Advocacy

AAPM Advocates for the Pain Patient in a Letter to President Obama
AAPM President Daniel Carr MD and AAPM Past President Lynn Webster MD (2013) sent a letter to President Barack Obama acknowledging the efforts addressing the opioid crisis, but urged him to take additional steps to ensure that patients with severe pain are not left in need.
To view the letter...

Take Action! Sign the Petition Urging the White House to Fund and Implement the National Pain Strategy
Sign the petition to urge funding and implementation for the National Pain Strategy. The deadline to gather 100,000 signatures is August 12. Click here to sign the petition and for more information regarding these efforts. The Academy encourages you to share these links and help reach the goal of 100,000 signatures.

AMA Responds to CMS Update of Physician Fee Schedule
July 11, 2016 [Source: AMA]
The American Medical Association (AMA) responded today to policies
outlined last week in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) physician fee schedule proposed rule. As with any 856-page proposed rule, the AMA finds a mix of meritorious and flawed proposals that would affect payment and delivery of Medicare. Full story...

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AAPM Member News

AAPM Expands Presence on Social Media

AAPM has been the voice of pain medicine for more than 30 years, and we are raising that voice on social media with the addition of Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Like and follow AAPM for the latest news, updates, photos, and event information from AAPM and to network with fellow pain medicine clinicians.

- New: Like AAPM on Facebook.
- New: Follow AAPM on LinkedIn.
- Join the AAPM LinkedIn group and connect with more than 1,600 pain medicine professionals.
- Join AAPM's more than 2,500 followers on Twitter.

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Pain Research in the News

Osteopathic Manipulation Can Improve Pain in Postpartum Women
July 26, 2016 [Source: American Osteopathic Association]

Preliminary results demonstrate that osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) helps reduce acute pain in postpartum women, regardless of whether they delivered vaginally or via cesarean. The study results published today in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. Full story...

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Flare-ups Caused by Straining Muscles and Nerves
July 18, 2016 [Source: University of Alabama, Birmingham]

A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine published in PLOS ONE shows that symptoms of chronic fatigue syndrome, a complex and disabling multisystem disorder, can be provoked by imposing a mild to moderate strain to the muscles and nerves. Full story...

Stem Cells Engineered to Grow Cartilage, Fight Inflammation
July 18, 2016 [Source: Washington University School of Medicine]

With a goal of treating worn, arthritic hips without extensive surgery to replace them, scientists have programmed stem cells to grow new cartilage on a 3-D template shaped like the ball of a hip joint. What’s more, using gene therapy, they have activated the new cartilage to release anti-inflammatory molecules to fend off a return of arthritis. Full story...

New Opioid Use in Older Adults with COPD Associated with Increased Risk of Death
July 13, 2016 [Source: St. Michael's Hospital, Canada]

Older adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease who start using
Help Wanted:

**Pain Management Midlevel**
Center for Pain and Supportive Care
Phoenix, Arizona
Seeking a Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner to treat our chronic pain population.

**Critical Care Nurse Practitioner – Neurocritical Care**
University of Kentucky, UK Healthcare
Lexington, Kentucky
Seeks a Nurse Practitioner to work in the Neurocritical Care Unit.

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician in the Beautiful Pacific Northwest**
RestorePDX
Beaverton, Oregon
Seeking an energetic Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician to support our growing practice and interventional team with diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal pathologies.

**Opportunity for ACGME Pain Medicine Fellowship Trained Physiatrist - Brown University Affiliate**
Providence, Massachusetts
Work at the state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary, and integrated evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation.

More jobs...

Read the current 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...

**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...

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 Members' Honors and Distinctions

**AAPM Honors 2016 Robert G. Addison MD Award Recipient**
During a recent trip to University of Oxford, AAPM President Daniel Carr, MD, had the honor of presenting the 2016 Robert G. Addison MD Award in person to Andrew Moore, DSc, who was unable to accept the award in person at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Palm Springs.

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New Research Shows Combining Two Drugs Used to Treat Fibromyalgia Improves Patient Outcomes
July 13, 2016 [Source: Queen’s University, UK]
This study is the latest in a series of clinical trials – funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – that Dr. Gilron and his colleagues have conducted on combination therapies for chronic pain conditions. By identifying and studying promising drug combinations, their research is showing how physicians can make the best use of current treatments available to patients.

Full story...

Perspective: Equality Need Not be Painful
July 13, 2016 [Source: Nature]
"Pain researchers' arguments for using only male rodents in preclinical pain research don't hold up to scrutiny", says Jeffrey S. Mogil. Full story...

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

**CMS Releases Proposed Rule for Physician Fee Schedule 2017**
Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant
On July 7, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that updates payment policies, payment rates, and quality provisions for services furnished under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) on or after January 1, 2017. CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule until September 6, 2016, and will respond to comments in a final rule that will be released in November 2016.

Read more...

Opoids have a more than two-fold higher risk of dying from a respiratory-related complication compared to non-opioid users, St. Michael's Hospital researchers have found. Full story...

New Research Shows Combining Two Drugs Used to Treat Fibromyalgia ImprovesPatient Outcomes
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Springs, CA. Dr. Moore's work at Oxford's Pain Research Unit has been a major force within the Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care ("PaPaS"). Congratulations!

AAPM Members in the News

Montana's 'Pain Refugees' Leave State to Get Prescribed Opioids
July 20, 2016 [Source: NPR]
AAPM Member, Forest Tennant, MD is interviewed in this NPR article. Full story...

AAPM Annual Meeting

2017 Call for Scientific Poster Abstracts
Submission Deadline: Monday, September 19, 2016 at 11:59 pm CDT
The AAPM's 33nd Annual Meeting will take place on March 16-19, 2017 in Orlando, FL at the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort. The AAPM 2017 Scientific Poster Abstract Committee invites applicants to submit abstracts for posters to be presented at the meeting. For more information...

New Guidelines

ASCO Issues New Guideline on Chronic Pain Management in Adult Cancer Survivors
July 25, 2016 [Source: American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)]
The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) today issued a new clinical practice guideline on management of chronic pain in adult cancer survivors. Full story...

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Treating Pain without Feeding Addiction: Study Shows Promise of Non-Drug Pain Management
July 27, 2016 [Source: University of Michigan Health System]
A new study shows the potential for patients to break out of that cycle through a non-drug approach that combines behavioral therapy and social support to help them manage their pain. The low-cost approach, grounded in psychological theories of pain, could help address the nation's epidemic of...
addictions to opioid painkillers and illicit drugs. Full story...

Northwell to Test Interventions for Deterring Opioid Use
July 26, 2016 [Source: Northwell Health]
Northwell Health is partnering with the University of Pennsylvania and the Mayo Clinic to study the effectiveness of different methods of deterring ER patients from using opioids to treat pain upon release. The project will offer educational interventions to 1,200 patients who visit Northwell emergency departments with pain from kidney stones or lower-back pain -- conditions that are typically treated with opioids, but could also be treated with non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory medication, according to the researchers. Full story...

Significant Pain Increases the Risk of Opioid Addiction by 41 Percent
July 22, 2016 [Source: Columbia University Medical Center]
What do we really know about the relationship between the experience of pain and risk of developing opioid use disorder? Results from a recent study – the first to directly address this question – show that people with moderate or more severe pain had a 41 percent higher risk of developing prescription opioid use disorders than those without, independent of other demographic and clinical factors. These results, from researchers at Columbia University Medical Center, were published today in American Journal of Psychiatry. Full story...

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Government Agency News

S. 524: Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Signed by the President on Jul 22, 2016)
July 22, 2016 [Source: Govtrack.us]
Summary: Overdoses from heroin, prescription drugs, and opioid pain relievers last year surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death in America, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Deaths have reached their highest levels of the 21st century in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Full story...

Request for Information: Increasing the Varieties of Marijuana and Marijuana Products for Research
July 7, 2016 [Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)]
Purpose: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recognizes that marijuana and/or its constituent compounds hold both risk and potential benefits to health. To date, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved one cannabinoid and one cannabinoid-like substance for medical use – synthetically-derived dronabinol, which is the pure isomer (-)-delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, a constituent of marijuana), and nabilone, which is a synthetic substance similar to THC. For more information...

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State Legislative News

Maryland Switches Opioid Treatments, and Some Patients Cry Foul
July 19, 2016 [Source: NPR]
Maryland Medicaid officials have made what appears to be a small change to the list of preferred medications to treat opioid addictions. The agency used to pay for the drug in a dissolvable film form. Now it's steering patients to tablets, which some doctors say are not as effective for their patients. Full story...
PA: Wolf Administration Announces New Opioid Prescribing Guideline Recommendations
July 19, 2016 [Source: Governor Tom Wolf, PA]
Governor Tom Wolf was joined by Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine, Department of Health Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Secretary Gary Tennis, and Department of State Secretary Pedro Cortes today to announce his administration’s new prescribing guideline recommendations for the safe and effective use of opioids. Full story...

Governors Sign a Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction
July 13, 2016 [Source: National Governor’s Association]
Forty-six governors have signed the Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction, developed by and released today through the National Governors Association (NGA). By signing the compact, governors are agreeing to redouble their efforts to fight the opioid epidemic with new steps to reduce inappropriate prescribing, change the nation’s understanding of opioids and addiction and ensure a pathway to recovery for individuals suffering from addiction. Full story...

Effect of Buprenorphine Implants on Illicit Opioid Use among Abstinent Adults with Opioid Dependence Treated With Sublingual Buprenorphine
July 19, 2016 [Source: JAMA]
Abstract: Importance: The effectiveness of buprenorphine treatment of opioid dependence is limited by suboptimal medication adherence, abuse, and diversion. Objective: To determine whether 6-month buprenorphine implants are noninferior to daily sublingual buprenorphine as maintenance treatment for opioid-dependent patients with stable abstinence. Read more...

Pain Education in Pre-Registration Professional Health Courses: a Protocol for a Scoping Review
July 18, 2016 [Source: BMJ Open]
Abstract: Introduction Pain is a global health concern causing significant health and social problems with evidence that patients experiencing pain are receiving inadequate care. The content of pain education in pre-registration professional health courses is thought to be lacking both in the UK and internationally which is unacceptable considering the prevalence of pain. Evaluating the effect of education is complex in that the outcome (improved healthcare) is some distance from the educational approach. Read more...

The Incidence and Worsening of Newly Diagnosed Low Back Pain in a Population of Young Male Military Recruits
July 13, 2016 [Source: BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders]
Abstract: Background: Low back pain (LBP) is a leading cause of referral to occupational health clinics and of consequent work absenteeism. There is lack of data concerning ages 18–21. The objective of our study was to evaluate the occurrence of newly diagnosed LBP and the recurrence and worsening of preexisting LBP in young male military recruits. Read more...

A Review of Spinal Cord Stimulation Systems for Chronic Pain
July 1, 2016 [Source: Journal of Pain Research]
Abstract: Spinal cord stimulation (SCS) applications and technologies are fast advancing. New SCS technologies are being used increasingly in the clinical environment, but often there is a lag period between the clinical application...
and the publishing of high-quality evidence on safety and efficacy. Read more...

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PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Predictors of Back Pain in Middle Aged Women: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health
Brady SR1, Hussain SM1, Brown WJ2, Heritier S1, Wang Y1, Teede H3,4, Urquhart DM1, Cicuttini FM1.
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Back pain causes greater disability worldwide than any other condition, with women more likely to suffer from back pain than men. Our aim was to identify modifiable risk factors for back pain in middle-aged women.
All rights reserved. © 2016, American College of Rheumatology.
PMID: 27390116
[PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Illicit Substance Use in US Adults with Chronic Low Back Pain
Shmagel A1, Krebs E, Ensrud K, Foley R.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To compare the prevalence of illicit drug use among US adults with chronic low back pain (cLBP) and without. CONCLUSIONS: cLBP in community-based US adults was associated with higher odds of using marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Prescription opioid analgesic use was more common in cLBP sufferers with a history of illicit drug use.
PMID: 27438382
[PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

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NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

Botulinum Toxin for Post Abdominoplasty Pain Control
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
Sponsor: Virginia Commonwealth University
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Nadia Blanchet, Virginia Commonwealth University
Principal Investigator: Nadia Blanchet, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02840838
First received: July 19, 2016
Stated Purpose: We are investigating ways to reduce pain after abdominoplasty. We hypothesize that injection of Dysport (botulinum toxin A) into the rectus abdominis, abdominal wall musculature, during abdominoplasty will provide a more effective, longer lasting method for pain control than standard of care alone (use of Exparel (liposomal bupivacaine) intraoperatively followed by PRN narcotics. We will randomize patients to receive either Dysport + standard of care or saline (placebo) + standard of care and compare post operative pain for the following 2-3 months.
Read more...

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Industry News
The Corporate Relations Council of the American Academy of Pain Medicine Welcomes Eli Lilly as an Elite Associate
The CRC companies support AAPM in seeking new advances in the specialty of pain medicine and optimum quality of life for pain patients.

Relievant Medsystems, Inc. Receives FDA 510(k) Clearance for INTRACEPT® for the Relief of Chronic Low Back Pain
July 21, 2016 [Source: Relievant Medsystems, Inc.]
Full story...

Valeant and Progenics Announce FDA Approves RELISTOR® Tablets for the Treatment of Opioid-Induced Constipation in Adults with Chronic Non-cancer Pain
July 19, 2016 [Source: Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc.]
Full story...

Depomed Releases Lazanda® 300 mcg Dose for Treatment of Breakthrough Cancer Pain
July 7, 2016 [Source: Depomed]
Full story...

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