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National Pain Strategy

A Comprehensive Population Health-Level Strategy for Pain

A statement from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) applauds today's release of the National Pain Strategy (NPS) by the US Department of Health and Human Services. As described by the Assistant Secretary of Health, it outlines "the federal government's first coordinated plan for reducing the burden of pain that affects millions of Americans. The NPS is a roadmap toward achieving a system of care in which all people achieve appropriate, high quality and evidence-based care for pain." Preparation of this detailed strategy was a key recommendation of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) landmark 2011 "Blueprint for Transforming [Pain] Prevention, Care, Education, and Research."

Many of the Academy's physician leaders were instrumental in the development of this report, starting with AAPM Past President Sean Mackey, MD, PhD, who co-chaired this interprofessional effort with Linda Porter, PhD, of the NIH.

"Successful implementation of the strategic goals in the NPS will create the cultural transformation of pain prevention, care and education called for in the IOM Pain Report and desperately needed for the American public," said Mackey. The Academy is honored to share, along with patient advocates and healthcare-based contributors, pride of ownership in the report's creation. More than a dozen other AAPM leaders helped shape this strategy as members of its oversight panel, work group participants, or expert consultants.

"Many in AAPM have a lifelong mission to reduce the suffering of people with pain. The NPS will be a leap forward in advancing this mission – if stakeholders work together to implement it," said AAPM President Daniel Carr, MD. "The NPS is comprehensive and far-reaching in scope. The other influential pain report released this week -- CDC's Guideline on Opioid Prescribing -- adds to current efforts focused upon reducing opioid abuse. I believe the opioid epidemic will be brought under control, in large part through public and professional education about the broad spectrum of options for treating pain, as advocated in the NPS. As the opioid epidemic recedes, patients, healthcare professionals and policy makers will look to the NPS for guidance on enduring, systems-level solutions to improving the assessment, treatment and prevention of pain – and reducing disparities in access to quality pain care. AAPM looks forward to working with all stakeholders to make these goals a reality."

Now in its 33rd year, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) is the premier medical association for pain physicians and their treatment teams. AAPM is committed to ensuring the safety, efficacy and

cost-effectiveness of patient care through evidence-based care, patient-centered research, public and professional education, and science-based policy.

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