AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting
The Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts is now live. Submission deadline has been extended to August 25, 2015.
For more details...

AAPM's Education Receives ACCME Accreditation with Commendation

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

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

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine
Pain Research in the News
Advocacy
Practice Management & Coding Updates
Education Meetings
AAPM Annual Meeting - Call for Posters Deadline Extended to 8/25/15
AAPM Member Honors and Distinctions
Pain Treatments and Trials in the News
Substance Abuse and Addiction Research
Government Agency News
Legislation News
State News - News for NJ
Research Grant News and Opportunities
Pain News
AAPM Foundation
Pain Abstracts in the News
PubMed Pain Abstracts
NIH Clinical Studies & Trials
Industry News

Pain Research in the News

Stanford Researchers Genetically Engineer Yeast to Produce Opioids
August 13, 2015 [Source: Stanford University]
It typically takes a year to produce hydrocodone from plants, but Christina Smolke and colleagues have genetically modified yeast to make it in just a few days. The technique could improve access to medicines in impoverished nations, and later be used to develop treatments for other diseases. Full story...

New Study Confirms Listening to Music during Surgery Reduces Pain and Anxiety
August 13, 2015 [Source: Queen Mary, University of London]
Scientists have proved that listening to music before, during and after surgery reduces people’s pain, anxiety and need for painkillers – according to the most comprehensive review of available evidence so far, published today in The Lancet. Full story...
Blood Pressure Drug May Help Prevent Opioid Relapse
August 10, 2015 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

Scientists Find Promising Target for Better Pain Drugs
August 6, 2015 [Source: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Blog]
Opioid analgesic drugs work well at treating many types of pain, but they can have side effects and sometimes are needed in increasing amounts to overcome tolerance. Neurologist Gavril Pasternak’s lab has developed an opioid derivative that works as well as traditional opioids without these drawbacks. They found that this new type of drug targets pain receptors that differ in structure from those used by conventional opioids. Full story...

Cures for PTSD Often Remain Elusive for War Veterans
August 4, 2015 [Source: NYU Langone Medical Center]
Our nation’s veterans continue to suffer emotional and psychological effects of war—some for decades. And while there has been greater attention directed recently toward post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and more veterans are seeking help, current psychotherapy treatments are less than optimal, according to a new narrative review published in the August 4, 2015 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Full story...

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Therapy Decreases PTSD Symptom Severity among Veterans
August 4, 2015 [Source: Journal of the American Medical Association]
In a randomized trial that included veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), those who received mindfulness-based stress reduction therapy showed greater improvement in self-reported PTSD symptom severity, although the average improvement appears to have been modest, according to a study in the August 4 issue of JAMA, a violence/human rights theme issue. Full story...

Scripps Florida Scientists Makes Strides in Therapy Preventing Addiction Relapse by Erasing Drug-Associated Memories
August 4, 2015 [Source: Scripps Research Institute]
Recovering addicts often grapple with the ghosts of their addiction—memories that tempt them to relapse even after rehabilitation and months, or even years, of drug-free living. Now, scientists from the Florida campus of The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) have made a discovery that brings them closer to a new therapy based on selectively erasing these dangerous and tenacious drug-associated memories. Full story...

New Study Identifies Promising Treatment for Military Veterans with PTSD
July 27, 2015 [Source: Creighton University]
Creighton University Psychology Professor Amy Badura-Brack, Ph.D., and Reut Naim, M.S., from Tel Aviv University have published a new paper that reports promising results for the treatment of military veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Full story...

Researchers Discover Mechanism Involved in Chronic Pain
July 23, 2015 [Source: University of Calgary]
Chronic pain is one of the most common reasons people visit their doctor, and basic scientists have long been trying to understand it. In Canada, chronic pain costs more than heart disease, HIV and cancer combined. New animal research from the Cumming School of Medicine, published online Thursday in the journal Cell Reports, has made a new discovery that provides more insight into the mechanisms of pain. Full story...

Researchers Trialing State-of-the-Art Analysis for Neck Pain
July 23, 2015 [Source: University of Newcastle, Australia]
University of Newcastle researchers are investigating new ways to diagnose and treat patients suffering chronic neck pain, a condition that affects more than 600,000 Australians and costs around $1.14 billion in associated health care. Full story...

Community-Living Older Adults with Dementia at High Risk of Having Pain
July 22, 2015 [Source: University of California, San Francisco]
Older adults with dementia who live at home are at high risk of having pain, according to UC San Francisco researchers, and creative interventions and programs such as home-based palliative care are needed to manage their pain adequately. Their study is online and will appear in the August issue of Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. Full story...

Acupuncture Impacts Same Biologic Pathways in Rats that Pain Drugs Target in Humans
July 21, 2015 [Source: Georgetown University Medical Center]
In animal models, acupuncture appears to impact the same biologic pathways ramped up by pain and stress, analogous to what drugs do in humans. Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) researchers say their animal study, published online in Endocrinology, provides the strongest evidence to date on the mechanism of this ancient Chinese therapy in chronic stress. Full story...

Most Patients with Chronic Pain Use Alternative Therapies, But Many Don't Tell Their Doctors
July 20, 2015 [Source: Kaiser Permanente]
More than half of chronic pain patients in a managed-care setting reported using chiropractic care or acupuncture or both, but many of these patients didn’t discuss this care with their primary care providers. These study results, published today in The American Journal of Managed Care, suggest that better care coordination is needed among patients and physicians. Full story...

AAPM was part of a collaboration of 14 medical specialty societies, which convened to address the concerns of a recent publication of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s (AHRQ) Technology Assessment Pain Management Injection Therapies for Low Back Pain. The letter below was sent to Elise Berliner, PhD Director, Technology Assessment Program Center for Outcomes and Evidence Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to ensure an accurate assessment of the injection procedures that can be effective tools in the treatment of appropriately selected patients.

The Academy would like to thank AAPM Vice President for Scientific Affairs and Co-Chair of the Scientific Review and Guidelines Committee, Jianguo Chang MD, PhD and AAPM Member and Scientific Review and Guidelines Committee Member, Randall Brewer, MD who represented AAPM in these efforts.

To view letter...

Report from the AMA Annual Meeting: June 2015, Chicago
Read the full report from AAPM’s Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates, Robert Wailes, MD.

Back to top
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) announced in early July a transition plan for ICD-10 implementation. The plan provides for additional assistance for physicians and practices and offered protection against audits and other penalties resulting from the transition to ICD-10. The transition plan does not delay the implementation of ICD-10 and does not change the requirement for reporting valid ICD-10 codes within the appropriate family of codes on all claims.

Read more...

Coding Resources:

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.
For more information...

2015 Illustrated Coding and Billing for Anesthesia/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.

Back to top

Save the Date! Essentials Live Mini Courses at PAINWeek Satellite CME Event
A live mini version of AAPM’s Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™ is scheduled for early fall 2015. Clinically accurate, live presentations from the top pain educators in the country will provide portions of the full Essentials™ course. This mini-course offers participants a chance to sample the outstanding content and speakers that take part in the full Essentials™ course. Visit the website for more information on AAPM's PAINWeek 2015 4-hour course.

Date: Wednesday, September 9
Time: 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Location: The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Essentials™ at PAINWeek 2015 will include these sessions:

- Strategies for Success with Chronic Opioid Therapy
- Understanding and Treating Neuropathic Pain
- The Anatomy of Ouch
- The Science Behind Marijuana as an Analgesic

Southern Pain Society 39th Scientific Meeting
Date: September 25-27, 2015
Location: Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate; Orlando, FL
AAPM Board Member Chester "Trip" Buckenmaier III, MD Receives the NIH 2015 Director's Award

Dr. Buckenmaier, director of Uniformed Services University's Defense and Veterans Center for Integrative Pain Management and a member of the National Pain Strategy Group, will receive the award from NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., at the annual Director's Award Ceremony, Sept. 24, at the Natcher Conference Center, NIH.

Read tribute to Dr. Buckenmaier by Rollin M. Gallagher, MD, MPH, Editor-in-Chief, Pain Medicine.

AAPM Annual Meeting

2016 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts
Submission deadline extended to August 25, 2015

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.

New Therapy Delivers Long-Term Relief for Chronic Back, Leg Pain, Study Finds

July 28, 2015 [Source: American Society of Anesthesiologists]

Chronic back and leg pain sufferers in search of better pain relief options may have a new choice. According to a study published in the Online First edition of Anesthesiology, the official medical journal of the American Society of Anesthesiologists® (ASA®), patients who received a novel high frequency form of spinal cord stimulation (SCS) therapy experienced significantly greater, long-term relief for both chronic back and leg pain, when compared to a traditional low frequency form of SCS therapy. Full story...

Deaths Involving Fentanyl in Canada, 2009 – 2014

July 28, 2015 [Source: American Society of Anesthesiologists]
**CDER Conversation: Pediatric Pain Management Options**

August 14, 2015 [Source: FDA]

A CDER conversation with Sharon Hertz, M.D., Director, Division of Anesthesia, Analgesia, and Addiction Products, Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA. [Full story...](#)

**Pelvic Pain May be Common among Reproductive-Age Women, NIH Study Finds**

August 12, 2015 [Source: NIH]

A high proportion of reproductive-age women may be experiencing pelvic pain that goes untreated, according to a study by researchers from the National Institutes of Health and the University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City. [Full story...](#)


August 11, 2015 [Source: NIDA]

Response Due Date: September 18, 2015

Purpose: On behalf of HHS and in response to provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act the NIH established the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC) to coordinate all pain research efforts within HHS and across other Federal Agencies. The IPRCC is developing a strategic plan for pain research across federal agencies. A panel of experts will convene to provide recommendations in key pain research areas to move the field forward with the ultimate goal to relieve pain and improve pain care through evidence based studies by enhancing the federal research agenda. The key areas of prevention of acute and chronic pain, acute pain and acute pain management, the transition from acute to chronic pain, chronic pain and chronic pain management, and disparities in pain and pain care will provide a framework for development of the strategy upon which important cross-cutting elements will be addressed. [Read more...](#)

For detailed information on the [Federal Pain Research Strategy...](#)

**NIH Analysis Shows Americans Are in Pain**

August 11, 2015 [Source: NIH]

A new analysis of data from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) has found that most American adults have experienced some level of pain, from brief to more lasting pain, and from relatively minor to more severe pain. The analysis helps to unravel the complexities of a Nation in pain. [Full story...](#)

FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA Warns About Cases of Rare Brain Infection with MS Drug Gilenya (fingolimod) in Two Patients with no Prior Exposure to Immunosuppressant Drugs

August 4, 2015 [Source: FDA]

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning that a case of definite progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) and a case of probable PML have been reported in patients taking Gilenya (fingolimod) for multiple sclerosis (MS). [Full story...](#)

HHS Increases Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment

July 25, 2015 [Source: HHS]

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced new steps to increase access to substance use disorder treatment services, focusing on treatment for opioid use disorder. With today’s announcement, HHS is making additional funding available to states and community health centers to expand the use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid use...
disorder, and is releasing guidance to help states implement innovative approaches to substance use disorder treatment. Full story...

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day: September 26, 2015; 10AM to 2PM

SPECIAL NOTICE - Pennsylvania and Delaware ONLY!
Take Back Day - September 12, 2015, 10AM to 2PM

For more information and locations...

Back to top

Legislation News

Kaine Introduces Legislation To Deter Opioid Abuse
August 3, 2015 [Source: U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, VA]
Full story...

Back to top

State News

Governor Christie Strengthens New Jersey's Prescription Monitoring Program to Further Curb Prescription Drug Abuse
July 20, 2015 [Source: Governor Chris Christie, NJ]
Full story...

Back to top

Research Grant News and Opportunities

NINDS Research Program Award (RPA) Announcement
NINDS announces that the Research Program Award (RPA) FOA was just released. The goal of the RPA, which uses the R35 funding mechanism, is to allow an investigator to obtain sustained and flexible support for his/her NINDs-related research program. An RPA will provide funding of up to $750,000 per year (direct costs) for up to eight years. NINDS Director Dr. Walter Koroshetz has highlighted the RPA in his most recent Director's message, and the NINDS Extramural Director Dr. Robert Finkelstein wrote a blog post on the program (which includes a link to FAQs for potential applicants).

Southern Research Awarded 5-Year, $4.5M NIH Grant to Develop Opioid Drugs with Diminished Side Effects
August 12, 2015 [Source: Southern Research]
Southern Research won a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health to develop opioid drugs for the treatment of chronic pain. These candidate compounds are being developed to have fewer adverse effects than currently marketed opioid pain-relief medications, such as morphine. The award is for $4.5 million for up to five years, under award number R01DA038635. Full story...

Back to top

Pain News

Pain Patients Say They Can't Get Medicine after Crackdown on Illegal Rx
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 the Foundation website to learn more about the Foundation and to make a donation today.

Pain Abstracts in the News

Alternative Splicing of G Protein–Coupled Receptors: Relevance to Pain Management
August 2015 [Source: Mayo Clinic Proceedings]
Abstract: Drugs that target G protein–coupled receptors (GPCRs) represent the primary treatment strategy for patients with acute and chronic pain; however, there is substantial individual variability in both the efficacy and adverse effects associated with these drugs.

PubMed Pain Abstracts

Efficacy of Inhaled Cannabis on Painful Diabetic Neuropathy
Wallace MS1, Marcotte TD2, Umlauf A2, Gouaux B2, Atkinson JH3.
Abstract: A randomized, double-blinded, placebo controlled crossover study was conducted in 16 patients with painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy to assess the short-term efficacy and tolerability of inhaled cannabis. In a crossover design, each participant was exposed to 4 single dosing sessions of placebo or to low (1% tetrahydrocannabinol [THC]), medium (4% THC), or high (7% THC) doses of cannabis.
Copyright © 2015 American Pain Society. All rights reserved.
PMID: 25843054 [PubMed - in process]

Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Reversible Female Infertility: is There a Link?
Stone S1, Khamashta MA, Nelson-Piercy C.
Abstract: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are frequently prescribed to women of child-bearing age. Three case series highlight the possibility of a link between NSAIDs and reversible infertility. The pharmacological target of NSAIDs is cyclo-oxygenase (COX), which catalyses the first rate-limiting step in the production of prostaglandins. COX-2, one of two isoenzymes, is active in the ovaries during follicular development.
PMID: 12113640 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
Novel 10-kHz High-frequency Therapy (HF10 Therapy) Is Superior to Traditional Low-frequency Spinal Cord Stimulation for the Treatment of Chronic Back and Leg Pain: The SENZA-RCT Randomized Controlled Trial

Anesthesiology. 2015 Jul 27. [Epub ahead of print]

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Current treatments for chronic pain have limited effectiveness and commonly known side effects. Given the prevalence and burden of intractable pain, additional therapeutic approaches are desired. Spinal cord stimulation (SCS) delivered at 10 kHz (as in HF10 therapy) may provide pain relief without the paresthesias typical of traditional low-frequency SCS. The objective of this randomized, parallel-arm, noninferiority study was to compare long-term safety and efficacy of SCS therapies in patients with back and leg pain. CONCLUSION: HF10 therapy promises to substantially impact the management of back and leg pain with broad applicability to patients, physicians, and payers.

PMID: 26218762 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Back to top

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

**Ticagrelor Therapy for RefrACTORy Migraine Study (TRACTOR)**
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Columbia University
Collaborator: AstraZeneca
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Robert Sommer, Columbia University
Principal Investigator: Robert J Sommer, MD, Columbia University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02518464
First received: August 6, 2015

Stated Purpose: This is a prospective, open-label, single-arm pilot study treating 40 subjects to assess the hypothesis that P2Y, G protein-coupled 12 (P2Y12) inhibition with Brilinta/ticagrelor (90 mg PO twice a day) reduces episodic and/or chronic migraine headache symptoms in patients with right to left shunt. Headache frequency while on Brilinta/ticagrelor will be compared with the documented baseline for each subject. If the Brilinta/ticagrelor therapy was effective (> 50% reduction in monthly headache days), the subject could elect to continue therapy for an additional two months (56 days), while continuing to complete daily headache logs.

Read more...

**A Study to Assess the Efficacy and Safety of AXS-02 in Patients with CRPS-1 (CREATE-1)**
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Axsome Therapeutics, Inc.
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Axsome Therapeutics, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02504008
First received: July 20, 2015

Stated Purpose: This is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 24-week study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of AXS-02 in patients with CRPS-I.

Read more...

**Stanford Center for Back Pain**
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Stanford University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Sean Mackey, Stanford University
Principal Investigator: Sean Mackey, MD, PhD, Stanford University, James Gross, PhD, Stanford University, Rachel Manbar, PhD, Stanford University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02503475
First received: July 15, 2015

Stated Purpose: The purpose of the Stanford Center for Back Pain is to
investigate and characterize the mechanisms of four treatments for chronic low back pain. These interventions (research treatment) include real-time fMRI neurofeedback, mindfulness based stress reduction, cognitive behavioral therapy, and acupuncture treatment. The investigators plan to characterize both mechanisms of treatment effects and efficacy.

Read more...

Back to top

Industry News

BioDelivery Sciences Announces FDA Approval of New Formulation of ONSOLIS® (fentanyl buccal soluble film) CII
Full story...

Collegium Announces FDA Advisory Committee Meeting for Xtampza(TM) ER, an Abuse-Deterrent Analgesic for Chronic Pain
August 7, 2015 [Source: Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.]
Full story...

Naldemedine Meets Primary Endpoint in Phase 3 Study For The Treatment Of Opioid-Induced Constipation
August 3, 2015 [Source: Shionogi & Co., Ltd.]
Full story...

Back to top