Close to 1000 Physicians and Healthcare Providers Convened at AAPM's 28th Annual Meeting

The American Academy of Pain Medicine's 28th Annual Meeting was recently held in Palm Springs, CA, where physicians and other healthcare providers convened to learn the latest in Pain Medicine. All in all, it was a packed house with 179 scientific posters and 100 exhibitors also on hand.

This issue of AAPM's E-Newsletter includes meeting highlights, as well as a link to the entire set of abstracts presented at this year's meeting.

Plan to attend next year's Annual Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, April 11-14, 2013.

AAPM's Education Receives ACCME's Accreditation with Commendation

AAPM President-Elect Lynn R. Webster MD and AAPM Immediate Past President Perry G. Fine MD present the results of a focused literature review to identify reports of fatal or near-fatal outcomes that occurred in conjunction with opioid rotation.

Overdose Deaths Demand a New Paradigm for Opioid Rotation

Drs. Webster and Fine present a new paradigm that suggests three easy-to-remember steps in opioid rotation and obviates the need to use a conversion table.

Study Suggests New Way to Treat Chronic Pain

A research team led by Professor Jeffrey Mogil of McGill University discovered the gene that encodes the pain receptor known as P2X7. The researchers found that a single amino-acid change in P2X7 controls the sensitivity to the two main causes of chronic pain, inflammation and nerve damage.

Team Finds Atomic Structure of Molecule that Binds to Opioids in the Brain

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute have for the first time...
determined the three-dimensional atomic structure of a human opioid receptor, which scientists and drug companies will be able to use to improve existing kappa-targeting compounds and develop anti-addiction medicines. Full story...

Evidence Mounts for Link Between Opioids and Cancer Growth  
March 21, 2012 [Source: University of Chicago Medical Center]  
Two new studies and a commentary in the journal, Anesthesiology, argue that the “mu opioid receptor plays an important role in tumor progression and support a therapeutic role for opioid antagonists,” which may influence cancer outcomes. Full story...

Peripheral Nerve Stimulation Helps Control Pain after Combat Injuries  
March 21, 2012 [Source: International Anesthesia Research Society]  
Peripheral nerve stimulation effectively reduced pain scores from 6 to 2 (on a 10 point scale) in two soldiers with severe neuropathic pain from combat injuries. After a few weeks both patients were able to keep their pain under control, indicating that peripheral nerve stimulation may be a viable option for short-term pain management. Full story...

Pediatricians’ Pain-Medication Judgments Affected by Unconscious Racial Bias  
March 19, 2012 [Source: University of Washington]  
A study using three Implicit Association Tests to measure unconscious attitudes and beliefs showed that pediatricians who had an unconscious preference for European Americans had the tendency to prescribe better pain management for them compared to African-American patients. Full story...

Italian Researchers Found How to Stop Low Back Pain  
March 13, 2012 [Source: Catholic University of Rome]  
Researchers at the Catholic University of Sacred Heart in Rome and the University of Pittsburgh used an experimental drug on mice to inhibit the molecular mechanism “NF-kB” which is responsible for low back pain and other acute vertebral problems due to aging and degeneration of the vertebral column. Full story...

INSYS Therapeutics Announces the Availability of SUBSYS(TM) (fentanyl sublingual spray) for Breakthrough Cancer Pain  
March 26, 2012 [Source: MarketWatch]  
SUBSYS™ is a sublingual spray formulation of free fentanyl in a novel single unit-dose delivery device which disperses a fine mist over a broad sublingual area for the management of breakthrough cancer pain and is now available in 100 mcg through 1600 mcg doses. The new drug is part of the TIRF REMS Access program. Full story...

Covidien’s Mallinckrodt Business Launches Morphine Sulfate Oral Solution in U.S.  
March 22, 2012 [Source: BioSpace]  
This new generic morphine sulfate oral solution for the relief of moderate-to-severe acute and chronic pain in opioid-tolerant patients is now available in 100 milligrams per 5 mL (20 milligrams per 1 mL). Full story...
Medicare Comparative Billing Report on Pain Management Services
Emily Hill PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
On March 20, 2012, CMS and its contractor, SafeGuard Services LLC, began sending comparative billing reports (CBR) to a maximum of 5,000 providers of Pain Management Services. A CBR is an analysis that shows a provider’s billing pattern for select services and compares that billing to their peers. Pain Management Services has been identified as a vulnerability in the Medicare Program and was thus identified by CMS for a comparative study. The CBR is not intended to be punitive but rather is a proactive approach that will help a provider identify potential errors in billing practices. Full story...

Plan to attend AAPM's 2012 Coding Webinars:
The following 90-minute Coding for Pain Webinars by AAPM coding experts Fred Davis MD, Eduardo Fraifeld MD and Emily Hill PA will be held in 2012. All sessions will include a live Q&A session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 20, 2012</td>
<td>Medicare Guidelines for Documenting E/M Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2012</td>
<td>Principles of ICD-10 Coding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12, 2012</td>
<td>Coding Update for 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2012 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/Pain Management
by Contexto/media Now Available to AAPM Members at a Discount
To order...

AAPM Remembers
Honoring the Legacy of Robert G. Addison MD
R. Norman Harden, MD and Daniel B. Carr, MD, DABPM, FFPMANZCA (Hon) pay tribute to AAPM's Past President (1987), Robert G. Addison MD, recognizing his significant contributions to the specialty of Pain Medicine. Full story...
View article in the Chicago Tribune...

AAPM Members in the News
Colorado Medical Community Tries to Slow Flood of Painkiller Misuse
March 18, 2012 [Source: Denver Post]
AAPM Member, Paul Christo MD MBA comments on the steps needed to help reduce prescription drug abuse in an article discussing the increase in opioid-related deaths in the state of Colorado. Full story...
Center and reach more than the 2,500 members of AAPM. The network reaches beyond 30,000 professionals in healthcare.

Help Wanted:

Established Private Practice is seeking a Fellowship trained Pain Physician for Partnership
Tri-State Pain
Pennsylvania
Full-time opportunity to join a rapidly growing pain management practice.

Pain Management Opportunities
The Permanente Medical Group
San Jose, CA
We require a physician with residency in either Medicine or PM&R. One to two years of experience in taking care of patients with chronic, painful conditions is desirable.

Read this month’s President’s Message

Visit PainPoints
Pain Medicine’s new blog, and read posts by AAPM’s Director at Large, Gilbert Fanciullo MD, MS.

State-by-State Opioid Prescribing Policies on Medscape
View summary of state laws related to prescribing controlled substances.

AAPM Releases Pain Position Paper

Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting
Plenary Proceedings of the 24th Annual Meeting contains exciting, forward thinking perspectives currently

Annual Meeting News

SocialMed: A Brain-Pain Connection
March 25, 2012 [Source: MedPage Today]
Linda R. Watkins PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder, was the keynote speaker at AAPM’s Annual Meeting held in Palm Springs this past February, where she discussed how immunology and pain are intertwined. A new website BrainImmune.org provides the latest in clinical and basic research on the connection between the two areas. Full story...

Geriatric Patients Metabolize Oxymorphone Extended-Release Tablets More Slowly
March 19, 2012 [Source: Clinical Geriatrics]
A study presented at AAPM’s Annual Meeting found that overall, the steady-state mean and maximum plasma concentrations of oxymorphone (ER) and its metabolites were 35% to 40% higher for older adults versus younger adults. Women also had mean plasma concentrations averaging 14% to 21% higher than concentrations observed in men. Full story...

Drug Take-Back Events

National Take-Back Initiative April 28, 2012
The next DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will take place across the country on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Full story...

State Legislative News

DEA Can Ban Sanford CVS Stores from Selling Certain Drugs, Appeals Court Rules
March 22, 2012 [Source: SunSentinel.com]
A U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the DEA can stop two CVS stores in Sanford, Florida, from selling certain controlled substances because CVS “has not satisfied the stringent requirements for a stay pending appeal.” Full story...

Ethics

Millennium Laboratories Announces Laboratory Responsibility Pledge
March 21, 2012 [Source: Bradenton.com]
Millennium Laboratories issued its Clinical Laboratory Responsibility Pledge, "a
driving the emerging field of pain medicine.

Order your copy TODAY
Price: $79

4 easy ways to order:
Phone: 847-375-4731
Fax: 847-375-6477
Email: info@painmed.org
Mail: AAPM
P.O. Box 839
Glenview, IL 60025-0839

E-News is supported by:
Supported by an unrestricted grant; content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM staff and members.

Purdue University

UPDATES
The AAPM Power Point Presentation on the Federal Regulations for Prescribing has been updated effective 11/01/2010.
View this new presentation.

Need Facts on Pain?
Updated: Visit AAPM's "Facts on Pain" section in the Patient Center of the AAPM website, which now includes detailed references to each fact. These are helpful to have on hand for media calls. Read more...

Affiliate Membership
Are the members of your pain team AAPM members?
Affiliate membership information...

Acute Morphine Activates Satellite Glial Cells and Up-Regulates IL-1beta in Dorsal Root Ganglia in Mice via Matrix Metalloprotease-9
March 22, 2012 [Source: Molecular Pain]
Abstract (provisional): Background: Activation of spinal cord glial cells such as microglia and astrocytes has been shown to regulate chronic opioid-induced antinociceptive tolerance and hyperalgesia, due to spinal up-regulation of the proinflammatory cytokines such as interleukin-1 beta (IL-1beta). Matrix metalloprotease-9 (MMP-9) has been implicated in IL-1beta activation in neuropathic pain. However, it is unclear whether acute opioid treatment can activate glial cells in the peripheral nervous system. We examined acute morphine-induced activation of satellite glial cells (SGCs) and up-regulation of IL-1beta in dorsal root ganglia (DRGs), and further investigated the involvement of MMP-9 in these opioid-induced peripheral changes.
Read more...
View full article in Molecular Pain...

Antidepressants and the Relief of Osteoarthritic Pain – Findings from a Study Examining Adjunctive Duloxetine
March 21, 2012 [Source: The International Journal of Clinical Practice]
Antidepressant treatments have been used to manage pain syndromes (1). Duloxetine received US FDA approval in 2010 for the indication of chronic musculoskeletal pain, including osteoarthritis (OA) (2). The mechanism of action is thought to be related to the amelioration of central pain pathway dysfunction (3) through actions at serotonin and norepinephrine transporters (2); thus, the mechanism of action is notably different from those of opioids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
Read more...

Presynaptically Localized Cyclic GMP-Dependent Protein Kinase 1 Is a Key Determinant of Spinal Synaptic Potentiation and Pain Hypersensitivity
March 13, 2012 [Source: Plos Biology]
Abstract: Synaptic long-term potentiation (LTP) at spinal neurons directly communicating pain-specific inputs from the periphery to the brain has been proposed to serve as a trigger for pain hypersensitivity in pathological states. Here, we found that Protein Kinase G1 (PKG-I) localized presynaptically in nociceptor terminals plays an essential role in the expression of spinal LTP. Using the Cre-lox P system, we generated nociceptor-specific knockout mice lacking PKG-I specifically in presynaptic terminals of nociceptors in the spinal cord, but not in post-synaptic neurons or elsewhere (SNS-PKG-I−/− mice).
Read more...

Rescue Therapy for Acute Migraine, Part 3: Opioids, NSAIDs, Steroids, and Post-Discharge Medications
March 2012 [Source: Headache: The Journal of Head and Face Pain]
Abstract: Objective: The final section of this 3-part review analyzes published reports involving the acute treatment of migraine with opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and steroids in the emergency department (ED), urgent care, and headache clinic settings, as well as post-discharge medications. In the Conclusion, there is a general discussion of all the therapies presented in the 3 sections.
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: March, 2012

Highlights:

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY
PMRs and Rx Drug Abuse—Encouraging Signs but Is It Every Man for Himself?

SPINE SECTION
Long-Term Effect of Pulsed Radiofrequency on Chronic Cervical Radicular Pain Refractory to Repeated Transforminal Epidural Steroid Injections

PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION
Switching Methadone: A 10-Year Experience of 345 Patients in an Acute Palliative Care Unit

ETHICS SECTION
The Ethics of Pain Clinical Trials on Persons Lacking Judgment Ability: Much to Improve

ACUTE PAIN SECTION
Beneficial Effect of Amantadine on Postoperative Pain Reduction and Consumption of Morphine in Patients Subjected to Elective Spine Surgery

View all topics slated for the March issue of Pain Medicine Journal or go to the Library 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 member benefits.

Pay dues online or for phone assistance, please call customer service at 847/375-4731.

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Structure of the Human κ-opioid Receptor in Complex with JDTic
Source: Department of Molecular Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, California 92037, USA.
Abstract: Opioid receptors mediate the actions of endogenous and exogenous opioids on many physiological processes, including the regulation of pain, respiratory drive, mood, and-in the case of κ-opioid receptor (κ-OR)-dysphoria and psychotomimesis. Here we report the crystal structure of the human κ-OR in complex with the selective antagonist JDTic, arranged in parallel dimers, at 2.9 Å resolution. The structure reveals important features of the ligand-binding pocket that contribute to the high affinity and subtype selectivity of JDTic for the human κ-OR.
PMID: 22437504 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Randomized, Placebo-controlled Trial of Propranolol Added to Topiramate in Chronic Migraine
Neurology. 2012 Feb 29. [Epub ahead of print]
Silberstein SD, Dodick DW, Lindblad AS, Holroyd K, Harrington M, Mathew NT, Hirtz D.
Source: From Thomas Jefferson University (S.D.S.), Philadelphia, PA; Mayo Clinic (D.W.D.), Phoenix, AZ; The EMMES Corporation (EMMES) (A.S.L., M.H.), Rockville, MD; Ohio University (K.H.), Athens, OH; Houston Headache Clinic (N.T.M.), Houston, TX; and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (D.H.), Bethesda, MD.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To assess the efficacy and safety of adding propranolol to topiramate in chronic migraine subjects inadequately controlled with topiramate alone. CONCLUSIONS: This study does not provide evidence that the addition of propranolol LA to topiramate adds benefit when chronic migraine is inadequately controlled with topiramate alone. Classification of evidence: This study provides Class II evidence that propranolol LA, added to topiramate, is ineffective in chronic migraine patients who fail topiramate monotherapy.
PMID: 22377815 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Focused Review of Interdisciplinary Pain Rehabilitation Programs for Chronic Pain Management
Stanos S.
Source: Center for Pain Management, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 980 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 800, Chicago, IL, 60611, USA
Abstract: Interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation programs (IPRPs) are based on a functional restoration approach to treating complex chronic pain conditions. With a greater appreciation for a biopsychosocial approach to more effectively manage patients with chronic pain has come the development of more comprehensive treatment programs with less of a biomedical emphasis (i.e., interventional therapy, unimodal physical therapy, and passive modalities) and more of a biopsychosocial one.
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 2,400 physicians and their pain teams are part of this premier medical specialty society from origins in anesthesiology, neurosurgery, neurology, physiatry, and psychiatry. Now in its 28th year, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) continues to provide 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.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov

Acute Pain Genomic Study

This study is currently recruiting participants.

First Received on March 15, 2012. Last Updated on March 16, 2012

Sponsor: University of Pittsburgh

Collaborators: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Information provided by (Responsible Party): Jacques E. Chelly, University of Pittsburgh

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01557751

Stated Purpose: In preparation for future large-scale genome wide association studies, reliable methods must be developed for measuring perceived pain and for estimating the effects of potentially confounding factors such as appropriate covariates. The major objectives of our pilot investigation are to develop optimal methods to characterize the primary endpoint of the study—knee pain, and to gather preliminary data on genetic markers in the human genome that are associated with a certain pain phenotype. The specific issues for this study will be to carry out a preliminary gene association analysis of acute perioperative pain in individuals undergoing total knee replacement and to define a pain phenotype that is composed of multidimensional domains such as opioid consumption, inflammatory markers, anxiety level, degree of catastrophizing, etc. This pain phenotype has to be sensitive enough to pick up changes in pain experience that can be attributed to single nucleotide polymorphisms.

Read more...