 21-30. The 2001 survey will include as many MNS questions as possible. It was reported that the Alcohol Research Group's 2000 U.S. national telephone survey is already in the field. Some MNS questions (e.g., graduated frequency consumption questions) were included in the questionnaire.

Zsuzsanna Elekes (Hungary) reported that she is preparing a national survey for this year but is still seeking more funding. The sample will contain 2,500 men and women. It is not clear how many MNS items can be included in the questionnaire. Florence Kerr-Correa (Brazil) stated that she will be able to include some MNS items in a regional survey of 2,000 men and women which will be conducted this year. The MNS "mini-core" questions will be sent to Florence immediately following the IRGGA workshop so that she can incorporate these questions, at a minimum, into the Brazil survey. Kim Bloomfield (Germany) reported that the German national survey of alcohol and drug use goes into the field this year and that Ludwig Kraus has tried to include as many items from the MNS draft questionnaire as possible.

Other researchers (some of whom were unable to attend the workshop) who have expressed an interest in joining the MNS or who are considering joining pending funding decisions in their respective countries, are: Irmgard Eisenbach-Stangl (Austria), Hilidigunnur Olafsdóttir (Iceland), Begona San Jose (Spain/Greece), and Ingeborg Rossow (Norway).

PRESENTATION ON INTEGRATION OF QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY, PART I

Before detailed discussion of the various sections of the MNS draft questionnaire took place, Dr. Jacqueline Wiseman (USA) gave a brief presentation on how IRGGA members might think about utilizing qualitative methods to enhance their countries' surveys for the MNS. Dr. Wiseman explained, as one example, that in addition to administering standardized questions about alcohol consumption, researchers could employ qualitative methods to explore how people feel about themselves in relation to their drinking behavior and their decisions about their behavior. Qualitative methods can also be used to find out more about how people feel about their relationships, and about particular situations and experiences that have occurred in the past, as these affect not only their drinking behavior but also how they interpret and (are willing to) report it. Her message was that the members should be encouraged to use qualitative methods to gain more insight into the results that they obtain through their quantitative questionnaires. Dr. Wiseman announced that she would be available throughout the week of the KBS Symposium to meet individually with members interested in including a qualitative component in their MNS surveys.

PRESENTATION OF SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY

Presentations on the various sections of the draft MNS questionnaire consisted of a report on the measures chosen for the respective questionnaire section, given by a member of that working group, followed by comments on the section prepared by another IRGGA member who had not worked on that particular part of the instrument. General group discussion followed these comments.

DRINKING VARIABLES GROUP. Richard Wilsnack (USA) described the items chosen for this section. They include questions about alcohol consumption, contexts of alcohol consumption, and consequences of alcohol consumption. Consumption will be measured by the graduated frequency method. Days (not occasions) will be used in questions asking about quantities consumed (e.g., drinks per drinking day). Beverage-specific questions are desirable if space allows in individual surveys. With regard to drinking contexts, three main aspects are asked: where (setting), when (time of day), and with whom the drinking occurs. Currently, some overlap occurs between these questions and other items in the questionnaire; this overlap will be eliminated in final editing. Consequences are various adverse consequences related to one's own alcohol use. A question on abstinence needs to be added.

Giora Rahav (Israel) served as discussant for this section of the questionnaire. He asked what the conceptual approach was that related consumption to the consequences proposed to be measured, and he distinguished between actual consequences of drinking and consequences attributed to drinking. He noted that there were a large number of questions on adverse drinking consequences, and suggested that there should be some

questions about positive consequences to help understand the cognitive processes involved in drinking decisions. In the general discussion suggestions were made for adding some items (e.g., questions about discos and bars in the section on drinking settings) and about technical aspects of certain questions (e.g., presenting the problem consequences questions in order of severity, and graphical presentation of glass sizes with the consumption questions). It was agreed that additional editing is needed to remove overlap among questions about drinking occasions, drinking settings, and drinking companions.

FAMILY FACTORS. Marja Holmila (Finland) presented the family factors section of the draft questionnaire. She noted areas where the items in this section overlap with those in the drinking variables section and in the violence and victimization section. She emphasized the importance of questions that can distinguish between public and private drinking. Ludek Kubicka (Czech Republic) served as discussant of both the family factors section and the section on sociodemographic characteristics. He felt that the sociodemographic items were fine except for the question measuring education. This question should be formulated in more general terms because of the differing educational systems in various countries. Additionally Dr. Kubicka recommended that the question on present occupation should not be open-ended but rather a close-ended classification of occupations. Regarding the family factors questions, he noted the overlap with several of the drinking contexts questions (e.g., questions referring to place of drinking and drinking companions). He suggested reformulating several questions to be more specific, and identified several questions he felt should be eliminated and a few others that should be retained for the mini-core questionnaire. The general discussion revisited the question of the purpose of this section and how best to retain the most important items and eliminate the overlap with other sections. The three main aims of the section are to measure social support (separate from drinking situations), to ask about the consequences of others' drinking for the respondent, and to assess the importance of various drinking companions and drinking partners. The discussion included additional suggestions for reformulating both questions and response categories.

INTIMACY AND SEXUALITY. Karin Helmersson Bergmark (Sweden) described the items chosen for this section and the background studies supporting the choice of the questions. She also pointed out items that overlapped with other sections and suggested solutions to these overlaps. She addressed previous comments about how some items may be sensitive or misunderstood in some countries. For example, some women may feel that they cannot leave an unsatisfactory marriage and may thus have difficulty answering questions on (lack of) marital satisfaction. Moira Plant (UK) served as discussant for this section. She suggested that questions should be added about sexual orientation (and sex of one's partner), as well as questions about protected/unprotected sexual behavior, how long the respondent's primary intimacy and/or sexual relationship has existed, and frequency of drinking with sexual partners. Dr. Plant also suggested re-ordering and re-wording some questions. She noted that sex before puberty may not always be childhood sexual abuse in some countries. The group discussion included remarks that the section as formatted may lose valuable information about drinking and courtship and about drinking and sexuality among respondents without current romantic

or living partners. Suggestions were made for improving the sequencing and framing of questions (e.g., asking about current or last relationship) and response categories. Another suggestion was to add a question about whether the respondent feels more sexually attractive when drinking.

VIOLENCE AND VICTIMIZATION. Giora Rahav (Israel) was asked to present the items in this section because the chair of the violence/victimization working group was unable to attend the Oslo workshop. Dr. Rahav suggested that the number of questions could be reduced to three to five items covering verbal and physical conflicts (i.e., eliminating questions about childhood victimization). He also noted that the time-order of the quarreling and drinking question was not clear. Fredrik Spak (Sweden) acted as discussant for this section. He pointed out that the gender of the aggressor was not clear in certain questions, and suggested including questions about childhood sexual abuse (CSA) for males as well as for females. He asked why the age of 16 was chosen as the cutoff for asking about CSA. He also proposed specific wording changes for several questions. In the general discussion that followed, it was suggested that CSA be analyzed as a predictor of other adult problems in addition to alcohol abuse. It was mentioned that these questions will probably be too sensitive to include in surveys in certain countries, such as Brazil. Additionally, it was suggested that items on childhood physical abuse be added (in addition to the present questions on CSA), and that an EU BIOMED study of childhood violence that is now underway may be informative. Several members agreed with Dr. Spak that the questionnaire should include parallel questions on violence experienced by men and by women. A time-frame of past 12 months rather than past five years was recommended for questions about partner violence, to make these questions comparable to other measures of recent life events that may be influences on and/or consequences of drinking behavior. The violence/victimization working group will be asked to consider the suggestions from the workshop in revising this section (via e-mail) for the mini-core and core questionnaires.

HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE. Moira Plant (UK) described the items chosen for this section. Given the direction in which the development of the draft questionnaire was heading (i.e., reducing questions in each section to a minimum core set), Dr. Plant presented her suggestions for these core items. Pia Mäkelä (Finland) was the discussant for this section. Her major concern was the large number of scales proposed, which would be quite impracticable to include in most alcohol surveys. Her recommendation was to try to find one or two appropriate questions to replace each scale. Her suggestion for “core” questions would be self-rated health (a widely-used standard question), plus the SF-12 if enough room is available. A general question on mental health would also be desirable. The general discussion included the suggestion to add direct questions about smoking and use of illegal drugs, and the suggestion to ask respondents both about the difficulty of controlling various “excessive behaviors” and about whether other people are concerned about these behaviors (thus increasing comparability to questions about alcohol use). Several participants raised questions about the purpose of and approach to asking about leisure time. Some concern was raised about the cross-cultural validity of scales measuring depression, as well as measures of illegal drug use.

WORK AND SOCIAL NETWORKS. This section of the draft questionnaire was presented by Gunnel Hensing (Sweden). The section includes questions on aspects of current employment; an item on working overtime is also being considered. Dr. Hensing discussed which items should be eliminated or revised in light of the aim to develop a mini-core set of items for the questionnaire, as well as which items would be appropriate for an expanded optional module. In addition, she described the items in the social networks section. Tom Greenfield (USA) was the discussant for this section. He suggested including a question about hangovers at the workplace, and trying to capture the “pattern” of drinking with co-workers. The general discussion included suggestions to make the questions more direct (e.g., about stress at work) and to ask about opportunities to drink at the workplace. Other suggestions included asking about actively seeking employment, trying to measure the “masculinity” of the present occupation (gender of co-workers appeared preferable to gender-traditionality of one’s occupation, if a choice is necessary), and asking more specific information about work mates and work environment. There was also discussion of the overlap of items with the family factors section and how best to eliminate that. There was consensus about the importance of including questions about a history of alcohol problems in the respondent’s parents, and perhaps in other family members as well (possibly a checklist of family members who have had alcohol-related problems or alcohol treatment).

INTEGRATION OF QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN THE MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY, PART II

Jacqueline Wiseman continued the presentation she had begun before the detailed discussion of the MNS draft questionnaire. She focused on the question of where and when to use depth interviewing, offering examples from various sections of the draft questionnaire. With regard to drinking consequences, she said that depth questions can help when one wants to find out more about social context, self-image, or pressures from others regarding drinking. Depth interviewing could also help in learning about respondents’ guilt or remorse about their drinking. Regarding family factors, one could explore where pressures to drink or not to drink come from, and which arguments fail or succeed in making one drink more or less. Concerning intimate relationships one could ask why respondents rate their marriages as they do, and could learn more about how long-term relationships change over time, as well as better understanding respondents’ experiences of loneliness or isolation. Optional open-ended questions can also help in understanding the subjective experience of aggression and victimization; Dr. Wiseman felt that the questions proposed for the optional module on aggression would be quite valuable. Depth questioning could be used to explore the workplace as a culture and micro-society with regard to drinking behavior. Overall, Dr. Wiseman suggested that qualitative methods may be most valuable and rewarding for investigating various aspects of interpersonal relationships and their influence on drinking behavior.

Finally, Dr. Wiseman discussed several practical issues about how to proceed with a qualitative component in the multinational study. These included questions about how to

select sub-samples for depth questioning, and how to co-ordinate qualitative research activities, such as coding and integrating qualitative data into the rest of the project. She repeated her invitation for any IRGGA members planning MNS surveys to meet with her during the coming week to discuss ideas for possible qualitative components to their surveys.

ALCOHOL ADVERTISING STUDY

A group of IRGGA members has used content analysis methods to study how women and men are portrayed in alcoholic beverage advertisements cross-nationally, and how gender- and sexuality-related images and symbols are used in such ads (see report of the 7th annual IRGGA workshop for additional details). Shoshanna Weiss (Israel), who has led the study, gave a brief presentation of the study's progress. She reported that the study is in essence completed and that the group hopes to have a first version of their paper to present at the next KBS symposium in June 2001. Subsequently they plan to submit the paper to the journal Qualitative Health Research for publication. The group briefly presented several ads being used in their analyses (including billboards used in Russia for alcohol advertising) to give members an idea of the content of their work.

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN THE MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY

Time was devoted to a discussion of various methodological issues involved in planning and coordinating the surveys for the MNS. It was decided that a minimum level of comparability of survey sampling should be attempted. Members agreed that the samples should be representative, their age ranges should be comparable, sampling weights and design effects should be calculated and reported, mode of administration should be considered, response rates should be kept as high as possible, and regional variations in the sample should be coded (e.g., general region of country, rural/urban/suburban, postal codes, etc.). Further recommendations were that mode of administration should be clearly noted for the centralized analysis, that respondents' date of birth or exact age be recorded, that information on current household composition should be gathered in the process of household enumeration, and that unrelated roommates and families should be distinguished from each other when sampling households. Due to the extent of such considerations, it was decided to set up an advisory group which will consult with MNS country survey leaders regarding such methodological questions. Tom Greenfield (USA), Gerhard Gmel (Switzerland) and Giora Rahav (Israel) were nominated and agreed to serve on this methodology advisory group.

FURTHER FUNDING PROSPECTS FOR THE MULTI-NATIONAL STUDY: APPLICATION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Kim Bloomfield (Germany) described the new funding cycle of the European Union (5th Framework) and gave an overview of the process involved in submitting a grant application to the European Commission. She had prepared a series of handouts which provided an overview and explained the various steps in the proposal-writing process.

(These handouts can be obtained from Kim, if desired.) Kim offered her suggestions about how the group could proceed in drafting the EU proposal, if there was a desire to pursue this funding source. She would prefer to involve the MNS questionnaire working groups in developing the various “work packages” which need to be specified in the proposal. In leading the subsequent discussion Sharon Wilsnack (USA) sought to find a consensual decision on moving ahead with the EU application. Concern was expressed about the complexity of the EU proposal requirements and whether the work involved was worth the financing to be gained. However, members also recognized that writing the proposal would help to specify the key analyses which will be undertaken and to give more organizational structure to the data collection and data analysis plans. Kim expressed the hope that the working groups could begin to outline the structure of their analysis plans during the coming week, and provide these to her to use in developing the EU proposal during the summer.

MULTI-NATIONAL SURVEY “MINI-CORE” QUESTIONNAIRE

The final workshop session on June 6 was devoted solely to identifying a minimal set of items for the MNS “mini-core” questionnaire. This was done because some IRGGA countries have surveys going into the field very soon and thus need the items for inclusion in their questionnaires. The various working groups had met together after the weekend workshop in order to eliminate the areas of overlap between the questionnaire sections. The groups also met individually to choose the items to be included in the “mini-core.” By the time of the June 6 meeting, Arlinda Kristjanson (USA) had compiled the proposed “mini-core” questionnaire, and the meeting time was devoted to an intensive review of the document. No new items were to be suggested; instead the session was devoted to recommending improvements of existing questions and identifying still existing redundancy. It was possible to review the whole document in this manner. The only section missing from the mini-core questionnaire is that on aggression and victimization. This is due to a change in the group chair that occurred at the meeting. The new chair, Martha Romero (Mexico), needs time to re-organize the group and review proposed questions for the section. The UND team will work with Dr. Romero to add these items to the mini-core questionnaire as soon as possible.

2001 IRGGA WORKSHOP

The next IRGGA workshop will be held on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the 2001 Kjetil Bruun Symposium. At this time, it is tentatively planned that the next KBS Symposium will be held in Toronto, Canada. However, neither the location nor the dates have yet been definitely confirmed. Additional information about plans for the next workshop, progress of funding requests for the MNS, and announcements of any mid-year planning meetings will be provided via IRGGANET during the coming year.