Working to eliminate pain as a significant public health problem by advancing pain medicine education and research.
The AAPM Foundation’s mission is to eliminate pain as a significant public health problem by advancing physician education and furthering research in the field. The Foundation supports AAPM’s core purpose, which is to optimize the health of patients in pain and eliminate the major health problem of pain by advancing the practice and specialty of pain medicine.

Since 2011, the Foundation has worked in conjunction with the American Academy of Pain Medicine to provide innovative and wide-reaching educational programs that improve patient outcomes, elevate standards of implementation in the treatment of pain, and fund research to advance the field.

The Foundation envisions access to optimal pain care that improves the functionality and quality of life for patients with pain, significantly mitigating the widespread problem of pain in the United States. These efforts, in concert with other leading organizations, will lead to promoting quality pain education and training for all physicians, conducting research into the causes and treatment of pain conditions and disease, and supporting best practices to optimize patient outcomes and ensure a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated system of care.
The AAPM Foundation is committed to promoting education to a variety of audiences in order to achieve maximum impact on the field of pain medicine. The following initiatives highlight AAPM Foundation’s efforts to offer resources to both our primary constituent base – clinicians on the front lines of pain medicine – as well as patients, consumers, and industry employees to raise awareness and understanding of pain management options.

**Advancing Acute Pain Research & Education**

The AAPM Acute Pain Initiative was established to improve the delivery of acute pain care and enhance the quality of patient recovery after surgery, illness, or trauma. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to reduce the incidence of transition from acute pain into the debilitating disease of chronic pain. Led by members of the AAPM Acute Pain Medicine Shared Interest Group, a multidisciplinary panel identified the following three areas of critical acute pain education and research needs:

- creation of an open-source acute pain data registry and support tool to inform clinical decision making and resource allocation and to enhance research efforts
- establishment of a strong professional acute pain medicine identity as an accredited subspecialty
- development of educational goals targeted toward third-party payers, hospital administrators, and other key stakeholders to convey the importance of acute pain medicine.

To address these gaps, the panel prepared a seminal publication on acute pain medicine, “Acute Pain Medicine in the United States: A Status Report,” which was published in AAPM’s journal, *Pain Medicine*, in September 2015. The Foundation continues to seek funding to advance the work of the Acute Pain Medicine SIG, including further development of the acute pain data registry.

**Leading Prescriber Education through Expert Research and Guideline Development**

**OPIOID-INDUCED CONSTIPATION GUIDELINES:**
Opioid-induced constipation (OIC) is the most prevalent type of opioid bowel dysfunction that results from the effects of the drugs on µ-opioid receptors expressed throughout the gastrointestinal tract. The AAPM Foundation took a novel step in seeking grant funding from multiple industry partners to develop and publish OIC guidelines. A panel of experts worked to identify assessment tools and outcome measures that are the most effective and practical for characterizing OIC severity, as well as corresponding objective thresholds that prompt the clinical decision to prescribe OIC-specific prescription drug therapies. The outcome of this work is cited in *Pain Medicine*. Using the consensus document as a framework, the expert panel also published webinars that are offered to all clinicians treating patients in pain in the AAPM Education Center at no cost to the learner.

**URINE DRUG MONITORING GUIDELINES:**
Urine drug monitoring (UDM) is used to detect the most commonly abused drugs. The Foundation provides the opportunity to educate and guide clinicians on the appropriate utilization of the most effective monitoring to support optimal patient care. Guidelines for Medication Monitoring will reflect the advances in the science, technology, practice, and practical uses of UDM in clinical care.
Nurturing Future Leaders of Pain Medicine

Established in 2015, the Pain Medicine Fellows Scholarship Program awards fellows currently enrolled in an accredited Pain Medicine Fellowship Program funding to attend the AAPM Annual Meeting and select preconference programs as well as a one-year paid AAPM membership, which includes a subscription to *Pain Medicine*. Program objectives include expanding fellows’ educational exposure to pain medicine, introducing fellow to the Academy’s thought leaders and researchers, and facilitating meaningful networking opportunities. The Foundation welcomes ongoing contributions to the Fellows Scholarship Program.

Pain Awareness Unity Circle Public Awareness Campaign

The AAPM Foundation’s Pain Awareness Unity Circle emblem was developed with the assistance of numerous pain advocacy organizations to amplify the voices of pain patients, survivors, and caregivers as they work to increase patient access to research, treatment, and care through public awareness. The Unity Circle provides a visual tool to assist advocates in reaching a shared desired goal: a sustainable model for funding and provider resources. The emblem is composed of three separate strands: research, treatment, and care. Multiple strands reflect the multiple efforts and voices of pain awareness advocates working to fulfill a common mission of providing pain patients with the respect and care they need. The Foundation has worked with partner organizations to circulate this emblem and offers this symbol to all members of the pain community who seek to use it to increase awareness.

Furthering Industry Knowledge & Pain Medicine Learning

Pain Medicine Education Program (PMEP) for Industry

The AAPM Foundation Pain Medicine Education Program (PMEP) was designed to further industry representatives’ knowledge of the fundamentals of pain medicine and increase confidence and credibility when interacting with healthcare practitioners. The program covers subjects that are important to pain healthcare providers with whom industry representatives meet every day, in order to help representatives understand and appreciate the complexities of treating pain disorders and comprehend patients’ daily struggles with pain. PMEP participants receive unparalleled educational content that is developed and taught by recognized leaders in pain medicine and offers comprehensive, thorough and unbiased education. Program graduates are granted use of an industry education emblem, which distinguishes those who have completed the PMEP.
AAPM Foundation leadership have identified the following future initiatives. If you are interested in supporting any of these efforts, please contact AAPM Foundation at info@aapmfoundation.org or 847-375-4731.

**Future Initiatives & Areas of Need**

### CDC Opioid Guideline

The Foundation proposes to convene a consensus panel of diverse expert perspectives to discuss the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain,” released in March 2016. Although insufficient time has passed for formal evaluation of the guideline’s effects on clinical practice, anecdotal information suggests that clinicians, particularly primary care providers, are now less willing to prescribe opioids to patients with chronic pain. Response from healthcare providers to the guideline has varied greatly. The Foundation proposes bringing together an expert panel with similarly extensive expertise in the complex issues that surround responsible opioid prescribing, but with diverse views on how to best meet the needs of patients with pain, to develop and publish a consensus statement. The panel will consider the impact, including unintended consequences, of the CDC guideline on the practice of pain medicine, on public policy and on referrals. Through the work of the panel, the Foundation hopes to bring a voice of reason to the debate and provide tools for clinicians to use in their practices and to address any identified gaps, in essence, creating a users’ guide to the Guideline.

### Early Investigator Research

The burden of pain in the United States is astounding with more than 100 million Americans suffering from pain that persists for weeks to years. The financial toll of this epidemic costs more than $600 billion a year. Only 1% of NIH research funding is dedicated to pain research, and it isn’t enough. Your help is needed to expand pain research by supporting Early Investigator Research.

### National Pain Strategy

The Foundation proposes a three-pronged approach to support implementation of the US Department of Health and Human Services’ “National Pain Strategy” (NPS). First, convene a stakeholder summit to bring together a coalition of stakeholders (professional medical associations and patient advocacy groups) committed to the common goal of advancing the objectives of the NPS, to develop a series of white papers exploring what needs to change in the practice of pain medicine in response to the NPS. Second, support research projects that address the objectives of the NPS. Third, provide professional education and training aligned with the objectives of the NPS.

### Pain in Rare Diseases

According to the Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center of the National Institutes of Health, a rare disease is defined as one that affects fewer than 200,000 people. The National Organization for Rare Diseases estimates that there are more than 7,000 diseases considered rare in the United States. While individually the diseases are rare, they affect a combined total of 30 million people who wake up each day to fight the battle with a rare disease. The Foundation proposes a three-pronged approach to addressing the need for increased awareness and education around pain in rare diseases: (1) consensus panel of key opinion leaders to discuss pain as a component of rare diseases to produce a consensus paper on how to approach and manage pain in rare diseases; (2) half-day educational session for clinicians, along with a half-day informational session for patients, held in conjunction with the consensus panel meeting; and (3) live education session proposal submitted for possible inclusion in the 2018 AAPM Annual Meeting educational program to present the panel’s findings.

### Pain Medicine Education Program (PMEP)

Seeking to provide invaluable, on-demand education to your work group? Contact AAPM to see if the AAPM Foundation PMEP is a good fit for your organization.
Thank You

Financial strength is the driving force behind the Foundation’s ability to further the specialty of pain medicine by enacting education and research initiatives. The past, present, and future success of the AAPM Foundation in achieving its mission is thanks to the many individuals and industry partners who have made donations and volunteered their time to lead the Foundation’s efforts.
GIVING AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Work with the AAPM Foundation

AAPM Foundation’s work is made possible by the generous support of our industry partners and individual donors.

Your tax-deductible donation will help ensure the Foundation continues to develop and support quality educational resources and vital research.

Contact us directly to donate, or to partner with the AAPM Foundation on important initiatives.

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