For more information on SIGs...

Donate Now to Better Pain Care

AAPM's 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...

Advocacy

AAPM Signs Letters to CMS Regarding MACRA
Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) repeals the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR) methodology for updates to the physician fee schedule (PFS) and replaces it with a new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for MIPS eligible clinicians or groups under the PFS. This proposed rule would establish the MIPS, a new program for certain Medicare-enrolled practitioners. Comments were due on the new payment system on Monday, June 27, 2016. The AMA submitted comments in a letter addressed to Andrew Slavitt, Acting Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. AAPM signed onto this letter along with many other organizations. In addition, AAPM signed onto another letter from a coalition of medical societies.

View AMA letter...
View Medical Society letter...
View Docket ID: CMS-2016-0060 at Regulations.gov...

Back to top
**Pain Research in the News**

**IU Study: 'Smoke Alarm' One of 36 Genes Newly Found to Play Role in Pain Sensation**  
*June 23, 2016 [Source: Indiana University]*

Indiana University researchers have found a suite of genes in both fruit flies and humans -- including one dubbed "smoke alarm" -- plays a role in nerve sensitivity. The study could help lead to new drug targets in pain management. The research, published today in the journal *Cell Reports*, was led by W. Daniel Tracey Jr., a professor in the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences' Linda and Jack Gill Center for Biomolecular Science and the Department of Biology. [Full story...](#)

**Large-Scale Genetic Study Provides New Insight into the Causes of Migraine**  
*June 23, 2016 [Source: University of Helsinki]*

An international research consortium has identified almost 30 new genetic risk factors for common migraine. Many of these risk variants localize inside or close to genes that regulate the vascular system. The results provide further support for the theory that an abnormal function of the blood vessels of the brain is an important component in driving migraine attacks. [Full story...](#)

**Texas A&M College of Dentistry Researcher Uses Revolutionary Technique to Reduce Orofacial Pain**  
*June 22, 2016 [Source: Texas A&M University]*

Despite decades of research, migraines are often not well controlled with medication. For those prone to this type of debilitating headache, it sometimes seems nothing can stop the pain and the sensitivity to light. But what if light itself was key to their relief? Feng Tao, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Texas A&M University College of Dentistry, uses a technique called optogenetic manipulation to attempt to do just that. [Full story...](#)

**Researchers Explore Epigenetic Influences of Chronic Pain**  
*June 21, 2016 [Source: Drexel University]*

Researchers at Drexel University College of Medicine are aiming to identify new molecular mechanisms involved in pain. Their latest study, published this month in *Epigenetics & Chromatin*, shows how one protein — acting as a master controller — can regulate the expression of a large number of genes that modulate pain. [Full story...](#)

**Long-Term Opioids May Not Be Best Pain Management Option for All Sickle Cell Patients**  
*June 20, 2016 [Source: John Hopkins Medicine]*

In a report on the new research, published online on June 15 in a special sickle cell disease supplement of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, C. Patrick Carroll, M.D., and colleagues evaluated pain experiences of participants with sickle cell disease who were prescribed long-term opioids. [Full story...](#)
Free Upcoming Webinar: Maintaining Balance Among Compassionate Prescribing, Ethical Clinical Strategies, and Societal Obligations presented by Michael E. Schatman, PhD, CPE
Thursday, July 14 - 4pm EDT

Effective pain management is a moral and ethical obligation, and an important public health and health care issue. Access to safe and effective care for people suffering from pain is a priority that needs to be balanced in parallel with efforts to curb diversion and misuse of opioid drugs.

After attending this live webinar, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the stakeholders and recognize their influence on prescribing chronic opioids in American pain management.
2. Recognize the lack of understanding of the importance of pain management throughout various systems.
3. Examine and review the practice of risk mitigation strategies for all physicians prescribing these drugs including mandatory use of UDT, prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and physician education in opioid safety.

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (grant no. 1H79TI025595) from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Click Here for More Information. You must first complete a pre-test before registering for this free live webinar.

Back to top
Save on 2016 Coding for Anesthesia/Pain with Promo Code: CODING2016

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. Enter promotional code CODING2016 at check-out to receive a $9.95 discount now through June 30, 2016.

Order Now...

AAPM Annual Meeting

COMING SOON: 2017 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts

The Call for 2017 Scientific Poster Abstracts submission portal will open July 1, 2016 with a submission deadline of September 19, 2016. For more information...

AAPM Members in the News

New Ways to Treat Pain Meet Resistance


AAPM Past President Steven D. Feinberg, MD (1996), is interviewed in this New York Times article comments on alternative pain management techniques. Full story...

Pain News

WVU Medicine Adopts CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

June 21, 2016 [Source: West Virginia Health System]

West Virginia University Health System has adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) opioid prescribing guidelines as part of the system’s mission to improve the health of the state. Full story...

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Dartmouth Institute Study Finds State Opioid Laws Have no Impact on Prescribing for Disabled Adults

June 23, 2016 [Source: The Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy and Clinical Practice]

A new study by researchers from The Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy and Clinical Practice and UCLA School of Law found state laws aimed at curbing prescription opioid abuse have had no measurable effect on opioid use by a vulnerable population with high rates of use. Full story...
NYU Research Shows the Struggle to Maintain Accurate Data on the Prevalence of Nonmedical Opioid Use by High School Students
June 21, 2016 [Source: New York University]

In a new study published in the American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse by researchers at New York University's Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR), lead researcher Joseph J. Palamar, PhD, MPH and his team sought to describe differences in self-reporting of nonmedical opioid use among high school seniors, who were asked about both general nonmedical opioid use and also specifically about nonmedical Vicodin and OxyContin use. Full story...

Geisinger Researchers Profile Overdose Patients and Predictors of Death
June 2, 2016 [Source: Geisinger Health System]

A new study by Geisinger Health System (GHS) profiles patients who overdosed on opioids, allowing researchers to predict who is most likely to die and experience other serious complications from their drug abuse. Full story...

Back to top

Government Agency News

Americans Spent 30.2 Billion Out-Of-Pocket on Complementary Health Approaches
June 22, 2016 [Source: NIH]

Americans spent 30.2 billion — 28.3 billion for adults and 1.9 billion for children — out-of-pocket on complementary health approaches, according to a nationwide survey. These approaches include a group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products such as herbal supplements, meditation, chiropractic, and yoga. This amount represents 9.2 percent of all out-of-pocket spending by Americans on health care and 1.1 percent of total health care spending. Full story...

Rates of Nonmedical Prescription Opioid Use and Opioid Use Disorder Double in 10 Years
June 22, 2016 [Source: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)]

Nonmedical use of prescription opioids more than doubled among adults in the United States from 2001-2002 to 2012-2013, based on a study from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), part of the National Institutes of Health. Nearly 10 million Americans, or 4.1 percent of the adult population, used opioid medications in 2012-2013 a class of drugs that includes OxyContin and Vicodin, without a prescription or not as prescribed (in greater amounts, more often, or longer than prescribed) in the past year. This is up from 1.8 percent of the adult population in 2001-2002. Full story...

High Part D Spending on Opioids and Substantial Growth in Compounded Drugs Raise Concerns

In 2015, total Part D spending reached 137 billion, marking the third consecutive year that spending increases surpassed 10 billion. Notably, spending for commonly abused opioids exceeded 4 billion, raising concerns about misuse. Full story...

Back to top

State Legislative News

NY: Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation to Combat the Heroin and Opioid Crisis


In 2015, total Part D spending reached 137 billion, marking the third consecutive year that spending increases surpassed 10 billion. Notably, spending for commonly abused opioids exceeded 4 billion, raising concerns about misuse. Full story...
Comprehensive legislative package limits opioid prescriptions from 30 to 7 Days, requires mandatory prescriber education on pain management to stem the tide of addiction, eliminates burdensome insurance barriers to treatment. [Full story...]

IN: Indiana Guidelines for Opioid Prescribing in the Emergency Department
June 21, 2016 [source: State of Indiana]
The Indiana Hospital Association and the Indiana State Medical Association, in coordination with other stakeholders, have developed guidelines for safe and appropriate prescribing practices for managing pain in the emergency department (ED). [Full story...]

Pain Abstracts in the News

Nonrandomized Intervention Study of Naloxone Coprescription for Primary Care Patients Receiving Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain
June 28, 2016 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Background: Unintentional overdose involving opioid analgesics is a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Objective: To evaluate the feasibility and effect of implementing naloxone prescription to patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain. [Read more...]

Prevalence of Chronic Pain in the UK: a Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Population Studies
June 20, 2016 [Source: BMJ Open]
Abstract: Objectives There is little consensus regarding the burden of pain in the UK. The purpose of this review was to synthesise existing data on the prevalence of various chronic pain phenotypes in order to produce accurate and contemporary national estimates. [Read more...]

Medical Board Expectations for Physicians Recommending Marijuana
June 16, 2016 [Source: JAMA]
Abstract: Heightened public interest in marijuana and marijuana-infused products for medicinal and recreational purposes led the nation’s state medical and osteopathic boards recently to issue recommendations about marijuana in patient care and a cautionary note advising actively licensed physicians to abstain from using marijuana while practicing medicine. [Read more...]

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Wearable Biosensors to Detect Physiologic Change During Opioid Use
Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Opioid analgesic use is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the US, yet effective treatment programs have a limited ability to detect relapse. The utility of current drug detection methods is often restricted due to their retrospective and subjective nature. Wearable
biosensors have the potential to improve detection of relapse by providing objective, real time physiologic data on opioid use that can be used by treating clinicians to augment behavioral interventions. PMID: 27334894 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Meta-Analysis of 375,000 Individuals Identifies 38 susceptibility Loci for Migraine
Nat Genet. 2016 Jun 20. doi: 10.1038/ng.3598. [Epub ahead of print]
Abstract: Migraine is a debilitating neurological disorder affecting around one in seven people worldwide, but its molecular mechanisms remain poorly understood. There is some debate about whether migraine is a disease of vascular dysfunction or a result of neuronal dysfunction with secondary vascular changes. Genome-wide association (GWA) studies have thus far identified 13 independent loci associated with migraine. To identify new susceptibility loci, we carried out a genetic study of migraine on 59,674 affected subjects and 316,078 controls from 22 GWA studies. We identified 44 independent single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) significantly associated with migraine risk (P < 5 × 10-8) that mapped to 38 distinct genomic loci, including 28 loci not previously reported and a locus that to our knowledge is the first to be identified on chromosome X. In subsequent computational analyses, the identified loci showed enrichment for genes expressed in vascular and smooth muscle tissues, consistent with a predominant theory of migraine that highlights vascular etiologies. PMID: 27322543 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]

Read more...

Morphine Paradoxically Prolongs Neuropathic Pain in Rats by Amplifying Spinal NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation
Grace PM1, Strand KA2, Galer EL2, Urban DJ3, Wang X4, Baratta MV2, Fabisiak TJ2, Anderson ND2, Cheng K5, Greene LI2, Berkelhammer D2, Zhang Y2, Ellis AL2, Yin HH6, Campeau S2, Rice KC5, Roth BL3, Maier SF2, Watkins LR2.
Abstract: Opioid use for pain management has dramatically increased, with little assessment of potential pathophysiological consequences for the primary pain condition. Here, a short course of morphine, starting 10 d after injury in male rats, paradoxically and remarkably doubled the duration of chronic constriction injury (CCI)-allodynia, months after morphine ceased. PMID: 27247388 [PubMed - in process]

Back to top

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

Autologous Culture Expanded Mesenchymal Stromal Cells for Knee Osteoarthritis
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Jay Smith M.D.
Principal Investigator: Jay Smith, M.D. Mayo Clinic
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Jay Smith, M.D. Mayo Clinic
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02805855
Stated Purpose: The study seeks to determine the safety and feasibility of using adipose-derived mesenchymal stromal cells to treat symptoms of mild to severe knee osteoarthritis. Read more...

Back to top