AAPM's 31st Annual Meeting begins 5pm Thursday March 19 - ends Sunday March 22 at noon
Preconference sessions begin Wednesday March 18
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, MD

AAPM’s Education Receives ACCME Accreditation with Commendation

Patient Education Resources
AAPM's website is host to patient education videos that include 21 topics that you can share and promote with your patients. Link to the AAPM website in your waiting/patient rooms or send the links to the videos in your regular patient communications. View videos...

Donate Now to Better Pain Care

Get Involved
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
Pain News
Pain Research in the News
FDA News, Warnings & Recalls
Practice Management & Coding Updates
Government Agency News
Advocacy
State Legislative News (news for MA, NE and NM)
New Guidelines
Annual Meeting - Call for Education Sessions – Deadline Extended to May 20
AAPM Members in the News
Pain Abstracts in the News
PubMed Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials
Industry News

Get Involved

Interdisciplinary Pain Medicine Special Interest Group (SIG)
This SIG met for the first time during the recent AAPM Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. This special interest group seeks to play an important role in influencing the research and practice of interdisciplinary pain care but will need to first consolidate the plethora of ideas and goals discussed in the meeting into a mission statement and then develop a clear plan for moving forward. Click here for more information on this SIG or email mams@connect2amc.com if you are interested in becoming a member of this SIG or if you are a physician member interested in co-chairing the SIG.

Website Task Force
If you love technology, a Website Task Force has been created by AAPM's President Sean Mackey that is tasked with evaluating the current website and determining needs for the future as it relates to design, function and service the AAPM members. Interested members should email mams@connect2amc.com.

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Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

Prescription Monitoring Data can Reduce Abuse, Deaths
April 24, 2014 [Source: Brandeis University]
The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Center of Excellence at Brandeis
University has issued a ground-breaking report recommending that medical insurers use prescription monitoring data to reduce the overdoses, deaths and health care costs associated with abuse of opioids and other prescription drugs. Full story...

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Pain News

Senator Backs Alternative Treatments for Vets' Pain
May 7, 2014 [Source: Senator Bernie Sanders, VT]
Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., in his position as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, is pressing for expanded veterans' access to treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, meditation and animal-assisted therapy for chronic pain. Full story...

Could Chronic Pain Neuroimaging Impact the Legal System?
May 6, 2014 [Source: The Elm Blog, University of Maryland, Baltimore]
A group of pain scientists and legal scholars from across the country discussed how pain research can inform the legal profession during a symposium at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, on April 25. Full story...

VA Secretary Orders Face-to-Face Audit at All Clinics
May 6, 2014 [Source: U.S. House of Representatives, Ann Kirkpatrick]
Full story...

Hagens Berman Announces $100 Million Settlement for Victims in NECC Meningitis Outbreak
May 6, 2014 [Source: Hagens Berman]
SEATTLE – Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee, the legal committee representing victims in federal court, today announced a $100 million settlement for victims who were exposed to tainted epidural steroid injections manufactured by New England Compounding Center (NECC), which caused a recorded 64 deaths. Full story...

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Pain Research in the News

New Drugs Offer Hope for Migraine Prevention
April 22, 2014 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]
PHILADELPHIA – Two new studies may offer hope for people with migraine. The two studies released today will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology’s 66th Annual Meeting. Full story...

Low Tolerance for Pain? The Reason May be in Your Genes
April 20, 2014 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]
PHILADELPHIA – Researchers may have identified key genes linked to why some people have a higher tolerance for pain than others, according to a study released today that will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 66th Annual Meeting. Full story...

On the Hunt for Safer Alternatives to Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Pain Killers
April 17, 2014 [Source: Penn Medicine]
PHILADELPHIA — Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that block an enzyme called COX-2 relieve pain and inflammation but can cause heart attacks, stroke, heart failure, and even sudden cardiac death. Full story...

Task Force on Research Standards for Chronic Low Back Pain (cLBP)
April 2014 [Source: NIH Pain Consortium]
In April 2014, the Task Force began to release publications on its work, including a full report with recommendations on standards, an executive summary, journal articles, and a uniform minimal dataset. Full story...

FDA News, Warnings & Recalls

Propofol Injectable Emulsion, USP by Hospira: Recall - Visible Particulates
April 18, 2014 [Source: Medwatch]
Full story...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

CMS Sets New Implementation Date for ICD-10-CM
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
CMS released a brief statement last week indicating that the ICD-10 implementation date has been set for October 1, 2015. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 contained language that delayed ICD-10 implementation until at least that date. Industry leaders have been waiting to see if Health and Human Services (HHS) would delay implementation beyond the date provided in the law. Read more...

Save the Dates for Upcoming Coding for Pain Webinars

- **Essentials of Coding for Pain**
  Wednesday, June 11, 2014 (Noon – 1:30 pm CDT)
  For more information or to register now...

- **Coding for Pain in 2015**
  Wednesday, December 10, 2014 (Noon – 1:30 pm CDT)

For more information on upcoming Coding for Pain Webinars...

For 2014 Coding Book, Webinar archives and other coding resources visit [www.painmed.org/coding](http://www.painmed.org/coding)
Government Agency News

The Way Forward on Opioid Abuse: A Call to Action for Science-Based, Comprehensive Strategies
April 29, 2014 [Source: FDAVoice Blog]
The recent attention paid by state policy makers around the serious public health problem of misuse, abuse, addiction, and overdose of prescription opioid painkillers is commendable. Full story...

Increases in Prescription Opioid and Heroin Abuse Present Complicated Challenge for State and Federal Officials
April 29, 2014 [Source: Energy & Commerce Committee, United States House of Representatives]
WASHINGTON, DC – The House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee today held a hearing to review the growing concerns of prescription drug and heroin abuse. Full story...

HHS Leaders Call for Expanded Use of Medications to Combat Opioid Overdose Epidemic
April 24, 2014 [Source: HHS]
New England Journal of Medicine commentary describes that vital medications are currently underutilized in addiction treatment services and discusses ongoing efforts by major public health agencies to encourage their use. Full story...

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Advocacy

AAPM Submits Comments to DEA Docket Re: Schedules of Controlled Substances: Rescheduling of Hydrocodone Combination Products from Schedule III to Schedule II
April 24, 2014 [Source: AAPMedicine]
View comments...

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State Legislative News

MA: MassHealth Intends to Implement Lower Dose Limits for Opioids Beginning in March 2014

NE: Gov. Heineman Vetoes Bill to Ease Restrictions on Nurse Practitioners
April 23, 2014 [Source: Livewell Nebraska]

NM: Progress Puts Prescription Drugs to Better Use
May 7, 2014 [Source: New Mexico Department of Health]
The New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy announced this week a 10 percent decrease in the total amount of prescription pain killers dispensed in pharmacies statewide in 2013. Full story...

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New Guidelines

New Clinical Practice Guideline on Methadone Safety
Improved physician education and patient counseling about methadone safety and ECG monitoring to identify patients at high risk for cardiac problems will lead to safer use of the medication, according to the American Pain Society’s Clinical Practice Guideline on Methadone Safety, published this week in The Journal of Pain. 

Full story...

To view guidelines...

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### AAPM's 2015 Annual Meeting Call for Proposals for Education Sessions

- **Only One Week Left**
  - **Submission Deadline Extended: May 20, 2014**

AAPM is now seeking proposals for its 31st Annual Meeting, which will be held March 19-22, 2015 with Pre-meeting activities beginning on March 18-19, in National Harbor, MD.

Targeted to improve the delivery and practice of evidence-based pain care throughout the healthcare continuum, the 2015 Annual Meeting Planning Committee seeks education session submissions designed to improve the evaluation, diagnosis, and multidisciplinary (integrative and interventional) treatment for various pain disorders, as well as methods of improving the practice of pain medicine in this changing healthcare environment.

For more details ...

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### AAPM Members in the News

**Finding Relief from Lower Back Pain**

April 25, 2014 [Source: Scope Blog, Stanford Medicine]

AAPM President, **Sean Mackey, MD PhD** is interviewed in Stanford Medicine’s Scope blog, about a recent interview in Prevention magazine.

Full story...

### Pain Abstracts in the News

**The Netrin-1 Receptor DCC is a Regulator of Maladaptive Responses to Chronic Morphine Administration**

May 8, 2014 [Source: BMC Genomics]

Abstract: (provisional): Background: Opioids are the cornerstone of treatment for moderate to severe pain, but chronic use leads to maladaptations that include: tolerance, dependence and opioid-induced hyperalgesia (OIH).

Read more...

**Transmitting Pain and Itch Messages: A Contemporary View of the Spinal Cord Circuits that Generate Gate Control**

May 7, 2014 [Source: Cell]

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**Physician Payment Sunshine Act Resources:**

- AMA's Recommended 4 Steps for Physicians to Support Accurate Data
- AMA Toolkit for Physician Financial Transparency Reports (Sunshine Act)
- The Official CMS Website for Open Payments (Physician Payments Sunshine Act)

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**Pain Medicine: April, 2014 Highlights:**

**EDITORIAL**

Efficacy vs Effectiveness and Explanatory vs Pragmatic: Where Is the Balance Point in Pain Medicine Research?

**SPINE SECTION**

Correlation Between Severity of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis and Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injection

**CANCER PAIN & PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION**

Preferences of Caregivers and Patients Regarding Opioid Analgesic Use in Terminal Care

**OPIOIDS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTIONS SECTION**

Predictors of Painkiller Dependence among People with Pain in the General Population

**TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SECTION**

Establishment of a Rat Model of Type II Diabetic Neuropathic Pain

**ACUTE & PERIOPERATIVE PAIN SECTION**

Isometric Exercise as a Test of Pain Modulation: Effects of Experimental Pain Test
Management of Chronic Pain Symptoms

Movement Therapies for the Self-Management of Chronic Pain Symptoms

Multimodal, Integrative Therapies for the Self-Management of Chronic Pain Symptoms

The Current State of the Science for Active Self-Care Complementary and Integrative Medicine Therapies in the Management of Chronic Pain Symptoms: Lessons Learned, Directions for the Future

View all topics in the April issue of Pain Medicine journal and the special supplement issue or go to the Research 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.

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. Now in its 30th 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.

The original formulation of Gate Control Theory (GCT) proposed that the perception of pain produced by spinal cord signaling to the brain depends on a balance of activity generated in large (nonnociceptive)- and small (nociceptive)-diameter primary afferent fibers.

Read more...

Peripheral Surgical Wounding and Age-Dependent Neuroinflammation in Mice

May 5, 2014 [Source: PLOS One]

Abstract: Post-operative cognitive dysfunction is associated with morbidity and mortality. However, its neuropathogenesis remains largely to be determined.

Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Evidence of Abnormal Epidermal Nerve Fiber Density in Fibromyalgia: Clinical and Immunologic Implications


Caro XJ1, Winter EF.

Abstract: Objective. A subset of fibromyalgia (FM) patients exhibits a large fiber, demyelinating peripheral polyneuropathy, akin to that seen in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). It has been suggested that this demyelinating process is likely to be immune mediated. Conclusion: Calf and thigh ENFD in FM are significantly diminished compared to controls. Advancing age, alone, cannot explain this finding. Calf ENFD correlated, though weakly, in an inverse fashion with serum IL-2R (P = 0.04). These findings suggest that SFN is likely to contribute to FM pain complaints; that pain in this disorder arises, in part, from a peripheral immune mediated process; and that measurement of ENFD may be a useful clinical tool in FM.

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PMID: 24719395 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Gene Therapy for Trigeminal Pain in Mice


Tzabazis AZ1, Klukinov M1, Feliciano DP1, Wilson SP2, Yeomans DC1.

Abstract: The aim of this study was to test the efficacy of a single direct injection of viral vector encoding for encephalin to induce a widespread expression of the transgene and potential analgesic effect in trigeminal behavioral pain models in mice. Direct injection of viral vectors proved to be useful for exploring the distinct pathophysiology of the trigeminal system and could also be an interesting addition to the pain therapists’ armamentarium.

PMID: 24572785 [PubMed - in process]

PMCID: PMC3975690 [Available on 2014/10/1]

Read more...

Opioids Compared with Placebo or Other Treatments for Chronic Low Back Pain: an Update of the Cochrane Review


Chaparro LE1, Furlan AD, Deshpande A, Mailis-Gagnon A, Atlas S, Turk DC.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To assess the efficacy of opioids in adults with chronic low back pain (CLBP). CONCLUSION: There is evidence of short-term efficacy (moderate for pain and small for function) of opioids to treat CLBP compared with placebo. The effectiveness and safety of long-term opioid therapy for treatment of CLBP remains unproven.
Designate AAPM on Your AMA Membership Ballot
If you are an AMA member, you should be receiving your Specialty Representation Ballot in the mail shortly. Please take a moment and complete your Ballot, either with the self-addressed postcard or on the Internet at: www.ama-assn.org/go/ballot. Be sure to designate AAPM as your Specialty Society. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM votes for continued representation in the House of Delegates. Thank you.

AAPM on Social Network Sites
Join the AAPM Linked-In Group.

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

PET/MRI Imaging of Neuraxial Inflammation in Sciatica Patients
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Massachusetts General Hospital
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Yi Zhang, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital
Principal Investigator: Yi Zhang, MD, PhD, Massachusetts General Hospital
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02130271
Last verified: May 2014
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to see if the spine shows areas of inflammation using a specific type of imaging (pictures).

Managing Acute Pain in Critically Ill Non-communicative Palliative Care Patients
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: University of Maryland
Collaborator: Virginia Commonwealth University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Carl Shanholtz, University of Maryland
Principal Investigator: Carl Shanholtz, MD, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02127086
Last verified: April 2014
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this project is to test an innovative method for managing pain in acutely ill hospitalized patients who are not able to report their pain verbally to health care professionals. Nurses will use a Pain Assessment and Intervention for the Non-communicative (PAIN) Algorithm to guide assessment of pain, selection of pain medications, and management of medication side effects. The researchers will evaluate whether patients who are managed with the PAIN Algorithm have less severe pain and increased use of pharmacologic pain management strategies than those who are not managed with the PAIN Algorithm.

Industry News
Purdue Pharma L.P. Submits NDA for Once-Daily Hydrocodone Bitartrate Extended-Release Tablets Formulated to Incorporate Abuse-Deterrent Properties
April 30, 2014 [Source: Purdue Pharma L.P.]
New Data Presented At WIP 2014 Demonstrate Sustained Low Back Pain Relief with the Boston Scientific Precision Spectra™ Spinal Cord Stimulator System
May 8, 2014 [Boston Scientific]

Medtronic Agrees to Settle Certain INFUSE® Bone Graft Product Liability Cases
May 6, 2014 [Source: Medtronic]

Sucampo Announces New Data on AMITIZA and Opioid-Induced Constipation Published Online in Pain Medicine Journal
May 6, 2014 [Source: Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.]

Trevena Initiates Phase 2 Study of TRV130 in Acute Postoperative Pain
May 1, 2014 [Source: Trevena, Inc.]

Iroko Announces New Results from SoluMatrix® NSAID Portfolio in Acute Pain and Osteoarthritis
May 1, 2014 [Source: Iroko Pharmaceuticals, LLC]

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