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...

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.

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Pain Research in the News

Depressed Patients More Likely to be Prescribed Opioids
June 20, 2017 [Source: University of Rochester]

A new study shows that patients with low back pain who were depressed were more likely to be prescribed opioids and receive higher doses.

Full story...
Acupuncture Relieves Pain in Emergency Patients: Study
June 19, 2017 [Source: RMIT University, Australia]
The world's largest randomized controlled trial of acupuncture in emergency departments has found the treatment is a safe and effective alternative to pain-relieving drugs for some patients.
Full story...

Persistent Pain Shows up Inefficiency of Current Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA) Treatment
June 15, 2017 [Source: European League Against Rheumatism]
The results of two studies presented today at the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology (EULAR) 2017 press conference have highlighted limitations in the current treatment of patients with Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA).
Full story...

Study Looks at Needles in Treatment for Shoulder Pain
June 14, 2017 [Source: Radiological Society of North America]
According to a new study published online in the journal Radiology, the type of procedure used to treat shoulder calcifications should be tailored to the type of calcification. The results of the study will help interventional radiologists determine whether to use one or two needles for an ultrasound-guided treatment for a common condition called rotator cuff calcific tendinopathy.
Full story...

Meditation Could Be a Cheaper Alternative to Traditional Pain Medication
June 12, 2017 [Source: Leeds Beckett University U.K.]
Just ten minutes of mindfulness meditation could be used as an alternative to painkillers, according to research by Leeds Beckett University. Results of the study suggest that a single ten-minute mindfulness meditation session administered by a novice therapist can improve pain tolerance, pain threshold and decrease anxiety towards pain.
Full story...

Inflammatory Molecule Essential to Muscle Regeneration in Mice
June 12, 2017 [Source: Stanford University School of Medicine]
Stanford researchers have found that a metabolite stimulates mouse muscle stem cells to proliferate after injury, and anti-inflammatory drugs, frequently taken after exercise, block its production and inhibit muscle repair.
Full story...

Don't Rely on Smartphone Apps to Treat Back Pain
June 7, 2017 [Source: University of Sydney, Australia]
University of Sydney researchers have found that smartphone apps for treating back pain have questionable value as they are generally of poor quality, and have not been rigorously evaluated.
Full story...

SLU Researcher Finds Cause and Possible Relief of Cancer Bone Pain
June 7, 2017 [Source: Saint Louis University]
In a paper published in the journal Pain, Saint Louis University researcher Daniela Salvemini, Ph.D., reports discovering a key molecular pathway that drives cancer-related bone pain while providing a potential solution with a drug that already is on the market.
Full story...
Searching for a full time (1.0 FTE) physician to join our Pain Management Department.

Anesthesiology Physician Jobs in Eureka, CA
Providence St. Joseph Health Eureka, CA
Seeking an exemplary Anesthesiologist. Full-time position.

Palliative Medicine with Award-Winning System in Virginia Beach
Sentara Medical Group Virginia Beach, VA
Full-time Palliative Medicine Physicians to join our practice in Coastal Virginia.

Pain Medicine Physician
Lexington Clinic Lexington, KY
Seeking a full-time BC/BE Interventional Pain Physician to join a well-established group practice.

Advocacy

AMA House of Delegates Adopts AAPM Resolution on Future of Pain Care: Action planned to discuss and organize medicine’s response to the public health crisis of pain (and opioid addiction)
June 21, 2017 [Source: AAPM]
A Future of Pain Care resolution, introduced by the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) to the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates during its June 2017 Annual Meeting, highlights the current challenges to pain management and proposes actions that will positively impact the future treatment of millions of patients suffering from pain.
To view press release...

AAPM Signs On to Consumer Pain Advocacy Task Force’s (CPATF) Letter to the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis
June 7, 2017 [Source: CPATF]
On behalf of the 73 undersigned organizations, we thank you for your leadership of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis (“Commission”). As the Commission advances with its mission to “study the scope and effectiveness of the federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis,” we respectfully request the Commission to recognize the inter-relationship of the nation's chronic pain and opioid epidemics.
To view letter...

AAPM Submits Comments to CMS Regarding HCAHPS Questions
June 13, 2017 [Source: AAPM]
The American Academy of Pain Medicine supports the proposed revisions to the HCAHPS survey as presented in the 2018 Hospital IPPS and LTCH Prospective Payment System proposed rule.
To view letter...

Practice Management & Coding Updates

CMS Issues Proposed Rule for the 2018 Quality Payment Program
June 21, 2017 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that would make changes in the second year of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) as required by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). As a reminder, the Quality Payment Program has 2 tracks: (1) The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and (2) Advanced Alternative Payment Models (Advanced APMs).
Read more...

New AMA Video shows Physicians How to Avoid Medicare Payment Penalties
June 16, 2017 [Source: AMA]
The Quality Payment Program (QPP) is new this year, and the American Academy of Pain Medicine and the AMA want to make sure physicians know what they have to do to participate and the QPP’s “pick your pace” options for reporting. You can pick your pace of reporting for 2017 under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) of the QPP. View this video to learn how to avoid a negative 4% payment adjustment in 2019 by reporting on one measure for one patient via CMS’ claim form before the end of 2017.
For more information...
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
AAPM List Price: $169.95
Manufacturer Price: $179.95

ORDER NOW

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.

Closing the Referral Loop Project
June 20, 2017 [Source: PCPI]

PCPI and the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME) have released the Closing the Referral Loop (CRL) Tool Kit based on their successful quality improvement collaborative that focused on improving the referral management process between primary care and specialist physicians. Participants moved from a 40% to 70% closed referral rate.

Full story...

Education News

AAPM is a proud partner of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Interventional Cancer Pain Symposium
September 8-9 in New York, NY.
Early Rate: $75 discount before 7/8/17 - use promo code AAPMEARLY
General Rate: $25 discount after 7/8/17 - use promo code AAPMGEN
Learn more and register...

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

Report Shows Inconsistent Coverage in Substance Use Disorder Treatment
June 20, 2017 [Source: AMA]

“This new report from the Addiction Solutions Campaign reveals the significant challenges that patients face when seeking treatment for a substance use disorder,” comments Patrice A. Harris, M.D., Chair, American...
Medical Association Opioid Task Force and Immediate Past Chair of the AMA Board of Trustees.

Full story...

Peeling Back the Curtain on Regional Variation in the Opioid Crisis
June 2017 [Source: FAIR Heath, Inc.]
A national, independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to transparency in healthcare costs and health insurance information, FAIR Health analyzed data from its database of billions of privately billed healthcare claims to study the opioid crisis in rural and urban settings and in the nation’s five most populous cities and the states in which they are situated during the recent ten-year period 2007 to 2016.

View white paper...

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Government Agency News

New AHRQ Report Shows Sharp Rise Among Women for Opioid-Related Hospital Stays
June 20, 2017 [Source: AHRQ]
Hospitalizations involving opioid pain relievers and heroin increased 75 percent for women between 2005 and 2014, a jump that significantly outpaced the 55-percent increase among men, according to a new report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Full story...

New Measures to Inform Canadians of the Risks of Prescription Opioids out for Consultation
June 16, 2017 [Source: Health Canada]
As part of the Government of Canada’s work to reduce problematic opioid use and its related harms, Health Canada is proposing regulations that would make a warning sticker and patient information handout mandatory with all prescription opioids at the time of sale. Comment period ends August 31, 2017.

Full story...

Data and Methods for Evaluating the Impact of Opioid Formulations with Properties Designed to Deter Abuse in the Postmarket Setting: A Scientific Discussion of Present and Future Capabilities, July 10-11, 2017
June 14, 2017 [Source: FDA]
The purpose of the public workshop is to host a scientific discussion with expert panel members and interested stakeholders about the challenges in using the currently available data and methods for assessing the impact of opioid formulations with abuse-deterrent properties on opioid misuse, abuse, addiction, overdose, and death in the postmarket setting.

Full story...

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Pain Abstracts in the News

Patterns of Opioid Use and Risk of Opioid Overdose Death among Medicaid Patients
July 2017 [Source: Medical Care]
Abstract: Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes Medicaid as a high-risk population for fatal opioid overdose. Further research is needed to identify factors that put Medicaid patients at increased risk.
Yoga, Physical Therapy, or Education for Chronic Low Back Pain: A Randomized Noninferiority Trial
June 20, 2017 [Source: Annals of Internal Medicine]
Abstract: Background: Yoga is effective for mild to moderate chronic low back pain (cLBP), but its comparative effectiveness with physical therapy (PT) is unknown. Moreover, little is known about yoga's effectiveness in underserved patients with more severe functional disability and pain.

A Randomized Trial of Telemedicine Efficacy and Safety for Nonacute Headaches
June 14, 2017 [Source: Neurology]
Abstract: Objective: To evaluate long-term treatment efficacy and safety of one-time telemedicine consultations for nonacute headaches.

NSAIDs for Chronic Low Back Pain
June 13, 2017 [Source: JAMA]
Abstract: Clinical Question: Are nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) associated with greater pain relief than placebo, other drugs, and nondrug treatments for patients with chronic low back pain?

Evaluation of the Effects of Physical Activity, Cardiorespiratory Condition, and Neuromuscular Fitness on Direct Healthcare Costs and Sickness-Related Absence among Nursing Personnel with Recurrent Nonspecific Low Back Pain
June 1, 2017 [Source: Pain]
Abstract: Objective: To evaluate the association of physical activity, cardiorespiratory fitness, and neuromuscular fitness with direct healthcare costs and sickness-related absence among nursing personnel with nonspecific low back pain.

Daily Spousal Responsiveness Predicts Longer-Term Trajectories of Patients' Physical Function
June 2017 [Source: Psychological Science]
Abstract: Everyday interpersonal experiences may underlie the well-established link between close relationships and physical health, but multiple-timescale designs necessary for strong conclusions about temporal sequence are rarely used.

Pain Catastrophizing Moderates Relationships between Pain Intensity and Opioid Prescription: Nonlinear Sex Differences Revealed Using a Learning Health System
Sharifzadeh Y, Kao MC, Sturgeon JA, Rico TJ, Mackey S, Darnall BD.
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Pain catastrophizing is a maladaptive response to pain that amplifies chronic pain intensity and distress. Few studies have examined how pain catastrophizing relates to opioid prescription in outpatients with chronic pain. CONCLUSIONS: Results supported the conclusion that pain catastrophizing and sex moderate the relationship between pain intensity and opioid prescription. Although men and women patients had similar Pain Catastrophizing Scale scores, historically
"subthreshold" levels of pain catastrophizing were significantly associated with opioid prescription only for women patients. These findings suggest that pain intensity and catastrophizing contribute to different patterns of opioid prescription for men and women patients, highlighting a potential need for examination and intervention in future studies.

PMID: 28614083 DOI: 10.1097/ALN.0000000000001656

Read more...

Falls, Functioning, and Disability Among Women With Persistent Symptoms of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy

Winters-Stone KM, Horak F, Jacobs PG, Trubowitz P, Dieckmann NF, Stoyles S, Faithfull S.

Abstract: Purpose Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) may persist after treatment ends and may lead to functional decline and falls. This study compared objective and self-report measures of physical function, gait patterns, and falls between women cancer survivors with and without symptoms of CIPN to identify targets for functional rehabilitation. Conclusion: This work makes a significant contribution toward understanding the functional impact of CIPN symptoms on cancer survivors. Remarkably, 47% of women in our sample had CIPN symptoms many years after treatment, together with worse function, greater disability, and more falls. CIPN must be assessed earlier in the clinical pathway, and strategies to limit symptom progression and to improve function must be included in clinical and survivorship care plans.

PMID: 28586243 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2016.71.3552

Read more...

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

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

Intravenous Fluids in Benign Headaches Trail (I-FiBH)
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First received: June 10, 2017
Sponsor: University Medical Center of Southern Nevada
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Joseph Anthony Zitek, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada
Principal Investigator: Tony Zitek, MD, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03185130

Stated Purpose: Migraine headache has a 1-year period prevalence in the US of 11.7% and accounts for approximately 1.2 million migraine visits to US emergency departments per year. There are numerous studies that discuss treatment for migraine and other benign headaches within the emergency department (ED), however, there are very few that discuss specifically the use of intravenous fluids (IVF) for headache treatment. Many of these studies look at various options for treating migraine and other benign headaches: treatment options include dopamine antagonists, opioids, non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), triptans, anti-epileptics and ergot derivatives.

Read more...

Acupuncture for Symptoms of Nerve Damage
This study is currently recruiting participants.
First received: June 8, 2017
Sponsor: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Principal Investigator: Ting Bao, MD, DABMA, MS, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03183037

Stated Purpose: The purpose of this study is to compare the effects of real acupuncture with placebo acupuncture or usual care on symptoms of nerve damage from chemotherapy.

Read more...

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Egalet Receives Complete Response Letter from U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Prior Approval Supplement for 10 mg and 15 mg Dosage Strengths of OXAYDO
June 20, 2017 [Source Egalet Corporation]
Full story...

SAMURAI: Lasmiditan Reduces Pain in Acute Migraine
June 20, 2017 [Source: Medscape]
Full story (login required)...

Lilly's Galcanezumab Significantly Reduces Number of Migraine Headache Days for Patients with Migraine: New Results Presented at AHS
June 10, 2017 [Source: Eli Lilly and Company]
Full story...

Q Biomed Announces Commercialization Of Non-Narcotic Metastatic Cancer Pain Drug
June 7, 2017 [Source: Q Biomed Inc.]
Full story...

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