AAPM's Education Receives ACCME Accreditation with Commendation

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...

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

AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting

Call for Late-Breaking Abstracts
Late-Breaking Abstracts will be accepted for the American Academy of Pain Medicine 2016 Annual Meeting. Entries will be accepted until Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Visit the information and submission portal to learn more information and submit your abstract.

Registration Opens Mid-November
Registration for the 2016 AAPM Annual Meeting will open mid-November. AAPM members are encouraged to register early for first choice of concurrent sessions and plenary sessions. Space is limited, so register early. As an AAPM member, you also are eligible for savings on member registration rates.

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Pain Research in the News
Ozone Gas Injections May Do the Trick for Knee Osteoarthritis Sufferers
November 5, 2015 [Source: American College of Rheumatology (ACR)]

Injecting ozone gas into the knee reduces pain and improves functioning and quality of life in people with knee osteoarthritis, according to research presented this week at the American College of Rheumatology Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Full story...


Mirror Therapy Needs Time to Work in Severe Phantom Pain
November 4, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

Therapy Could Help Chronic Pain Sufferers Get a Good Night's Sleep
November 2, 2015 [Source: University of Warwick, U.K.]

The University of Warwick academics found that cognitive behavioural therapies (CBT) were either moderately or strongly effective in tackling insomnia in patients with long-term pain. They also discovered that chronic pain sufferers didn’t just benefit from improved sleep but also experienced a wider positive impact on pain, fatigue and depression. However they also concluded that therapies only worked when delivered in person. Full story...

Twin Research Sheds New Light on Back Pain
October 30, 2015 [Source: University of Sydney]

Leading international back pain specialist and twins researcher, Professor Jan Hartvigsen, will be at the University of Sydney this Friday, 30 October to launch NSW’s first twin research hub and to share the findings from his team at the Centre for Muscle and Joint Health, University of Southern Denmark. In twin studies, his group found that back pain is already common among adolescents and its occurrence increases steeply during the teenage years. He also found this early occurrence of neck and back pain has a strong underlying heritable component. Full story...

Low-dose Ketamine Eases Pain, Reduces Opioid Use in ED
October 29, 2015 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

What a Pain! UTM Prof Investigates Role of Stress in Surgery Recovery
October 28, 2015 [Source: University of Toronto, Mississauga]

Can keeping calm before surgery decrease your post-operative pain and shorten your recovery time? That's the focus of current research by U of T Mississauga assistant professor of psychology Loren Martin. Full story...

Advocacy

Now Comes the Hard Part: Turning National Attention into Action
November 9, 2015 [Source: AMA Viewpoints]

In this AMA Viewpoints blog post by Patrice A. Harris, MD, chair-elect of the AMA Board of Trustees, Dr. Harris addresses the Obama Administration’s Public and Private Sector Efforts to Address Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Use, as well that the AMA’s advocacy and work with the AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse, which the Academy is an active participant. View blog post...

AAPM Signs on to AMA Letter Regarding Implementation of Stage 3 of the Meaningful Use Program
November 2, 2015 [Source: AMA]
Portner Orthopedic Rehabilitation, Inc.
Honolulu, HI

This is a hybrid position combining a MSK fellowship in an outpatient medical orthopedic clinic with immediate post fellowship placement into an associate position with a potential for partnership.

Read this month's President's Message

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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.

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's website to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Physician Payment Sunshine Act Resources:
- 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 View letter...

AMA Invites You to Take a Survey on EHRs
In the AMA's ongoing efforts to improve EHRs and interoperability of EHRs, it is assisting the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) with gathering information to improve the summary of care document that is produced to meet the Transfer of Care objective in Stage 2 of Meaningful Use. You are invited to take a 5-10 minute survey (closes November 30) that will help ONC create a new standard that will reduce the number of pages in the summary of care, thus making it easier to find relevant information.

American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) Joins Obama Administration Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse
October 22, 2015 [Source: AAPM]

Practice Management & Coding Updates

CMS Releases Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule for 2016
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
2016 marks the beginning of the new physician payment system following the repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). The SGR formula, which had been used for many years to determine physician payment rates, was repealed by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)

Framework Evaluates Top 20 EHRs--and They Don’t Quite Measure Up
October 27, 2015 [Source: AMA]
Electronic health record (EHR) vendors are required to test their products for usability, but how closely are these requirements being followed? A new comparative evaluation published Tuesday is intended to promote transparency around the design and usability testing of EHR products. Here is how 20 of the most common products measured up.

New Virtual Coding Seminar: Understanding Modifiers and Other CMS Updates Virtual Seminar
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - 2:00 PM CT (3:00 PM ET)
This virtual seminar will review key modifiers that are important for pain medicine practices including the new X{EPSU} modifiers issued by CMS. It will also illustrate the application of modifiers to clinical practice through the use of case studies. Key CPT changes for 2016 will be reviewed along with major CMS initiatives that impact pain medicine practices.

Pain News

Exploring the Link Between Chronic Pain and Suicide
November 5, 2015 [Source: WBUR, NPR]
Legislative News

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Groundbreaking Medical School Program to Curb Opioid Crisis
November 9, 2015 [Source: Governor Charlie Baker, State of Massachusetts]
Today the Baker-Polito Administration, in partnership with the deans of the Commonwealth’s four medical schools and the Massachusetts Medical Society released a pioneering set of medical education core competencies for the prevention and management of prescription drug misuse. Full story...

Kaine Introduces Bill to Help Prevent Opioid Overdose Deaths
November 5, 2015 [Source: Senator Tim Kaine, VA]
Full story...

MDH Releases Results of Public Input and Advisory Panel Review on Intractable Pain
November 4, 2015 [Source: Minnesota Department of Health]
Full story...

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Government Agency News

New Medicare Part D Opioid Drug Mapping Tool Available
November 3, 2015 [Source: CMS]
Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an interactive online mapping tool which shows geographic comparisons at the state, county, and ZIP code levels of de-identified Medicare Part D opioid prescription claims – prescriptions written and then submitted to be filled – within the United States. This new mapping tool allows the user to see both the number and percentage of opioid claims at the local level and better understand how this critical issue impacts communities nationwide. Full story...

Medicare Part D Overutilization Monitoring System (OMS) Summary
November 3, 2015 [Source: CMS]
As part of a multifaceted response to address the growing problem of overuse and abuse of opioid analgesics (“opioids”) in the Part D program, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted a policy in 2013 for Medicare Part D plan sponsors to implement enhanced drug utilization review. CMS is seeing real results from these efforts. From 2011 through 2014, there was a 26% decrease or 7,500 fewer Medicare Part D beneficiaries identified as potential opioid overutilizers. This represents a 39% decrease in the share of beneficiaries using opioids who are identified as potential opioid overutilizers. Full story...

CDC Draft Opioid Guidelines Ignite Controversy
November 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Prescription Painkillers a Source of Addiction for Many Women
November 10, 2015 [Source: McMaster University]
Painkillers prescribed by doctors are the starting point for an opioid addiction for more than half of female methadone clinic patients, says a new study led by McMaster researchers. These women also need different treatment from...
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 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.

Clinical Resources

AAPM Helps to Prepare Multisociety AUC for Fluoroscopically-Guided Sacroiliac Interventions

AAPM was a participating organization in the development of the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) that specify in which circumstances it is appropriate to perform a procedure. In an effort to foster clinical decision-making, AUC developers integrate the best available scientific evidence and the collective judgment of experts to generate statements regarding the appropriateness of performing a procedure at the level of patient-specific symptoms, medical history, and test results.

To view the AUC for Fluoroscopically-Guided Sacroiliac Interventions...

AAPM Education

Free CME Program Now Available

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 do they mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Study: Prescription Opioid Use in Teens Associated with Future Misuse

November 4, 2015 [Source: American Academy of Pediatrics]

Adolescents’ legitimate use of prescription opioids is associated with increased risk for misusing the painkillers when they are adults, according to a new study. This especially holds true for teens who disapprove of illegal drug use and have little experience using drugs.

Full story...

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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 the Foundation website to learn more about the Foundation and to make a donation today.

Pain Abstracts in the News

An Institutional Ethnography of Chronic Pain Management in Family Medicine (COPE) Study Protocol
November 5, 2015 [Source: BMC Health Services Research]
Abstract: Background: Patients with chronic conditions and multiple comorbidities represent a growing challenge for health care globally. Improved coordination of care is considered essential for providing more effective and cost-efficient care for these patients with complex needs. Osteoarthritis is one of the most common and debilitating chronic conditions, is the most frequent cause of chronic pain yet osteoarthritis care is often poorly-coordinated. Primary care is usually the first contact for patients requiring relief from chronic pain. Our previous work suggests discordance between the policy goals of improving patient care and the experience of osteoarthritis patients.
Read more...

Alexander Technique Lessons or Acupuncture Sessions for Persons With Chronic Neck Pain: A Randomized Trial
November 3, 2015 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Background: Management of chronic neck pain may benefit from additional active self-care–oriented approaches. Objective: To evaluate clinical effectiveness of Alexander Technique lessons or acupuncture versus usual care for persons with chronic, nonspecific neck pain.
Read more...

Strategies for Flipping the Script on Opioid Overprescribing
November 2 2015 [Source: JAMA Internal Medicine, Viewpoint]
Read more...

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

SCN9A Variants May be Implicated in Neuropathic Pain Associated with Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy and Pain Severity
Abstract: OBJECTIVES: Previous studies have established the role of SCN9A in various pain conditions, including idiopathic small fiber neuropathy. In the present study, we interrogate the relationship between common and rare variants in SCN9A gene and chronic neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy. CONCLUSIONS: The association of SCN9A variants with neuropathic pain and pain severity suggests a role of SCN9A in
Prevention of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy by the small-molecule inhibitor pifithrin-μ.

Krukowski K1, Nijboer CH, Huo X, Kavelaars A, Heijnen CJ.

Abstract: Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) is a common side effect of cancer treatment. It is the most frequent cause of dose reduction or treatment discontinuation in patients treated for cancer with commonly used drugs including taxanes and platinum-based compounds. No FDA-approved treatments for CIPN are available. In rodents, CIPN is represented by peripheral mechanical allodynia in association with retraction of intraepidermal nerve fibers. The mechanism of chemotherapy-induced neurotoxicity is unclear, but it has been established that mitochondrial dysfunction is an important component of the dysregulation in peripheral sensory neurons.

Dorsal Horn Parvalbumin Neurons Are Gate-Keepers of Touch-Evoked Pain after Nerve Injury

Petitjean H1, Pawlowski SA2, Fraine SL1, Sharif B1, Hamad D1, Fatima T1, Berg J3, Brown CM4, Jan LY3, Ribeiro-da-Silva A5, Braz JM6, Basbaum AI6, Sharif-Naeini R7.

Abstract: Neuropathic pain is a chronic debilitating disease that results from nerve damage, persists long after the injury has subsided, and is characterized by spontaneous pain and mechanical hypersensitivity. Although loss of inhibitory tone in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord is a major contributor to neuropathic pain, the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying this disinhibition are unclear. Here, we combined pharmacogenetic activation and selective ablation approaches in mice to define the contribution of spinal cord parvalbumin (PV)-expressing inhibitory interneurons in naive and neuropathic pain conditions.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

A Study to Assess the Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Single Doses of Anifrolumab in Healthy Subjects

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment. (see Contacts and Locations)
Sponsor: AstraZeneca
Principal Investigator: Dr. Ronald Goldwater, PAREXEL Early Phase Clinical Unit, Baltimore, United States of America
Information provided by (Responsible Party): AstraZeneca
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02601625
First received: November 9, 2015
Stated Purpose: This is a Phase I, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind Study to Assess the Pharmacokinetics and Safety of anifrolumab following Single-Dose administration to healthy subjects.

Industry News
Millennium Health Announces Health Education Series: November 10, 2015: Appropriate Urine Drug Testing in Substance Use Disorders: Clinical Consensus Recommendations
Full story...

Collegium Announces FDA Tentative Approval for Xtampza(TM) ER, a Novel Abuse-Deterrent Analgesic for Chronic Pain November 9, 2015 [Source: Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.]
Full story...

FDA Grants Fast Track Designation for Development of CAM2038, Long-Acting Buprenorphine Injections to Treat Opioid Addiction November 4, 2015 [Source: Braeburn Pharmaceuticals and Camurus]
Full story...

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