AAPM 2015 Annual Meeting:
The Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts is now live. Submission deadline has been extended to September 30, 2014.
For more details...

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

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...

The Academy is dedicated to advancing the profession through increasing public awareness, education, collaboration and public policy initiatives. Your efforts to educate the public locally will make a profound difference!

Use the tools and resources provided below in your efforts to promote Pain Awareness Month.

- Fact Sheets
- Digital Media/Video
- Radio Features
- Web Tools
- Consumer Resources
- NIH Pain Consortium

Including NIH Pain Consortium Executive Committee Interviews with Dr. Story Landis, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). To view interviews...

AAPM E-news is supported by an unrestricted grant from Purdue Pharma L.P. Content is completely and independently selected and edited by AAPM.

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Annual Meeting

2015 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts
**Extended September 30th Deadline is Almost Here!**
The AAPM's 31st Annual Meeting will take place on March 19-22, 2015 in National Harbor, MD at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. The AAPM 2015 Scientific Poster Abstract Committee invites applicants to submit abstracts for posters to be presented at the meeting.

For more information...

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Pain Research in the News

**Study: Pain Keeps Patients Awake, Extends Hospital Stay**
*September 24, 2014 [Source: Henry Ford Health System]*
Pain can make it difficult for some patients to get a good night's rest while recovering in the hospital following certain surgical procedures, often resulting in longer hospital stays, according to researchers at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Full story...

**Study Challenges Widely Held Belief on Chronic Pain Tied to Spinal Cord Injury**
*September 23, 2014 [Source: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston]*
It may be time to go back to the drawing board when it comes to explaining the cause of the chronic pain experienced by many of the nearly 300,000 people with a spinal cord injury in the United States. Full story...

**IU Study: Combining Epilepsy Drug, Morphine Can Result in Less Pain, Lower Opioid Doses**
*September 15, 2014 [Source: Indiana University School of Medicine]*
Adding a common epilepsy drug to a morphine regimen can result in better pain control with fewer side effects. Moreover, the combination can reduce the dosage of the opioid needed to be effective, according to a team of pain researchers at Indiana University. Full story...

**Medical Field Urged to Look Within for Solution to Opioid Addiction**
*September 12, 2014 [Source: University of Cincinnati]*
University of Cincinnati (UC) researchers are asking the medical community to consider its own role in the rise in prescription opioid abuse, calling for more research on iatrogenic addiction (addiction resulting from medical treatment) and changes in the way medical providers are educated about pain management. Full story...

**Meditation May Mitigate Migraine Misery**
*September 11, 2014 [Source: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center]*
Meditation might be a path to migraine relief, according to a new study by researchers at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. "Stress is a well-known trigger for headaches and research supports the general benefits of mind/body interventions for migraines, but there hasn't been much research to evaluate specific standardized meditation interventions," said Rebecca Erwin Wells, M.D., assistant professor of neurology at Wake Forest Baptist and lead author of the study published in the online edition of the journal *Headache*. Full story...

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Pain Treatment and Trials in the News
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 Opportunity in Missouri
Mercy Clinic Missouri
Board certified interventional pain management physician needed.

BE/BC Physiatrist with a Sub-Specialty Orthopaedic Practice
Orthopaedic Specialists Davenport, IA
Seeking a BE/BC Physiatrist with spine sub-specialty interest, to join our 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...

6 Things You Need to Know about Hydrocodone Reclassification
September 15, 2014 [Source: AMA]
If you prescribe hydrocodone combination products, prescribing these medications to the patients who need them to alleviate pain just became more complicated. A new rule from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) taking effect Oct. 6 reclassifies these drugs as Schedule II controlled substances, prohibiting refills and establishing other restrictions that will require major changes to prescribing practices. Full story...

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Government Agency News

For more information...

NIH and VA Address Pain and Related Conditions in U.S. Military Personnel, Veterans, and their Families
September 25, 2014 [Source: NIH]
Thirteen research projects totaling approximately $21.7 million over 5 years will explore nondrug approaches to managing pain and related health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), drug abuse, and sleep issues. The effort seeks to enhance options for the management of pain and associated problems in U.S. military personnel, veterans, and their families. Full story...

Development and Regulation of Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Medications; Public Meeting
September 22, 2014 [Source: FDA]
On October 30 and 31, 2014, FDA will host a public meeting at the Sheraton, Silver Spring, MD to discuss the development, assessment, and regulation of abuse-deterrent formulations of opioid medications. The meeting will focus on scientific and technical issues related to the development and in vitro assessment of these products, as well as FDA's approach towards assessing the benefits and risks of all opioid medications, including those with abuse-deterrent properties. Full story...

National Survey Shows Lower Rate of Illicit Drug Use Among Adolescents Ages 12 to 17
September 16, 2014 [Source: SAMHSA]
The rate of current (past month) illicit drug use was lower among adolescents aged 12 to 17 in 2013 (8.8 percent) than 2012 (9.5 percent) and 2002 (11.6 percent) according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) report. SAMHSA’s NSDUH report also found that between 2002 and 2013, the level of youth aged 12 to 17 with substance dependence or abuse problems decreased from 8.9 percent to 5.2 percent. Full story...

To view report...

FDA Approves Movantik for Opioid-Induced Constipation
September 16, 2014 [Source: FDA]
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved Movantik (naloxegol), an oral treatment for opioid-induced constipation in adults with chronic non-cancer pain. Full story...

September 2014 [Source: CDC, NCHS Data Brief]
Full story...
Pain News

High-Dose Opioid Prescribing Continues to Climb
September 12, 2014 [Source: St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto]
High-dose opioid prescribing increased by 23 percent in Canada between 2006 and 2011, despite clinical guidelines recommending that most patients should avoid high-doses of these drugs, according to new research. Full story...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Coding for Pain in 2015
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 - Noon-1:30pm CDT
Get ready to start the year right with Coding for Pain in 2015. This webcast will look at the CMS policy and reimbursement changes for 2015 and its impact on pain medicine practices. Tips and tools for working under Pay for Performance and other proposed reimbursement models will be explored. 2015 changes to CPT and the move to ICD-10 will be reviewed including the impact of these changes to practice management and reimbursement processes.
Registration opens in October 2014. For more information...

Advocacy News

Letter to CMS: AAPM Support of a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Regarding the Testing of Drugs of Abuse
To view letter...

State Legislative News

Marijuana Initiatives Growing on State Ballots
September 22, 2014 [Source: National Conference of State Legislatures Blog]
Full story...

MI: Michigan Tapped by National Governor's Association to Focus on Reducing Prescription Drug Abuse; LARA, MDCH to Partner on Improving state's Pain Management
September 24, 2014 [Source: State of Michigan]
As Michigan is named one of six states to develop an action plan to combat the abuse of prescription drugs nationally, directors of the Michigan Departments of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and Community Health (MDCH) today announced their partnership toward effective pain management for Michigan citizens. Full story...
View bill...

NY: Governor Cuomo Launches "Combat Heroin" Campaign
September 22, 2014 [Source: State of New York Governor's Office]
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today launched "Combat Heroin," a campaign designed to inform and educate New Yorkers about the risks of heroin and prescription opioid use, the signs of addiction, and the resources available to help. Full story...

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AAPM Members in the News

AAPM Member John Markman MD: New York State Pain Center Views Chronic Pain through a Distinctive Lens
September 2014 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
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

Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™
Breakfast Satellite CME Event (not part of the AAFP Assembly)
Save the date for a live mini version of AAPM’s Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™. This program will provide portions of the full Essentials course. The mini-course offers participants a chance to sample the outstanding content and speakers that take part in the full Essentials course.

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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AAPM Foundation

AAPM Foundation Advances the Science and Practice of Pain
The American Academy of Pain Medicine Foundation was created in 2011 to...
support the efforts of AAPM. The overarching focus of the Foundation's efforts is to advocate for patient safety by providing funding support to expand and enhance education and research. Visit www.aapmfoundation.org to learn more about the Foundation and to make a donation today.

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Industry News

Egalet Announces Update on Clinical Development Plan for Abuse-Deterrent Morphine Egalet-001
September 23, 2014 [Source: Egalet Corporation]
Full story...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Treating Prescription Opioid Dependence
September 17, 2014 [Source: JAMA]
Abstract: Objective: To evaluate, following brief stabilization with a combination of buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate, the relative efficacy of 1-, 2-, and 4-week buprenorphine tapering regimens and subsequent naltrexone hydrochloride therapy in PO-dependent outpatients.
Read more...

Spinal Manipulation and Home Exercise With Advice for Subacute and Chronic Back-Related Leg Pain: A Trial With Adaptive Allocation
September 16, 2014 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Abstract: Background: Back-related leg pain (BRLP) is often disabling and costly, and there is a paucity of research to guide its management. Objective: To determine whether spinal manipulative therapy (SMT) plus home exercise and advice (HEA) compared with HEA alone reduces leg pain in the short and long term in adults with BRLP.
Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

The Deubiquitinating Enzyme USP5 Modulates Neuropathic and Inflammatory Pain by Enhancing Cav3.2 Channel Activity
García-Caballero A1, Gadotti VM1, Stemkowski P1, Weiss N1, Souza IA1, Hodgkinson V1, Bladen C1, Chen L1, Hamid J1, Pizzoccaro A2, Deage M2, François A2, Bournet E2, Zamponi GW3.
Abstract: T-type calcium channels are essential contributors to the transmission of nociceptive signals in the primary afferent pain pathway. Here, we show that T-type calcium channels are ubiquitinated by WWP1, a plasma-membrane-associated ubiquitin ligase that binds to the intracellular domain III-IV linker region of the Cav3.2 T-type channel and modifies specific lysine residues in this region. A proteomic screen identified the deubiquitinating enzyme USP5 as a Cav3.2 III-IV linker interacting partner. Knockdown of USP5 via shRNA increases Cav3.2 ubiquitination, decreases Cav3.2 protein levels, and reduces Cav3.2 whole-cell currents. In vivo knockdown of USP5 or uncoupling USP5 from native Cav3.2 channels via intrathecal delivery of Tat peptides mediates analgesia in both inflammatory
and neuropathic mouse models of mechanical hypersensitivity. Altogether, our experiments reveal a cell signaling pathway that regulates T-type channel activity and their role in nociceptive signaling.

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PMID: 25189210 [PubMed - in process]  
Read more...

Safe Use of Opioids in Individuals with Obstructive Sleep Apnea
Ward CW.
Abstract: Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a chronic breathing disorder that contributes to many other health problems (Epstein et al., 2009). It is present but undiagnosed in a large percentage of the population (Adesanya, Lee, Grilich, & Joshi, 2010). Pain is recognized as a public health problem in the United States, affecting millions of people of all ages (Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education Board on Health Sciences Policy, 2011). Because of the high prevalence of both OSA and pain, it is very likely that an individual will have both conditions. Opioid analgesics used to treat pain may cause sedation and respiratory depression by themselves. When administered to individuals with OSA, the risk for harmful respiratory events increases. This article reviews the assessment and monitoring needed to administer opioids safely to individuals with OSA and identifies best practices from a review of the literature.
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PMID: 25193164 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]  
Read more...

Epigenetic Regulation of Spinal Cord Gene Expression Controls Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia
Liang DY, Sun Y, Shi XY, Sahbaie P, Clark JD.
Abstract: BACKGROUND: The long term use of opioids for the treatment of pain leads to a group of maladaptations which includes opioid-induced hyperalgesia (OIH). OIH typically resolves within few days after cessation of morphine treatment in mice but is prolonged for weeks if histone deacetylase (HDAC) activity is inhibited during opioid treatment. The present work seeks to identify gene targets supporting the epigenetic effects responsible for OIH prolongation. CONCLUSIONS: The present study identified two genes whose expression is regulated by epigenetic mechanisms during morphine exposure. Treatments aimed at preventing the acetylation of histones or blocking BDNF and dynorphin signaling may reduce OIH and improve long-term pain using opioids.
PMID: 25217253 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]  
Read more...

Catechol-O-Methyltransferase Polymorphisms Predict Opioid Consumption in Postoperative Pain
Anesth Analg. 2014 Sep 3. [Epub ahead of print]
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Previous studies have associated the catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) enzyme rs4680 polymorphism with opioid consumption in the treatment of chronic cancer pain. In this study, we evaluated the association between COMT rs4680 and rs4818 polymorphisms and opioid consumption in the acute postoperative pain after a nephrectomy. CONCLUSIONS: The genetic variant of the COMT rs4680 single nucleotide polymorphism is associated with variability in opioid consumption in postoperative nephrectomy patients. The COMT rs4818 polymorphism may prove useful in predicting emesis medication use postoperatively.
PMID: 25185591 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]  
Read more...
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

**Probing the Role of Sodium Channels in Painful Neuropathies**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Fondazione I.R.C.C.S. Istituto Neuroligico Carlo Besta
Collaborators: Maastricht University
Yale University
University of Manchester
Deutsche Diabetes Gesellschaft
France: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Ospedale San Raffaele
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Fondazione I.R.C.C.S. Istituto Neuroligico Carlo Besta
First received: September 12, 2014
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02243475
Stated Purpose: Neuropathic pain is a frequent feature of peripheral neuropathy causing a significant impact on patients' quality of life and health care costs. Not all individuals with neuropathy develop pain and it is not possible to predict who is more or less susceptible among those with similar risk exposure. Current inability to identify high-risk individuals hinders development and application of therapies to counteract neuropathic pain and to address targeted prevention strategies.
Read more...

**Epidural Clonidine Versus Corticosteroid for Low Back Pain**
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: West Virginia University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Chong Kim, West Virginia University
First received: September 10, 2014
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02239627
Stated Purpose: Low back pain is a common condition, affecting majority of the adults in the United States at some point in their lives. Fortunately, most resolve, even without treatment. However, some suffer from continued or recurrent pain.
Read more...