AAPM E-News

AAPM 2015 Annual Meeting:
The Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts is now live. Submission deadline is September 23, 2014. For more details...

SAVE THE DATE

Pain Medicine: DC 2015
March 19-22, 2015
National Harbor, MD
Preconference sessions begin March 18
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, MD

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

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM.

AAPM Bylaws Update

Executive Summary:
As the premier physician organization for Pain Medicine, AAPM recognizes the contributions made by pain care teams, particularly its physician members, their non-physician healthcare professional colleagues, as well as the non-clinical professionals that play a supporting role. Consistent with the team-based approach to patient care, the Academy is pleased to announce the broadening of its Affiliate membership category by welcoming all clinical practice associates who work directly with patients as well as non-clinical associates who play a supporting role in pain care, such as researchers, practice management personnel, advocacy leaders, and others involved in furthering the field of Pain Medicine. Clinical practice associates must be licensed, registered, or certified in good standing by their respective regulatory agency in the United States or Canada. The Academy will use verification of a license, registration, and/or certification for the clinical practice associates. The non-clinical associates will be asked to provide a resume/CV and a signed application from their employers if applicable. Application for membership would serve as an attestation to the Academy’s mission.

Additionally, the Academy plans to expand the breadth of students allowed to join as Student members to include students enrolled and in good standing in the United States or Canada in an accredited graduate level program leading to licensure, registration and/or certification in a clinical healthcare profession involved in direct patient care.
These efforts to extend Affiliate membership to other members of the pain care team and to likewise welcome students in these disciplines are consistent with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, “Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research.” [2011, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press]. To formalize these developments, the Board of Directors will be voting on a proposed change to the AAPM Bylaws, which currently limit the Affiliate membership to very few members of the pain care team. While Board leadership in the Academy will be reserved for physician members, these Bylaws changes will allow greater access to the Academy’s programs and services to members of the Pain Care Team. These changes will allow the Academy to remain a leading organization in the field of pain, providing education and other resources to this dynamic group of professionals and students, who have an investment in pain care.

The Academy has opened up a two-week comment period regarding the proposed changes. Please send your comments to info@painmed.org.

Education Conferences

Conquering Pain Locally, Regionally and Nationally (Early Bird Registration Ends August 14, 2014)

Sponsored by the Stanford University School of Medicine in collaboration with the Western Pain Society and the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Date: September 19-21, 2014

Location: Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge, Stanford University, Stanford, California

Don't miss Stanford University, the Western Pain Society, and the American Academy of Pain Medicine: Conquering Pain Locally, Regionally & Nationally, a world-class pain conference. Learn from renowned national and international experts in multidisciplinary pain care and get up to date on the latest in pain treatment, research and policy. Network with your peers and enjoy fun and informative special events throughout the weekend while you explore the beautiful Stanford campus and earn CME credits.

To view brochure...

Pain Research in the News

Stanford Study Reveals Brain Mechanism behind Chronic Pain’s Sapping of Motivation

July 31, 2014 [Source: Stanford University]

Chronic pain is among the most abundant of all medical afflictions in the developed world. It differs from a short-term episode of pain not only in its duration, but also in triggering in its sufferers a psychic exhaustion best described by the question, “Why bother?” A new study in mice, conducted by investigators at the Stanford University School of Medicine, has identified a set of changes in key parts of the brain that may explain chronic pain’s capacity to stifle motivation. The discovery could lead to entirely new classes of treatment for this damaging psychological consequence of chronic pain.

Full story...
Need to add a Pain Physician to your practice?
Post your ad with AAPM's Career Center and reach more than the 2,500 members of AAPM. The network reaches beyond 30,000 professionals in healthcare.

Help Wanted:

INTEGRIS Health is seeking a Pain Management Physician
Oklahoma City, OK
Seeking an experienced Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Specialty Physician for a Medical Pain Management Physician opportunity.

Pain Management Physician
Javery Pain Institute
Grand Rapids, MI
Looking for a Pain Management physician with interventional training to join our expanding practice.

More jobs...

Read this month’s President’s Message

AAPM's State-of-the-Art, Comprehensive Textbook of Pain Medicine Available Now
Editor-in-Chief Timothy R. Deer MD

For more information...

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Advocacy News

Pain Care Coalition Supports S. 2529 to Reauthorize "NASPER" Law
The Pain Care Coalition has sent a letter of support on behalf of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society, and the American Society of Anesthesiologists, to support S. 2529, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2014. Reauthorization of the so-called "NASPER" law is a critically important component of the country’s multi-pronged approach to addressing prescription drug misuse and abuse.

To view support letter...

AAPM Signs on to Letter to CMS Regarding Concerns in the Sunshine Act
AAPM joins other medical associations and medical specialty societies in a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to register serious concerns with implementation of the Physician Payments Sunshine Act (Sunshine Act) and to request an expanded timeframe to allow recipients to...
Need Facts on Pain?
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...

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.

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)

Pain Medicine: July, 2014
Highlights:

SPINE SECTION
Vertebral Artery Anatomical Variations as They Relate to Cervical Transforaminal Epidural Steroid Injections

PAIN & AGING SECTION
Pain Is Associated with Recurrent Falls in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: Evidence from a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY & BRAIN NEUROSCIENCE SECTION
Fatigue and Depression in Sick-Listed Chronic Low Back Pain Patients

CANCER PAIN & PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION
Alternative Routes to Oral Opioid Administration in Palliative Care: A register, review, and dispute their data in the Open Payments System before publication, as well as the significant expansion of the reporting requirement for educational activities. To view letter...

AMA Urges Continued Support for Adequate Graduate Medical Education Funding to Meet Future Physician Workforce Needs
July 29, 2014 [Source: AMA]
"In light of the Institute of Medicine's report on graduate medical education governance and finance released today, the AMA is renewing its commitment to addressing physician shortages in needed specialties and regions to improve access to health care." Full story... View IOM's Graduate Medical Education That Meets the Nation's Health Needs report...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates
Deadline for ICD-10 Allows Health Care Industry Ample Time to Prepare for Change
July 31, 2014 [Source: CMS]
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule today finalizing Oct. 1, 2015 as the new compliance date for health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10, the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases. This deadline allows providers, insurance companies and others in the health care industry to ramp up their operations to ensure their systems and business processes are ready to go on Oct. 1, 2015. Full story...

Reviewing Add-On Codes
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
Many injection services performed by Pain Medicine physicians are reported by families of CPT codes that utilize "stand-alone" and "add-on" codes. Stand-alone codes describe a total service, while add-on codes must always be reported in addition to a primary code. Add-on codes can never be reported alone. Add-on codes are identified in CPT with a + symbol. These codes also have specific language in the code descriptor, such as "each additional" or "List separately in addition to primary procedure". Appendix D of the CPT book contains a complete list of add-on codes. Read more...

CMS Proposes to End Sunshine Act CME Exclusion
July 11, 2014 [Source: California Medical Association]
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has decided to eliminate the continuing medical education (CME) exclusion for the Physician Payments Sunshine Act. The news was included in the 2015 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule. Full story...

AMA Adopts Telemedicine Policy to Improve Access to Care for Patients
June 11, 2014 [Source: AMA]
CHICAGO – The American Medical Association (AMA) believes that the appropriate use of telemedicine to deliver care to patients could greatly improve access and quality of care, while maintaining patient safety. During its Annual Meeting today the AMA voted to approve a list of guiding principles for ensuring the appropriate coverage of and payment for telemedicine services. The principles aim to help foster innovation in the use of telemedicine, protect the patient-physician relationship and promote improved care coordination and communication with medical homes. Full story...
Pain News

Prominent Utah Pain Doc No Longer Under Scrutiny for Patient Deaths
June 29, 2014 [Source: Salt Lake Tribune]
Read this article on the Your Pain Community website, a website hosted by Lynn R. Webster MD, Immediate Past President of AAPM. Read this article...

New Partnership to Improve Access to Essential Pain Medications for People Living with HIV in Swaziland
July 29, 2014 [Source: Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation]
Washington, D.C.—July 29, 2014—Today the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) announced a new partnership to improve access to essential pain medications for people living with HIV in Swaziland. As part of ACS’ Treat the Pain initiative, this new partnership will help improve efforts to better integrate pain management into HIV/AIDS services throughout the country. Full story...

Minister Ambrose Takes Steps to Address Safe Prescribing Practices for Drugs Prone to Abuse
July 25, 2014 [Source: Government of Canada]
The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, today issued a national Call for Proposals to improve the prescribing practices for prescription drugs that have a high risk of abuse or addiction. Full story...

A Reminder of the Promise and Limitations of Abuse-Deterrent Properties
July 24, 2014 [Source: FDA Voice] Full story...

FDA Approves New Extended-Release Oxycodone with Abuse-Deterrent Properties
July 23, 2014 [Source: FDA]
Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Targiniq ER (oxycodone hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride extended-release tablets), an extended-release/long-acting (ER/LA) opioid analgesic to treat pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate. Full story...

NIH System to Monitor Emerging Drug Trends: Data from the National Drug Early Warning System Will Promote Rapid and Effective Public Health Responses
July 17, 2014 [Source: NIH]
An innovative National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) is being developed to monitor emerging trends that will help health experts respond quickly to potential outbreaks of illicit drugs such as heroin and to identify increased use of designer synthetic compounds. The system will scan social media and Web platforms to identify new trends as well as use conventional national- and local-level data resources. Full story...

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New AAPM Resources

Now Available – Essentials of Pain CME, Modules 17-20
The following topics are included in the new modules:

- Treating Acute Pain in the Patient with Chronic Pain
- Abdominal and Pelvic Pain
- Pain Management in Older Adults: How Should It Differ?
- Smoking and Chronic Pain

[For more information...]

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Essentials Live Mini Courses

Save these dates
Essentials Live Mini Courses at PAINWeek and a Breakfast Satellite CME Event
Several Live mini versions of AAPM’s Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™ are scheduled for fall of 2014. These programs will provide portions of the full Essentials course. These mini-courses offer participants a chance to sample the outstanding content and speakers that take part in the full Essentials course.

So Save these Dates and watch the website for details on the 2014 Live Essentials Mini-Programs: clinically accurate, live presentations from the top pain educators in the country.

**PAINWeek 2014**
AAPM’s Essentials of Pain at PAINWeek Live Mini-Course
“Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™”
4-Hour Course

**Date:** Wednesday, September 3  
**Time:** 9:20 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.  
**Location:** The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Essentials at PAINWeek 2014 will include these sessions:
• The Brain and Pain  
• Myofascial Pain Syndromes  
• Understanding and Treating Neuropathic Pain  
• Headache: Evaluation, Examination, and Treatment

[More information...  Register Now...]

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**Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™**
Breakfast Satellite CME Event (not part of the AAFP Assembly)

**Date:** Thursday, October 23, 2014  
**Time:** 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C., Washington, D.C.

[More information...  Register Now...]
Annual Meeting Enduring Materials

2014 Annual Meeting Independent Satellite Symposium
View educational activities on the AAPM website that are archived from official independent satellite symposium that were held in conjunction with the American Academy of Pain Medicines’ 30th Annual Meeting.

- Extended-Release Opioids for Severe Chronic Pain, a non-CME activity
- Strategies for Success in Intrathecal Pain Management, a CME activity

Click here to view...

Industry News

Quest Diagnostics Health Trends™
Prescription Drug Monitoring Report 2014. Full story...
View report...

New Public Television Special Facilitates National Pain Management Dialogue
July 29, 2014 [Source: Mallinckrodt]
Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

Efficacy of Paracetamol for Acute Low-Back Pain: A Double-Blind, Randomised Controlled Trial
July 24, 2014 [Source: The Lancet]
Summary: Background: Regular paracetamol is the recommended first-line analgesic for acute low-back pain; however, no high-quality evidence supports this recommendation. We aimed to assess the efficacy of paracetamol taken regularly or as-needed to improve time to recovery from pain, compared with placebo, in patients with low-back pain.
Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Deletion of Interleukin-6 Signal Transducer gp130 in Small Sensory Neurons Attenuates Mechanonociception and Down-Regulates TRPA1 Expression
Malsch P1, Andratsch M1, Vogl C1, Link AS2, Alzheimer C2, Brierley SM3, Hughes PA4, Kress M5.
Abstract: Glycoprotein 130 (gp130) is the signal transducing receptor subunit for cytokines of the interleukin-6 (IL-6) family, and it is expressed in a multitude of cell types of the immune and nervous system. IL-6-like cytokines are not only key regulators of innate immunity and inflammation but are also essential factors for the differentiation and development of the
somatosensory system. Mice with a null mutation of gp130 in primary nociceptive afferents (SNS-gp130(-/-)) are largely protected from hypersensitivity to mechanical stimuli in mouse models of pathological pain. Copyright © 2014 the authors.

PMID: 25057188 [PubMed - in process]

Association of Pain and Itch with Depth of Invasion and Inflammatory Cell Constitution in Skin Cancer: Results of a Large Clinicopathologic Study


Abstract: Importance: This study highlights a simple bedside evaluation of itch and pain for suspicious skin lesions. Objective: To examine the correlation of pain and itch with histologic features of skin cancers. Conclusions and Relevance: These findings support the theory that itch emanates from the upper layers of the skin, whereas pain is associated with deeper processes. This study also reports that a simple bedside assessment for the presence and intensity of pain or itch is an easily implementable tool for physicians evaluating suspicious skin lesions.

PMID: 25055194 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

**NIH Clinical Studies & Trials**

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov:

**Pharmacokinetics Study Comparing Topical Diclofenac/Menthol Gels with Voltaren Gel and Oral Diclofenac Sodium**

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02201238
First received: July 24, 2014

Stated Purpose: This research study is being conducted to characterize the pharmacokinetic properties of a new topical medication (MFC51123) that contains two active ingredients (diclofenac and menthol) in two formulation packages. One formulation package is in the form of a gel in aluminum tube and the other one in the form of a gel in roll-on applicator bottle. Additionally, as a comparison, the pharmacokinetic properties of a marketed diclofenac gel and an oral diclofenac treatment will also be characterized. This topical diclofenac/menthol gel has being developed to treat mild to moderate pain and inflammation, such as acute sport injuries, sprains and strains. The rationale for conducting the study is to prove that repeated topical treatment of the new diclofenac + menthol formulation in either of the two packages does not result in unsafe systemic exposure.

**A Safety and Effectiveness Trial of Spinal Cord Stimulation of the Dorsal Root Ganglion for Chronic Lower Limb Pain (ACCURATE)**

This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Spinal Modulation, Inc.
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Spinal Modulation, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01923285
First received: August 13, 2013
Last updated: June 13, 2014

Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the AXIUM Neurostimulator System for the treatment of chronic lower limb pain in persons diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) or Peripheral Causalgia (PC).