

# AzSAM News

The News of Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine

February 22, 2008

## Letter from the President



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This month I have important news about grandfathered Diplomates of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM).

At the ASAM State Chapters and ASAM Board of Directors meeting held last October, it was agreed that all State Chapters must actively participate in and support the process to grandfather ASAM-certified physicians into ABAM. No other item relating to our business has ever been this important!

Grandfathering creates a limited-time opportunity for physicians working in Addiction Medicine to gain ABAM certification on the basis of experience and previous certification without having to complete all of the training requirements that will eventually be established.

ABAM is offering Diplomate status to all physicians currently holding ASAM certificates in good standing. The application process is underway and it is imperative to the field of Addiction Medicine that as many physicians as possible send in their application to become ABAM-certified.

Your role in this transfer is important so here's what you need to do: If you are eligible you must submit completed applications, payment and supporting documents to the executive office of the ABAM. You have until June 30, 2009, to avoid any late fees. You can click here for a copy of the application and a list of FAQs.

It is vital to the field of Addiction Medicine that you submit your application and be included in the list of more than 4,000 physicians that will be ABAM certified. At the 2009 ASAM Medical-Scientific Conference ASAM will celebrate the establishment of ABAM and the installation of the inaugural Diplomates of ABAM.

If you have any questions you can call 301.656.3378 or email ABAM at [email@abam.net](mailto:email@abam.net).

In best health,  
- Steven C. Boles, D.O., FASAM

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## Calendar of Events

- ★ Next AzSAM Dinner Meeting  
February 26, 2009  
Addressing Comorbidities of Depression  
and Substance Dependence  
Featuring: Sue Sissely

6:30 p.m.  
Avanti Italian Restaurant  
2728 E. Thomas Rd  
(602) 956-0900

Sponsored by Forest  
Laboratories  
RSVP to [stacey@swivelmarketing.com](mailto:stacey@swivelmarketing.com)

- ★ Wednesday, December 10  
Improving Safety in  
Prescribing Controlled  
Substances  
Saturday, February 28, 2009  
8 am - noon (registration @  
7:30 am)  
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown  
Hotel  
340 North 3rd Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Faculty List:  
Margaret Kotz, D.O

# Membership News

## Election Update: Important Dates to Remember

Per our Chapter Bylaws now is the time to elect new officers for the AzSAM Board of Directors. As you can see from the past year, we have made many exciting improvements to AzSAM, and we would welcome your participation and ideas. If you are interested in learning more about the time commitment and responsibilities of serving on the Board now is a great time to ask as we are now selecting nominees.

Ballots for these positions will be mailed to members between March 13th and April 13th, 2009, and election results will be finalized no later than May 13th so new members can be ready to kick off the new year at the Annual Meeting on June 13th, 2009.

If you'd like to be part of this growing organization please contact Steve Boles at [info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org](mailto:info@arizonasocietyofaddictionmedicine.org) for more information on available Board of Direction positions.

## Member Profile



### Jeff Livovich, M.D.

Dr. Livovich is currently a Medical Director for Aetna's Medical Policy Organization and serves as the company's subject matter expert in pain medicine and anesthesiology. He received his medical degree at the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1981 and did his residency at the Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago in Anesthesiology and

Critical Care Medicine.

After practicing community based anesthesia for several years, Dr. Livovich completed Fellowship Training in Pain Medicine in the Department of Anesthesia at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Dr. Livovich was full time faculty in the Department of Anesthesia, University of Washington where his primary responsibilities were as an attending physician in the multidisciplinary pain program, inpatient pain consultation service and the acute pain service at the University of Washington Medical Center. Dr. Livovich also served as an attending physician in the pain and toxicity service of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Dr. Livovich is an AzSAM board member, been published in the peer reviewed pain literature and recently spoke at the American Pain Society Annual Meeting and the AzSAM Fall Conference.

Anthony Dekker, D.O.,  
FAOAM, FASAM  
Edward C. Covington, M.D.  
Dean Wright, RPh  
Erin Hager, DEA

Registration:  
Return to:  
AOAAM  
P.O. Box 280  
LaGrange, IL 60525  
Fax: 708-401-0360  
[NVidmer@aoaam.org](mailto:NVidmer@aoaam.org)  
Questions: Please call 708-572-8006

★ Tuesday, March 3  
Fish Market  
1720 E. Camelback Rd  
Martin Mumenthaler, PhD, PharmD,  
a field medical advisor from Reckitt  
Benckiser to present  
Reckitt Benckiser sponsoring  
Please RSVP to your Clinical Liaison

by February 27:

Amy Irwin, ACSW, 480-252-1102  
[amy.irwin@reckittbenckiser.com](mailto:amy.irwin@reckittbenckiser.com)

Erin Zawadzki, 480-280-2296  
[erin.zawadzki@reckittbenckiser.com](mailto:erin.zawadzki@reckittbenckiser.com)

★ ASAM 40th Annual Medical-  
Scientific Conference  
New Orleans, LA  
April 30 to May 3, 2009  
For more information visit [www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org)

# AHRQ Statistical Brief

## Outpatient Prescription Analgesics Trends

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) published a study this month that shows trends in outpatient prescription analgesics. We found the results interesting and want to pass along an excerpt of the Statistical Brief.

The Statistical Brief presents trends in utilization and expenditures for outpatient prescription analgesics (pain relievers, medicines that treat aches and pains) for the years 1996 and 2006. The estimates are for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized population and are derived from the 1996 and 2006 Household Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS-HC). For outpatient prescription analgesics, the Brief compares 1996 and 2006 total expenditures, total number of purchases, and total number of persons purchasing, as well as the average annual expenditure per person with a purchase and average expenditure per purchase.

### Highlights

- From 1996 to 2006, total expenditures for prescription analgesics purchased in an outpatient setting more than tripled, rising from \$4.2 billion to \$13.2 billion.
- When comparing 1996 and 2006, total number of outpatient prescription purchases of analgesics increased from 163.6 million prescription purchases in 1996 to 230.7 million prescription purchases in 2006.
- The average expenditure for persons with at least one prescription medicine purchase of an outpatient analgesic nearly tripled, rising from \$83 to \$232, when comparing 1996 to 2006.
- The average expenditure per drug purchase of an outpatient prescription analgesic more than doubled from 1996 to 2006, rising from \$26 to \$57.
- When comparing the years 1996 and 2006 and the proportion of the population purchasing at least one outpatient prescription analgesic by race/ethnicity, there was an increase in the proportion of black non-Hispanics purchasing at least one analgesic which increased from 16.5 percent to 19.1 percent.

To see the full AHRQ Statistical Brief contact Stacey Lindsay at [stacey.lindsay@swivelmarketing.com](mailto:stacey.lindsay@swivelmarketing.com).

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