

# Monthly Update

March 2015

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[www.PCSS-O.org](http://www.PCSS-O.org)

[www.PCSSMAT.org](http://www.PCSSMAT.org)



## PCSS-O and PCSS-MAT Programs Give Healthcare Providers More Confidence

### *Areas of Programs' Focus: Treating Pain and Opioid Use Disorder*

IN 2012, U.S. HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS wrote 259 million painkiller prescriptions, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills in their medicine cabinet, according to the [Centers for Disease Control](#). That same year, 22,000 people died from prescription drug overdoses and heroin overdose rates more than doubled. Though the health crisis is growing, many clinicians are not comfortable in how to treat opioid use disorder and pain effectively.

Two national training and mentoring programs are helping thousands of Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and other clinicians become more confident in their prescribing practices to treat their patients.

**Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies (PCSS-O)** and the **Providers' Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment (PCSS-MAT)** are working with healthcare providers

to make available evidence-based approaches to prescribing and treating opioid use disorder.

The mentoring programs give healthcare providers direct access to clinical experts who can answer questions on safe and evidence-based use of opioids for the treatment of pain and how to avoid misuse of medications and treat addiction.

The programs offer three levels of coaching:

- **Ask a Colleague** is a simple and direct way to receive an answer related to opioids and pain management. This facet of the opioid therapies training is designed to provide a prompt response to simple practice-related questions.
- **Brief Mentoring** is designed to provide individualized,

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## Mentors and Mentees Find Mutual Benefits to PCSS-MAT Program

STEPHEN KRONENBERG, MD, IS A board certified anesthesiologist in Kentucky, but he also has a part-time job—treating patients for substance abuse disorder in a community clinic.

Dr. Kronenberg was recently certified in Addiction Medicine, a field he became interested in after listening to colleagues discuss the growing need for addiction specialists in a part of a country that was being hit hard by the heroin and prescription opioid overdose epidemic.

“There are so few of us who come out of residency or fellowship with this skillset,” he said. “There is such an unbelievable shortage



## AAPM 31st Annual Meeting has Several Opioid-related Offerings

The 2015 American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD.

Online registration is closed, but those who want to attend can call the Membership Services Department at 847 375-4731 for information. The 31st Annual Meeting will feature expert faculty, outstanding educational sessions on the

31st Annual Meeting  
March 19-22  
National Harbor, MD

hottest topics in pain, and an unparalleled opportunity to network with fellow pain medicine practitioners and nationally recognized leaders in the field. CME sessions on the safer and

effective use of opioids for treatment of chronic pain and safer and effective treatment of opioid use disorder will also be presented at the meeting.

Opioid-specific annual meeting offerings include:

- SAFE Opioid Prescribing (an educational program fully compliant with the ER/LA Opioid Analgesics REMS education requirements issued by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration);
- Opioid Agonist Treatment in the Care of Co-Occurring Pain and Addiction;
- Opioid Drugs: Interaction Pitfalls; Medical and Behavioral Management of Patients Undergoing Opioid Cessation;
- Opioid-Induced Hyperalgesia: Menace, Myth, and Methodology;
- Opioids Prescription Declines in Primary Care Practice

## Announcements and Educational Opportunities

If you have an educational resource or training on opioid addiction that you would like to share contact:

[jane@aaap.org](mailto:jane@aaap.org).

Please limit to 400 words.

After Advanced Virtual Training: A 3-Year Evaluation of Project SCAN-ECHO in a Tertiary Veterans Affairs Facility, and much more.

This meeting promises to be an invigorating, educational, and innovative program, providing you with a breadth of information, outstanding educational sessions, expert faculty, and an unparalleled opportunity to network with colleagues. You will have access to the latest science in pain research and explore the legislative, regulatory, and pain management issues that affect your practice. AAPM's Annual Meeting will be one of the most important pain medicine meetings of the year. Join your PCSS-O colleagues and plan to attend!

Also consider attending the **Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain™** preconference sessions. Held on Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19, this program is designed for clinicians and all healthcare practitioners interested in obtaining an overview of the fundamentals of pain medicine in addition to identifying best practices and practical approaches to the treatment of common pain disorders. Interested in seeing a preview? Download a non-CME Module from **Essential Tools for Treating the Patient in Pain:™ Understanding and Treating Neuropathic Pain | 607-13-M-7**, Presenter: Sean Mackey, MD, PhD, Division Chief, Pain Medicine, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. Contact [info@painmed.org](mailto:info@painmed.org) for access to this non-CME free Module.

## AAAP and Boston University Promoting Safe Opioid Prescribing Practices

THE [AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ADDICTION PSYCHIATRY](#) (AAAP) has formed a collaborative partnership with Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) to make continuing education in safe opioid prescribing more accessible to its members.

Through the partnership, AAAP members will have access to BUSM's [SCOPE of Pain](#) (Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education) online training and live

conferences.

SCOPE of Pain is part of a national effort spearheaded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to combat the abuse of extended-release, long-acting opioid (ER/LA) analgesics.

Led by national experts in pain management and addiction, it educates prescribers through live seminars held throughout the country, as

well as a Web-based educational series based on real-world, case-based patient scenarios.

"A major effort is required to address the opioid overdose epidemic, which is why AAAP is pleased to work with Boston University and the SCOPE of Pain project," said AAAP President Laurence Westreich.

[Learn more](#) about SCOPE of Pain. ■



## PCSS-MAT Steering Committee

- Addiction Technology Transfer Centers
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pain Medicine
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
- American Medical Association
- American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
- American Pain Society
- American Pharmacists Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Society for Pain Management Nursing
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse
- California Academy of Family Physicians
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
- Coalition of Physician Education in Substance Use Disorders
- College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
- Faces and Voices of Recovery
- International Nurses Society on Addictions
- Medscape
- National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
- National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Institute of Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network
- National Medical Association
- NIATx
- Society of General Internal Medicine
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
- Veterans Health Administration
- World Psychiatric Association

### *Mentoring Program Cont.* (from page 1)

one-on-one guidance to discuss specific questions and how to handle complex clinical situations involving prescribing opioids and opioid addiction.

- Finally, the **In-Depth Mentoring** program is similar to a traditional academic mentoring arrangement where a relationship is expected to last over period of time with regular scheduled interactions to discuss ongoing topics and concerns in treatment.

To find a clinical expert, providers go to [PCSS-O](#) or [PCSS-MAT](#) and complete a brief form. All mentor requests are vetted by addiction/pain professionals who match the healthcare providers to the proper clinician. Providers can also request a specific mentor from a mentor directory, but the assignment is based on availability of mentors. ■

### *Mentor/Mentee Cont.* (from page 1)

of physicians in the addiction field.”

One of the first steps Dr. Kronenberg took when he wanted to learn more about treating patients with addiction was to contact the **Providers’ Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment (PCSS-MAT)** to find an expert in the field who could take him on as a mentee. PCSS-MAT is a national training and mentoring program for healthcare providers who want to learn more about medication assisted treatment of opioid addiction.

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*“Being a mentor is a great experience for those who enjoy teaching, and it is another way to expand access to quality treatment that is quite limited currently.”* — Michelle Lofwall, MD

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PCSS-MAT offers healthcare providers CME trainings in the form of live webinars and online modules, small group discussions, and one-on-one mentoring all at no cost.

When Dr. Kronenberg wanted to learn more about addictions, PCSS-MAT paired him with Addiction Psychiatrist Michelle Lofwall, MD, Associate Professor for the Departments of Behavioral Science and Psychiatry, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research. Dr. Kronenberg noted Dr. Lofwall, a



Michelle Lofwall, MD

fellow Kentuckian, was instrumental in helping him gain the confidence he needed to begin treating patients with substance use disorder.

“I was fortunate to have someone like Dr. Lofwall,” Dr. Kronenberg said. “This is a rapidly changing field and in its infancy, so it was comforting to have an expert in the field available, providing insight and help.”

“Being a mentor is a great experience for those who enjoy teaching, and it is another way to expand access to quality treatment that is quite limited currently,” Dr. Lofwall said. The need for addiction specialists is so great in Kentucky the addition of Dr. Kroneberg can help ease the backlog of patients who need treatment.

Mentoring also assists Dr. Lofwall “by helping me know what is happening in the addiction treatment community in underserved non-urban areas.”

A mentor not only provides guidance with cases, but can also help practitioners navigate the maze of policy and governmental hurdles needed to treat substance use disorder.

Learn more about [PCSS-O](#) and [PCSS-MAT](#) mentoring programs. ■



## PCSS-O Steering Committee

- Addiction Technology Transfer Centers
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Pain Medicine
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence
- American Chronic Pain Assoc.
- American College of Physicians
- American Dental Association
- American Medical Association
- American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine
- American Pain Society
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Society for Pain Management Nursing
- Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse
- Boston University
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health Services Administration
- Coalition of Physician Education
- College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
- Faces and Voices of Recovery
- International Nurses Society on Addictions
- Medscape
- National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
- National Association of Drug Court Professionals
- National Council for Behavioral Health
- National Medical Association
- Public Health Foundation
- Sickle Cell Adult Providers Network
- Society of General Internal Medicine
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
- Southeastern Consortium for Substance Abuse Training
- Veterans Health Administration
- World Psychiatric Association

## UPCOMING PCSS-MAT CME WEBINARS

### Opiate Agonist Therapy: To Maintain or Not To Maintain

**Sponsor:** American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
**Presenters:** Timothy Fong, MD and Edwin Salsitz, MD, FASAM

**Date:** Tuesday, April 14  
**Time:** 12:00-1:00 pm ET

[Register](#) and more information



### Integrating Recovery-Oriented Practices and Medications for Individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Illness, Tobacco, and/or Opioid Use Disorders

**Sponsor:** American Psychiatric Association  
**Presenter:** Douglas Ziedonis, MD

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12  
**Time:** 12:00-1:00 pm ET

[More information](#)



## UPCOMING PCSS-O CME WEBINARS

### Guide to Aberrant Drug-Related Behavior When Prescribing Opioids for Pain Management

**Sponsor:** American Academy of Pain Medicine  
**Speaker:** Lynn Webster, MD  
**Date:** Thursday, March 12, 2015  
**Time:** 3-4 pm ET

[Register](#) and more information



### Management of Controlled Substances in the Dental Practice

**Sponsor:** American Dental Association  
**Speaker:** Michael O'Neil, Pharm.D  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015  
**Time:** 3-4 pm pm ET

[Register](#) and more information





## Buprenorphine Waiver Training to be Held at AATOD Conference

### 8 CME Credits for all-day course

THE [AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCE](#) (AATOD) will provide an eight-hour waiver training course at its annual meeting. This course, designated by the Department of Health and Human Services, provides the required eight hours of training for physicians to qualify to apply for their waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder in an office-based setting.

The goal of this training is for physicians to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to provide optimal care to opioid dependent patients by providing: 1) an overview of opioid dependence, 2) the efficacy and safety of buprenorphine, 3) process of patient selection, 4)

clinical use of buprenorphine, 5) nonpharmacological interventions, 6) medical psychiatric conditions in opioid dependent patients, office procedures, and 7) special treatment population.

This training meets the eight-hour requirement and is designed for physicians to prescribe buprenorphine in an office setting for treatment of opioid dependence. This training will provide physicians with a comprehensive overview of buprenorphine prescribing and its safe and effective use in an office-based setting. It is designed for physicians and other primary care providers who are likely to treat opioid dependent persons in their practice, American Academy of

**When:** March 28

**Where:** Atlanta, GA

**Presenters:** John A. Renner, Jr., MD, Boston University School of Medicine, Education Section

VA Outpatient Clinic, Boston, MA

Laura McNicholas, MD, PhD Philadelphia Veterans Administration Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA

Ken Stoller, MD, Johns Hopkins Broadway Center for Addiction, Baltimore, MD

Addiction Psychiatry designates this live activity for a maximum of 8 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

If you are interested in taking or sponsoring a Buprenorphine waiver 8-hour training course, contact: [Seth@aaap.org](mailto:Seth@aaap.org). ■

## Small Group Discussions

Small Group Discussions are robust interactions with experts presenting a clinical case to review with health providers on a specific topic. Sessions are limited to 10 participants. Invitations are sent to those already enrolled in the [PCSS-MAT Mentor](#) or the [PCSS-O Colleague Support](#) programs at least three weeks prior to the event. Click the above links to enroll in the mentoring program of your choice. (*All discussions are available at no cost.*)

### PCSS-MAT

Thursday, March 19th at Noon ET

#### Buprenorphine and Methadone in a General Office Setting

Joji Suzuki, MD

Tuesday, April 7th at Noon ET

#### When to Terminate Buprenorphine Maintenance

Michelle Lofwall, MD

### PCSS-O

Thursday, March 26 at Noon ET

#### Use of Suboxone in Chronic Pain Patients

Kevin A. Sevarino, MD, PhD

## Upcoming Buprenorphine Waiver Online Trainings

Sponsored by American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine

Saturday, 3/14/2015

8:00 am - 12:30 pm (Eastern)

Course Director: Stephen Wyatt, DO

[Register](#)

Wednesday, 3/25/2015

5:00 pm - 9:30 pm (Pacific)

Course Director: William Morrone, DO

[Register](#)

Saturday, 4/11/2015

8:00 am - 12:30 pm (Eastern)

Course Director: Stephen Wyatt, DO

[Register](#)



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April

- [National Rx Drug Abuse Summit](#)  
April 6-9, Atlanta, GA
- [American Academy of Neurology](#)  
April 18-25, Washington, D.C.
- [American College of Physicians](#),  
April 30-May 2, Boston, MA
- [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#), April 23-26, Austin, TX

### May

- [American Psychiatric Association](#)  
May 16-20, Toronto, Canada

### June

- [American College of Physicians](#)  
state Chapter meetings in: Alabama, Wyoming
- [American Dental Association](#)  
state chapter meetings in: Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Nevada, Washington
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)  
state chapter meetings, Utah, Georgia, Arizona

## IN THE NEWS...

[Major Massachusetts Health Plans OK Methodone Treatment](#)

[Prenatal Drug Use and Newborn Health: Federal Efforts Need Better Planning and Coordination](#)

[Lawmakers Pass Bill to Curb West Virginia Drug Overdoses](#)

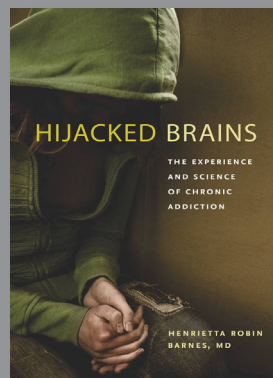
## RECENT STUDIES...

[Methadone and Buprenorphine for Opioid Dependence During Pregnancy: A Retrospective Cohort Study.](#)

[Opioid Prescription Claims Among Women of Reproductive Age](#)

[The Effect of Methadone Dose Regimen on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome](#)

## NOTABLE BOOKS...



[Hijacked Brains: The Experience and Science of Chronic Addiction](#)

by Henrietta Robin Barnes, MD,  
Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Harvard Medical School

Personal narratives and recent studies in brain science illustrate how addiction is a chronic illness.

