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## A Statement from **The American Academy of Pain Medicine**

### **AAPM Looks Forward to Working with the FDA to Optimize Pain Care**

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) looks forward to working with the FDA and other Federal and State agencies to optimize pain care while reducing prescription opioid abuse. Since its inception 27 years ago, the Academy has attracted the most prominent and dedicated pain physicians to its ranks to advocate for pain research and education from a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating pain. The Academy has been actively involved in educating physicians and their treatment teams on proper treatment of pain with programs for physicians such as:

- “Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™”
- “Responsible Opioid Prescribing” book by Past President Scott M. Fishman, MD, which was distributed among the 70 state medical boards of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB).
- “AAFP Live” initiatives – a pain education initiative for family physicians drawn from collaboration with the American Academy of Family Practitioners (2009).

We applaud the long-awaited provisions of the FDA’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) and coordinated effort to reduce adverse outcomes. All agencies can count on AAPM to support professional and public education.

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is the premiere medical association for pain physicians and their treatment teams with over 2,600 members. Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year of service, the Academy’s mission is to optimize the health of patients in pain and eliminate it as a major public health problem by advancing the practice and specialty of pain medicine through education, training, advocacy and research. Information is available on the Academy’s website at [www.painmed.org](http://www.painmed.org).

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