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...

**Advocacy**

AAPM Recommendations to the FDA Regarding REMS: ER/LA Opioids
For May 3-4, 2016 Joint Meeting of the Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee and the Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee Meeting.

View AAPM comments...
More FDA meeting information...

**Pain Research in the News**

Friends 'Better than Morphine'
April 28, 2016 [Source: Oxford University]
Katerina Johnson, a doctoral student in the University's Departments of Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology, was studying whether differences in our neurobiology may help explain why some of us have larger social
Visit Our New Education Center!
Easy online access to CME programs for pain care physicians and clinicians

Update Your Member Profile
AAPM Ethics Charter
Includes statement on conflicts of interest.

Now Available
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 Practitioners/Physician Assistant
Arrowhead Health Centers
Glendale, AZ
We are looking for a helpful & friendly Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant to join our Pain Management team.

Director of Interventional Spine & Pain Management, Department of PM&R
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
Philadelphia, PA
Seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Interventional

----------

Migraine Consequences Affect All Family Members
April 27, 2016 [Source: Montefiore Headache Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine]
According to a new study conducted by researchers at Montefiore Headache Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, affiliated with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Vedanta Research, the Mayo Clinic and Allergan plc. The findings were published today in Volume 91, Issue 5 of Mayo Clinic Proceedings. Full story...

Doctors Recommend Prescribing Fewer Opioids after Surgery
April 27, 2016 [Source: Washington University School of Medicine]
In a commentary published in the April issue of the journal Anesthesiology, anesthesiologist Evan D. Kharasch, MD, PhD, and surgeon L. Michael Brunt, MD, suggest new approaches for administering and prescribing pain medications to surgery patients. Full story...

Meaning of Brain Scans for 'Pain' Called into Question
April 26, 2016 [Source: University of London, UK]
Patterns of brain activity thought to show pain responses have been called into question after researchers from UCL and the University of Reading saw such patterns in rare patients born without a sense of pain. Full story...

Brighter Prospects for Chronic Pain
April 20, 2016 [Source: McGill University]
The potential of light as a non-invasive, highly-focused alternative to pain medication was made more apparent thanks to research conducted by scientists at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital of McGill University and the McGill University Health Centre. Full story...

AAN Updates Guidelines on Use of Botulinum Toxin for Spasticity, Headache, Other Brain Disorders
April 18, 2016 [Source: American Academy of Neurology]
The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) has updated its 2008 guidelines on the use of botulinum toxin for spasticity, cervical dystonia, blepharospasm and migraine headache, based on recent research. The guideline is published in the April 18, 2016, online issue of Neurology®. Full story...

Minimally Invasive Treatment Could Freeze out Phantom Limb Pain
April 6, 2016 [Source: Society of Interventional Radiology]
The study indicates that interventional radiologists applying cryoablation therapy, a minimally invasive targeted treatment using cold blasts, show promise in improving the quality of life for patients suffering phantom limb pain. Full story...

Back to top

Pain News

Many find it Difficult to Describe Pain: New Campaign to Highlight Chronic Pain
April 25, 2016 [Source: Irish Health.com]
Full story...

As Opioid Epidemic Worsens, Rethinking How Doctors are Taught to Treat Pain
April 17, 2016 [Source: Nebraska NPR & PBS]
Available Now! 2016 Illustrated Coding and Billing Expert for Anesthesia/Pain Management

Optimized for medical necessity and reimbursement understanding, this all-in-one resource focuses on a subset of CPT anesthesia services, as well as surgeries, medicine and ancillary services CPT codes linked to Pain Management interventions chosen by experts who take into consideration utilization, denial risk and complexity.

Order Now

Live Coding Webinar for Pain Medicine Coding and Billing Specialists – May 4 at 12 p.m. CT

Understanding RBRVS and What it Means for You and Your Practice

Improve your practice reimbursements with strategic RVU and RBRVS analysis and management. The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule can be difficult to navigate. Understanding how RVUs are determined and what they encompass allows you to evaluate payer contracts. In addition, you will have the information necessary to compare reimbursement by payers and determine the payers and plans with which your practice participates. A knowledge of the RBRVS system will provide you with a tool to effectively analyze compensation models based on RVUs. REGISTER NOW.

AAPM Education

AAPM Launches New Online Education Center

NEW - Following a generous gift to the AAPM Foundation by a private donor, AAPM is pleased to announce the launch of its new Education Center. Featuring live seminars and on-demand continuing education courses, the new web-based platform is intuitive and user-friendly, making anytime education for pain care clinicians easier than ever before. Web-based modules showcase new developments and concepts in the science of pain medicine and best methodologies for delivery of pain medicine services. Many sessions are offered at no cost. The American Academy of Pain Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. LEARN MORE.

AAPM Annual Meeting News
The American Academy of Pain Medicine’s 2017 Annual Meeting Call for Education Session Proposals will be live May 4 – with a Submission Deadline of May 30, 2016
AAPM will soon be seeking education session proposals for its 33rd Annual Meeting, which will be held March 16-19, with pre-meeting activities beginning on March 15-16, in Orlando, FL.
To learn more about submitting an education session proposal...

2016 Annual Meeting News:

Naldemedine Improves Opioid-Induced Constipation in Patients with Chronic Noncancer Pain
April 27, 2016 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

Olanzapine Shows Analgesic Properties, May Help Reduce Chronic Pain
April 22, 2016 [Source: Pain Medicine News]
Full story...

Pain Medicine Journal News

New App for Pain Medicine Journal
Visit the App Store to download the Pain Medicine App on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch and access research on the go. Use your fingertips to intuitively navigate issues, articles, and figures, or use the built-in search feature and save the most relevant articles to your favorites.

Government Agency News

National Take-Back Initiative - Saturday, April 30, 2016
April 30, 2016 [Source: DEA]
For more information...

Legislative News

H.R.4641 - To provide for the establishment of an inter-agency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication, and for other purposes.
114th Congress (2015-2016)
Full story...

Meehan Bill Aims to Stop Pain Prescriptions from Becoming Heroin Addictions for Youth Athletes
April 16, 2016 [Source: Congressman Patrick Meehan]
Full story...

State News

WV: Attorney General Morrisey Seeks To Eradicate Drug Abuse,
**Incentivize Safe Pain Management Strategies**  
April 28, 2016 [Source: West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey]  
[Full story...]

**NC: New NCMB Program Addresses Opioid Crisis**  
April 20, 2016 [Source: North Carolina Medical Board]  
[Full story...]

**ME: Governor Signs Major Opioid Prescribing Reform Bill**  
April 19, 2016 [Source: Governor Paul R. LePage, ME]  
[Full story...]

**Substance Abuse and Addiction Research**

**Call for Papers for the Journal, Substance Abuse**  
The journal *Substance Abuse*, the official journal of Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA), has issued a call for papers on the topic of Addressing Opioid Misuse Through Training of HCPs. They are due to be published some time in 2017. This initiative is funded through SAMHSA. [Full story...]

**Taking the Fight against Risky Pain Pill Use to the ER: Study Shows Promise**  
April 19, 2016 [Source: University of Michigan Health System]  
[Full story...]

**Grant Information**

**Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, & Management in Pain Research (R21)**  
April 14, 2016 [Source: Department of Health and Human Services]  
[Full story...]

**Pain Abstracts in the News**

**Surgical Management of Low Back Pain**  
April 26, 2016 [Source: Medical Journal of Australia]  
[Read more...]

**Influence of Work-Related Psychosocial Factors on the Prevalence of Chronic Pain and Quality of Life in Patients with Chronic Pain**  
April 25, 2016 [Source: BMJ Open]  
[Read more...]

**The "Pain Matrix" in Pain-Free Individuals**  
April 25, 2016 [Source: JAMA Neurology]  
[Read more...]

**Opioid Prescribing After Surgical Extraction of Teeth in Medicaid Patients, 2000-2010**  
April 19, 2016 [Source: JAMA]  
[Read more...]

**Neutrophil-Derived Alpha Defensins Control Inflammation by Inhibiting**
Macrophage mRNA Translation
April 19, 2016 [Source: PNAS]
Read more...

Effect of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction vs Cognitive Behavioral Therapy or Usual Care on Back Pain and Functional Limitations in Adults with Chronic Low Back Pain: A Randomized Clinical Trial
March 22/29, 2016 [Source: JAMA]
Read more...

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

Unihemispheric Concurrent Dual-Site Cathodal Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation: the Effects on Corticospinal Excitability
Vaseghi B1, Zoghi M2, Jaberzadeh S1.
Abstract: We aimed to assess the effects of concurrent cathodal transcranial direct current stimulation (c-tDCS) of two targets in a hemisphere, termed unihemispheric concurrent dual-site cathodal tDCS (c-tDCSUHCDS ), on the size of M1 corticospinal excitability and its lasting effect. Secondary aims were to identify the mechanisms behind the efficacy of c-tDCSUHCDS and to evaluate the side effects of this new technique.
© 2016 Federation of European Neuroscience Societies and John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
PMID: 26946332 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

The Development of Worry throughout Childhood: Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children Data
Caes L1, Fisher E2, Clinch J3,4, Tobias JH5, Eccleston C2.
Abstract OBJECTIVES: Anxiety is a normal part of childhood and adolescence; however, longitudinal research investigating the development of worrisome thoughts throughout childhood is lacking. This study investigated mothers’ perspectives on their child’s normal development of worry as the cognitive component of anxiety and its impact on child functioning in a longitudinal population-based cohort.
© 2015 The British Psychological Society.
PMID: 26663675 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

Pharmacological Reversal of a Pain Phenotype in iPSC-Derived Sensory Neurons and Patients with Inherited Erythromelalgia
Cao L1, McDonnell A1, Nitzsche A1, Alexandrou A1, Saintot PP1, Loucif AJ1, Brown AR1, Young G1, Mis M2, Randall A3, Waxman SG4, Stanley P1, Kirby S1, Tarabar S5, Gutteridge A1, But R1, McKeman RM1, Whiting P1, Ali Z1, Bilisland J6, Stevens EB6.
Abstract: In common with other chronic pain conditions, there is an unmet clinical need in the treatment of inherited erythromelalgia (IEM). TheSCN9Agene encoding the sodium channel Nav1.7 expressed in the peripheral nervous system plays a critical role in IEM. A gain-of-function mutation in this sodium channel leads to aberrant sensory neuronal activity and extreme pain, particularly in response to heat.
Copyright © 2016, American Association for the Advancement of Science.
PMID: 27099175 [PubMed - in process]
Read more...

Upregulation of Inflammatory Gene Transcripts in Periosteum of Chronic Migraineurs: Implications to Extracranial Origin of Headache
Perry C1, Blake P2, Buettnert C3,4, Papavassiliou E5,4, Schain A6,4, Bhasin M7,4, Burstein R6,4.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: Chronic migraine (CM) is often associated with
chronic tenderness of pericranial muscles. In fact, a distinct increase in muscle tenderness prior to onset of occipital headache that eventually progresses into a full blown migraine attack is common. This experience raises the possibility that some CM attacks originate outside the cranium. The objective of this study was to determine whether there are extracranial pathophysiologies in these headaches.

Is Acupuncture Effective in the Treatment of Pain in Endometriosis?

Lund I1, Lundeberg T2.

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Endometriosis is a multifactorial, estrogen-dependent, inflammatory gynecological condition - often with long-lasting visceral pelvic pain of different origin, and infertility among women. Current management options for patients’ are often inadequate, with side effects for many for whom acupuncture techniques could be an alternative. Earlier studies have discussed the efficacy of acupuncture, but not its methodological aspects.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

[18F]FTC-146 PET/MRI in Healthy Volunteers and in CRPS and Sciatica
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Stanford University
Collaborator: University of Mississippi Medical Center
Principal Investigator: Sandip Biswal, MD, Stanford University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Sandip Biswal, Stanford University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02753101
First received: April 22, 2016
Stated Purpose: Chronic pain can result from injured or inflamed nerves, as happens in people suffering from sciatica and CRPS. These nerve injuries or regions of nerve irritation are often the cause of pain in these conditions, but the current diagnostic tools have proven quite limited in pinpointing these areas. Several studies have implicated involvement of sigma-1 receptors in the generation and perpetuation of chronic pain conditions, while others are investigating anti sigma-1 receptor drugs for the treatment of chronic pain.

Lidocaine and Triamcinolone vs Saline Trigger Point Injection for Treatment of Chronic Abdominal Wall Pain
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Temple University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Adam Ehrlich, Temple University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02748395
First received: April 20, 2016
Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine whether the injection of triamcinolone and lidocaine is effective in relieving chronic abdominal wall pain.

Industry News

Collegium Receives FDA Approval for Xtampza™ ER, an Analgesic with