For more information on SIGs...

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...

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LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

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Pain Research in the News

Study Offers Approach to Treating Pain
December 13, 2016 [Source: European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)]
For many patients with chronic pain, any light touch - even just their clothes touching their skin - can be agony. Scientists at EMBL and the Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience (CIN) of the University of Tübingen have found a possible new avenue for producing painkillers that specifically treat this kind of pain. In a study published online today in *eLife*, they discovered how the stiffness of our nerve cells influences sensitivity to touch and pain.

Full story...

Pain from Nerve Damage Can Be Silenced, Research Finds
December 13, 2016 [Source: University of New South Wales, Australia]
One person in Australia develops diabetes every five minutes, with up to half suffering peripheral nerve damage, meaning the slightest touch on the skin can cause pain. Now an international research team, led by Australian and German scientists, has discovered how to reverse this pain. The study has been published today in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

Full story...
New Compound Eases Neuropathic Pain from Light Touch
December 12, 2016 [Source: Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Germany]
A team of researchers of the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC) has found a way to suppress pain in mice by applying a newly identified chemical agent to the skin of the animals. The substance blocked the action of an ion channel in nerves which is responsible for the perception of light touch. The activation of this channel also leads to severe pain after injuries, which the substance eliminated. The method could work in humans.
Full story...

Needling the Pain of Peripheral Neuropathy
December 12, 2016 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

New Study to Investigate Role of Sleep in Chronic Pain
December 5, 2016 [Source: Washington State University, Spokane]
Washington State University will lead a study to understand the relationship between sleep and chronic pain, part of a nationwide effort to address the rising abuse of opioid pain relievers and expand the arsenal of non-drug treatment options.
Full story...

Phantom Movements in Augmented Reality Helps Patients with Chronic Intractable Phantom Limb Pain
December 2, 2016 [Source: Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden]
Dr. Max Ortiz Catalan at Chalmers University of Technology, the Department of Signals and Systems, has developed a novel method of treating phantom limb pain using machine learning and augmented reality. This approach has been tested on over a dozen of amputees with chronic phantom limb pain who found no relief by other clinically available methods before. The new treatment reduced their pain by approximately 50 percent, reports a clinical study published in The Lancet.
Full story...

Autism-Linked Protein Crucial for Feeling Pain
December 1, 2016 [Source: Duke University]
New research points to a potential mechanism underlying pain insensitivity in autism. The study, conducted by two teams at Duke University and appearing online Dec. 1 in the journal Neuron, is the first to connect autism to one of the most well-studied pain molecules, called TRPV1 (transient receptor potential ion channel subtype V1), which is a receptor for the main spicy component of chili peppers.
Full story...

Scripps Florida Scientists Identify Novel Compound to Alleviate Pain and Itch While Avoiding Common Side Effects
December 1, 2016 [Source: The Scripps Research Institute]
In a new study, scientists from the Florida campus of The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) have identified a possible drug candidate that suppresses pain and itch in animal models. Their new approach also reduces the potential for drug abuse and avoids the most common side effects—sedation and anxiety—of drugs designed to target the nervous system's kappa opioid receptors (KORs).
Full story...

Hypnotherapy Trial Reduces Pain and Anxiety in Children with Burns
December, 2016 [Source: University of Queensland]
Help Wanted:

Nurse Practitioner for Parker Pain Specialists
Centura Health
Aurora, CO
Certified in pain management 1-2 years experience as an NP in pain management.

Pain Management Anesthesiologist Opportunity
Mercy Clinic
Washington, MO (near St. Louis)
Seeking a BE/BC Pain Management Anesthesiologist to join an established practice.

PMR Physician
The Virginia Spine Institute (VSI)
Reston, VA
Seeking a fellowship trained, BC/BE PM&R physician to join our elite team.

Interventional Spine
Ortho Sport & Spine Physicians
Atlanta, GA
Looking to add an enthusiastic physiatrist to its ever growing practice.

More jobs...

The University of Queensland’s Child Health Research Centre (CHRC) analyzed whether hypnotherapy decreased pain, anxiety, and stress for children undergoing potentially painful changes to their burns dressings. Read more...

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Advocacy

AAPM Signs onto Comments on Oregon Health Authority’s Health Evidence Review Commission’s Draft Coverage Guidance Corticosteroid Injections – Low Back Pain
December 6, 2016 [Source: Multi-Society Work Pain Group]
AAPM was one of 11 undersigned medical specialty societies, comprising physicians who utilize and/or perform spinal injection procedures to accurately diagnose and treat patients suffering from spine pathologies, that submitted comments on Health Evidence Review Commission’s (HERC) draft coverage guidance Corticosteroid Injections – Low Back Pain. Read more...

Update on the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) Interim Meeting
The interim meeting of American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HOD) convened November 11-15, 2016, in Orlando, FL. Your AAPM delegate, Robert Wailes, MD, and your alternate delegate, Donna Bloodworth, MD, represented the membership and interests of the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

AAPM submitted one resolution on behalf of our membership, calling for the AMA to recognize Neuropathic Pain as a disease. To read more about events at the HOD...

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AAPM Annual Meeting

33rd Annual Meeting Registration and Housing Available
Plan to join the Academy in Orlando March 15-19, 2017 for the must-attend pain medicine meeting of the year. View the full educational program, register, and book your hotel room.

Premier preconference and stand-alone programs, include:

- WAPMU Ultrasound/Cadaver Program
- REMS-approved SAFE Opioid Prescribing Program
- Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™
- Opioid and Non-Opioid Medications Management
- Advanced Clinical Skills for Low Back Pain: A Hands-On Workshop

Contact AAPM with questions about the Annual Meeting by calling 847.375.4731 or email info@painmed.org. Connect with AAPM on social media using #PainMed2017.

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

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.

**Pain Medicine Highlights:**
Volume 17, Issue 11

**SPINE SECTION**
Ultrasound-Guided Cervical Nerve Root Block: Does Volume Affect the Spreading Pattern?

**PAIN & AGING SECTION**
Deconstructing Chronic Low Back Pain in the Older Adult—Step by Step Evidence and Expert-Based Recommendations for Evaluation and Treatment: Part XI: Dementia

**PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY, IMAGING & BRAIN NEUROSCIENCE SECTION**
Influence of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on Pain Intensity Levels in OEF/OIF/OND Veterans

**OPIOIDS, SUBSTANCE ABUSE & ADDICTIONS SECTION**
Impact of an Electronic Pain and Opioid Risk Assessment Program: Are There Improvements in Patient Encounters and Clinic Notes?

**METHODOLOGY, MECHANISMS & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SECTION**
Using a New Measurement to Evaluate Pain Relief Among Cancer Inpatients with Clinically Significant Pain Based on a Nursing Information System: A Three-Year Hospital-Based Study

**NEUROMODULATION & INTERVENTION SECTION**
Bleeding Complications in Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulator Trials and Implantations

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SECTION**
Pregabalin Improves Pain Scores in Patients with Fibromyalgia Irrespective of Comorbid Osteoarthritis

**HEADACHE & FACIAL PAIN SECTION**
Women with Chronic and Episodic Migraine Exhibit Similar Widespread Pressure Pain Sensitivity

**REHABILITATION SECTION**
Physical Activity Moderates the...

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**MACRA Is Coming In 2017**
December 13, 2016 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]
In October 2016, CMS released its Final Rule for implementing its Quality Payment Program as authorized under MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015). The Quality Payment Program (QPP) consolidates current quality programs (e.g. PQRS, MU, VBM) and provides financial incentives for participation through either an Advanced Alternative Payment Model (APM) or the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

[Read more...]

**AAPM Education**

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is pleased to have collaborated with the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals on rheumatoid arthritis programming. Enduring internet activities from previously live webinars now available. Click the links below for more information.

- **Rheumatoid Arthritis and the Female Patient: Reproductive Health Considerations**
- **Pain Management for Women with Rheumatoid and Other Arthritic Conditions**

*Physicians: The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. ARHP designates this enduring internet activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Nurse Practitioners and Nurses: ARHP is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 16643, to provide nursing continuing education credits. This activity is approved for 1.0 contact hour."

**Substance Abuse and Addiction Research**

The Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Long-Term Prescription Painkiller Users and Their Household Members
December 9, 2016 [Source: Kaiser Family Foundation]
This partnership poll from *The Washington Post* and the Kaiser Family Foundation examines the long-term use of prescription painkillers by exploring the views and experiences of adults 18 and over who they themselves have taken strong prescription painkillers for a period of two months or more at some time in the past two years, other than to treat pain from cancer or terminal illness.

[Full story...]

**State Legislative News**
Association Between Pain and PTSD in Treatment-Seeking Veterans

View all topics in this issue of Pain Medicine journal or visit the Member Center of the AAPM website for more information.

AAPM Membership

Become A Member
Renew Membership

Visit the AAPM Member Center for more information.

OR: State Task Force Approves New Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Oregon

December 5, 2016 [Source: Oregon Health Authority]

The Oregon Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Task Force approved the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain as the basis for Oregon guidelines in June. Full story...

NY: NYSDOH Announces Chronic Pain to Be Added As Qualifying Condition for Medical Marijuana

December 1, 2016 [Source: New York State Department of Health]

The New York State Department of Health today announced that chronic pain will be added as a qualifying condition for medical marijuana. Full story...

NY: NYSDOH Announces Chronic Pain to Be Added As Qualifying Condition for Medical Marijuana

December 1, 2016 [Source: New York State Department of Health]

The New York State Department of Health today announced that chronic pain will be added as a qualifying condition for medical marijuana. Full story...

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Government Agency News

Notice from the DEA: Significant Change to DEA Registration Renewal Process

October 2016 [Source: DEA]

Starting January 1, 2017, DEA will only send out one renewal notification in accordance with Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1301.13(e) (3). The renewal notification will be sent to the “mail to” address for each DEA registrant approximately 65 days prior to the expiration date. No other reminders to renew the DEA registration will be mailed. This is to also advise you that the online capability to renew a DEA registration after the expiration date will no longer be available. You will have to complete an application for a new DEA registration if you do not renew by midnight Eastern Time of the expiration date. The original DEA registration will not be reinstated. Paper renewal applications will not be accepted the day after the expiration date. If DEA has not received the paper renewal application by the day of the expiration date, mailed in renewal applications will be returned and the registrant will have to apply for a new DEA registration. For more information...

Registration for National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week is Now Open

January 23-29, 2017 [Source: NIH]

National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week? (NDAFW) is a national health observance for teens to promote local events that use NIDA science to SHATTER THE MYTHS™,? about drugs. This online guide gives you everything you need to plan, promote, and host your NDAFW event. Full story...

Veterans Endure Higher Pain Severity than Nonveterans

December 13, 2016 [Source: NIH]

American veterans experience higher prevalence of pain and more severe pain than nonveterans, with young and middle-aged veterans suffering the most, according to a new analysis of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) by the lead epidemiologist at the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) at the National Institutes of Health. Full story...

Teen Substance use Shows Promising Decline

December 13, 2016 [Source: NIH]

The 2016 Monitoring the Future (MTF) annual survey results released today from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reflect changing teen behaviors and choices in a social media-infused world. Full story...
Continued Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths in 2015 Shows Urgent Need for Treatment
December 8, 2017 [Source: The White House]
Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data that show that overdose deaths associated with prescription and illicit opioids increased to 33,091 in 2015.
Full story...

Opioids Package Passed with "Cures" Bill
December 7, 2016 [Source: AMA Wire]
The Senate today completed consideration of the “21st Century Cures Act,” approving the bill by a vote of 94 to 5. The House last week passed the bill 392 to 26.
Full story...
To view bill...

AAPM Members in the News

AAPM: "Not All Patients Are the Same" When it Comes to Opioids
December 12, 2016 [Source: WJHL-TV]
AAPM President, Daniel Carr, MD, discusses the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain with WJHL-TV in Johnson City, TN.
Full story...

Chronic Pain Patients Say They are Hurt by Colorado’s Opioid Prescription Guidelines
December 6, 2016 [Source: The Denver Post]
AAPM President-Elect Steven Stanos, DO and AAPM member Steven Wright, MD comment on Colorado’s opioid prescribing guidelines.
Full story...

Grant Updates

State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants
Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Information
FOA Number: TI-17-014
Posted on Grants.gov: Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Application Due Date: Friday, February 17, 2017
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.788
Description: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), are accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2017 State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants (Short Title: Opioid STR).
Read more...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Crizanlizumab for the Prevention of Pain Crises in Sickle Cell Disease
Abstract: Background: The up-regulation of P-selectin in endothelial cells and platelets contributes to the cell–cell interactions that are involved in the
The safety and efficacy of crizanlizumab, an antibody against the adhesion molecule P-selectin, were evaluated in patients with sickle cell disease.

Peripheral Nerve Blocks for the Treatment of Headache in Older Adults: A Retrospective Study

Objective: The objective of this study is to provide demographical and clinical descriptions of patients age 65 years old and older who were treated with peripheral nerve blocks (PNBs) at our institution and evaluate the safety and efficacy of this treatment.

Risk of Medication Overuse Headache across Classes of Treatments for Acute Migraine

BACKGROUND: The most commonly prescribed medications used to treat migraine acutely are single analgesics, ergots, opioids, and triptans. Due to varying mechanisms of action across drug classes, there is reason to believe that some classes may be less likely than others to elicit Medication Overuse Headache (MOH) than others. We therefore aimed to determine whether certain classes of acute migraine drugs are more likely to elicit MOH than others.

Gliogenic LTP Spreads Widely in Nociceptive Pathways

Abstract: Learning and memory formation involve long-term potentiation (LTP) of synaptic strength. A fundamental feature of LTP induction in the brain is the need for coincident pre- and postsynaptic activity. This restricts LTP expression to activated synapses only (homosynaptic LTP) and leads to its input specificity. In the spinal cord, we discovered a fundamentally different form of LTP that is induced by glial cell activation and mediated by diffusible, extracellular messengers, including d-serine and tumor necrosis factor (TNF), and that travel long distances via the cerebrospinal fluid, thereby affecting susceptible synapses at remote sites. The properties of this gliogenic LTP resolve unexplained findings of memory traces in nociceptive pathways and may underlie forms of widespread pain hypersensitivity.

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

Placebo in Chronic Back Pain (Phase 2) (PICP2)
Exercise Effect on Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathic Pain, Peripheral Nerve Fibers
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First received: November 30, 2016
Verified December 2016 by University of Maryland
Sponsor: University of Maryland
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Kathleen Griffith, University of Maryland
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02991677
Stated Purpose: Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) continues to be a serious healthcare concern. It is painful, persistent, resistant to conventional pain therapies, and results in long-term suffering and decreased quality of life for many cancer survivors. The role of exercise to decrease CIPN-related neuropathic pain (CIPN-NP) will be investigated, with the goal of identifying the mechanisms associated with this therapeutic approach to manage CIPN-NP.
Read more...