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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Industry News

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 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
AAPM Ethics Charter
Includes statement on conflicts of interest.

 treatment of chronic pain by medical, interventional, and integrative approaches.

For more information...

Need to add a Pain Physician to your practice?
Post your ad with AAPM's Career Center and reach more than the 2,500 members of AAPM. The network reaches beyond 30,000 professionals in healthcare.

Help Wanted:

Pain Management Nurse Practitioner
NYU Langone Hospital for Joint Diseases
New York, NY
We are currently seeking a full time pain management nurse practitioner with acute care certification to join our team.

Advanced Fellowship in Clinical and Health Services Research
Minneapolis VA Medical Center
Minneapolis, MN
Seeking applicants for two-year MD or PhD postdoctoral fellowships in clinical health services research.

Hospice and Palliative Care Physician
Willamette Valley Hospice
Salem, OR
Assumes day to day responsibility for ensuring that excellent medical care 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.

Other News on the CDC Draft Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

- Letter to Centers of Disease Control Director Thomas Friedan Regarding Prescribed Opioids
  December 18, 2015 [Source: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform]
  Full story...

- VA to Adopt the Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Developed by the CDC
  December 2015 [Source: Voice Chronicle]
  Full story...

Pain Research in the News

Temple Study Finds Opioid Prescribing Guideline Significantly Decreases Prescription Rates
December 29, 2015 [Source: Temple University Health System]
Emergency medicine physicians at Temple University Hospital have found that an opioid prescribing guideline had an immediate and sustained impact on opioid prescribing rates for minor conditions and chronic noncancer pain in an acute care setting. The results of the study are published in the January 2016 Journal of Emergency Medicine. Full story...

New Lab Helps UNM Researchers Tackle Chronic Pain
December 29, 2015 [Source: University of New Mexico]
A multidisciplinary team of UNM researchers is tackling this problem with the help of a new, state-of-the-art laboratory that will help them pinpoint how the nervous system responds to potential therapies. Full story...

Ending Chronic Pain with New Drug Therapy
December 19, 2015 [Source: Northwestern University]
A brain region controlling whether we feel happy or sad, as well as addiction, is remodeled by chronic pain, reports a new Northwestern Medicine study. And in a significant breakthrough for the millions of Americans suffering from chronic pain, scientists have developed a new treatment strategy that restores this region and dramatically lessens pain symptoms in an animal model. Full story...

Overprescribing of Opioids is Not Limited to a Few Bad Apples
December 14, 2015 [Source: Stanford University School of Medicine]
Most prescriptions for opioid painkillers are made by the broad swath of U.S. general practitioners, not by a limited group of specialists, according to a study by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Full story...

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Pain Treatments and Trials in the News
is provided to the agency hospice and palliative care patients

Leading South Florida Healthcare System Seeking Physiatrists
Memorial Healthcare System Hollywood, FL Seeking BE/BC physiatrists to join its multi-specialty Memorial Physician Group that includes six physiatrists.

More jobs...

Read this month's President's Message

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

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:
- AMA's Recommended 4 Steps for Physicians to Support Accurate Data
- AMA Toolkit for Physician Financial Transparency Reports (Sunshine Act)

Case Report 8: Ziconotide Delivered in a Novel Intrathecal Drug Delivery System
December 2015 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

Full story...

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Pain News

Curbing Opioids Postoperatively, an Increasing Focus of Many Surgeons
January 2016 [Source: Anesthesiology News]

Full story...

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Educational Opportunities

Pain Research Forum Webinar: Safer Opioid Analgesics: It's all in the Telling of the Tail
Thursday, January 21, from noon-1:30 p.m. Eastern (US) time
PRF will host a webinar with Gavril Pasternak from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Pasternak will discuss the promise of mu opioid receptor splice variants as a path to safer opioid therapies for pain. After his talk, there will be a panel discussion featuring:
Bryan Roth, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Lynn Webster, PRA Health Sciences, Salt Lake City, Utah
Charles Inturrisi, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, (moderator).
For more information...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

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.
Available Now: 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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AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting
Dear Distinguished Colleague,

I want to take a moment to encourage you to book registration to AAPM's Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, California, February 18 to 21, 2016 to take advantage of registration incentives. As you know, the American Academy of Pain Medicine is the ‘gathering place’ of the most dedicated and distinguished pain physicians in the country. Our Annual Meeting offers us – the pain specialists – the chance to share the latest innovations, clinical practices, and research we experience in our practice and at our teaching institutions. We share the science, the language, and the practice of pain medicine.

As the population has continued to age, patients’ needs for safe and effective pain care have escalated, and often, the first to field the myriad of questions about pain treatments are the physicians and clinicians in primary care settings who haven't had the time to closely study the science of pain medicine. This year's meeting fills this educational gap and gives you a chance to help your colleagues become better informed about the science that you reference as you treat patients. In fact, the meeting has several new features to better address the needs of pain treatment teams, while also updating you on the latest innovations in pain care. We've made some changes in format, and have registration concierges ready to assist those who need help getting signed up to attend the meeting.

So take a moment to open the online brochure and look at how far the specialty of pain has come. Below is a list of some of the great sessions and preconference workshops – they cover the breadth of science in pain – from innovations in interventional pain to medication management to integrative and palliative pain practices. So register and invite the colleagues in your professional circles so that we can work together to better serve people with pain.

Bill McCarberg, MD
President, American Academy of Pain Medicine

Register Now  Schedule At A Glance  Meeting Brochure

Government Agency News

Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2000–2014
December 18, 2015 [Source: CDC]

Full story...
State Legislative News

MA: Why Doctors are Supporting the House's New Guidelines for Opiates
December 29, 2015 [Source: Boston Business Journal Blog]
The Massachusetts Medical Society is endorsing a legislative rewrite of the governor's bill to control opiate use, saying the revisions give doctors more flexibility in treating their patients. Full story...

NJ: Mandates Health Benefits Coverage for Opioid Analgesics with Abuse-Deterrent Properties (S3036)
December 21, 2015 [Source: New Jersey Legislature]
View bill...

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Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Opioid Dependency Peaks among Younger Age Group
December 22, 2015 [Source: Michigan State University]
A Michigan State University study shows that 14- and 15-year-olds are at a higher risk of becoming dependent on prescription drugs within a 12-month period after using them extra-medically, or beyond the prescribed amount. Full story...

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AAPM Foundation

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.

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Hypnosis for Awake Surgery of Low-grade Gliomas: Description of the Method and Psychological Assessment
January 2016 [Source: Neurosurgery]
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Awake craniotomy with intraoperative electric stimulation is a reliable method for extensive removal of low-grade gliomas while preserving the functional integrity of eloquent surrounding brain structures. Although fully awake procedures have been proposed, asleep-awake-asleep remains the standard technique. Anesthetic contraindications are the only limitation of this method, which is therefore not reliable for older patients with high-grade gliomas.
Read more...

Opioid Prescribing After Nonfatal Overdose and Association with Repeated Overdose: A Cohort Study
December 29, 2015 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Background: Nonfatal opioid overdose is an opportunity to identify and treat substance use disorders, but treatment patterns after the overdose are unknown. Objective: To determine prescribed opioid dosage after an opioid
overdose and its association with repeated overdose.

Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

The Sphenopalatine Ganglion: Anatomy, Pathophysiology, and Therapeutic Targeting in Headache
Robbins MS1,2, Robertson CE3, Kaplan E4, Ailani J5, Charleston L4th6, Kuruvilla D7, Blumenfeld A8, Berliner R2, Rosen NL3, Duarte RO, Vidwan J10, Halter RB11, Gill N12, Ashkenazi A13.
Abstract: The sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG) has attracted the interest of practitioners treating head and face pain for over a century because of its anatomical connections and role in the trigemino-autonomic reflex. In this review, we discuss the anatomy of the SPG, as well as what is known about its role in the pathophysiology of headache disorders, including cluster headache and migraine. We then address various therapies that target the SPG, including intranasal medication delivery, new SPG blocking catheter devices, neurostimulation, chemical neurolysis, and ablation procedures. © 2015 American Headache Society.
PMID: 26615983 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Somatosensory Neuron Types Identified by High-Coverage Single-Cell RNA-Sequencing and Functional Heterogeneity
Cell Res. 2015 Dec 22. doi: 10.1038/cr.2015.149. [Epub ahead of print]
Li CL1, Li KC1, Wu D1, Chen Y1, Luo H2, Zhao JR1, Wang SS2, Sun MM3, Lu YJ1, Zhong YQ1, Hu XY4, Hou R3, Zhou BS3, Bao LS2, Xiao HS3, Zhang X1,2.
Abstract: Sensory neurons are distinguished by distinct signaling networks and receptive characteristics. Thus, sensory neuron types can be defined by linking transcriptome-based neuron typing with the sensory phenotypes. Here we classify somatosensory neurons of the mouse dorsal root ganglion (DRG) by high-coverage single-cell RNA-sequencing (10 950 ± 1 218 genes per neuron) and neuron size-based hierarchical clustering. Moreover, single DRG neurons responding to cutaneous stimuli are recorded using an in vivo whole-cell patch clamp technique and classified by neuron-type genetic markers. These results provide a new system for cataloging somatosensory neurons and their transcriptome databases.
Cell Research advance online publication 22 December 2015; doi:10.1038/cr.2015.149.
PMID: 26691752 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Nerve Growth Factor is Regulated by Toll-Like Receptor 2 in Human Intervertebral Discs
Krock E1, Currie JB1, Weber MH1, Ouellet JA1, Stone LS1, Rosenzweig DH1, Haglund L2.
Abstract: Nerve growth factor (NGF) contributes to the development of chronic pain associated with degenerative connective tissue pathologies, such as intervertebral disc degeneration and osteoarthritis. However, surprisingly little is known about the regulation of NGF in these conditions. Toll-like receptors (TLR) are pattern recognition receptors classically associated with innate immunity, but more recently were found to be activated by endogenous alarmins such as fragmented extra-cellular matrix proteins found in degenerating discs or cartilage. Copyright © 2015, The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
PMID: 26668319 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

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

**Trauma-Sensitive Yoga for Female Veterans With PTSD Who Experienced Military Sexual Trauma (PSL II)**

This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.

Verified December 2015 by VA Office of Research and Development

Sponsor: VA Office of Research and Development

Principal Investigator: Ursula Ann Kelly, PhD MSN BA, Atlanta VA Medical and Rehab Center, Decatur, GA

Information provided by (Responsible Party): VA Office of Research and Development

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02640690

First received: December 16, 2015

Stated Purpose: The proposed study will evaluate the effectiveness of a yoga intervention to treat posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), its associated symptoms of chronic pain and insomnia, and biological and physiological responses to trauma and PTSD in women Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST). If effective, this yoga intervention could reduce PTSD symptoms and chronic pain, improve sleep quality, and decrease the body’s automatic “fight or flight” stress response and the damage this stress response causes in the body, including heart disease and diabetes. This intervention could improve these women Veterans’ quality of life and social functioning, for example, going to work and having satisfying relationships with family and friends. This study may support an innovative, complementary and alternative PTSD treatment for women Veterans who experienced MST. This new, evidence-based PTSD treatment could supplement current PTSD treatments. Clinical guidelines for this yoga intervention could be implemented nationally in the VA health care system.

**KemPharm, Inc. Expands Pain Therapy Pipeline With Discovery of KP746: Novel Prodrug of Oxymorphone Adds New Asset to KemPharm’s Advancing Abuse-Deterrent Product Portfolio**

December 30, 2015 [Source: KemPharm, Inc.]

Full story...