AAPM E-news

February 5, 2016 - Your Latest News on the Specialty of Pain Medicine

LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Advocacy

AAPM Submits Comments on the CDC Draft Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

The CDC allowed a 30-day public comment period in the Federal Register on the CDC's draft CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. The opening of a comment period was due in part, 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 closed January 13, 2016. AAPM submitted comments during this period. To view comments...

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. To view the AMA response during the public comment period...

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AAPM 2016 Annual Meeting
Register Today for AAPM’s 32nd Annual Meeting in Palm Springs

Online registration for the 2016 Annual Meeting closes on Monday, **February 8** at 9 am (central time). Missed the online deadline? You can still register by phone or fax until Friday, **February 12** at noon (central time). Onsite registration will be available for most programs.

For more information...

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### Pain Research in the News

**Meditation Eases Pain, Anxiety and Fatigue During Breast Cancer Biopsy**

February 4, 2016 [Source: Duke University]

Meditation eases anxiety, fatigue and pain for women undergoing breast cancer biopsies, according to researchers at the Duke Cancer Institute. They also found that music is effective, but to a lesser extent. [Full story...]

**Functional MRI May Help Identify New, Effective Painkillers for Chronic Pain Sufferers**

February 4, 2016 [Source: American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)]

New research may allow new, more effective and safer pain medications to reach patients who suffer from chronic pain sooner. According to a recent study published in *Anesthesiology*, the official medical journal of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), using functional magnetic resonance imaging (FMRI), to measure the brain's neural response to pain, may be a viable tool for evaluating the effectiveness of new pain medications during the early stages of human drug development - providing the needed objective evidence to prevent the premature discarding of potentially beneficial therapies. [Full story...]

**Study Uncovers How Electromagnetic Fields Amplify Pain in Amputees**

February 3, 2016 [Source: University of Texas, Dallas]

Until a recent study led by researchers at The University of Texas at Dallas was published online last month in *PLOS ONE*, there was no scientific evidence to back up the anecdotal stories of people, such as Underwood, who reported aberrant sensations and neuropathic pain around cellphone towers and other technology that produce radio-frequency electromagnetic fields. [Full story...]

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### Pain News

**Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Pain — Achieving the Right Balance through Education**

February 3, 2016 [Source: Journal of New England Medicine, Perspective]

[Full story...]

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### Acute Pain Report

**AAPM Publishes Acute Pain Paper**

"Acute Pain Medicine in the United States: A Status Report" appeared in the...
Seeking a full-time Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA) to join a spine and pain-care specialist in Pain Management practice.

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Physicians (multiple opportunities)
Capital Caring
Washington, D.C.
The ideal candidates will have board certification in a related specialty; certification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine strongly preferred and active licensure in the jurisdiction of practice.

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

September 2015 issue of Pain Medicine. This paper resulted from a collaborative effort by AAPM's Acute Pain Panel, which involved many hours of volunteer participation, representing a significant step in advancing the practice of acute pain medicine.

To view article in Pain Medicine

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

How to Avoid the 2017 Meaningful Use Penalty
January 29, 2016 [Source: AMA]
The AMA is encouraging ALL physicians subject to the 2015 Medicare MU program to apply for a hardship exception. CMS has stated that it will broadly accept hardship exemptions because of the delayed publication of the program regulations. Applying for the hardship will not prevent a physician from earning an incentive. Applications for physicians are due March 15, 2016. Full story...

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

Markey on New FDA Opioids Action Plan: Not Enough to Protect Americans from Prescription Opioid Epidemic
February 3, 2016 [Source: Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.)]
Full story...

FACT SHEET: President Obama Proposes 1.1 Billion in New Funding to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Use Epidemic
February 2, 2016 [Source: The White House]
President's Budget includes new mandatory funding to help ensure that all Americans who want treatment can get the help they need. Full story...

Best Practices for Addressing Prescription Opioid Overdoses, Misuse and Addiction: CMS Urges States to Remove Methadone for Pain from Preferred Drug Lists
January 28, 2016 [Source CMS]
Given the significant evidence suggesting that the use of methadone contributes disproportionately to opioid overdose and deaths, the known complexities with appropriately prescribing this medication as well as the widespread availability of other medications to treat pain, we urge that states remove methadone for pain (outside of end of life care) from their preferred drug lists. This is consistent with the recommendation from the CDC that methadone should not be considered a drug of first choice by prescribers or insurers for chronic non-cancer pain. Full story...

Comments of CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt at the J.P. Morgan Annual Health Care Conference, Jan. 11, 2016
January 12, 2016 [Source: CMS Blog]
Full story...

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State Legislative News
PA: Legislators Seek to Regulate Opioid Prescriptions in Hospital Emergency Departments

February 4, 2016 [Source: Senator Gene Yaw (R-23)]
Legislation that will place a limit on discharge prescriptions by emergency room providers will soon be introduced in the state Senate, according to the bill’s prime sponsors Senator Gene Yaw (R-23), Senator John Wozniak (D-35) and Senator Camera Bartolotta (R-46). Full story...

OH: Ohio Strengthens Opioid Prescribing Guidelines to Further Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse and Save Lives
January 19, 2016 [Source: Governor of Ohio, John R. Kasich]
Full story...

Study Finds Opioid Prescriptions Down at Temple University Hospital

January 13, 2016 [Source: Temple University]
Prescription drug abuse has become a public health crisis in the U.S., and Temple University Hospital has made strides in confronting this critical situation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. death rate from prescription drug overdose now exceeds the combined rate of deaths from heroin and cocaine. In an effort to curb the rise in overdose and abuse of opioids—powerful painkillers which include Oxycontin, Percocet and Vicodin—Temple University Hospital implemented a voluntary guideline for emergency department physicians prescribing those medications. Full story...

AAPM Business

2016-2017 Election Results
The Academy is pleased to announce the Election Results for the 2016-2017 AAPM Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to all.

President-Elect
(1-year term)

Vice President for Scientific Affairs
(3-year term)

Directors-at-Large
(3-year term)
American Academy of Pain Medicine 2016 Awards

Please join the Academy in congratulating the following individuals who will be honored with an AAPM Award or Presidential Commendation during the 2016 AAPM Annual Meeting.

**Awards**

**John D. Loeser, MD**

*Philipp M. Lippe, MD, Award* – given to a physician for outstanding contributions to the social and political aspects of pain medicine. Social and political accomplishments could be those that benefit the science, the practice or the recognition of the specialty.

**Daniel J. Clauw, MD**

*Founders Award* – given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the science or practice of pain medicine. This award is given for continued contributions for the basic or clinical science of pain medicine or for demonstration of clinical excellence or innovation in the practice of pain medicine.

**Yu "Woody" Lin, MD, PhD**

*Distinguished Service Award* - given to an individual for commitment and contributions to the American Academy of Pain Medicine. This award is given to an individual for specific outstanding contributions.

**Penney Cowan**

*Patient Advocacy Award* - recognizes activity of an individual in advocating for appropriate evaluation and treatment of patients suffering from pain. This award was created to honor those healthcare professionals whose deeds reflect their recognition of the importance and impact of the specialty of pain medicine.

**Carmen R. Green, MD**

*Patient Advocacy Award* - recognizes activity of an individual in advocating for appropriate evaluation and treatment of patients suffering from pain. This award was created to honor those healthcare professionals whose deeds reflect their recognition of the importance and impact of the specialty of pain medicine.

**Gagan Mahajan, MD**

*Presidential Excellence Award for Education* - honors an individual who has made major contributions to the education of others about pain medicine.
Andrew Moore, DSc
*Robert G. Addison, MD, Award* - given for outstanding contributions that foster international collaboration between the American Academy of Pain Medicine and individuals or organizations that support the development of the specialty on an international scope.

2016 Presidential Commendations

Daniel B. Carr, MD
*In recognition of his representation of the Academy at the AMA Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse.*

Jianguo Cheng, MD, PhD
*In recognition of his work as Vice President for Scientific Affairs, Scientific Review and Guidelines Committee Co-chair and thoughtful input on numerous important documents presented to the Academy for review.*

Edward C. Covington, MD
*In recognition of his work as Chair of AAPM's Opioid Advisory Task Force.*

Eduardo M. Fraifeld, MD
*In recognition of his work on behalf of the Academy and the field of pain medicine related to coding and reimbursement, and particularly for service on the CPT Advisory Committee and AMA RVS Update Committee.*

Dana L. Simon, MD
*In recognition of many years of service to the Academy as Chair of the CME Oversight Committee.*

Lynn R. Webster, MD
*In recognition of his ongoing efforts on behalf pain patients and recent publication of "The Painful Truth," telling the stories of people living with pain.*

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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