Pain Research in the News

A New Approach to Combatting Anxiety States, Pain and Inflammation
June 6, 2017 [Source: University of Bern, Switzerland]
Endogenous cannabinoids (endocannabinoids) play an important role in the brain and immune system. Bern researchers from the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) "TransCure" have now found a new way to influence the endocannabinoid system. Anti-inflammatory, analgesic as well as anxiolytic effects could be achieved in an animal model. 

Full story...

Unexpected Mechanism Behind Chronic Nerve Pain
June 2, 2017 [Source: Karolinska Institutet]
It has long been assumed that chronic nerve pain is caused by hypersensitivity in the neurons that transmit pain. Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden now show that another kind of neuron that normally allows us to feel pleasant touch sensation, can switch function and instead signal pain after nerve damage. The results, which are presented in the journal Science, can eventually lead to more effective pain treatments. 

Full story...

Half of Adults with Anxiety or Depression Report Chronic Pain
June 2, 2017 [Source: Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health]
In a survey of adults with anxiety or a mood disorder like depression or bipolar disorder, about half reported experiencing chronic pain, according to...
researchers at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. The findings are published online in the Journal of Affective Disorders. [Full story...]

**Immunotherapy Target Suppresses Pain to Mask Cancer**  
*May 23, 2017 [Source: Duke University]*  
A new study from Duke University researchers suggests there may be a quick and easy way to predict which cancer patients are likely to benefit from immunotherapy treatments. The findings, published May 22 in Nature Neuroscience, underscore the surreptitious nature of cancer, which uses a variety of tricks to evade detection by the body’s natural defense mechanisms. [Full story...]

**Advocacy**

**AAPM Outlines Opportunities to Provide Public Comment on Federal Topics**  
Three Federal topics of interest to practitioners treating patients with pain are currently open for public comment:

- CMS revised HCAHPS survey questions
- FDA Training of Health Care Providers on Pain Management and Safe Use of Opioid Analgesics
- FDA revised Blueprint for Prescriber Education on Opioid Analgesics

View AAPM May 30 Advocacy Alert for more information.

**AAPM Annual Meeting Updates**

**2018 Call for Education Session Proposals is Live:**  
**Deadline is June 27, 2017**  
The American Academy of Pain Medicine’s 2018 Annual Meeting Call for Education Session Proposals is live through June 27. AAPM is seeking education session proposals for its 34th Annual Meeting, which will be held April 26-29, 2018, with preconference activities beginning on April 25-26, in Vancouver, BC, Canada.  
To learn more about submitting an education session proposal...

The theme of the 2018 Annual Meeting is "Managing Acute & High-Impact Chronic Pain through Multidisciplinary Care".  
Read more about this theme.

**Pain Treatments/Trials in the News**

**Drug Believed to Reduce Postoperative Pain and Delirium Does Neither**  
*May 30, 2017 [Source: Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis]*  
A new study led by anesthesiologists at Washington University School of...
Limited-Time Discount on 2017 Coding for Anesthesia/Pain Book
Offer expires June 30, 2017, 11:59 pm CT.
AAPM offers members access to the 2017 Illustrated Coding and Billing Expert for Anesthesia/Pain Medicine at discounted rates. During the month of June, you can save an additional $9.95 when you use the promotional code CODING2017 (code is case sensitive) at checkout.
This book is an all-in-one resource containing the coding information needed for the anesthesia/pain medicine specialty. Learn more and view the full list of book features and benefits.
AAPM Member Price: $159.95
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Manufacturer Price: $179.95
Contact AAPM Member Services with questions or to purchase the 2017 Illustrated Coding & Billing Expert over the phone by calling 847-375-4731, or e-mail info@painmed.org.

Recruiting for an Assistant Professor in the Health Sciences Clinical Professor Series.

Physiatrists - Southeast Louisiana
Ochsner Health System
New Orleans, LA
Searching for BC/BE Physiatrists to join our established inpatient rehabilitation practices at our facilities

Physician-Interventional Pain Medicine
Cancer Treatment Centers of America
Zion, IL
Seeking an BC/BE Interventional Pain Medicine physician.

Physician: Physical Med & Rehab
St. Peter's Health Partners
Albany, NY
Seeking an additional Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation physician for Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital for summer 2017 placement.

More jobs...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Coding Refresher: Paravertebral Facet Joint Nerve Destruction Codes (64633-64636)
June 7, 2017 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]
Although codes 64633-64636 were introduced in 2012, there continues to be confusion about how to appropriately report these services. The codes are based on the number of facet joints that are treated. The number of nerves injected does not affect code selection.

Limited-Time Discount on 2017 Coding for Anesthesia/Pain Book

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

1 in 5 Surgical Weight-Loss Patients Take Prescription Opioids Seven Years after Surgery
While the proportion of adults with severe obesity using prescription opioids initially declines in the months after bariatric surgery, it increases within a matter of years, eventually surpassing pre-surgery rates of patients using the potentially addictive pain medications, according to new research from a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded multicenter study led by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Full story...
activates brain regions that are involved in first-hand pain, suggesting that shared neuromolecular pathways support processing of first-hand and vicarious pain. We tested whether the dopamine and opioid neurotransmitter systems involved in nociceptive processing also contribute to vicarious pain experience.

Read more...

The Interfaces between Vitamin D, Sleep and Pain
May 23, 2017 [Source: Journal of Endocrinology]
Abstract: The role of vitamin D in osteomineral metabolism is well known. Several studies have suggested its action on different biological mechanisms, such as nociceptive sensitivity and sleep-wake cycle modulation.

Read more...

Nociceptive Brain Activity as a Measure of Analgesic Efficacy in Infants
Abstract: Pain in infants is undertreated and poorly understood, representing a major clinical problem. In part, this is due to our inability to objectively measure pain in nonverbal populations. We present and validate an electroencephalography-based measure of infant nociceptive brain activity that is evoked by acute noxious stimulation and is sensitive to analgesic modulation. This measure should be valuable both for mechanistic investigations and for testing analgesic efficacy in the infant population.

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PMID: 28469039 DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aah6122

Association between Persistent Pain and Memory Decline and Dementia in a Longitudinal Cohort of Elders
Abstract: Importance: Chronic pain is common among the elderly and is associated with cognitive deficits in cross-sectional studies; the population-level association between chronic pain and longitudinal cognition is unknown.

Conclusions and Relevance: Persistent pain was associated with accelerated memory decline and increased probability of dementia.

PMID: 28566819 DOI: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2017.1622

Increased Brainstem Perfusion, but No Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption, During Attacks of Migraine with Aura
Abstract: See Moskowitz (doi:10.1093/brain/awx099) for a scientific commentary on this article. The migraine aura is characterized by transient focal cortical disturbances causing dramatic neurological symptoms that are usually followed by migraine headache. It is currently not understood how the aura symptoms are related to the headache phase of migraine.

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PMID: 28430960 DOI: 10.1093/brain/awx089

Read more...

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

Comparing Five Oral Analgesics for Treatment of Acute Pain in the ED
This study is not yet open for participant recruitment.
First received: May 30, 2017
Sponsor: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Inc.
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Polly Bijur, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Inc.
Principal Investigator: Polly Bijur, PhD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Inc.
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03173456
Stated Purpose: This study compares the efficacy of five oral analgesics: 5 mg oxycodone + 325 mg acetaminophen, 5 mg hydrocodone + 300 mg acetaminophen, 30 mg codeine + 300 mg acetaminophen, 400 mg ibuprofen + 1000 mg acetaminophen, and 800 mg ibuprofen + 1000 mg acetaminophen for the treatment of patients with acute musculoskeletal pain who present to the Emergency Department (ED).
Read more...

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Industry News

Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. and Inspirion Delivery Sciences LLC Announce Plans for Commercialization of RoxyBond™ (oxycodone hydrochloride) Tablets CII in the U.S.
May 30, 2017 [Source: Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.]
Full story...

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