LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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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
Register Now 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 Annual Meeting Schedule at a Glance.
- Download Annual Meeting brochure.

Annual Meeting highlights include:

**Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™**: For Primary Care Providers and Pain Specialists
Saturday, February 20 - Sunday, February 21, 2016
Presented on the weekend this year in hopes of better serving the broader primary care audience. Combine Essentials course with other Annual Meeting components and receive up to a maximum of 34.5 CME credits.

Two CADAVER Preconference Sessions: February 17-18, 2016 - 16 hours of CME credits
The World Academy of Pain Medicine Ultrasonography (WAPMU) is collaborating with AAPM to offer two distinct ultrasound/cadaver programs. These programs will take place over 2 days and provide 16 hours of CME to attendees.

- Musculoskeletal Ultrasound and Regenerative Medicine Ultrasonography in Interventional Pain Management

**Preconference on Medications Management**: Opioid and Non-Opioid - 13 hours of CME credits
Participants will learn strategies aimed at optimizing the use of non-opioid analgesics while mitigating the potential risks associated with opioid use in daily clinical practice.

Outstanding Plenary Sessions
Over 35 Rigorous Scientific and Clinical Sessions

Advocacy

AAPM Joins Advocacy Efforts for a Public Comment Period for the CDC Draft Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

The CDC has posted a notice of intent to publish a 30-day comment period in the Federal Register on the CDC’s draft CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. This represents a significant positive step – one that was accomplished, in part, due to the efforts of AAPM, the AMA and several state and other specialty societies, who expressed their concerns about, among other things, the process used by CDC and the lack of opportunity for public review and comment. The public comment period opens December 14, 2015 and closes January 13, 2016 through Regulations.gov. Any and all individuals or organizations interested in submitting input on the draft guideline may do so by accessing Regulations.gov and entering the docket number (CDC-2015-0112).

AAPM has been active in earlier stages of the guideline review process. Members of the Opioid Advisory Task Force and Scientific Review and Guidelines Committee drafted official comments submitted by the Academy and several AAPM leaders participated in a CDC webinar related to the
Pain Management Services
Christiana Care Health System
Delaware
Seeking a passionate advocate, educator and program builder to lead an expanded comprehensive pain management services program.

Pain Management Physician
Opportunity
Dallas Pain Management
Dallas, TX
Our established pain management team in Dallas, Texas has an exciting opportunity for a board-certified Interventional Pain Management Physician to join our team.

More jobs...

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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. Read more...

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:

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Pain Research in the News

Platelet-Inhibiting Drug does Not Significantly Reduce Pain Crises in Sickle Cell Disease
December 8, 2015 [Source: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute]
Treatment with the antiplatelet agent prasugrel does not significantly reduce the rate of pain crises or severe lung complications in children with sickle cell disease, according to a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine describing one of the largest and most geographically diverse international clinical trials on sickle cell disease to date. Full story...

GM Mice Reveal the Secret to a Painless Life
December 4, 2015 [Source: University of London, UK]
People born with a rare genetic mutation are unable to feel pain, but previous attempts to recreate this effect with drugs have had surprisingly little success. Using mice modified to carry the same mutation, UCL researchers funded by the MRC and Wellcome Trust have now discovered the recipe for painlessness. Full story...

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Pain Treatments and Trials in the News

Researchers Create World's First Ibuprofen Patch – Delivering Pain Relief Directly through Skin
December 8, 2015 [Source: University of Warwick, UK]
Researchers at the University of Warwick have worked with Coventry-based Medherant, a Warwick spinout company, to produce and patent the World's first ever ibuprofen patch delivering the drug directly through skin to exactly where it is needed at a consistent dose rate. Full story...

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FDA News, Warnings & Recalls

Baclofen Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient from Taizhou Xinyou Pharmaceutical and Chemical: FDA Statement - FDA Warns of Potential Contamination
December 9, 2015 [Source: FDA]
ISSUE: FDA is alerting drug compounders that certain lots of baclofen active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufactured by Taizhou Xinyou guidelines. AAPM continues to actively support pain patients and pain medicine clinicians by advocating for a balanced approach to safe and effective treatment of pain through our collaborative advocacy efforts with the AMA and other specialty societies.

Experts Explain How to End Opioid Overdose Epidemic
December 4, 2015 [Source: AMA]
During the 2015 AMA Interim Meeting, physician experts recently discussed actions you can take now to help combat the opioid epidemic and improve patient care. One of these experts included American Academy of Pain Medicine President-Elect Daniel Carr, MD, who reminded physicians that chronic pain is a public health issue. He also encouraged physicians to educate themselves about stigma in pain medicine and unconscious bias to help advance patient care. Full story...

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Pharmaceutical & Chemical Co., Limited (Taizhou) Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province, China, may be at risk for contamination with particulates and should not be used to compound sterile injectable drugs. Full story...

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Pain News

Opioids for Chronic Pain: Yes or No?
December 10, 2015 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

Opioid Abuse and the Media: Attitude Adjustment Required
December 2, 2015 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...
View abstract in Psychiatric Services...

Pain: When the Professional Becomes Personal
December 1, 2015 [Source: Stanford Scope Blog]
Full story...

Baker's Opioid Plan Gets It Only Half Right
December 1, 2015 [Source: Judy Foreman, Blog]
Full story...

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Grant Information

RFA-CE-16-003: Research on Prescription Opioid Use, Opioid Prescribing, and Associated Heroin Risk
November 20, 2015 [Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]
The purpose of this research is twofold: to investigate the patterns of prescription opioid pain reliever (OPR) use and misuse and transitions from OPR misuse to heroin use (Priority # 1); and whether OPR prescribing is a risk factor for heroin overdose, and if policies and strategies aimed at curbing inappropriate prescribing are associated with increased or decreased risk for heroin overdose (Priority # 2). Applicants are expected to submit one application to address either the first or second research priority.

Important Dates:
• Letter of Intent Due: 01/15/2016
• Application Due: 02/15/2016
For more information...

AHRQ Announces Grant Opportunities To Address Opioid Abuse Disorder in Rural Areas
December 8, 2015 [Source: AHRQ]
In support of growing Federal efforts to reduce the abuse of opioid drugs, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced today a call for research to expand access to evidence-based treatment for opioid abuse disorders in rural areas. Full story...

CWRU Researchers Laying Groundwork for New Type of Pain Relief
December 2, 2015 [Source: Case Western Reserve University]
A researcher at Case Western Reserve University has been awarded a four-year federal grant to uncover how high-frequency electrical stimulation to the spinal cord reduces or eliminates chronic pain. Full story...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Extends EHRs Survey to December 23

In our ongoing efforts to improve EHRs and interoperability of EHRs the AMA 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. The following is a link to a 5-10 minute survey 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.

Be Prepared for 2016 by Emily Hill

AAPM hosted a virtual seminar, Understanding Modifiers and Other CMS Updates, on Wednesday, December 9. This virtual seminar reviewed CPT changes for 2016, provided an update on ICD-10 and reviewed important CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) initiatives. The seminar also addressed key modifiers important for Pain Medicine practices. An archive of this virtual seminar will be available shortly. For more information...

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

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Government Agency News

Rates of Drug Overdose Deaths Continue to Rise, More Action Needed to Reverse Troubling Trends
December 10, 2015 [Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services]

New CDC data shows the overall number and rate of drug overdose deaths increased notably between 2013-2014, driven in large part by continued increases in heroin deaths and an emerging increase in deaths involving illicit synthetic opioids. These new data reaffirm that we have not seen the peak of the opioid abuse and overdose epidemic and highlights the need for continued action to prevent opioid misuse and dependence to save lives. Full story...

White House Announces Community Forums on Opioid Epidemic
December 10, 2015 [Source: The White House]

Today, the White House announced that National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli will host community forums across the country focused on best practices and evidence-based initiatives to prevent and treat prescription drug abuse and heroin use. These forums will serve as an opportunity to continue the conversation that President Obama began in West Virginia in October, where he announced new public and private sector efforts to address the opioid overdose epidemic. Full story...

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Legislative News

Opioid Abuse in America: Facing the Epidemic and Examining Solutions
December 8, 2015 [Source: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions]

Full story...

Bilirakis Introduces PROMISE Act to Help Veterans
November 18, 2015 [Source: Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)]
Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) today introduced H.R. 4063, the Promoting Responsible Opioid Management and Incorporating Scientific Expertise Act (PROMISE Act) to help Veterans by promoting safety, patient advocacy, and better access to quality care. Full story...

State Legislative News

Maryland Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force Submits Final Report to Governor Larry Hogan
December 1, 2015 [Source: The Office of Governor Larry Hogan]
Full story...
View final report...

MN: MDH to Add Intractable Pain as Qualifying Condition for State Medical Cannabis Program
December 2, 2015 [Source: Minnesota Health Department]
Full story...

NH: Emergency Opioid Prescribing Rules
November 5, 2015 [Source: New Hampshire Medical Board]
Full story...
View new rules...

Oregon Health Providers Make It Harder To Get Opioids
December 1, 2015 [Source: OPB]
Full story...
View report...

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Abuse-Deterrent Opioids: Demonstrating the Potential To Reduce Abuse – Interview With Charles Argoff, MD
December 9, 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

Fighting Prescription Painkiller Abuse among Baby Boomers
December 7, 2015 [Source: University of Buffalo]
Prescription opioid abuse has reached epidemic proportions, with more than half of patients being treated for chronic pain reportedly misusing their medication at some point. However, new research led by University at Buffalo psychiatric nursing researcher Yu-Ping Chang found motivational interviewing, a form of behavioral counseling, is an effective tool at curbing the abuse. Full story...

NYU Study Finds Three-Quarters of High School Heroin Users Start with Prescription Opioids
December 1, 2015 [Source: New York University]
Nonmedical use of prescription opioids (a.k.a.: pain-killers, narcotics) such as Vicodin, Percocet, and Oxycontin has become increasingly problematic in recent years with increases nation-wide in overdoses, hospital treatment admissions, and deaths. Use also appears to be contributing to heroin initiation, which has increased in recent years, as the demographics of users are shifting. Those previously at low risk—women, whites, and individuals of higher income—are now using at unprecedented rates. Full story...

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A Need for Personalized Chronic Opioid Therapy
December 7, 2015 [Source: Medscape Commentary by Charles E. Argoff, MD]
Full story...

Consider a Year-End Donation to the AAPM Foundation
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.

Repeatable and Adjustable on-Demand Sciatic Nerve Block with Phototriggerable Liposomes
December 7, 2015 [Source: PNAS]
Abstract: Pain management would be greatly enhanced by a formulation that would provide local anesthesia at the time desired by patients and with the desired intensity and duration. To this end, we have developed near-infrared (NIR) light-triggered liposomes to provide on-demand adjustable local anesthesia. The liposomes contained tetrodotoxin (TTX), which has ultrapotent local anesthetic properties.
Read more...

Randomized Trial of Low-Dose Morphine Versus Weak Opioids in Moderate Cancer Pain
J Clin Oncol. 2015 Dec 7. pii: JCO610733. [Epub ahead of print]
Bandieri E1, Romero M1, Ripamonti C1, Artioli F1, Sichetti D1, Fanizza C1, Santini D1, Cavanna L1, Melotti B1, Conte PF1, Rolia F1, Cascino S1, Bruera E1, Tognoni G1, Luppi M1.
Abstract: PURPOSE: The WHO guidelines on cancer pain management recommend a sequential three-step analgesic ladder. However, conclusive data are lacking as to whether moderate pain should be treated with either step II weak opioids or low-dose step III strong opioids. CONCLUSION: In patients with cancer and moderate pain, low-dose morphine reduced pain intensity significantly compared with weak opioids, with a similarly good tolerability and an earlier effect.
© 2015 by American Society of Clinical Oncology.
PMID: 26644526 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Distinct Profiles of Functional Discrimination among G Proteins Determine the Actions of G Protein-Coupled Receptors
Masuho I1, Ostrovskaya O1, Kramer GM2, Jones CD2, Xie K1, Martemyanov KA3.
Abstract: Members of the heterotrimeric guanine nucleotide-binding protein (G protein)-coupled receptor (GPCR) family play key roles in many physiological functions and are extensively exploited pharmacologically to treat diseases. Many of the diverse effects of individual GPCRs on cellular physiology are transduced by heterotrimeric G proteins, which are composed of α, β, and γ subunits. GPCRs interact with and stimulate the binding of guanosine triphosphate (GTP) to the α subunit to initiate signaling. Mammalian genomes encode 16 different G protein α subunits, each one of which has distinct properties. Copyright © 2015, American Association for the Advancement of Science. PMID: 26628681 [PubMed - in process]

Read more...

Bidirectional Modulation of Hyperalgesia via the Specific Control of Excitatory and Inhibitory Neuronal Activity in the ACC
Kang SJ1, Kwak C2, Lee J3, Sim SE1, Shim J1, Choi T3, Collingridge GL4,5,6,7, Zhuo M8,9, Kaang BK10,11.
Abstract: Neurons in the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) are assumed to play important roles in the perception of nociceptive signals and the associated emotional responses. However, the neuronal types within the ACC that mediate these functions are poorly understood. In the present study, we used optogenetic techniques to selectively modulate excitatory pyramidal neurons and inhibitory interneurons in the ACC and to assess their ability to modulate peripheral mechanical hypersensitivity in freely moving mice. We found that selective activation of pyramidal neurons rapidly and acutely reduced nociceptive thresholds and that this effect was occluded in animals made hypersensitive using Freund's Complete Adjuvant (CFA). Conversely, inhibition of ACC pyramidal neurons rapidly and acutely reduced hypersensitivity induced by CFA treatment. A similar analgesic effect was induced by activation of parvalbumin (PV) expressing interneurons, whereas activation of somatostatin (SOM) expressing interneurons had no effect on pain thresholds. Our results provide direct evidence of the pivotal role of ACC excitatory neurons, and their regulation by PV expressing interneurons, in nociception.
PMID: 26631249 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

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

Safety and Pharmacokinetics of GS-4059 in Healthy Volunteers and Subjects With Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
First received: December 3, 2015
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Gilead Sciences
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Gilead Sciences
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02626026
Stated Purpose: This study will consist of two parts: Part A will evaluate the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics (PK), and pharmacodynamics (PD) of GS-4059 in healthy participants. Part B will evaluate the safety, tolerability, and the effect of GS-4059 on disease-specific clinical markers and outcomes in participants with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).
Read more...

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Industry News
Cara Therapeutics Announces Positive Top-Line Results from Phase 2a Trial of Oral CR845 in Chronic Pain Patients With Osteoarthritis of the Knee or Hip
December 9, 2015 [Source: Cara Therapeutics, Inc.]
Full story...

Trigemina Publishes Data Demonstrating that the Activation of Oxytocin Receptors May Provide Clinical Benefit to Migraine Patients
December 3, 2015 [Source: Trigemina]
Full story...

Grants Will Be Used to Address Chronic Pain Epidemic
November 24, 2015 [Source: American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA)]
Full story...

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