LATEST NEWS from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Advocacy

AAPM Supports Pain Research Funding
In 2016, AAPM supported the STOP Pain Act which directs the National Institutes of Health to intensify research regarding the understanding of pain; the discovery and development of therapies for chronic pain; and the development of alternatives to opioids for effective pain treatments. That legislation was signed into law. Now the Academy has joined 30 like-minded professional organizations in supporting legislation to fund that research.

Read more about the 2017 Act...
See societal document supporting the Act...

CDC Guideline Not Meant to Apply to Dosing of Opioid Agonists/Partial Agonists Used for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder
January 9, 2017 [Source: AMA Opioid Task Force]
The AMA Opioid Task Force and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) alerted NIH of one of the unintended consequences of implementation of the CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline for Chronic Pain: that some may have included buprenorphine for the treatment of substance use disorder in calculations for Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME). AAPM is an active member of the AMA Opioid Task Force, which is dedicated to help reversing the nation's opioid epidemic.

View NIH letter to ASAM...

AAPM Comments on Noninvasive Nonpharmacological Treatment for Pain
December 23, 2017 [Source: AAPM]
The Academy recently provided input on an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) draft report for the systematic review on Noninvasive, Nonpharmacological Treatment for Chronic Pain. Earlier, AAPM provided input on proposed key questions during the systematic review stage of this document's development. AAPM's Scientific Review and Guidelines Committee, and select leaders from several AAPM shared interest groups provided comments for the draft version of this evidence report.

See the AHRQ draft report...
See AAPM's comments...

Senators urge DEA to Support Controlled Substance Partial Fill
December 21, 2017 [Source: Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.)]
As part of the ongoing effort to reduce the quantity of opioid medications in US households, Senators Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) sent a letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration, urging it to update regulations and guidance related to the partial filling of Schedule II controlled substances.
AAPM Annual Meeting Updates

Register Now for the AAPM 34th Annual Meeting in Vancouver April 25-29, 2018

The Academy is pleased to welcome Amy L. Compton-Phillips, MD, executive vice president and chief clinical officer for Providence Health & Services, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Compton-Phillips will share a physician executive’s perspective while speaking to attendees about navigating healthcare system changes, systems’ responses to pain management issues, and the general state of health care and its impact on pain physicians practicing at both private and academic institutions.

Join your pain medicine colleagues in Vancouver April 25-29, 2018, at the Academy’s 34th Annual Meeting & Preconferences. Take advantage of exclusive member discounts and register today.

This year’s meeting also includes brand new hands-on preconference programs:
- Pain Medicine Best Practices: Integrative Solutions for Critical Challenges
- Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Pain-Based Care

Call for Late-Breaking Abstracts
Watch the AAPM Website for information regarding submissions of Late-Breaking Abstracts for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Submission time will be limited to February 1-12, 2018.

For travel and housing information...
Learn more at annualmeeting.painmed.org, or contact AAPM with questions at info@painmed.org or 847-375-4731.

Pain Research in the News
Scientists Take a Big Step toward Building a Better Opioid
January 4, 2018 [Source: University of North Carolina School of Medicine]
For the first time, scientists at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and collaborators solved the crystal structure of the activated kappa opioid receptor bound to a morphine derivative. They then created a new drug-like compound that activates only that receptor, a key step in the development of better pain medications. The research, published in the journal Cell, shows a route toward creating opioids that relieve pain without causing the severe side effects at the heart of the opioid epidemic.

Full story...

AAPM Education News
American Academy of Pain Medicine Session: Management of the Patient on Systemic Opioids
Post your ad with AAPM's Career Center and reach more than the 2,500 members of AAPM. The network reaches beyond 30,000 professionals in healthcare.

Help Wanted:

**Interventional Pain Management Physician**
South Florida Spine Clinic
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Seeking an exemplary BC/BE accredited fellowship trained, Pain Management physician.

**Pain Management Physician Jobs in Santa Rosa, CA**
Providence St. Joseph Health
Santa Rosa, CA
Seeking an exemplary BC/BE Pain Management physician.

**Pain Medicine Academic Physiatrist**
MetroHealth System and Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH
Recruiting for a full-time academic physiatrist in Pain Medicine.

**PM&R Physician with Pain - Private Orthopedic Practice**
Englewood Orthopedic Associates
Englewood, NJ
Looking for a motivated PM&R physician to join our team.

More jobs...

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AAPM Business

**2018-19 AAPM Elections Open Soon**

Elections for available AAPM officer, Director-at-Large and Nominating Committee positions will go live next week.

If you are a physician member with a valid, current email address on file with AAPM, Watch for an email containing your unique voting link, along with instructions for voting.

If you need assistance during the election, please contact AAPM at (847) 375-4396.

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Practice Management & Coding Updates

**2018 Pain Management Codes Posted on Website**

January 10, 2018 [Source: Emily Hill, PA, AAPM Coding Consultant]

The Coding and Reimbursement Committee has updated the coding information available on the AAPM website. New charts have been posted that include information concerning Medicare's 2018 Relative Value Units (RVUs) for codes commonly reported by Pain Medicine Physicians. The title page provides links to CMS web pages that provide additional information and outlines the basis for the 2018 reimbursement rates.

Read more...

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Government Agency News

**Congressional Task Force Lays out a Plan for Fighting Opioid Addiction**

January 11, 2018 [Source: Congressman Tom MacArthur (R-NJ)]

The Bipartisan Heroin Task Force led by Representatives Annie Kuster (D-NH), Tom MacArthur (R-NJ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and Donald Norcross (D-NJ) released its legislative agenda for the 115th Congress which aimed to address the opioid epidemic from the perspective of law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and recovery. The agenda includes Fitzpatrick’s Road to Recovery Act [H.R. 2938] and INTERDICT Act [H.R. 2142]. Also included are Jessie’s Law, the STOP OD Act, the Addiction Recovery Through Family Health Accounts Act, the Synthetic Drug Awareness Act, the CRIB Act, and the VA Prescription Data Accountability Act.

Read more...

**White House Drug Policy Office Releases Commission Report Reaction Documents**

December 29, 2017 [Source: The White House]

The Office of National Drug Control Policy released the Trump Administration’s reaction to the Final Report of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis and a summary of major actions taken by the Administration this year.

Full story...
Pain Medicine Highlights:
Volume 18, Issue 12

GENERAL SECTION
Chronic Pain Among Homeless Persons with Mental Illness

EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION
Protecting Pain Patients. The Evaluation of a Chronic Pain Educational Intervention

PAIN & AGING SECTION
The Impact of Older Parents' Pain Symptoms on Adult Children

NEUROMODULATION & INTERVENTION SECTION
Bleeding Complications in Patients Undergoing Intrathecal Drug Delivery System Implantation

NEUROPATHIC PAIN SECTION
The Role of miR-539 in the Anterior Cingulate Cortex in Chronic Neuropathic Pain

ACUTE & PERIOPERATIVE PAIN SECTION
Local Resiniferatoxin Induces Long-Lasting Analgesia in a Rat Model of Full Thickness Thermal Injury

CANCER PAIN & PALLIATIVE CARE SECTION
The Tri-Institutional Pain Registry—Analysis of Outpatient Pain Management at a Specialized Cancer Center

INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE SECTION
Safety Concerns with Thoracoabdominal Acupuncture: Experience at a Tertiary-Care Emergency Department

State Legislative News

MA: Law Aimed at Opioid Crisis Comes into Effect
January 2, 2018 [Source: Associated Press]
Full story...

NY: DEC Announces First Round of Participating Pharmacies, Hospitals and Long-Term Care Facilities in State's Pilot Drug 'Take-Back' Program
December 28, 2017 [Source: State of New York]
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos today announced the first group of participants in the State's $2 million Pilot Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program. Participants include 80 retail pharmacies, hospitals, and long-term care facilities across the state.
Full story...

NC: STOP Act Provision Takes Effect Jan. 1, Will Limit Opioid Prescriptions
December 29, 2017 [Source: Governor Roy Cooper, NC]
Full story...

December 27, 2017 [Source: Governor Rick Snyder]
Full story...

NJ: Limitations on and Obligations Associated with Acceptance of Compensation from Pharmaceutical Manufacturers by Prescribers
December 22, 2017 [Source: NJ Law and Public Safety Division of Consumer Affairs]
Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

The Use of Stem Cell Therapy to Reverse Opioid Tolerance
December 29, 2017 [Source: Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics]
Authors: Li, F., Liu, L., Cheng, K., Chen, Z. and Cheng, J.
Abstract: Opioid tolerance (OT) and opioid-induced hyperalgesia (OIH) are major challenges in medicine. Here we report that transplantation of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) prevented and reversed OT and OIH in rats and mice. The preventive and therapeutic effects were long-lasting and consistent across different assessment schemes. Both intrathecal and intravenous transplantations were effective and safe. This emerging therapeutic strategy has thus shown promise to impact clinical practice and improve the efficacy and safety of opioid therapy.
Read more...

Prescription Opioid Use and Satisfaction with Care among Adults with Musculoskeletal Conditions
January/February 2018 [Source: Annals of Family Medicine]
Abstract: Purpose: In the current payment paradigm, reimbursement is partially based on patient satisfaction scores. We sought to understand the relationship between prescription opioid use and satisfaction with care among adults who have musculoskeletal conditions.
Read more...

Gabapentinoid Use in the United States 2002 through 2015 (Research Letter)
January 2, 2018 [Source: JAMA Internal Medicine]
Gabapentin and pregabalin are the 2 clinically used medications in the gabapentinoid drug class. Pregabalin and gabapentin have both been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for treatment of partial seizures and postherpetic neuralgia. Gabapentin enacarbil has also been approved for restless legs syndrome, while pregabalin has additional
Designate AAPM on Your AMA Membership Ballot

If you are an AMA member, you should be receiving your Specialty Representation Ballot in the mail shortly. Please take a moment and complete your Ballot, either with the self-addressed postcard or on the AMA website. Be sure to designate AAPM as your Specialty Society. It is very important that we have sufficient AAPM votes for continued representation in the House of Delegates. Thank you.

The Appropriate Use of Opioids in the Treatment of Refractory Restless Legs Syndrome
January 2018 [Source: Mayo Clinic Proceedings]
Abstract: Restless legs syndrome (RLS) is a distinct disorder, differing from chronic pain in many ways. Refractory RLS is characterized by unresponsiveness to dopamine agonists or alpha-2-delta ligands due to inadequate efficacy, augmentation, or adverse effects. This may result in severely impaired quality of life, profound insomnia, and suicidal depression. Opioid therapy is a mainstay in the management of these patients. This article summarizes the basic science and clinical evidence in support of their use, including the positive result of a large controlled multicenter study of 306 subjects, and outlines an approach to their use in clinical practice.

Evidence that Dry eye is a Comorbid Pain Condition in a U.S. Veteran Population
November/December 2017 [Source: Pain Reports]
Abstract: Introduction: Recent evidence suggests that dry eye (DE) may be comorbid with other chronic pain conditions. Objectives: To evaluate DE as a comorbid condition in the U.S. veteran population. Results: Of 3,265,894 veterans, 959,881 had a DE diagnosis (29.4%). Dry eye frequency increased with the number of pain conditions reported (P < 0.0005). Ocular pain was most strongly associated with headache (odds ratio [OR] 2.98; 95% confidence interval [CI] 2.95–3.01), tension headache (OR 2.64; 95% CI 2.58–2.71), migraine (OR 2.58; 95% CI 2.54–2.61), temporomandibular joint dysfunction (OR 2.39; 95% CI 2.34–2.44), pelvic pain (OR 2.30; 95% CI 2.24–2.37), central pain syndrome (OR 2.24; 95% CI 1.94–2.60), and fibromyalgia/muscle pain (OR 2.23; 95% CI 2.20–2.26), all P < 0.0005. Tear film dysfunction was most closely associated with osteoarthritis (OR 1.97; 95% CI 1.96–1.98) and postherpetic neuralgia (OR 1.95; 95% CI 1.90–2.00), both P < 0.0005.

PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Reduction of Opioid Use and Improvement in Chronic Pain in Opioid-Experienced Patients after Topical Analgesic Treatment: an Exploratory Analysis
Gudin JA, Brennan MJ, Harris ED, Hurwitz PL, Dietze DT, Strader JD.
Abstract: OBJECTIVE: There is a need to identify safe and effective opioid-sparing multimodal alternative treatment strategies and approaches, including topical analgesics, for opioid-experienced chronic pain patients to mitigate the risk of addiction, misuse, and abuse of opioids. CONCLUSIONS: Opioid use and other concurrent medications decreased among opioid-experienced chronic pain patients after 3- and 6- months of treatment with topical analgesics. Pain severity and interference scores also decreased. The topical analgesics were reported to be effective and safe for the treatment of chronic pain, with randomized controlled trials needed to confirm these findings. PMID: 29224410; DOI: 10.1080/00325481.2018.1414551

New Persistent Opioid Use among Patients With Cancer After Curative-Intent Surgery
Abstract: Purpose: The current epidemic of prescription opioid misuse has increased scrutiny of postoperative opioid prescribing. Some 6% to 8% of opioid-naïve patients undergoing noncancer procedures develop new persistent opioid use; however, it is unknown if a similar risk applies to patients with cancer. We sought to define the risk of new persistent opioid use after curative-intent surgery, identify risk factors, and describe changes in daily opioid dose over time after surgery. Conclusion: New persistent opioid use is a common iatrogenic complication in patients with cancer undergoing curative-intent surgery. This problem requires changes to prescribing guidelines and patient counseling during the surveillance and survivorship phases of care.

PMID: 29048972; DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2017.74.1363

Stress in Patients Diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis Compared to Chronic Pain

Abstract: PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE: To examine potential differences in cognitions and traitlike factors that relate to stress among individuals diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) compared to those with chronic pain (CP). Research Method/Design: A cross-sectional study was conducted with participants recruited from outpatient rheumatology and CP clinics. Participants completed self-report questionnaires of demographics, disease characteristics, cognitions, and traitlike constructs. Correlates of patient stress were considered using hierarchical multiple regression. CONCLUSIONS/IMPLICATIONS: This study establishes cognitions and traitlike factors that are related to reports of stress among patients with RA and CP. These factors should be considered when treating and developing interventions for patients who experience increased feelings of stress. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved).

PMID: 29265872; DOI: 10.1037/rep0000103

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials
The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov:

University of Michigan / Wayne State Chronic Pain Study
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03391661
Recruitment Status: Recruiting
First Posted: January 5, 2018
Sponsor: Wayne State University
Collaborator: University of Michigan
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Mark A. Lumley, Wayne State University
Principal Investigator: David Kohns, MD, University of Michigan

Stated Purpose: Brief Summary: This study is designed to determine if a brief educational program can alter the attitudes and knowledge of individuals with chronic back pain, which is likely to be non-structural in nature. Individuals will be randomly assigned to an experimental condition (performs written educational and emotional awareness exercises) or a control condition (completes a general health activities questionnaire). Comparisons will be made to assess the degree of centralized pain features and functional improvements at 1-month follow-up.

Read more...

Chronic Pain Skills Study - Vanderbilt University Medical Center
First Posted: December 28, 2017
Recruitment Status: Recruiting
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03384953
Sponsor: Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Lindsey Mckernan, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Principal Investigator: Lindsey C McKernan, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Stated Purpose: Brief Summary: The Osher Center for Integrative Medicine...
(OCIM) at Vanderbilt is a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic treating patients with chronic pain and complex health issues via integrative services, with goals of improving overall health and wellbeing of those served. At OCIM, clinical hypnosis has been historically provided on an individual basis (by the PI, Lindsey McKernan, Ph.D.). Due to its impact and increased patient demand for this service, the PI will be conducting group hypnosis services in addition to individual services order to expand the reach of this program. Read more...

Industry News

FDA Approves Innovative Clinician Programmer for the Medtronic SynchroMed II Intrathecal Drug Delivery System for Chronic Pain and Severe Spasticity
January 10, 2018 [Source: Medtronic]
Full story...

Nevro Receives FDA Approval for Senza II™ Spinal Cord Stimulation System Delivering HF10™ Therapy
January 8, 2018 [Source: Nevro Corp.]
Full story...

Alder Announces Eptinezumab Significantly Reduces Migraine Risk Meets Primary and All Key Secondary Endpoints in Pivotal PROMISE 2 Phase 3 Trial for Chronic Migraine Prevention
January 8, 2018 [Source: Alder BioPharmaceuticals, Inc.]
Full story...