AMA Still Against Legalizing Marijuana

American Medical Association
The American Medical Association's policy-making body voted to reaffirm its opposition to marijuana legalization and retained a long-standing position that "cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern." The amended policies express support for expanding the availability of affordable treatment programs for substance use disorders and a "modification of state and federal laws to emphasize public health based strategies to address and reduce cannabis use."

See related:
- Legalizing Marijuana Poses A Serious Risk to Public Health (Concord Monitor)

PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Buprenorphine: Friend or Foe

The media has recently examined the use of buprenorphine in the treatment of addiction. With the New York Times depicting it as a danger that does more harm than good, and the Huffington Post countering, what will readers believe?
ASAM, in collaboration with Millennium Research Institute, would like to know more about your understanding of drug monitoring and your current practice patterns. Please complete this important survey, which should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time. This survey seeks to examine your comfort with drug monitoring and your current applications of drug monitoring in your practice. We hope to use the information gathered in this survey to identify areas for future educational initiatives. All survey responses must be completed by December 13.

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**ASAM NEWS**

**Dr. Joe Has as Guest on Radio Show: Dr. Stu Gitlow, MD, President of ASAM**

*Voice America*

Dr. Gitlow discusses the implications of the American Psychiatric Association's July 2013 changes to its official diagnostic criteria for addiction.

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**ASAM's New Associate Membership Category**

*ASAM*

Physicians serve as the leaders of interdisciplinary teams caring for patients, help advance the quality of addiction treatment at all levels, and bolster ASAM's position as the preeminent organization dedicated to addiction medicine. Recruit nonphysician colleagues to join ASAM.

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**RESEARCH**

**Healthcare Professionals' Regard Towards Working with Patients with Substance Use Disorders: Comparison of Primary Care, General Psychiatry, and Specialist Addiction Services**

*NCBI*

This systematic review focused on studies assessing health care professionals' attitudes toward patients with substance use disorders and their effect on healthcare delivery.

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**Abuse Potential, Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Safety of Intranasally Administered Crushed Oxycodone Hcl Abuse-Deterrent Controlled-Release Tablets in Recreational Opioid Users**

*The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*

This study aims to evaluate abuse potential, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and safety of intranasally administered, crushed reformulated OxyContin tablets, relative to crushed original OxyContin, oxycodone powder, and OxyContin placebo.

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**PRODUCT SHOWCASE**

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Long-term Drug Treatment for Obesity: A Systematic and Clinical Review

The Journal of the American Medical Association (free abstract)
Thirty-six percent of U.S. adults are obese, and many cannot lose sufficient weight to improve health with lifestyle interventions alone.

The Place of Additional Individual Psychotherapy in the Treatment of Alcoholism: A Randomized Controlled Study In Nonresponders to Anticraving Medication — Results of the Predict Study

Alcoholism
The goal of the presented study is to evaluate whether alcohol–dependent patients given additional individual psychotherapy after a heavy relapse during pharmacotherapy remain abstinent for longer than those who continue with pharmacotherapy alone.

Methadone and Buprenorphine-Naloxone Are Effective in Reducing Illicit Buprenorphine and Other Opioid Use, and Reducing HIV Risk Behavior — Outcomes of a Randomized Trial

Drug and Alcohol Dependence
Determine the extent to which buprenorphine injectors continue treatment with buprenorphine–naloxone or methadone, and the impact of these treatments on substance use and HIV risk.

FEATURED COMPANIES

Hill Alcohol & Drug Treatment

Ever wanted to add a full service outpatient treatment program to your practice? Manifest Treatment Consulting offers all the necessary components for state certification and full implementation. Recognized by United Healthcare with their Optum Award for Excellence, we can have you operational in a matter of months. Call 951-676-8241 or click for MORE INFO:

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IN THE MEDIA

This Drug Could Make a Huge Dent in Heroin Addiction; So Why Isn't It Used More?

The Washington Post

Substitution therapies — first methadone, more recently, buprenorphine — provide an imperfect but essential tool to treat opiate disorders, and thus to ameliorate harms associated with the misuse of these substances. Our research group has published many studies trying to understand how outpatient treatment facilities can provide these therapies most effectively. This is a major challenge and opportunity in the Affordable Care Act, which greatly expands access to substance abuse treatment services.

From ASAM: See ASAM's letter to the editor in response to The New York Times series "Addiction Treatment with a Dark Side."

See related:
- The Media Needs to Stop Stigmatizing Our Best Weapon Against Heroin Addiction (New Republic)
- Solving Opioid Addiction Crisis: No Silver Bullet (WCAU-TV)

US Rep. Trey Radel Won't Be Joining the More Than Half a Million Americans Jailed for Drug Offenses

The Nation

As Florida Congressman Trey Radel admits to cocaine addiction, the rest of the U.S. suffers from the brutal war on drugs.

Licensure News: Physicians Examine Pros and Cons of Maintenance of Licensure, Certification

American Medical Association

Two ways of viewing maintenance of licensure (MOL) and maintenance of certification (MOC) — namely, an opportunity for improving quality or a physician burden — intersected during a panel discussion at the AMA Interim Meeting. Evolving programs, MOL and MOC have both earned support and caused considerable concern among the physician community.
PRODUCT SHOWCASE

**New Chronic Pain & Recovery Center**

The Chronic Pain and Recovery Center is one of the few programs in the nation designed specifically for people with chemical dependency, addiction, and/or mental health issues in addition to chronic physical pain. The goal of treatment is for each individual to live a more functional, gratifying life.

PUBLIC POLICY & REGULATORY NEWS

**AMA Urges Passage of Bill That Would Fight Prescription Drug Abuse While Helping Patients in Pain**

*American Medical Association*

During a House subcommittee meeting, the AMA pushed for passage and full funding of a reauthorization bill that would help physicians combat prescription drug abuse while ensuring that patients in pain are relieved of their suffering.

**Second Chance Act**

*The Council of State Governments*

Senators Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., along with Congressmen Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and Danny K. Davis, D-Ill., have come together to introduce the bipartisan Second Chance Act Reauthorization Act of 2013, S. 1690/H.R. 3465. The bill supports and improves critically needed reentry programs at the state and federal levels aimed at reducing recidivism among people re-entering their communities after incarceration.

**Binge Drinking — United States, 2011**

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

During 2001–2005, excessive alcohol use accounted for an estimated average of 80,000 deaths and 2.3 million years of potential life lost in the United States each year, and an estimated $223.5 billion in economic costs in 2006. Binge drinking, defined as consuming four or more alcoholic drinks on one or more occasions for women and five or more drinks on one or more occasions for men, was responsible for more than half of these deaths.

See related:

- [Biological, Lifestyle Changes Affect Older People's Ability to Metabolize Alcohol](The Wall Street Journal)
Perplexities of Treatment Resistance in Eating Disorders

BMC Psychiatry
This selective review examines treatment resistant features expressed in core eating disorder psychopathology, comorbidities, and biological features.

Opioid Prescribing: A Systematic Review and Critical Appraisal of Guidelines for Chronic Pain

Annals of Internal Medicine
High-quality guidelines could help clinicians mitigate risks associated with opioid therapy. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the quality and content of guidelines on the use of opioids for chronic pain.

Resource: Managing Chronic Pain in Adults With or in Recovery From Substance Use Disorders (SAMHSA)

Live Safe Prescribing and Overdose Prevention Education

Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
The Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine will be hosting their 2013 Winter Education Program on Tuesday, December 10, in Waltham, Mass. The focus of this year's Winter Education Program will be on safe opioid prescribing and on opioid overdose prevention. Attendees of the course will learn how to use screening tools, counseling methods, and Naloxone Rescue Kits to combat the opioid abuse epidemic.

World: No Specialized Addiction Treatment for Canadian Doctors

News 1130
"People who are taking care of patients with addiction, in almost all cases in British Columbia, haven't gone through a standardized training program and that's unique in our healthcare system," says Dr. Evan Wood.
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: Predictors of Remission and Relapse and Long-Term Clinical Course

Pri-Med

Optimize management strategies for patients with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) based on factors related to OCD remission and relapse.

TRENDING ARTICLES

Missed last week’s issue? See which articles your colleagues read most.

- Who Is Responsible for the Pain-Pill Epidemic? (The New Yorker)
- Economic Evaluation: A Comparison of Methadone Versus Buprenorphine for Opiate Substitution Treatment (Drug and Alcohol Dependence)
- Synthetic Cannabinoids: A New Frontier of Designer Drugs (Annals of Internal Medicine)
- New Review Gives High Marks to 2 of 13 Opioid Guidelines (Annals of Internal Medicine)
- Opioid Utilization and Opioid-Related Adverse Events in Nonsurgical Patients in US Hospitals (Journal of Hospital Medicine)

ASAM EVENTS

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<td>UISAM — ER/LA Opioid REMS Course</td>
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<td>MNSAM Journal Club</td>
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<td>Webinar: Brief Intervention for Marijuana</td>
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<td>Addictions and Their Treatment Courses (previously known as Review Course)</td>
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<td>Dec. 5-8</td>
<td><strong>AAAP Annual Meeting and Symposium</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 13</td>
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**ASAM Weekly**

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