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...

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

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Educational Opportunities

Conquering Pain Locally, Regionally and Nationally
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.

Date: September 19-21, 2014
Location: Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge, Stanford University, Stanford, California

To view brochure...

Pain Research in the News

New Drug Promises Relief for Inflammatory Pain, Stanford Scientists Say
August 27, 2014 [Source: Stanford University School of Medicine]

Pain from inflammation sidelines thousands of Americans each year. Many face a tough choice: deal with the pain, take a potentially addictive opioid or use a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that may increase risk for cardiovascular disease or gastrointestinal bleeding. Now, researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have discovered a compound thought
to be nonaddictive and safe for the heart and gastrointestinal system that reduces inflammatory pain in mice and rats. They call the compound Alda-1. 

**Some Anti-Inflammatory Drugs Affect More Than Their Targets**

*August 21, 2014 [Source: John Hopkins Medicine]*

Researchers have discovered that three commonly used nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, alter the activity of enzymes within cell membranes. Their finding suggests that, if taken at higher-than-approved doses and/or for long periods of time, these prescription-level NSAIDs and other drugs that affect the membrane may produce wide-ranging and unwanted side effects. [Full story...]

**Antidepressants Show Potential for Postoperative Pain**

*August 19, 2014 [Source: Queens University, Canada]*

After a systematic review of clinical trials based on administering antidepressants for acute and chronic postsurgical pain, researchers have concluded that more trials are needed to determine whether these drugs should be prescribed for postsurgical pain on a regular basis. [Full story...]

**Pain Treatments less Effective for Those with Irritable Bowel**

*August 19, 2014 [Source: University of Adelaide, AU]*

Scientists in the University’s Nerve-Gut Research Laboratory have now demonstrated the mechanisms involved, and the differences between the immune pain response in healthy people and those suffering from IBS. The results of their work have been published in the journal *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*. [Full story...]

**Opioid Users Breathe Easier with Novel Drug to Treat Respiratory Depression**

*August 19, 2014 [Source: American Society of Anesthesiologists]*

People taking prescription opioids to treat moderate to severe pain may be able to breathe a little easier, literally. A study published in the September issue of *Anesthesiology*, the official medical journal of the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®), found that a new therapeutic drug, GAL-021, may reverse or prevent respiratory depression, or inadequate breathing, in patients taking opioid medication without compromising pain relief or increasing sedation. [Full story...]

**Poor Sleep Quality Increases Suicide Risk for Older Adults, Researcher Finds**

*August 13, 2014 [Source: Stanford Medicine]*

In a study, participants who reported poor sleep had a 1.4 times greater chance of death by suicide within a 10-year period than those who reported sleeping well. [Full story...]

**Expert Panel Concludes Neurostimulation Can Be Life-Changing Therapy for Chronic Pain**

*August 12, 2014 [Source: John Hopkins Medicine]*

A new report from an international team of experts provides comprehensive information on the safety and effectiveness of this type of treatment for conditions including failed back surgery syndrome and complex regional pain syndrome. [Full story...]

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**Pain News**

**September is Pain Awareness Month**

For more information from the American Chronic Pain Association...
**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:**
- **Interventional Pain Medicine Practice in SW Wisconsin**
  Gundersen Health System
  La Crosse, WI
  Seeking an additional Interventional Pain physician to join the Pain Medicine Department.

- **Physician Clinical Reviewer – Interventional Pain Management**
  Magellan NIA
  Nationwide, United States
  Conduct independent medical necessity reviews of interventional pain management procedures.

**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

**PRF Announces New Webinar Series for 2014-2015**
August 19, 2014 [Source: Pain Research Forum]
The Pain Research Forum is pleased to announce “Challenges in Pain Drug Development,” a new series of free monthly webinars for 2014-2015. The chief aim of the new series is to stimulate productive discussion between academic and industry researchers about the way forward to translate emerging knowledge into new pain treatments. For more information...

**Label Changes for Controlled-Release Opioid Pain Medicines Encourage More Targeted Prescribing and Safer Use**
August 18, 2014 [Source: Health Canada]
OTTAWA - Health Canada is advising healthcare professionals and Canadians that it has implemented labelling changes for the class of drugs known as controlled-release opioid pain medicines, to enhance their safe and appropriate use. Full story...

**Practice Management & Coding Updates**

**Open Payments System Reopens, Extends Physician Registration and Review Period**
August 15, 2014 [Source: CMS]
CMS announced today that the Open Payments system is once again available for physicians and teaching hospitals to register, review and, as needed, dispute financial payment information received from health care manufacturers. The system was taken offline on August 3 to resolve a technical issue. To account for system down time, CMS is extending the time for physicians and teaching hospitals to review their records to September 8, 2014. The public website will be available on September 30, 2014. Full story...

**CMS Finalizes Implementation Date for ICD-10**
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
On July 31, the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) issued a final rule announcing October 1, 2015 as the final implementation date for ICD-10. The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 contained language that delayed ICD-10 implementation from October 1, 2014 until at least 2015. In May CMS issued its intention to adopt ICD-10 on October 1, 2015 but the July 31 notice makes the date official. Read more...

**Substance Abuse and Addiction Research**

**Methadone Treatment Suppresses Testosterone in Opioid Addicts**
August 26, 2014 [Source: McMaster University]
Treatment for opioid addiction tampers with the testosterone levels of male but not female opioid users, McMaster research has shown. In a paper published Tuesday in the journal *Scientific Reports*, the researchers say addiction treatment may need to change to address the side-effect. Full story...

**AAPM Members in the News**

Updates

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:
• Policy and Medicine Blog's webinar titled: "Physician Payment Sunshine Act: Lessons Learned in Preparation and Implementation."
• 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: August, 2014

Highlights:
EDITORIAL
Of Low Back Pain and Moxibustion

SPECIAL ARTICLE
Report of the NIH Task Force on Research Standards for Chronic Low Back Pain

GENERAL SECTION
Characterizing Heat-Sensitization Responses in Suspended Moxibustion with High-Density EEG

PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY & BRAIN NEUROSCIENCE SECTION
Changes in Clinical Pain in Fibromyalgia Patients Correlate with Changes in Brain Activation in the Cingulate Cortex in a Response Inhibition Task

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...

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...

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...

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Industry News

Iroko Pharmaceuticals Gains FDA Approval of ZORVOLEX® for Management of Osteoarthritis Pain
August 25, 2014 [Source: Iroko Pharmaceuticals]
Full story...

Collegium Pharmaceutical Announces Publication of Abuse-Deterrent Data on Oxycodone DETERx® in Journal of Opioid Management
August 20, 2014 [Source: Collegium Pharmaceutical]
Full story...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Medical Cannabis Laws and Opioid Analgesic Overdose Mortality in the United States, 1999-2010
August 21, 2014 [Source: JAMA Internal Medicine]

Importance: Opioid analgesic overdose mortality continues to rise in the United States, driven by increases in prescribing for chronic pain. Because chronic pain is a major indication for medical cannabis, laws that establish access to medical cannabis may change overdose mortality related to opioid analgesics in states that have enacted them. Objective: To determine the association between the presence of state medical cannabis laws and opioid analgesic overdose mortality.
Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

The Pharmacokinetics, Efficacy, Safety, and Ease of Use of a Novel Portable Metered-Dose Cannabis Inhaler in Patients With Chronic
Neuropathic Pain: A Phase 1a Study
Eisenberg E, Ogintz M, Almog S.
Abstract: Chronic neuropathic pain is often refractory to standard pharmacological treatments. Although growing evidence supports the use of inhaled cannabis for neuropathic pain, the lack of standard inhaled dosing plays a major obstacle in cannabis becoming a "mainstream" pharmacological treatment for neuropathic pain. The objective of this study was to explore the pharmacokinetics, safety, tolerability, efficacy, and ease of use of a novel portable thermal-metered-dose inhaler (tMDI) for cannabis in a cohort of eight patients suffering from chronic neuropathic pain and on a stable analgesic regimen including medicinal cannabis. In a single-dose, open-label study, patients inhaled a single 15.1 ± 0.1 mg dose of cannabis using the Syqe Inhaler device.
PMID: 25118789 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Differential Contribution of Kv4-Containing Channels to A-Type, Voltage-Gated Potassium Currents in Somatic and Visceral Dorsal Root Ganglion Neurons
Yunoki T1, Takimoto K, Kita K1, Funahashi Y1, Takahashi R1, Matsuyoshi H2, Naito S3, Yoshimura N4.
Abstract: Little is known about electrophysiological differences of A-type transient K+ (KA) currents in nociceptive afferent neurons that innervate somatic and visceral tissues. Staining with isolectin B4 (IB4)-FITC classifies L6-S1 dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons into three populations with distinct staining intensities: negative to weak, moderate, and intense IB4 staining. All IB4-intensely stained cells are negative for a fluorescent dye, Fast Blue (FB) injected into the bladder wall, whereas a fraction of somatic neurons labeled by FB injected to the external urethral dermis are intensely stained with IB4. In whole-cell patch clamp recordings, phrixotoxin 2, a Kv4 channel blocker, exhibits voltage-independent inhibition of the KA current in IB4-intensely stained cells, but not the one in bladder-nervating cells.
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PMID: 25143545 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Nox2-Dependent Signaling between Macrophages and Sensory Neurons Contributes to Neuropathic Pain Hypersensitivity
Kallenborn-Gerhardt W1, Hohmann SW2, Syhr KM2, Schröder K3, Sisignano M2, Weigert A4, Lorenz JE2, Lu R5, Brüne B4, Brandes RP6, Geisslinger G7, Schmidtko A5.
Abstract: Emerging lines of evidence indicate that production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) at distinct sites of the nociceptive system contributes to the processing of neuropathic pain. However, the mechanisms underlying ROS production during neuropathic pain processing are not fully understood. We here detected the ROS-generating NADPH oxidase isoform Nox2 in macrophages of dorsal root ganglia (DRGs) in mice. In response to peripheral nerve injury, Nox2-positive macrophages were recruited to DRGs, and ROS production was increased in a Nox2-dependent manner. Nox2-deficient mice displayed reduced neuropathic pain behavior after peripheral nerve injury, whereas their immediate responses to noxious stimuli were normal.
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PMID: 25139590 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

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

**Yoga for Chronic Low Back Pain in Veterans**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment
Sponsor: Boston Medical Center
Collaborator: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Boston Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02224183
First received: August 20, 2014

**Stated Purpose:** Chronic low back pain (cLBP) is the most common pain condition in the military, causing substantial physical and psychological suffering, reduction in force readiness, and high economic cost. Yoga has been studied in 10 RCTs in civilian populations with cLBP suggesting it may be effective in reducing pain intensity, improving back-related function, and lowering pain medication use. Multiple differences exist between civilian and military populations with cLBP, making it necessary to adapt and test yoga for cLBP in military populations. This study's primary aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of yoga for reducing pain in military personnel and Veterans with cLBP through a structured, reproducible 12-week series of hatha yoga classes, supplemented with home practice, compared to an education group.

[Read more...](#)

**Lidocaine Infusion for Chronic Pain in Opioid Dependent Patients**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment
Sponsor: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Enas Kandil, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02219321
First received: August 14, 2014

**Stated Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to determine whether systemic administration of lidocaine provides effective pain relief in opioid dependent chronic pain patients. Investigators intend to demonstrate that lidocaine infusion can improve pain relief and physical function in opioid dependent patients, thus improving compliance and patient satisfaction, which may potentially help wean patients off narcotics. The long-term goal of this proposal is to decrease opioid dependence in chronic pain patients by using lidocaine infusion.

[Read more...](#)

**A Clinical Trial To Evaluate PF-05089771 On Its Own And As An Add-On Therapy To Pregabalin (Lyrica) For The Treatment Of Pain Due To Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (DPN)**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment. (see Contacts and Locations)
Verified August 2014 by Pfizer
Sponsor: Pfizer
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Pfizer
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02215252
First received: August 11, 2014

**Stated Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the efficacy and safety of PF-05089771 as a monotherapy and as an add-on to pregabalin for the treatment of painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN).

[Read more...](#)

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