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.

Pain Research in the News

Pain Is in the Brain
October 9, 2015 [Source: Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital]
The study, published in the September issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*, provides insights into the role of the hyperpolarization-activated cyclic nucleotide-gated (HCN) channels, which control the transmission of pain signals to a particular region of the brain, the anterior cingular cortex (ACC), identified as the most consistently stimulated region in pain processing. Full story...

Long-Term Opioid Therapy Relieves Chronic Pain in Only 20 Percent of Women
October 8, 2015 [Source: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc./Genetic Engineering News]
Women, and especially younger women, are much less likely than men to have good relief of chronic, non-cancer pain with long-term opioid use, with only one in five women reporting low levels of pain and high levels of function...
with chronic opioid therapy in a new study published in *Journal of Women's Health*, a peer-reviewed publication from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers. [Full story...](#)

**Fighting Pain with Radiology & Research**

October 7, 2015 [Source: University of California, San Francisco]

Imaging allows us to identify biomarkers as specific as the pain receptors on the surface of cells. Our goal is not to just develop markers, but develop objective measures of pain. In our research, we form multidisciplinary teams to address a common problem. These team members are radiologists, programmers, biostaticians, neuroscientists, bioengineers, orthopedic surgeons and rheumatologists. UCSF has made it possible for all of us, from different disciplines and backgrounds, to interact in such way. In fact, this research is the closest interaction I have seen between so many fields of medicine and research, gaining multiple perspectives. In this environment, we are able to move from bench to bedside, quickly translating our learning to patient care. [Full story...](#)

**Placebo Effect a Major Factor in Antidepressant Response**

October 5, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

[Full story (login required)...](#)

**Leg Ulcer Pain Research Success**

October 1, 2015 [Source: University of Greenwich, UK]

A bid by Greenwich scientists to reduce the pain of chronic leg ulcers and pressure sores has been commended by the UK Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The research into how innovative polymer film dressings can deliver painkillers, alongside other leg ulcer treatment medications, was presented at the recent UKPharmSci 2015 conference in Nottingham. [Full story...](#)

**Study Shows High Rates of Opioid Prescribing In Pediatric Headache**

October 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

[Full story...](#)

**Signal Activity Data May Unlock Some Answers behind Causes of Neuropathic Pain**

October 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

[Full story...](#)

**Standard Cancer Pain Scale Scores Often Fall Short**

September 11, 2015 [Source: Cancer Network]

Researchers asked 452 cancer patients in an ambulatory clinic to assess their pain on a numeric scale according to intensity and frequency, and then compared those results to the way patients described their pain to providers during audio-recorded clinic visits. They found that patients, regardless of disease stage or type of cancer, were much more likely to discuss relevant pain during clinic visits than to report it on questionnaires, suggesting that commonly used screening tools may be insufficient to detect significant pain issues. The results are published in the *Journal of Oncology Practice*. [Full story...](#)

**Meet the BSF-Funded Doctors Who Want to Ease your Pain –Literally**

Fall 2015 [Source: U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF)]

Ask anyone who gets persistent migraines or backaches; chronic pain makes life difficult, even among those who “grin and bear it.” However, a promising BSF-funded study aims to change the way scientists study chronic pain – and ultimately pave the way for more effective pain medications. [Full story...](#)
Reporting Chronic Care Management Service: Is It Right for Pain Medicine?

Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant

CPT 2015 introduced a new code 99490 Chronic Care Management Services (CCM) and Medicare began paying for it on January 1, 2015. While CMS expects the services to be reported mostly by primary care providers, it does allow the service to be reported by specialists. Read more...

Coding Resources:

2016 Pain Medicine Code Mapper - Now Available

For more information...Now available for purchase on the AAPM Education Portal. New Low Price.

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.

Practice Management & Coding Updates

2016 Pain Medicine Code Mapper - Now Available

For more information...


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.

Advocacy

Physicians Still Watching and Waiting for 2015 Meaningful Use Program Requirements

October 1, 2015 [Source: AMA]

Because the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has yet to issue the so-called "modification rule" for the electronic health record (EHR) Meaningful Use program for 2015, the AMA is calling on the agency to create an automatic hardship exemption for physicians who did not have the opportunity to report successfully this year. Full story...
With a commitment to making high-impact, long-term change, the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) has developed a patient safety-focused web-based continuing medical education (CME) program for all prescribers of opioids, with a targeted focus on those who prescribe methadone for the treatment of chronic pain.

The AAPM's **Methadone Education Curriculum** is designed to equip prescribers with the knowledge, skills, and behaviors they need to implement evidence-based safe prescribing practices. Changes in prescribers' knowledge, competence and performance will minimize risks and reduce harm for patients being treated for chronic pain with methadone. [For more information...](#)

**Providers’ Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (PCSS-O)**

AAPM's **Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies** (PCSS-O) Year One programming – a series of three, opioid-related educational webinars featuring AAPM Past President Lynn R. Webster, MD, are now available as enduring CME Sessions.

For those who missed the live webinar sessions, Year One programming is now available for free, enduring CME. For more information, visit the [AAPM Education Portal](#).

The PCSS-O project offers CME programs on the safe and effective use of opioids for treatment of chronic pain and safe and effective treatment of opioid use disorder. Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (grant nos. 5H79TI023439 and 1H79TI025595) from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

### Back to top

#### Education Opportunities

**Webinar: Targeting Unusual Voltage-Gated Sodium Currents for Pain Therapy**

**Friday, October 23, from Noon-1:30 PM EST**

PRF will host a webinar with Ted Cummins, Indiana University, Indianapolis. Cummins will discuss the promise of voltage-gated sodium channels as analgesic targets. After his talk, there will be a panel discussion featuring: David Hackos, Genentech, South San Francisco, Christine Sang, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, and Sulayman Dib-Hajj, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, US (moderator).

[For more information...](#)

#### Back to top

#### Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

**A Subset of Users may Naturally Progress from Rx Opioids to Heroin**

October 2015 [Source: NIH, National Institute of Drug Abuse]

A recent study of heroin users in the Chicago metropolitan area identified three main paths to heroin addiction: Non-medical pain reliever (NMPR) use to heroin use, cocaine use to heroin use (to "come down"), and poly drug use to heroin use. Poly drug use to heroin was the most common path in this study.1 The subset of individuals who transition from NMPR use to heroin use (~4 percent) may be predisposed to poly drug use, and the transition may represent a natural progression for them. [Full story...](#)
Please take a moment and complete your Ballot, either with the self-addressed postcard or on the AMA website. Be sure to designate AAPM as your Specialty Society. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM votes for continued representation in the House of Delegates. Thank you.

Many Use Prescription Painkillers, Most See Abuse as Major Health Concern
October 7, 2015 [Source: John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health]
More than one in four Americans has taken prescription painkillers in the past year, even as a majority say that abuse of these medications is a very serious public health concern, according to new Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health research. Full story...

Government Agency News

DEA's Prescription Drug Take-Back Effort-- A Big Success
October 1, 2015 [Source: DEA]
Thousands of Americans in communities across the country discarded more than 350 tons of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs as part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Initiative (NTBI) on Saturday, September 26. Full story...

NIH Office of Pain Policy Newsletter
October, 2014 - September 2015 [Source: NIH]
Full story...

State Legislative News

Illinois Medical Cannabis Advisory Board Update
October 7, 2015 [Source: Medical Cannabis Pilot Program]
On October 7, the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board recommended 8 conditions and diseases should be added to the Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act. However, before patient registration applications can be accepted for any new conditions or diseases, the director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) must approve recommendations made by the Board, and IDPH must adopt administrative rules to add those conditions and diseases. These conditions include: Chronic pain due to trauma, Chronic Pain Syndrome, Chronic Post-Operative Pain, Intractable Pain, Osteoarthritis, Autism, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). Full story...

International Pain News

Irish Pain Society Launches Network to Facilitate Collaboration in Pain Research
October 7, 2015 [Source: IASP]
At the 15th Annual Scientific Meeting in Dublin, the Irish Pain Society (IPS) launched the Irish Pain Research Network (IPRN) an exciting national initiative that aims to bring together all active pain researchers in Ireland to share research results and ideas and facilitate cross-institutional collaboration in pain research. Full story...

Position Statements

AAOS Board of Directors Approves Information Statement to Combat
Growing Opioid Epidemic
October 12, 2015 [Source: AAOS]
To help address the growing opioid epidemic in the U.S., the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) Board of Directors is calling for a comprehensive effort to increase and improve physician, caregiver and patient education; the tracking of opioid prescription use; research funding for alternative pain management; and support for more effective opioid abuse treatment programs. Full story...

Back to top

AAPM Members in the News

Multidisciplinary Management of Chronic Pain: A Practical Guide for Clinicians by Sridhar V. Vasudevan MD
October 8, 2015 [Source: U.S. Pain Foundation]
Sridhar V. Vasudevan MD, past president (1991) of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, announces the publication of his new book, Multidisciplinary Management of Chronic Pain, A Practical Guide for Clinicians, which emphasizes and explores the multifactorial causes of pain. Full story...

Addiction, Poor Care Drove N.H. Medicaid Patients to Shop Around for Opioids
October 7, 2015 [Source: New Hampshire Public Radio]
AAPM member Gilbert Fanciullo MD is interviewed in the NHPR interview. Full story...

U.S. Pain Foundation names Michael Schatman, PhD Director of Research
October 8, 2015 [Source: U.S. Pain Foundation]
U.S. Pain Foundation President and Founder, Paul Gileno announced today that Michael Schatman, PhD, a highly respected member of the pain community will join the organization as its first Director of Research. Dr. Schatman has written extensively regarding numerous aspects of chronic pain, and has served as the Executive Director of the Foundation for Ethics in Pain Care since its inception in 2010. Additionally, he has served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Pain Research since 2012. His appointment is effective immediately. Full story...

Back to top

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.

Back to top

AMA Specialty Society Representation

Designate AAPM on Your AMA Membership Ballot
If you are an AMA member, you should be receiving your Specialty Representation Ballot in the mail shortly. Please take a moment and complete your Ballot, either with the self-addressed postcard or on the AMA...
Be sure to designate AAPM as your Specialty Society. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM votes for continued representation in the House of Delegates. Thank you.

Pain Abstracts in the News

Modifiable Lifestyle Factors are Associated with Lower Pain Levels in Adults with Knee Osteoarthritis
October 2015 [Source: Journal of the Canadian Pain Society]
BACKGROUND: With no cure or effective treatments for osteoarthritis (OA), the need to identify modifiable factors to decrease pain and increase physical function is well recognized. OBJECTIVE: To examine factors that characterize OA patients at different levels of pain, and to investigate the relationships among these factors and pain.

The Drug Situation in Europe: an Overview of Data Available on Illicit Drugs and New Psychoactive Substances from European Monitoring in 2015
September 30, 2015 [Source: Addiction]
Abstract: Aim: A central task for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is to produce an annual report of the latest data available on drug demand and drug supply in Europe. This paper is intended to facilitate a better understanding of, and easier access to, the main quantitative European level data sets available in 2015.

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The Opioid Rotation Ratio of Strong Opioids to Transdermal Fentanyl in Cancer Patients
Reddy A1, Tayjasanant S2, Haider A1, Heurg Y1, Wu J3, Liu D3, Yennurajalingam S1, Reddy S1, de la Cruz M1, Rodriguez EM1, Waletich J1, Vidal M1, Arthur J1, Holmes C1, Tallie K1, Wong A1, Dev R1, Williams J1, Bruera E1.
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Transdermal fentanyl (TDF) is 1 of the most common opioids prescribed to patients with cancer. However, the accurate opioid rotation ratio (ORR) from other opioids to TDF is unknown, and various currently used methods result in wide variation of the ORR. The objective of this study was to determine the ORR of the oral morphine equivalent daily dose (MEDD) to the TDF dose when correcting for the MEDD of breakthrough opioids (the net MEDD) in cancer outpatients.

Comorbidity of Mental Disorders and Chronic Pain: Chronology of Onset in Adolescents of a National Representative Cohort
Tegethoff M1, Belardi A2, Stalujanis E2, Meinlschmidt G3.
Membrane Stiffening by STOML3 Facilitates Mechanosensation in Sensory Neurons

Qi Y1, Andolfi L2, Frattini F1, Mayer F1, Lazzarino M2, Hu J1.

Abstract: Sensing force is crucial to maintain the viability of all living cells. Despite its fundamental importance, how force is sensed at the molecular level remains largely unknown. Here we show that stomatin-like protein-3 (STOML3) controls membrane mechanics by binding cholesterol and thus facilitates force transfer and tunes the sensitivity of mechano-gated channels, including Piezo channels. STOML3 is detected in cholesterol-rich lipid rafts. In mouse sensory neurons, depletion of cholesterol and deficiency of STOML3 similarly and interdependently attenuate mechanosensitivity while modulating membrane mechanics. In heterologous systems, intact STOML3 is required to maintain membrane mechanics to sensitize Piezo1 and Piezo2 channels. In C57BL/6N, but not STOML3(-/-) mice, tactile allodynia is attenuated by cholesterol depletion, suggesting that membrane stiffening by STOML3 is essential for mechanical sensitivity. Targeting the STOML3-cholesterol association might offer an alternative strategy for control of chronic pain.

Examining Rural/Urban Differences in Prescription Opioid Misuse Among US Adolescents

Monnat SM1, Rigg KK2.

Abstract: PURPOSE: This study examines differences in prescription opioid misuse (POM) among adolescents in rural, small urban, and large urban areas of the United States and identifies several individual, social, and community risk factors contributing to those differences. CONCLUSIONS: Researchers, policy makers, and treatment providers must consider the complex array of individual, social, and community risk and protective factors to understand rural/urban differences in adolescent POM. Potential points of intervention to prevent POM in general and reduce rural disparities include early education about addiction risks, use of family drug courts to link criminal offenders to treatment, and access to nonemergency medical services to reduce rural residents' reliance on emergency departments where opioid prescribing is more likely.

Patient and Provider Confidence and Satisfaction With the Clinical Use of CYP Genetic Variability (Genomics)

First received: September 24, 2015
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Defense and Veterans Center for Integrative Pain Management
Collaborators: Pathway Genomics, Henry M Jackson Foundation
Principal Investigator: Michael Bartoszek, MD, Department of Defense
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Defense and Veterans Center for Integrative Pain Management
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02568618

Stated Purpose: This study utilizes the Medication DNA Insight™ tests for pain and mental health medications. We are testing the pain and mental health medications commonly used in pain treatment. Subjects will give a sample of saliva that will be tested for the metabolism of the different medications. Consented providers will be given the results of the test and can determine whether to change the subject's medication regimen. Providers and subjects will be asked to complete surveys both pre and post visits. The purpose is to examine provider and patient satisfaction, confidence and certainty of using the test results.

Read more...

Back to top

Industry News

AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Announces Initiation of Clinical Study with ARX-04 in Emergency Room Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Acute Pain
October 6, 2015 [Source: AcelRx Pharmaceuticals]
Full story...

Astellas and Chromocell Announce License and Collaboration Agreement to Develop and Commercialize New Therapies to Treat Neuropathic Pain
September 30, 2015 [Source: Astellas]
Full story...

kaléo to Donate 50,000 EVZIO® (naloxone HCl injection) Auto-Injectors in Honor of the UNITE to Face Addiction Rally
September 29, 2015 [Source: Kaléo]
Full story...

Kineta Wins Contract from US Army to Develop Novel Non-Opioid Pain Drug Candidate for Wounded Soldiers
September 28, 2015 [Source: Kineta]
Full story...

Millennium Health Announces Health Education Series:
October 15, 2015: Best Practices in Medication Monitoring & Pharmacogenetics
November 10, 2015: Appropriate Urine Drug Testing in Substance Use Disorders: Clinical Consensus Recommendations
Full story...

Back to top