AAPM E-News

Registration is Now Live
for the 2016 AAPM Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, CA. February 18-21, 2016. For more information...

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

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting

Registration is Now Live for AAPM's 32nd Annual Meeting
February 18-21, 2016
Preconference Sessions: February 17-18, 2016
Palm Springs Convention Center
Palm Springs, California

Register Now

View AAPM's 2016 Annual Meeting Schedule at a Glance.

Make your room reservations now
Ensure you get a room in the main hotel by reserving a room now. For more information...

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AAPM Business

Polls for the 2016-17 AAPM Elections Are Open
There is still time to place your vote before the polls for the American Academy of Pain Medicine's (AAPM) 2016-17 Elections close on Friday, December 11, 2015.

To access the electronic ballot, visit the AAPM Member Center and click on the "Vote Now" button on the right-side of the page to go to the secure voting site. To log-in to the ballot, type in the AAPM Username and Password that were listed in the November 13 email sent to you by AAPM. Please note, your voting username and password are not the same as those you use to log into AAPM’s website.

If you need assistance with logging-in, please contact AAPM at (847) 375-4702.

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Pain Research in the News

New Pain Mechanisms Revealed for Neurotoxin in Spinal Cord Injury
November 23, 2015 [Source: Purdue University]
A toxin released by the body in response to spinal cord injuries increases pain by causing a proliferation of channels containing pain sensors, new research shows, and this hypersensitivity also extends to peripheral nerves in the limbs far from the injury site. Findings could point to a new route for treating pain in people with spinal cord injuries, said Riyi Shi, a professor of neuroscience and biomedical engineering in Purdue University's Department of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering. Full story...

High-Frequency Stimulation in Pain Medicine
November 20, 2015 [Source: Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany]
Due to disease-related changes in their brain, pain patients often suffer from an impaired tactile ability in their hands. In a pilot study conducted by scientists at the Ruhr-University Bochum, high frequency repetitive stimulation was investigated as a therapeutic approach for these patients. The results of this study have now been published in the journal Frontiers in Neurology. They show that passive stimulation of this kind is a promising new therapy option. Full story...

Mindfulness Meditation Trumps Placebo in Pain Reduction
November 13, 2015 [Source: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center]
This is significant because placebo-controlled trials are the recognized standard for demonstrating the efficacy of clinical and pharmacological treatments. The research, published in the Journal of Neuroscience, showed that study participants who practiced mindfulness meditation reported greater pain relief than placebo. Significantly, brain scans showed that mindfulness meditation produced very different patterns of activity than those produced by placebo to reduce pain. Full story...

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Pain Treatment and Trials in the News

Busy Single Specialty Practice in Salt Lake City Seeks Additional BC/BE Anesthesiologist
IASIS Healthcare
Salt Lake City, UT
An extremely busy, Single Specialty Anesthesia-Pain Management practice is looking to expand by adding an additional BC/BE Anesthesia-Pain Management physician.

Sports Medicine (Family Practice) at Fairview Medical Group, Minnesota
Fairview Health Services
Elk River, MN
Fairview Health Services is seeking a Sports Medicine Physician to join a multispecialty practice in our Northeast Metro Clinics in Princeton and Elk River Fairview Clinics.

VA Advanced Fellowship in...
AAPM President-Elect Daniel B. Carr MD Speaks at AMA Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates

Dr. Carr was one of the presenters at the AMA's Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates in the educational session: Combatting America's Opioid Epidemic—Strategies for Physicians and Medical Societies, held November 15 in Atlanta. AAPM is part of the AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse which is committed to identifying the best practices to combat this public health crisis and move swiftly to implement those practices across the country.

Advocacy

AAM Guide to Physician-Focused Alternative Payment Models

The legislation that repealed the SGR, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), created major new opportunities to advance alternative payment models (APMs). For services furnished from 2019 through 2024, MACRA provides a 5% annual bonus payment to physicians who participate in APMs and it exempts them from participating in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). The AMA and Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform's "Guide to Physician-Focused Payment Models" describes seven different APMs that can help physicians in every specialty redesign the way they deliver care in order to control spending, improve quality for patients and qualify for APM annual bonus payments. Read more...

AAM Signs AMA MACRA Letter to CMS

A letter signed by more than 100 state and national medical specialty societies has been submitted to the CMS Administrator and to the agency’s regulatory comments site. The letter lays out principles CMS should follow in designing regulations to implement the Medicare Access and Chip Reauthorization Act (MACRA). View the letter...
Practice Management & Coding Updates

CCI Manual Updates and Resources
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant

The Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCC) (also known as CCI) was implemented to promote national correct coding methodologies. NCCI Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) code pair edits are automated prepayment edits that are applied when certain codes are submitted together for Part B-covered services. These edits are updated quarterly based on claims submission data, CPT code changes and new or revised CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) payment policies. Read more...

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. For more information or to register...

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

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Legislative News

Kind Proposes Legislation to Help Guide Pain Management In VA

U.S. Rep. Ron Kind has introduced new legislation in Congress that would encourage better pain management practices within the Department of Veteran’s Affairs’ health care system. Full story...

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Government Agency News

Notes from the Field: Update on Multistate Outbreak of Fungal Infections Associated with Contaminated Methylprednisolone Injections, 2012-2014
October 30, 2015 [Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)]
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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Most Americans See Personal Tie to Rising Prescription Painkiller Abuse
November 24, 2015 [Source: Kaiser Health Day, by Lisa Gillespie]
Full story...

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American Academy of Pain Medicine Leaders Receive Prestigious NIH Director's Award
The American Academy of Pain Medicine announced that its Immediate Past President Sean Mackey, MD, PhD, was awarded the highly prestigious National Institutes of Health Director’s Award in recognition of his leadership role on the National Pain Strategy. Another esteemed leader and former Board Member of the Academy was also awarded the NIH Director’s Award for his contributions to pain care in the DoD. Dr. Chester "Trip" Buckenmaier III, MDCOL (ret), USA, director of Uniformed Services University's Defense and Veterans Center for Integrative Pain Management (DVCIPM) was recognized by the NIH Director for his contributions to pain management. 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.

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Pain Abstracts in the News
Clinically Inconsequential Alerts: The Characteristics of Opioid Drug Alerts and Their Utility in Preventing Adverse Drug Events in the Emergency Department
November 6, 2015 [Source: Annals of Emergency Medicine]
Abstract: Study objective: We examine the characteristics of clinical decision support alerts triggered when opioids are prescribed, including alert type, override rates, adverse drug events associated with opioids, and preventable adverse drug events. Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts
The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Inflammation is Associated with Decreased Functional Connectivity within Corticostriatal Reward Circuitry in Depression
Felger JC1,2, Li Z3,4, Haroon E1, Woolwine BJ1, Jung MY1, Hu X4, Miller AH1,2.
Abstract: Depression is associated with alterations in corticostriatal reward circuitry. One pathophysiological pathway that may drive these changes is inflammation. Biomarkers of inflammation (for example, cytokines and C-reactive protein (CRP)) are reliably elevated in depressed patients. Moreover, administration of inflammatory stimuli reduces neural activity and dopamine
release in reward-related brain regions in association with reduced motivation and anhedonia.

PMID: 26552591 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Joint Inflammation is Associated with Pain Aensitization in Knee Osteoarthritis: The Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study
Neogi T1, Guermazi A2, Roemer F2, Nevitt M3, Scholz J4, Arendt-Nielsen L5, Woolf C6, Niu J1, Bradley LA7, Quinn E1, Frey Law L8.

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: Pain sensitization is associated with pain severity in knee osteoarthritis, but its cause in humans is not well-understood. We examined whether inflammation, assessed as synovitis and effusion on MRI, or mechanical load, assessed as bone marrow lesions (BMLs), were associated with sensitization in knee osteoarthritis. CONCLUSION: Inflammation, as evidenced by synovitis or effusion, is associated with pain sensitization in knee osteoarthritis. In contrast, BMLs do not appear to contribute to sensitization in knee osteoarthritis. Early targeting of inflammation is a reasonable strategy to test for prevention of sensitization and through this, reduction of pain severity in knee osteoarthritis. This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved. © 2015, American College of Rheumatology.
PMID: 26554395 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Opioid Prescribing at Hospital Discharge Contributes to Chronic Opioid Use
J Gen Intern Med. 2015 Nov 9. [Epub ahead of print]
Calcaterra SL1,2, Yamashita TE3, Min SJ4, Keniston A5, Frank JW6,7, Binswanger IA6,8.

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Chronic opioid therapy for chronic pain treatment has increased. Hospital physicians, including hospitalists and medical/surgical resident physicians, care for many hospitalized patients, yet little is known about opioid prescribing at hospital discharge and future chronic opioid use. CONCLUSION: Opioid receipt at hospital discharge among opioid naïve patients increased future chronic opioid use. Physicians should inform patients of this risk prior to prescribing opioids at discharge.
PMID: 26553336 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

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NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

Efficacy and Safety of Pregabalin in Treatment of Neuropathic Pain in Patients With Idiopathic Small Fiber Neuropathy
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Johns Hopkins University
Collaborator: Pfizer
Principal Investigator: Mohammad Khoshnoodi, MD, Johns Hopkins University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Johns Hopkins University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02607254
First received: November 16, 2015

Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to assess safety and efficacy of treatment with pregabalin in patients with idiopathic small fiber neuropathy proven by skin biopsy. This is an enriched enrollment randomized withdrawal study that comprises 4 phases: a screening and selection phase, a washout period from previous pain medication for enriched enrollment, an 8 week single blind pregabalin treatment phase; and a 4 week randomized withdrawal phase.

Read more...

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Industry News

NARCAN® (Naloxone hydrochloride) Nasal Spray Approved by U.S. Food and Drug Administration
November 19, 2015 [Source: Adapt]
Full story...

Caldolor Approved For Use In Pediatric Patients
November 23, 2015 [Source: Cumberland Pharmaceuticals]
Full story...

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