Plan to attend next year's Annual Meeting in Washington DC, March 24-27, 2011
Pre-meeting activities begin Wednesday, March 23rd

Pain Medicine, D.C.
The Governing Voices of Pain: Medicine, Science, and Government

AAPM 2011 Annual Meeting Call for Proposals for Education Sessions
The SUBMISSION DEADLINE for this Call for Proposals is June 1, 2010.
For more information...

Scientific Submissions - targeted to improve the delivery of Patient Centered Pain Care throughout the healthcare continuum. Scientific submissions should address comprehensive (integrative and interventional) treatments of multiple classifications of pain disease states. Submissions should include, but are not limited to, the following pain classifications: Acute, Cancer, Neuropathic, Back, Pelvic, CRPS, Visceral, Headache, Spine, and Myofascial pain.

Practice Management Submissions - targeted to improve the practice of Pain Medicine in meeting the current challenges and future demands in this changing healthcare environment. Practice Management Submissions should include, but not be limited to, Legal Issues, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Advocacy and Legislative Initiatives, Compliance Issues, Coding and Reimbursement, Ethics, Personnel and Quality Management Issues, EHR implementation, Patient Care, and Contract Negotiations.

Education Session submissions deadline is June 1, 2010. For more information.

International Pain News
New Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids Seek to Curb Abuse - Canada
May 3, 2010 [Source: The Gazette]
A report published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal suggests "realistic goals" for opioid patients, such as a trial dosage first being taken and observed prior to the introduction of a regular-dosage regiment. The new guidelines also stressed the importance of communication between the physician and patient. Full story...

Back to top

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Coding for Removal of Spinal Neurostimulators
Emily Hill, PA
Since CPT 2010 introduced four new codes (63661, 63662, 63663, and 63664) to report the removal and revision of neurostimulator electrode procedures, questions have arisen regarding the appropriate coding when a percutaneous temporary array is removed. Read more...

Back to top

Advocacy

The Overlapping Conditions Alliance Launches the 'Campaign to End Chronic Pain in Women' on Capitol Hill, to Fight Discrimination Against Women in U.S. Healthcare
May 19, 2010 [Source: PR Newswire]
An advocacy campaign fighting to end discrimination and improve care for women suffering from chronic pain was launched by the Overlapping Conditions Alliance this past week. The alliance also released a comprehensive report, Chronic Pain in Women: Neglect, Dismissal and Discrimination, which focuses on "raising awareness among policy makers, health care professionals and the public of the lack of scientific research as well as the poor quality of education health care providers receive on these chronic pain conditions." Full story...
Full report...

Back to top

Pain Research in the News

How the Mouse Grimace Scale Will Help us Cope with Pain
May 9, 2010 [McGill University]
A new study from McGill University found that mice, like humans, showed discomfort through facial expressions. Researchers analyzed images of mice before and during moderate pain stimuli, which allowed them to compare levels of pain. Pain coding experts at the University of British Columbia used these images to develop the Mouse Grimace Scale. Scientists hope that this will help provide an accurate measurement of pain in rodent models, specifically spontaneous pain, and help accelerate the development of new analgesics for humans. Full story...

Complications After Lumbar Discectomy Do Not Affect Long-Term Patient Outcomes: Presented at AANS
May 7, 2010 [Source: DGDispatch]
Results from the Spine Patient Outcomes Research Trial (SPORT) study revealed that incidental durotomy occurred in 3.2% of patients (n=25), which significantly increased operative duration, blood loss, and length of hospital stay. However, the study found that the occurrence of incidental durotomy during lumbar discectomy does not appear to affect long-term outcome in affected patients. Full story...

Genetic Research Sheds Light on Chronic Pain
May 6, 2010 [Source: HealthDay News]
In a recent report in the journal Genome Research, Mayo Clinic researchers focused on the dorsal root ganglion neurons of the peripheral nervous system in rodents and suggest that chronic pain may be the result of accidental reprogramming of more than 2,000 genes in the peripheral nervous system. The researchers identified about 400 candidate genes implicated in the pain response. Full story...

Adults Remain Unaware of the Risks and Symptoms of Postherpetic Neuralgia (PHN), a Painful Condition Triggered by the Same Virus That Causes Chickenpox
May 6, 2010 [Source: PR Newswire]
Results from an online survey from the American Pain Foundation found that although 60 percent of the respondents said their healthcare provider mentioned burning, aching, sharp or itching pain in relation to their shingles outbreak, only one-third of these patients reported being told about the possibility of developing postherpetic neuralgia. Underscoring the need for education, APF is partnering with Patchwork of Hope Network to help raise awareness of PHN. Full story...

Walter Reed Report Confirms Validity of Fast-Acting, Non-Drug PTSD Treatment
April 29, 2010 [Source: News Blaze]
Walter Reed case reports indicate that the use of a stellate ganglion block, a 10-minute procedure during which local anesthesia is injected next to the stellate ganglion, appears to provide immediate, significant and durable relief for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The report concluded that “selective blockade of the right stellate ganglion at C6 level is a safe and minimally invasive procedure which may provide durable relief from PTSD symptoms, allowing the safe discontinuation of psychiatric medications.” Full story...

Study Examines Costs of Neuropathic Pain
April 27, 2010 [Source: Medical News Today]
Researchers at the University of Rochester and the University of Arizona report that annual health care costs associated with postherpetic neuralgia and diabetic peripheral neuropathy in patients of all ages range from $1,600 to $7,000 per case and is on the rise as the population ages and their risk for shingles and diabetes increase. Full story...

Men and Women Differ in Pain Drug Abuse Risks
**Affiliate Membership**

Are the members of your pain team AAPM members?

[Affiliate membership information...]

---

**The American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM)** is committed to the certification of qualified physicians in the field of Pain Medicine. Visit abpm.org to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

---

**Pain Medicine: June, 2010**

**Highlights:**

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Benzodiazepines Predict Use of Opioids—A Follow-Up Study of 17,074 Men and Women

**SPINE SECTION**

Intrathecal Catheter Granuloma Associated with Continuous Sufentanil

**PRIMARY CARE & HEALTH SERVICES SECTION**

Reasons for Under-Use of Prescribed Opioid Medications by Patients in Pain

**NEUROPATHIC PAIN SECTION**

A fMRI Evaluation of Lamotrigine for the Treatment of Trigeminal Neuropathic Pain: Pilot Study

**ACUTE PAIN SECTION**

A Risk-Benefit Assessment of Paracetamol (Acetaminophen) Combined with Caffeine

[View all topics slated for the next issue of Pain Medicine Journal or go to the Clinical Information section of the AAPM website for more information.]

---

**MEMBERSHIP**

**AAPM Membership Renewals**

Membership renewals are currently being sent out. Don’t miss the opportunity to continue being a part of the primary organization for physicians practicing in the specialty of pain medicine. As a member you will continue to receive the AAPM E-News, Pain Medicine, the official journal of AAPM, as well as representation and advocacy in Washington DC, up-to-date coding information, discounts on AAPM's Annual Meeting, and a host of other benefits.

---

**April 27, 2010 [Source: Newswise]**

A study done by researchers at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital surveyed 662 chronic non-cancer pain patients who take opioid pain medications to examine gender differences associated with misuse or abuse. The researchers found that drug misuse by women is motivated more by emotional issues and psychological distress, while in men this behavior usually stems from problematic social and behavioral problems that lead to substance abuse. [Full story...]

---

**Scientists Learn to Block Pain at its Source**

April 26, 2010 [Source: EurekAlert!]

Researchers at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio discovered a family of endogenous capsaicin-like molecules that are naturally released during an injury, which they identified as a series of compounds or fatty acids called oxidized linoleic acid metabolites (OLAMs). This has led researchers to the development of two new classes of analgesics using drugs that either block the synthesis of OLAMs or antibodies that inactivate them. [Full story...]

---

[Back to top]

**Pain Treatments/Trials in the News**

**Cipher Pharmaceuticals Achieves Major Milestone with FDA Approval for CIP-TRAMADOL ER**

May 10, 2010 [Source: ClinicaSpace]

The FDA approved Cipher Pharmaceutical's CIP Tramadol extended-release product for the treatment of moderate to moderately severe chronic pain in adults. [Full story...]

---

**Data Comparing NUCYNTA(R) (tapentadol) Tablets to Oxycodone Immediate Release Tablets Presented at 2010 American Pain Society Annual Meeting**

May 7, 2010 [Source: PR Newswire]

A post-hoc analysis of the original Phase 3 safety study evaluated the safety profile of tapentadol immediate release (n=158, either 50 or 100 mg dosed every four to six hours as needed) over a 90-day period among the elderly (age 65 or older) with moderate to severe low-back pain or osteoarthritis pain. The study demonstrated that tapentadol IR was associated with lower incidence of specific gastrointestinal side effects versus oxycodone IR (46.8% vs. 68.9%, respectively). [Full story...]

---

**In Patients with Fibromyalgia, Flexible Doses of Duloxetine Provide Greater Pain Reduction vs Placebo**

May 6, 2010 [Source: Monthly Prescribing Reference]

The first fibromyalgia duloxetine trial allowing dose adjustment based on clinical response and tolerability found that patients had improvement in sleep, stiffness, and functioning. The study suggests that 90 mg/day of duloxetine may be an appropriate intermediate dose for some patients not experiencing adequate pain relief at lower dose levels. [Full story...]

---

**Telcagepant Efficacy Unaffected by Prior Use of Opioids for Migraine**

May 6, 2010 [Source: Courtland Forum]

Merck Research Laboratories presented results from a post-hoc analysis of data from a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of telcagepant, a novel investigational oral calcitonin gene-related peptide receptor antagonist that has acute antimigraine efficacy comparable to oral triptans. The analysis showed that telcagepant efficacy is similar regardless of whether patients used or previously responded to opioids for migraine headaches. [Full story...]
member benefits. Pay dues online or for phone assistance, please call customer service at 847/375-4731.

Bring in a new, paid, active AAPM member and receive the Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting, which contains exciting, forward thinking perspectives currently driving the emerging field of Pain Medicine. A $79 value. Contact phenderson@connect2amc.com to receive your thank you for referring a new AAPM.

**Join AAPM Now**

With membership at an unprecedented level, more than 2,500 physicians and their pain teams are part of this premier medical specialty society, practicing in pain medicine from origins in anesthesiology, neurosurgery, neurology, physiatry, and psychiatry. For more than 25 years, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) has provided education, training, advocacy and research in the specialty of pain medicine. Consider joining AAPM today and become part of this growing medical specialty society. Visit www.painmed.org for more information.

**POZEN Reports PA65020 Significantly Reduces the Incidence of Upper GI Damage in Healthy Adults**

May 6, 2010 [Source: Green.TCMnet.com]

Pozen's Phase I trial of PA65020, a combination of enteric-coated aspirin (EC-ASA) and immediate-release (IR) omeprazole, significantly reduced the incidence of gastrointestinal (GI) mucosal damage compared to EC-ASA (650 mg twice daily) in healthy adults treated for one month. Full story...

**Gabapentin Appears to Lack Analgesic Efficacy for Chronic Low Back Pain**

May 6, 2010 [Source: Monthly Prescribing Reference]

Results from a study by researchers at the VA San Diego Healthcare System found that gabapentin (up to 3600 mg/day, or maximum tolerant dose) did not reduce pain and improve function and quality of life in patients with chronic low back pain versus those receiving placebo, as observed on the Descriptor Differential Scale pain intensity. Full story...

**FDA News, Recalls & Warnings**

**Ultram (tramadol hydrochloride), Ultracet (tramadol hydrochloride/acetaminophen): Label Change**

May 25, 2010 [Source: FDA]

The FDA announced that the Warnings information on Utram and Ultracet have been strengthened to emphasize the risk of suicide for patients who are addiction-prone, taking tranquilizers or antidepressant drugs and also warns of the risk of overdosage. Full story...

**Members in the News**

**New Ways to Treat Pain**

May 11, 2010 [Source: The Wall Street Journal]

AAPM Business Oversight Committee Chairman and AAPM Past President (2007), B. Todd Sitzman MD MPH commented in an article in The Wall Street Journal that discussed new therapies for the treatment of chronic pain. Full story...

**AAPM President Appears on Univision Television Program**

AAPM President Eduardo Fraifeld MD was featured on U.S. Hispanic network Univision's television program, Aqúi n Ahora (Here and Now). The feature segment "Slaves to Pain" was broadcast nationally on April 20.

Share your recent accomplishments, honors, published works, media interviews, or career changes by emailing sthompson@painmed.org.

**AAPM Business**
Call for Nominations: 2011-2012 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
Deadline: June 7, 2010
If you or someone you know is a current, voting AAPM member who is interested in assuming a leadership role, please consider nominating that member to serve on the 2011-2012 Board of Directors or the Nominating Committee.
[Click here for more information.]

Call for 2011 Awards Nominations
Deadline: June 7, 2010
The annual AAPM awards program identifies and celebrates the accomplishments of individuals whose endeavors improve the care of people with pain. Awards are presented at the AAPM annual meeting to those who contribute to the field of Pain Medicine in social, political, scientific, or clinical arenas.
[Click here for more information.]

AAPM Grant Announcement

2010 AAPM/Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Pain Medicine
The recipients of the 2010 AAPM/Pfizer Visiting Professorships in Pain Medicine program were announced on April 30, 2010.
[To view this year's recipients...]

Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members

Pain Medicine and Controlled Substances: Risk Management and Best Practices
Date: June 5, 2010
Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL
[More information...]

For more Meetings of Interest to AAPM Members
[Back to top]

Pain Abstracts in the News

Peripheral Nerve Blocks and Trigger Point Injections in Headache Management – A Systematic Review and Suggestions for Future Research
May 7, 2010 [Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain]
Abstract: Intervventional procedures such as peripheral nerve blocks (PNBs) and trigger point injections (TPIs) have long been used in the treatment of various headache disorders. There are, however, little data on their efficacy for the treatment of specific headache syndromes.
[Read more...]

Chronic Pain Acceptance and Affective Well-Being: A Coping Perspective
April, 28, 2010 [Source: Official Journal of the European Federation of IASP Chapters (EFIC)]
Abstract: This study examined the relationship between chronic pain...
acceptance and affective well-being from a coping perspective. One hundred-fifty patients from a multidisciplinary pain centre provided self-report data including measures of pain acceptance, positive and negative affect, and accommodative flexibility.

**A Patient Survey of the Impact of Fibromyalgia and the Journey to Diagnosis**

*April 26, 2010 [Source: BMC Health Services and Research]*

Abstract: Background: Fibromyalgia is a painful, debilitating illness with a prevalence of 0.5-5.0% that affects women more than men. It has been shown that the diagnosis of fibromyalgia is associated with improved patient satisfaction and reduced healthcare utilization. This survey examined the patient journey to having their condition diagnosed and studied the impact of the condition on their life.

Read more...

Back to top

**Pain Abstracts**

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov

**The Impact of Body Mass Index on the Prevalence of Low Back Pain: the HUNT Study**


Heuch I, Hagen K, Heuch I, Nygaard Ø, Zwart JA.
Department of Neurology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway.
Abstract: STUDY DESIGN: A cross-sectional population-based study.
OBJECTIVE: To examine the association between body mass index and chronic low back pain, with adjustment for potential confounders.
PMID: 20228714 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

**Spinal Cord Mechanisms of Chronic Pain and Clinical Implications**


Thomas Cheng H.
Department of Neurology, University of Michigan, 109 Zina Pitcher Place, 5015 BSRB, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109, USA.
Abstract: Chronic pain is a prevalent and challenging problem for most medical practitioners. Because of the complex pathologic mechanisms involved in chronic pain, optimal treatment is still under development. The spinal cord is an important gateway for peripheral pain signals transmitted to the brain.
PMID: 20461476 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

**Electrotherapy for the Treatment of Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy: a Review**


Pieber K, Herceg M, Paternostro-Sluga T.
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical University of Vienna, General Hospital Vienna, Vienna, Austria.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To review different types of electrotherapy for the treatment of painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy. METHODS: A structured search of the electronic database MEDLINE was performed from the time of its initiation to July 2009. Articles in English and German were selected.
PMID: 20461329 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...
Efficacy and Safety of Duloxetine in Patients With Chronic Low Back Pain
From the *Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis, IN; daggerMedavante Corporation, Hamilton, NJ; McLean Hospital & Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA; section signIndiana University School of Medicine, IN; University of California San Diego, Department of Psychiatry, La Jolla, CA; and University of Wisconsin Medical School, Department of Neurology, Madison, WI.
Abstract: STUDY DESIGN.: This was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial. OBJECTIVE.: To assess the efficacy and safety of duloxetine in the treatment of chronic low back pain (CLBP).
PMID: 20461028 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials
The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

Assess the Effectiveness of Pulse Radio Frequency in Patients With Chronic Lumbar Radicular Pain
First Received: May 4, 2010
Sponsor: McMaster University
Principal Investigators: Harsha Shanthanna, MD McMaster University, Philip Chan, MD McMaster University
Information provided by: McMaster University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01117870
Stated Purpose: Pulsed RadioFrequency (PRF) is a relatively new technique derived from a well established and proven intervention, thermal radiofrequency (RF). Both procedures are used in the treatment of chronic pain. Unlike RF treatment, PRF does no direct damage to the nerve. During PRF treatment, electrical energy is applied with a small needle to the affected nerve using a pulsed time cycle that delivers short bursts of RF current. This study is interested in looking at the efficacy of PRF for chronic lumbar radicular pain (CLR) and to assess whether a larger scale clinical study with the same methods can be used.
Read more...

Comparison of Pain Relief After Non Stimulating Interscalene Catheter Placement vs Stimulating Catheter Placement in Total Shoulder Arthroplasty
First Received: May 11, 2010  Last Updated: May 12, 2010
Sponsor: University of Chicago
Principal Investigator: TARIQ MALIK, MD, University of Chicago
Information provided by: University of Chicago
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01122732
Stated Purpose: 1.) Interscalene continuous catheter is a very effective way of controlling pain in total shoulder arthroplasty. To ensure proper placement, nerve stimulating catheter is quite often used. 2.) Ultrasound can help proper placement of catheter without relying on nerve stimulation. 3.) The plan of the study is to compare two techniques head to head to see if they are equally effective or one is better than others.
Read more...

Prucalopride Effects on Subjects With Chronic Non-cancer Pain Suffering From Opioid Induced Constipation (OIC)
Stated Purpose: The study will evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of prucalopride over 12 weeks of treatment in subjects aged 18 years and older with chronic non-cancer pain, suffering from opioid induced constipation.

**Long-Term Study of Hydrocodone Bitartrate Controlled-release Capsules in Subjects With Chronic Pain**

First Received: April 30, 2010    Last Updated: May 3, 2010
Sponsor: Zogenix, Inc.
Study Director: Anthony Fox, MD, Zogenix, Inc.
Information provided by: Zogenix, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01115569
Stated Purpose: This Phase 3, multi-center study will evaluate the long-term safety and tolerability of hydrocodone bitartrate controlled release capsule (HC-CR) at daily doses of 40 mg or more in subjects with moderate to severe chronic pain. Long-term maintenance of HC-CR efficacy will be evaluated.

**Intensive Treatment for Chronic Pain and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

First Received: April 30, 2010    Last Updated: May 7, 2010
Sponsor: Department of Veterans Affairs
Principal Investigator: John Otis, BS BA PhD, VA Boston Health Care System, Jamaica Plain
Information provided by: Department of Veterans Affairs
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01120067
Stated Purpose: This study is investigating the efficacy of an intensive (3 week) integrated treatment for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) Veterans with both pain and PTSD.

**Back to top**

Supported by an unrestricted grant; content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM staff and members.

Click here to unsubscribe.

American Academy of Pain Medicine
8735 W. Higgins Road, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60631
847/375-4731    847/375-6477 Fax
info@painmed.org    www.painmed.org