AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting
The Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts is now live. Submission deadline is August 18, 2015. For more details...

AAPM Shared Interest Groups
The Academy recognizes that its members may value opportunities to come together for the purpose of sharing their interests as they relate to our specialty. To provide a forum for this, AAPM has created AAPM Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) to facilitate networking, advancing shared interests, or discussion of a particular field or topic. AAPM SIGs are multidisciplinary and open to any AAPM member. For more information on SIGs...

Donate Now to Better Pain Care

Pain Research in the News
Opioids also Pose OD Peril for Intermittent, Low-Dose Users
July 15, 2015 [Source: University of Washington]
Overdoses of opioid pain medications frequently occur in people who are prescribed low doses and who aren't chronic users, according to a University of Washington-led study in the August issue of Medical Care. Full story...

Stem Cells Provide Lasting Pain Relief in Mice
July 13, 2015 [Source: Duke University]
Chronic pain caused by the nerve damage of type 2 diabetes, surgical amputation, chemotherapy and other conditions is especially intractable because it resists painkilling medications. But in a study on mice, a Duke University team has shown that injections of stem cells from bone marrow might be able to relieve this type of neuropathic pain. The researchers say their findings, which appear July 13 in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, may also advance cell-based therapies in chronic pain conditions, lower back pain and spinal cord injuries. Full story...

Genes May Not Be to Blame for Link between Migraine and Heart Disease
July 12, 2015 [Source: American Academy of Neurology (AAN)]
A new study suggests that genes may not be to blame for the increased risk of heart disease some studies have shown in people with migraine,
especially those with migraine with aura. The research is published during Headache/Migraine Awareness Month in the inaugural issue of the journal Neurology® Genetics, an open access, or free to the public, online-only, peer-reviewed journal from the American Academy of Neurology. Full story...

Online Management Tools Help Ease Chronic Pain
July 9, 2015 [Source: Washington State University]
Washington State University researchers have found that people can manage chronic pain and reduce their reliance on opioids through an Internet-based program that teaches non-medical alternatives like increased physical activity, thinking more positively and dealing with emotions. Full story...

Killer Sea Snail a Target for New Drugs
July 7, 2015 [Source: University of Queensland]
University of Queensland pain treatment researchers have discovered thousands of new peptide toxins hidden deep within the venom of just one type of Queensland cone snail. Researchers hope the new molecules will be promising leads for new drugs to treat pain and cancer. Full story...

UC Davis Researchers Find Key Mechanism that Causes Neuropathic Pain
July 6, 2015 [Source: University of California, Davis]
Scientists at the University of California, Davis, have identified a key mechanism in neuropathic pain. The discovery could eventually benefit millions of patients with chronic pain from trauma, diabetes, shingles, multiple sclerosis or other conditions that cause nerve damage. Full story...

His and Her Pain Circuitry in the Spinal Cord
June 29, 2015 [Source: McGill University, Canada]
New research released today in Nature Neuroscience reveals for the first time that pain is processed in male and female mice using different cells. These findings have far-reaching implications for our basic understanding of pain, how we develop the next generation of medications for chronic pain—which is by far the most prevalent human health condition—and the way we execute basic biomedical research using mice. Full story...

View press release from the University of Alabama, Birmingham...

New Class of Drugs Might Change the Landscape for Migraine Treatment
June 22, 2015 [Source: University of Kentucky]
There is growing excitement among headache specialists about initial research into a new class of anti-migraine drugs. Called CGRP monoclonal antibodies, these drugs appear to significantly reduce the frequency of migraine in human clinical trials. "We know that levels of CGRP are elevated during migraine attacks and decrease with resolution of the attacks," said Sid Kapoor, MD, Fellow of the American Headache Society and Director of the Headache Program at the University of Kentucky's Kentucky Neuroscience Institute (KNI). Full story...

Too Many Patients with Migraine Receiving Opioids, Barbiturates
June 19, 2015 [Source: Medscape] Full story (login required)...

Should We Prescribe Opioids for Chronic Pain?
A Commentary by Charles E. Argoff, MD
June 18, 2015 [Source: Medscape] Full story (login required)...

Study Suggests Crosslinked Hyaluronic Acid May Reduce Neuropathic Pain
June 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News] Full story...
CMS and AMA Announce Transition Plan for ICD-10: What It Means for Your Practice

Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) have announced a transiting plan to assist practices as they prepare for ICD-10-CM. CMS also released additional guidance that will allow for flexibility in the claims auditing and quality reporting process as the medical community gains experience using the new ICD-10 code set. The announcement does not change the current implementation date of October 1, 2015. Read more...

View AAPM's Member Alert regarding this issue...

AMA Pleased With House Vote to Repeal IPAB

June 25, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

Nearly Half of Primary Care Doctors Unaware of ACA Pay Hikes

June 23, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

Many Physicians Still Unprepared for ICD-10

June 22, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

New Resource: Pain Medicine Diagnostic Code Mapper

The Pain Medicine Diagnostic Code Mapper has four full pages containing the top reported ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes, mapping them to ICD-10-CM codes for pain medicine. Click here to order...

Order your copy today of the new 2015 Coding Book

2015 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/Pain Medicine

This all-in-one resource contains all the coding information you need on one page for anesthesia and pain medicine. For more information...

Now available for purchase on the AAPM Education Portal! Just $99!

ICD-10 Case Studies for Pain Medicine Services Virtual Seminar

Visit the coding for pain section of the website for coding books, on-demand coding seminars and other coding resources.

AAPM Educational Collaborations

AAPM Expert Faculty Featured at American Headache Society Annual Meeting
In partnership with the American Headache Society, AAPM recently provided a well-attended and very favorably received 90-minute educational session at the AHS Annual Meeting on June 19 in Washington, DC. AAPM President-Elect Dan Carr, MD; Zahid Bajwa, MD and Chester “Trip” Buckenmaier, MD served as expert faculty and AAPM ambassadors for the session. AAPM’s ongoing educational collaborations with AHS and other like-minded organizations facilitates furthering the Academy’s mission and enhances vital program-building relationships. These collaborations additionally help support the Academy’s CME program in meeting ACCME compliance criteria which look for accredited providers like the Academy to pursue active engagement in collaborative and cooperative projects. Thank you, Drs. Carr, Bajwa and Buckenmaier for your involvement and participation!

Photos courtesy of Dan Carr, MD

AAPM Annual Meeting

2016 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts
Submission Deadline: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. CDT
The AAPM's 32nd Annual Meeting will take place on February 18-21, 2016 in Palm Springs, CA at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The AAPM 2016 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 Treatments and Trials in the News

Promising New NSAID-Derivative May Be Well-Tolerated by Chronic Pain Sufferers
July 1, 2015 [Source: American Physiological Society]
Researchers have found that a new naproxen-derivative drug, ATB-346, may protect the small intestine from inflammation and ulcers by blocking harmful changes in the bile and gut bacteria that occur following NSAID use. Full story...

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Government Agency News
FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA Strengthens Warning that Non-Aspirin Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) Can Cause Heart Attacks or Strokes
July 9, 2015 [Source: FDA]
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is strengthening an existing label warning that non-aspirin nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) increase the chance of a heart attack or stroke. Based on our comprehensive review of new safety information, we are requiring updates to the drug labels of all prescription NSAIDs. As is the case with current prescription NSAID labels, the Drug Facts labels of over-the-counter (OTC) non-aspirin NSAIDs already contain information on heart attack and stroke risk. We will also request updates to the OTC non-aspirin NSAID Drug Facts labels. Full story...

Supreme Court Upholds ACA Subsidies in All States
June 25, 2015 [Source: Medscape]  
Full story (login required)...

Kaine Introduces Bipartisan VA Reform Legislation to Combat Opioid Overmedication
June 23, 2015 [Source: U.S. Senator, Tim Kaine, VA]  
U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, joined U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and 11 of their colleagues to introduce the Jason Simcakoski Memorial Opioid Safety Act, bipartisan reform legislation aimed at providing safer and more effective pain management services through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA). Full story...

NIH Office of Pain Policy Quarterly Newsletter
April – June 2015 [Source: NIH]  
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State News

MA: Governor Baker Releases Opioid Working Group Recommendations
June 22, 2015 [Source: Governor Charlie Baker, MA]  
Vowing to change the way the Commonwealth treats and even thinks about substance addiction, Governor Charlie Baker today released the findings of his Opioid Working Group, a comprehensive report detailing 65 actionable steps to curb the deadly opioid epidemic. Full story...

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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Study Identifies Factors Affecting Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse
July 10, 2015 [Source: University of Georgia]  
People who misuse prescription pain relievers all have one thing in common, University of Georgia researchers have discovered: a history of recent illicit drug use. How they acquire such drugs varies according to age, however. The findings, published in the journal Addictive Behaviors, may help health care providers and others curb painkiller misuse. Full story...

Today's Heroin Epidemic
July 7, 2015 [Source: CDC Vital Signs]  
Most demographic groups are increasingly using heroin and other drugs. During the past decade, heroin use has increased across the United States among men and women, most age groups, and all income levels, with some
of the greatest increases occurring in demographic groups that have had historically lower rates of heroin use, according to a new Vital Signs report. Full story...

Survey: Many Doctors Misunderstand Key Facets of Opioid Abuse
June 23, 2015 [Source: John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health]
Many primary care physicians – the top prescribers of prescription pain pills in the United States – don’t understand basic facts about how people may abuse the drugs or how addictive different formulations of the medications can be, new Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health research suggests. This lack of understanding may be contributing to the ongoing epidemic of prescription opioid abuse and addiction in the U.S. Full story...

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Pain News

UF Researchers to Study Patient Pain after Surgery
July 13, 2015 [Source: University of Florida School of Medicine]
A group of University of Florida researchers recently received a federal grant to study how postoperative pain can change days and months after surgery — and how certain factors affect the way patients experience this pain. The study will also examine how this data may predict the development of chronic postoperative pain, which is generally defined as pain persisting for more than three months. Chronic postoperative pain is a recognized complication of many common procedures, and contributes substantially to chronic pain's annual price tag of $600 billion, said Patrick Tighe, M.D. M.S., an assistant professor of anesthesiology in the UF College of Medicine and principal investigator of the grant. Full story...

Creating a New Paradigm in Pain Care for the Elderly
July 9, 2015 [Source: The Hill, Congress Blog]
Full story...

Tamper-Resistant Pill Dispenser Aims to Stamp out Medication Misuse
June 18, 2015 [Source: John Hopkins University]
You can whack it with a hammer, attack it with a drill, or even stab it with a screwdriver. But try as you might, you won’t be able to tamper with a high-tech pill dispenser designed by mechanical engineering students at Johns Hopkins University’s Whiting School of Engineering. Full story...

Controversial Survey Study Shows Increase in U.S. Adults Using 'Stronger' Opioids
June 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

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AAPM Members in the News

To Ease Pain, Reach for Your Playlist
July 13, 2015 [Source: NPR]
AAPM Past President Lynn R. Webster (2013), is interviewed on NPR regarding a recent study on how listening music may ease pain in children and teens. Full story...

Lynn R. Webster, MD
Pain Abstracts in the News

Incidence and Risk Factors for Progression From Short-term to Episodic or Long-term Opioid Prescribing
July 2015 [Source: Mayo Clinic Proceedings]
Abstract: Objectives: To determine what proportion of a geographically defined population who receive new opioid prescriptions progresses to episodic or long-term patterns of opioid prescribing and to explore the clinical characteristics associated with patterns of opioid prescribing.
Read more...

The Integration of Care for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Other Behavioral Health Conditions into Primary Care: An American College of Physicians Position Paper
June 30, 2015 [Source: JAMA]
Behavioral health care includes care for patients around mental health and substance abuse conditions, health behavior change, life stresses and crises, and stress-related physical symptoms. Mental and substance use disorders alone have been estimated to surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide by 2020. The literature recognizes the importance of the health care system effectively addressing behavioral health conditions. Recently, there has been a call for the use of the primary care delivery platform and the related patient-centered medical home model to effectively address these conditions.
Read more...

Cannabinoids for Medical Use: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis
June 23, 2015 [Source: JAMA]
Importance: Cannabis and cannabinoid drugs are widely used to treat disease or alleviate symptoms, but their efficacy for specific indications is not clear. Objective: To conduct a systematic review of the benefits and adverse events (AEs) of cannabinoids. Data Sources: Twenty-eight databases from inception to April 2015.
Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress in the Peripheral Nervous System is a Significant Driver of Neuropathic Pain
Inceoglu B1, Bettaieb A2, Trindade da Silva CA1, Lee KS1, Haj FG3, Hammock BD4.
Abstract: Despite intensive effort and resulting gains in understanding the mechanisms underlying neuropathic pain, limited success in therapeutic approaches have been attained. A recently identified, nonchannel, nonneurotransmitter therapeutic target for pain is the enzyme soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH). The sEH degrades natural analgesic lipid mediators, epoxy fatty acids (EpFAs), therefore its inhibition stabilizes these bioactive mediators. Here we demonstrate the effects of EpFAs on diabetes induced neuropathic pain and define a previously unknown mechanism of pain, regulated by endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress.
PMID: 26150506 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Persistent Pain among Older Adults Discharged Home From the
Emergency Department After Motor Vehicle Crash: A Prospective Cohort Study
Platts-Mills TF1, Flannigan SA2, Bortsov AV3, Smith S2, Domeier RM4, Swor RA5, Hendry PL6, Peak DA7, Rathlev NK8, Jones JS9, Lee DC10, Keefe FJ11, Sloane PD12, McLean SA13.
Abstract: STUDY OBJECTIVE: Motor vehicle crashes are the second most common form of trauma among older adults. We seek to describe the incidence, risk factors, and consequences of persistent pain among older adults evaluated in the emergency department (ED) after a motor vehicle crash. CONCLUSION: Among older adults discharged home from the ED post-evaluation after a motor vehicle crash, persistent pain is common and frequently associated with functional decline and disability.
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PMID: 26092559 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Long-term Prescription of Opioids and/or Benzodiazepines and Mortality Among HIV-Infected and Uninfected Patients
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Increased long-term prescription of opioids and/or benzodiazepines necessitates evaluating risks associated with their receipt. We sought to evaluate the association between long-term opioids and/or benzodiazepines and mortality in HIV-infected patients receiving antiretroviral therapy and uninfected patients.
PMID: 26009831 [PubMed - in process]
PMCID: PMC4446730
Read more...

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

Neurophysiological Effects on tPCS and tDCS on Healthy Subjects and on Patients with Chronic Visceral Pain
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Verified July 2015 by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
Sponsor: Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Felipe Fregni, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02497196
First received: July 9, 2015
State Purpose: We are comparing the effects of transcranial Pulsed Current Stimulation and transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) (Soterix ©) and their combination on neurophysiological outcomes on healthy subjects as well as on the clinical population for chronic visceral pain. We also aim to evaluate the effects of these techniques on pain thresholds in healthy subjects as well as for chronic visceral pain patients.
Read more...

Observational Study of the Impact of Genetic Testing on Healthcare Decisions and Care in Interventional Pain Management (MOSAIC)
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Proove Bioscience, Inc.
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Proove Bioscience, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02485795
First received: June 26, 2015
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of genetic testing on healthcare decisions and patient outcomes in interventional pain management clinical care. Results of genetic testing will also be compared with the clinical outcome measures collected to discover novel genetic factors that may influence patient care.
Read more...
Improving Outcomes and Lowering Costs by Integration of Primary Care Providers and Pain Medicine Physicians for Pain Pts
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First received: June 19, 2015
Sponsor: Rush University Medical Center
Collaborator: Pfizer
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Asokumar Buvanendran, Rush University Medical Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02484937
Stated Purpose: This study will demonstrate that functional improvement measures over a 6-month period for chronic low back patients under the care of Primary Care Provider (PCP), using a therapeutic plan formulated initially by the Pain Medicine Specialist (PMS), are equivalent to those under the care of the PMS only. Chronic low back pain patient will be initially be evaluated by the PMS. If no interventional pain therapy is required, a multimodal therapeutic plan (pharmacological and/or non-pharmacological) will be formulated to manage the chronic low back pain. Patients will be randomized into one of the two groups: Group 1 - Subjects will be treated monthly for the following 6 months by PMS, and Group 2 - Subjects will be treated by their own PCP for monthly visits for 6 months.
Read more...

Industry News

Primary Care Leaders and Pain Experts Join Forces for Third Phase of Educational Summit
AAPM would like to thank the following companies for providing commercial support for the Primary Care Summit-Phase Three:

- Millennium Heath
- Pfizer Inc.
- Teva Pharmaceuticals

Representatives from eight national medical societies joined forces with the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) on June 20, in a unique collaborative effort to improve pain care by targeting frontline healthcare providers.

TIVORBEX® Now Available in U.S. Pharmacies for the Treatment of Acute Pain: Second Low-Dose SoluMatrix® NSAID from Iroko Now Available by Prescription
June 29, 2015 [Source: Iroko Pharmaceuticals LLC]
Full story...

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