



ASAMNews

Newsletter of The American Society of Addiction Medicine

WELCOME TO MED-SCI!

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Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D., FASAM

A Year of Breakthroughs for ASAM and Addiction Medicine

Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D., FASAM, ASAM President

Welcome to San Francisco and to ASAM's 41st annual Medical-Scientific Conference, and congratulations to all of ASAM's honorees, including the recipients of ABAM Certification on Addiction Medicine. As you examine this year's conference agenda, you will find that ASAM's Program Committee has paid close attention not only to the most recent developments in research and clinical practice, but also to Federal and State policy issues. As a result, you and your colleagues will have an opportunity to explore the interrelated nature of addiction treatment and the criminal justice system, the President's Drug Control Strategy for 2010, and the integration

of addiction medicine into primary care.

Med-Sci also presents an opportunity to update the field about ASAM's exciting new programs and products:

- ASAM was awarded a \$1.5 million grant by the Substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration to develop a new PCSS support system for the appropriate use of methadone (PCSS-M).
- ASAM's *Principles of Addiction Medicine, Fourth Edition*, was published in the Spring of 2009 and has sold more than 2,100 copies to date.
- The *ASAM PPC Supplement on Pharmacotherapies for Alcohol Use Disorders* has just been published and will be introduced at this meeting.

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Donald J. Kurth, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.A., FASAM

A Historic Moment in the Fight for Parity

*Donald J. Kurth, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.A., FASAM
ASAM President-Elect*

When President Obama signed the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" into law on Tuesday, March 23rd, not only was health care coverage extended to millions of Americans who are currently uninsured, the law also triggered an historic expansion of coverage for addiction and mental health services for prevention and treatment.

This victory is a result of a unified and coordinated effort by ASAM and other advocacy groups. In fact, the final measure incorporates many provisions endorsed by ASAM and our partners in the addiction and mental health communities. For example, the Act:

- Includes services for substance use and mental health disorders as required benefits in the basic benefit package for individual and small business health plans.
- Requires that all plans in the health insurance exchanges comply with the Wellstone-Domenici Parity Act by providing benefits for substance use and mental health services in the same way as all other covered medical and surgical benefits.
- Expands Medicaid eligibility for all Americans up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level and requires that newly eligible parents and childless adults receive coverage that includes benefits for substance use and mental health disorders at parity.
- Includes substance use and mental health disorders in the Act's prevention strategies and chronic disease initiatives, as well as in a major initiative for workforce development.

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ASAM Awards Honor Achievements in Science, Education and Policy

Eileen McGrath, J.D., Executive Vice President/CEO



Eileen McGrath, J.D.

At this year's Medical-Scientific Conference, ASAM will honor a distinguished group of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of Addiction Medicine and to the Society itself. The awardees will be honored at a gala Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 16th. Our 2010 awards will be presented to the following outstanding leaders.

The John P. McGovern Award on Addiction and Society goes to **David L. Rosenbloom, Ph.D.**, of Boston University's School of Public Health. The McGovern Award was established in 1997 to recognize and honor an individual who has made "highly meritorious contributions to public policy, treatment, research, or prevention, which has increased our understanding of the relationship of addiction and society." The award is sponsored by an endowment from the John P. McGovern Foundation.

The 2010 R. Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award goes to **Thomas F. Babor, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Head of the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

The award will be presented at the Opening Plenary Session at 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 1st. At that time, Dr. Babor will deliver the award lecture, "Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: From Research to Public Policy."

ASAM Annual Awards for "outstanding contributions to the growth and vitality of our Society, for thoughtful leadership in the field, and for deep understanding of the art and science of addiction medicine" will be presented to **A. Kenison Roy III, M.D., FASAM, DFAPA**, and **David E. Smith, M.D., FASAM**.

The ASAM Annual Award for "expanding the frontiers of the field of Addiction Medicine and broadening our understanding of the addiction process through research and innovation" will be presented to **Laura F. McNicholas, M.D., Ph.D.**

ASAM will present its second Annual Media Award to **Eric Newhouse**, recipient of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for "Alcohol: Cradle to Grave."

The Young Investigator Award for the best abstract submitted by an author who is within five years of receiving a doctoral degree goes to **Lisa J. Merlo, Ph.D.**, of the University of Florida & Washington University, Gainesville, FL.

The Medical-Scientific Program Committee Award for the abstract receiving the highest rating for scientific merit goes to **Erik Gunderson, M.D.**

The Awards Luncheon is an extra-fee event. Visit the ASAM Registration Desk for tickets (at \$60 each) so that you can join us in recognizing the achievements of this distinguished group.

American Society of Addiction Medicine

4601 North Park Ave., Suite 101
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

ASAM is a specialty society of physicians concerned about alcoholism and other addictions and who care for persons affected by those illnesses.

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ASAM News

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Please direct all inquiries to the Editor at ASAMNEWS1@AOL.COM or phone 410/770-4866.

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Web Site

For members visiting ASAM's web site (WWW.ASAM.ORG), entrance to the on-line Membership Directory requires the Username "asam" and the password "asam" (in lower case letters).

THE FARLEY CENTER AT WILLIAMSBURG PLACE

The Farley Center at Williamsburg Place is currently recruiting for an Associate Medical Director.

This position will be responsible for the overall quality of patient care, including medical detoxification and on-going patient medical management. Provides leadership to the organized professional staff, and establishes appropriate clinical standards of care for the facility. Must have a Valid Virginia Medical License to practice as a psychiatrist.

Submit resume with salary requirements to
Stephanie Loeb, Executive Director sloeb@farleycenter.com

Health Care Reform Provisions Expand Access to Addiction Care

Federal data show that, in any given year, about 2.3 million Americans receive treatment in the specialty addiction treatment system. Yet the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that 25 million Americans meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders (SUDs). One of the primary reasons why more than 90 percent of those who could benefit from treatment don't receive it is that they lack insurance or other means to pay.

With enactment of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," which President Obama signed into law March 23, 2010, an estimated 95 percent of the country's legal population will have health care coverage. And thanks to the Wellstone-Domenici Parity Act, insurers who cover addiction treatment must provide the same level of benefits they provide for other medical conditions. Taken together, these developments should lead to a marked increase in the number of persons who can access needed addiction care.

To assess the impact of the health care reform and parity legislation, the Legal Action Center has provided the following overview of key components of both the health care reform act and the reconciliation bill, which amends certain provisions of the health care reform act. (The reconciliation bill passed both houses of Congress on March 26, 2010, and was signed by President Obama the following week.) Major provisions of health care reform that relate to substance use and mental health disorders include:

- ★ **Inclusion of services for substance use and mental health disorders in the basic benefit package.** The final bill requires a basic benefit package for all health plans in the individual market and small group markets. All such plans will be required to cover services for substance use and mental health disorders.
- ★ **A requirement that all plans in health insurance exchanges adhere to the provisions of the Wellstone-Domenici Parity Act.** The final bill requires all group and individual plans to comply with the Wellstone-Domenici Act, which requires that services for substance use and mental health disorders be provided in the same way as all other covered medical and surgical benefits.

"Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

- ★ **A requirement that Medicaid enrollees, including newly eligible childless adults, receive adequate health coverage, including coverage for substance use and mental health services.** The final bill expands Medicaid eligibility to 133 percent of the federal poverty level and requires that all newly eligible parents and childless adults receive basic benefits, including services for substance use and mental health disorders, which must be provided at parity.
- ★ **Inclusion of substance use and mental health disorders in chronic disease prevention initiatives.** The final bill creates a National Prevention Council and designates the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as a member. Moreover, substance use disorders are listed as a national priority for that Council's report to Congress. The law also requires that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) be consulted on issues related to preventing substance use and mental health disorders.
- ★ **Inclusion of addiction and mental health professionals in workforce development initiatives.** In the National Workforce Strategy section, the final bill designates the "behavioral health" workforce as a high priority for development.
- ★ **Service providers become eligible for community health team grants aimed at supporting medical homes.** The final bill names providers of services for substance use and mental health disorders among those entities eligible for community health team grants.

Other provisions of the health care reform legislation will:

- ★ **Expand Medicaid coverage to all Americans below 133 percent of the federal poverty level.** This will expand coverage to an additional 16 million people.
 - ★ **Create health exchanges for individuals and small employers to pool risk and purchase insurance.** The exchanges seek to improve individual and small group insurance coverage by requiring transparency, mandated benefits, and other types of consumer protections.
 - ★ **Provide sliding-scale subsidies** for individuals and families up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level to purchase or take up offers of health coverage.
 - ★ **Prohibit insurers from denying coverage to persons with pre-existing conditions,** charging higher premiums based on gender or health status, or placing annual or lifetime caps on insurance coverage.
 - ★ **Require individuals to carry health insurance or pay a financial penalty.** The individual mandate seeks to ensure that the risk pool includes both healthy and unhealthy individuals, thereby lowering costs and reducing the opportunity for individuals to wait until they are sick to buy insurance.
 - ★ **Close the Medicare "donut hole."** This provision of the reconciliation bill seeks to lower out-of-pocket expenditures for individuals whose prescription drug costs exceed Medicare limits.
 - ★ **Allow adult children to remain in their parents' health plans until their 27th birthday.**
 - ★ **Create a national high risk pool for adults with pre-existing conditions.** Adults with pre-existing medical conditions will be able to buy into a national high risk pool until the health exchanges are implemented.
- The Legal Action Center and other groups are continuing to analyze the new law and are expected to release additional analyses in the coming weeks. The full impact of many provisions will remain unclear until details are worked out through the regulatory process. Watch **ASAM NEWS** for reports on future developments.

Supplement to ASAM PPC Launched at Med-Sci

Attendees at ASAM's Medical-Scientific Conference will have a chance to preview a brand-new publication, the *ASAM Patient Placement Criteria: PPC Supplement on Pharmacotherapies for Alcohol Use Disorders*. Published for ASAM by Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, the *PPC Supplement* features current, evidence-based advice on the management of alcohol use disorders, combined with authoritative guidance based on the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria.

From initial assessment through the full course of treatment, the *PPC Supplement* helps physicians and other addiction professionals:

- Employ the most current pharmacologic, psychosocial, and support group interventions, based on an updated PPC matrix specifically designed for alcohol use disorders.
- Expertly apply the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria to determine service needs and level of care so as to match patients with the most appropriate treatment.
- Make well-informed placement decisions, including those involving ambulatory detoxification, residential, and medically monitored and medically managed care.
- Prevent relapse through the use of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic approaches, management of co-occurring disorders, and prompt identification of precipitants of relapse.

With its practical advice and real-life case examples, the *PPC Supplement* helps readers integrate pharmacotherapies with psychosocial therapies. Helpful appendices guide assessment of alcohol use or dependence, summarize effective non-pharmacologic therapies for alcohol use disorders, and provide standardized, ASAM-approved nomenclature for addiction medicine.

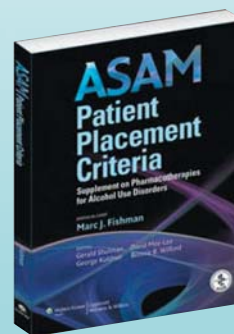
The *ASAM PPC Supplement* is edited by Marc J. Fishman, M.D., David Mee-Lee, M.D., Gerald D. Shulman, M.A., MAC, FACATA, George Kolodner, M.D., and Bonnie B. Wilford, M.S. Published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, the volume is priced at \$49.95. Copies will be available for purchase at ASAM's Med-Sci conference, or may be ordered online at [HTTP://WWW.LWWW.COM/PRODUCT/978-0-7817-9122-9](http://WWW.LWWW.COM/PRODUCT/978-0-7817-9122-9).

Contents of the PPC Supplement

- Chapter 1. Introduction
- Chapter 2. Role of the ASAM Criteria in the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorders
- Chapter 3. Strategies for Managing Alcohol Withdrawal
- Chapter 4. Placement Criteria for Alcohol Withdrawal
- Chapter 5. Strategies for Preventing and Managing Relapse
- Chapter 6. Placement Criteria for Preventing and Managing Relapse
- Chapter 7. Case Examples

Appendices

- A. Assessment Process and Instruments
- B. Selected Non-Pharmacologic Therapies for Alcohol Use Disorders
- C. Glossary of Terms
- D. Contributors



A Year of Breakthroughs in Addiction Medicine

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- ASAM has issued a number of new and updated public policy statements in the last year, including major statements on "How to Identify a Physician Recognized for Expertness in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Addiction and Substance-related Health Conditions" (approved January 2010) and "Treatment for Alcohol and Other Drug Addictions" (also approved in January 2010).
- In the last year, I have commissioned four new task forces to address some of the most important issues facing our field: the Justice System Action Group (chaired by Dr. Richard Soper), the Health Information and Technology Action Group (chaired by Dr. Trusandra Taylor), the Diagnostic and Descriptive Terminology Action Group (chaired by Dr. Michael Miller), and the Medical Marijuana Task Force (co-chaired by Drs. Andrea Barthwell and Robert Dupont).
- Finally, ASAM's Government Relations Department continues to advance ASAM's influence in shaping addiction-related Federal policies, including the recently enacted health care reform legislation and the interim regulations implementing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

A year ago, it would have been hard to believe what we have accomplished in the last 12 months. Yet I am well aware of the challenges ahead. Accordingly, in the second year of my term as ASAM President, I will focus on finding new sources of funding for workforce development, expanding our roles into new and emerging health care markets, and continuing our collaboration with key stakeholders in Congress and the Federal agencies, as well as organizations representing education, research, and business. As always, ASAM's elected Officers, Board, Council Chairs, and staff encourage and welcome your involvement. Thank you for being here!

A Historic Moment in the Fight for Parity

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- Includes insurance reforms and consumer protections critical for individuals seeking addiction treatment or in recovery, including language that prohibits insurers from denying coverage to persons with pre-existing conditions, charging higher premiums based on health status, and placing annual or lifetime caps on coverage.

These reforms represent significant progress as we work together to advocate for the expansion and improvement of our Nation's response to alcohol and other drug addiction, including the funding of prevention, treatment, recovery, and research. Its historic nature was summed up by ASAM's friend and honoree Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), who said of passage of health care reform: "Today marks a victory that has been a long time coming.... [It] is a victory for the many tireless champions of health care reform. My father, of course, was but one of them, committed to fight for those whose voices would not be heard.... Today marks a new day and a giant leap forward towards our transition from a 'sick care' system to one which is preventive, collaborative, and patient-centered."

Congratulations to each of you who have joined me in the fight for parity. While the future undoubtedly will present more battles to be won, this is indeed a time to celebrate.

Welcome to ASAM's 41st Annual Med-Sci Conference!



ASAM's Officers, Board members and staff welcome you to San Francisco and ASAM's 41st Annual Medical-Scientific Conference, where addiction experts from around the world gather for a program rich in scientific symposia, clinical courses and workshops, and research papers and poster sessions. The conference welcomes ASAM members as well as non-member researchers, educators, and clinicians.

Business Meeting. The Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast will be gaveled to order Friday, April 16th, at 7:30 a.m. by ASAM President Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D., FASAM. Early risers will be rewarded with a buffet breakfast, to be served from 7:15 a.m., courtesy of The Christopher D. Smithers Foundation. The business meeting affords an opportunity for members to offer their views on ASAM's needs and priorities.

Opening Session. The official opening session of the Conference at 9:00 a.m. Friday features an address by Thomas F. Babor, Ph.D., M.P.H., Head of the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut Health Center, who is the 2010 recipient of the R. Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award. Dr. Babor will deliver the award lecture on "Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: From Research to Public Policy."

Public Policy Plenary. On Saturday, the day begins with a Public Policy plenary session at 8:00 a.m. This year's plenary features a keynote address by A. Thomas McLellan, PhD, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the White House. Dr. McLellan will discuss the ONDCP National Drug Strategy announced in January 2010. Dr. McLellan's presentation will be followed by a question and answer period with members of the audience.

Awards Luncheon. Also on Saturday, the ASAM Awards Luncheon, set for 12:15 to 2:00 p.m., honors outstanding individuals who have made notable contributions to the Society and to addiction medicine. A traditional highlight of the luncheon is the John P. McGovern Award on Addiction and Society, established in 1997 to honor an individual who has made highly meritorious contributions to public policy, treatment, research, or prevention and who has increased our understanding of the relationship of addiction and society. The award is sponsored by an endowment from the John P. McGovern Foundation. This year's recipient is David L. Rosenbloom, Ph.D., of Boston University's School of Public Health. (The Awards Luncheon is an extra fee event; business attire is requested.)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The Registration Desk for the Med-Sci Conference will be open from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14th, and from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 15-17th. The Registration Desk will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 12 noon on Sunday, April 18th.

Special Sessions Open ASAM Meeting

The following social and educational events on Thursday evening, April 15th, kick off ASAM's 41st Annual Medical-Scientific Conference:

Thursday, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

New Members' Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, Redlands, California

Thursday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Welcoming Reception and Opening of the ASAM Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)

Thursday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Chapters Council Meeting

In addition to the general Chapters Council meeting, individual chapters will meet throughout the Med-Sci Conference. See the ASAM Registration Desk for times and locations.

Thursday, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Component Session I. Public Policy in Addiction Medicine

— Past, Present, and Future:

ASAM officers will review current and future public policy concerns. Participants are strongly encouraged to share their views on the work of the Public Policy Committee over the past five years, to discuss public policy statements under consideration, and to help the Public Policy Committee chart a course for the future.

Component Session II. The ASAM Patient Placement

Criteria — Research and Clinical Update:

Part 1 of the session will focus on developments in research utilizing the criteria. Part 2 will focus on a case-based approach, including an opportunity for members of the audience to present cases from their own practices. Part 3 will focus on the interactions between pharmacotherapies and level of care considerations in treatment planning, service matching and placement.

Component Session III. Integration of Addiction Medicine into Family Medicine and the Patient-Centered Medical Home:

This session reports on current activities of the ASAM Family Medicine Work Group, solicits input from ASAM members who are primary care physicians, and develops goals for the coming year. Dr. Norman Wetterau will discuss current activities of the ASAM Family Medicine Work Group and the new STFM Addiction interest group. Dr. Richard Blondell will present an update on the American Board of Addiction Medicine and seek ideas as to how and where addiction medicine fellowships might be established. Dr. David Pating of Kaiser Permanente will discuss efforts to integrate addiction medicine into Kaiser's primary care programs.

Component Session IV. Influencing Congress — Techniques for Effective Grassroots Advocacy:

Addiction treatment and support for training of the addiction treatment workforce must be included in health care reform and must be safeguarded against likely insurance practices that would diminish the benefits achieved through health care reform. This session will attempt to generate interest in grassroots advocacy by providing training, information, and peer support.

Daily Planner

All events will take place in the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel, 55 Fourth Street, San Francisco, California.

8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Ruth Fox Course for Physicians

Co-Chairs: Margaret A.E. Jarvis, M.D., FASAM; John C. Tanner, D.O., FASAM; *Speakers:* Robert L. DuPont, M.D., FASAM; Scott L. Fishman, M.D.; David R. Gastfriend, M.D.; Stanley E. Gitlow, M.D., FASAM; Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H., FASAM; R. Gregory Lande, D.O.; Bruce R. Maslack, M.D.; Raymond M. Pomm, M.D.; Penelope P. Ziegler, M.D., FASAM

8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Pain and Addiction — Common Threads XI: New Frontiers and Common Challenges

Co-Chairs: Herbert Malinoff, M.D., FACP, FASAM; Edwin A. Salsitz, M.D., FASAM; *Speakers:* Andrea G. Barthwell, M.D., FASAM; Eliot L. Gardner, Ph.D.; Paula Lum, M.D., M.P.H.; Jianren Mao, M.D., Ph.D.; A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D.; Melvin I. Pohl, M.D., FASAM

5:00 – 6:00 pm

New Members' Welcome Reception

Sponsored by Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, Redlands, CA

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Welcoming Reception and Opening of the ASAM Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Chapters Council Meeting

Specific chapter meetings will be available throughout the Med-Sci Conference. Further information will be available at the Conference Registration Desk.

8:00 – 10:00 pm

Component Sessions

Session I. Public Policy in Addiction Medicine – Past, Present, and Future

Organized by: Petros Levounis, M.D., M.A., FASAM; Mark L. Kraus, M.D., FASAM

Session II. The ASAM Patient Placement Criteria — Research and Clinical Update

Organized by: Marc Fishman, M.D.; *Speakers:* Marc Fishman, M.D.; David R. Gastfriend, M.D.; George Kolodner, M.D.; David Mee-Lee, M.D.

Session III. Integration of Addiction Medicine into Family Medicine and the Patient-Centered Medical Home

Organized by: Norman Wetterau, M.D., FAAFP; *Speakers:* Richard Blondell, M.D.; David Pating, M.D.; Norman Wetterau, M.D., FAAFP

Session IV. Influencing Congress — Techniques for Effective Grassroots Advocacy

Organized by: A. Kenison Roy III, M.D., FASAM

7:30 – 9:00 am

ASAM Annual Business Meeting & Breakfast

(ASAM Members only — breakfast service begins at 7:15 a.m.) Sponsored by the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation

9:00 – 10:30 am

Opening Scientific Plenary and Distinguished Scientist Lecture Award

Featuring a lecture by Thomas F. Babor, Ph.D., M.P.H., Head of the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care at the University of Connecticut Health Center, who is the 2010 recipient of the R. Brinkley Smithers Distinguished Scientist Award. Dr. Babor will deliver the award lecture on "Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: From Research to Public Policy."

10:30 – 11:00 am

Refreshment Break — ASAM Exhibit Hall

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Symposium 1: The Interrelated Nature of the Criminal Justice System and Addiction Prevention and Treatment

Sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Organizers: Jag Khalsa, Ph.D.; Richard Denisco, M.D., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Nora Volkow, M.D.; Josiah D. Rich, M.D., M.P.H.; Julio Montaner, M.D.; Peter D. Friedmann M.D., M.P.H.; Wilson Compton M.D., M.P.E.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Symposium 2: Rethinking Rehabilitation and Recovery:

The Intersection of Substance Use Disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury

Organizer: Joan Zweben, Ph.D.; R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, M.D.; *Speakers:* John D. Corrigan, Ph.D., ABPP; Elizabeth A. Manning, Ph.D.; R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, M.D.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Paper Session I

Moderator: Gavin Bart, M.D.

(refer to the full Conference program for a list of papers and first authors)

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Course 1: Engaging Medical Students and Residents in Multidisciplinary Substance Use Disorders Curricula

Organizer: Daniel Ciccarone, M.D., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Paula Lum, M.D., M.P.H.; Neda Ratanawongsa, M.D., M.P.H.; Jennifer Hetteima, Ph.D.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Course 2: Addiction and Pregnancy — Life Course, Epidemiology and Treatment

Organizer: Mishka Terplan, M.D., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Catherine Friedman, M.D.; Mishka Terplan, M.D., M.P.H.; Sigrid Tristan, M.D.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Workshop A: Using Publicly Available Data Sources to Inform Addiction Treatment

Organizers and Speakers: JoAnne McFarland O'Rourke, M.S.W.; Mohammad Rahman, Ph.D.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Workshop B: Minimizing the Misuse of Prescription Opioids in the Management of Chronic Pain: A Workshop for Clinicians and Educators

Organizer and Speaker: Jeffrey Baxter, M.D.

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Poster Session — Exhibit Hall

(refer to the full Conference program for a list of posters and first authors)

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Course 3: Does Recovery Mean Celibacy? Finding Sexual Health in Recovery

Organizer: James C. (Jes) Montgomery, M.D.; *Speakers:* Omar Minwalla, Psy.D.; Rickey Dovers, M.S.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Symposium 3: Clinical Implications of Research on Genetics of Drug Addictions

Sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Organizers: Jag Khalsa, Ph.D.; Ivan Montoya, M.D.; *Speakers:* Laura Bierut, M.D.; Thorgerir E. Thorgerirsson, Ph.D.; Ming D. Li, Ph.D.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Symposium 4: Addiction and Suicide

Organizer: Richard K. Ries, M.D., FASAM; *Speakers:* H. Westley Clark, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., CAS, FASAM; James D. Wines, Jr., M.D., M.P.H.; Kenneth R. Conner, Psy.D., M.P.H.; Richard K. Ries, M.D., FASAM (*NOTE:* A limited number of copies of CSAT TIP 50, "Addressing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Substance Abuse Treatment," 2009, will be available at the Symposium. Information presented in TIP 50 will form the core of the presentation.)

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Symposium 5: Methadone and QT Interval

Sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Organizers: Amina Chaudhry, M.D., M.P.H.; Gavin Bart, M.D.; *Speakers:* Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.; Barry Stimmel, M.D., FASAM; Judith Martin, M.D.; Mary Jeanne Kreek, M.D. (*NOTE:* A limited number of copies of CSAT's draft report on "Cardiac Effects of Methadone" will be available at the Symposium.)

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Paper Session II

(refer to the full Conference program for a list of papers and first authors)

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Workshop C: The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) and the Recognition of Addiction Medicine as a Medical Specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Organizers: Kevin Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.; Kathleen T. Brady, M.D., Ph.D.; Richard D. Blondell, M.D.; Jeffrey Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Gregory Baker, Psy.D.; Michael F. Weaver, M.D.; Christopher M. Weirs, M.P.A.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Workshop D: Integration of Buprenorphine Treatment Into HIV Primary Care

Organizer: Jeffrey Hsu, M.D.; *Speakers:* Darius A. Rastegar, M.D.; Amina Chaudhry, M.D., M.P.H.

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Ruth Fox Endowment Reception (by invitation only)

Sponsored by Dr. & Mr. Joseph E. Dorsey and Dr. Tommie F. Lauer

9:30 pm

ASAM Dessert and Coffee Reception

Sponsored by Alkermes, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts

7:00 – 8:00 am

Continental Breakfast — ASAM Exhibit Hall

Sponsored by Alkermes, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts

8:00 – 9:30 am

Policy Plenary — National Drug Control Strategy 2010

Organizers: Chapman Sledge, M.D., FASAM; A. Kenison Roy III, M.D., FASAM; Denise Greene, M.D.; Mark L. Kraus, M.D., FASAM; Petros Levounis, M.D., M.A., FASAM; *Keynote Address:* A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D.; *Speakers:* Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D., FASAM; Denise Greene, M.D.; Mark L. Kraus, M.D., FASAM

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Symposium 6: Primary Care and Alcohol: New Thoughts on an Old Problem

Sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
Organizers: Mark L. Willenbring, M.D.; Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Mark L. Willenbring, M.D.; Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.; Richard Saitz, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, FASAM; Peter M. Miller, Ph.D.; Katharine Bradley, M.D., M.P.H. (*NOTE:* This Symposium continues at 2:00 p.m.)

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Symposium 7: Prevention Programs in Substance Abuse Treatment

Organizer: Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.; Constance Weisner, Dr.P.H., LCSW; Michael Stein, M.D.; Julia H. Arnsten, M.D., M.P.H.

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Course 4: Substance Use Disorder and Co-Occurring Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder — An Even-Handed Treatment Approach

Organizers and Speakers: Ilene Robeck, M.D.; John Straznickas, M.D.

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Workshop E: Addiction Medicine Fellowships — How to Get One Started

Organizer: David J. Withers, M.D.; *Speakers:* Richard D. Blondell, M.D., FACP; David J. Withers, M.D.; James Walsh, M.D.; William Haning III, M.D., FASAM; Theodore V. Parran, Jr., M.D.

12:15 – 2:00 pm

ASAM Awards Luncheon and ABAM Certification Recognition

(Separate ticket required - \$60 per person)

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Symposium 6 (continued): Primary Care and Alcohol: New Thoughts on an Old Problem

Sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
Organizers: Mark L. Willenbring, M.D.; Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.; *Speakers:* Mark L. Willenbring, M.D.; Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.; Richard Saitz, M.D., M.P.H., FACP, FASAM; Peter M. Miller, Ph.D.; Katharine Bradley, M.D., M.P.H.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Symposium 8: Addiction in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities

Organizer: Petros Levounis, M.D., M.A., FASAM; *Speakers:* Robert Paul Cabaj, M.D.; Sean Esteban McCabe, M.A., M.S.W., Ph.D.; Steven Joseph Lee, M.D.; Penelope P. Ziegler, M.D.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Symposium 9: Women's Issues in Addiction

Organizer: Michael Fingerhood, M.D., FACP; *Speakers:* Christina Grella, Ph.D.; Denise Hien, Ph.D.; Hendree E. Jones, Ph.D.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Symposium 10: Alternatives to Conventional Treatment: A Joint Session with the International Society of Addiction Medicine

Sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Organizers: Marc Galanter, M.D., FASAM; Jag Khalsa, Ph.D.; *Speaker:* Steven Gust, Ph.D.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Course 5: Mending the Fence — Dilemmas in Ethical Evaluation, Treatment, and Reintegration of Professionals Who Violate Boundaries

Organizer: James C. (Jes) Montgomery, M.D.; *Speakers:* M. Deborah Corley, Ph.D.; Omar Minwalla, Psy.D.

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Workshop F: Tobacco-Free Recovery – Frontline Tobacco Addiction Training for Behavioral Health Providers: Everything You Need to Know to Implement Clinical and Community Change

Organizer and Speaker: Stephen A. Schroeder, M.D.

4:15 pm

Exhibit Hall Closes

10:00 am – Noon

Symposium 11: Improving Addiction Treatment Through Technology

Organizers: Richard N. Rosenthal, M.D.; Norman Wetterau, M.D., FAFP, FASAM; *Speakers:* Richard N. Rosenthal, M.D.; Lisa A. Marsch, Ph.D.; David L. Rosenbloom, Ph.D.; David Wanser, Ph.D.; Norman Wetterau, M.D., FAFP, FASAM

10:00 am – Noon

Symposium 12: Ethics for the Addictologist: Challenges and Controversies

Organizers: Mel Pohl, M.D., FASAM; Peter Przekop, D.O., Ph.D.; *Speakers:* James C. (Jes) Montgomery, M.D.; Gerald Winslow, Ph.D.; Albert R. Jonsen, Ph.D.

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Course 6: The Neurobiology of Traumatic Events and Chronic Stress: Targeted Treatments for Maladaptive Plasticity in Addiction, Trauma, and Chronic Pain

Organizer: Peter Przekop, D.O., Ph.D.; *Speakers:* Mel Pohl, M.D., FASAM; Johanna O'Flaherty, Ph.D., NCAC II, CEAP; James W. Golden, M.D.

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Course 7: Integrating Science and Clinical Practice in Opioid Therapy of Pain

Presented by leaders of the American Pain Society with a goal of cultivating understanding between the addiction medicine and pain medicine communities.
Organizer: Seddon R. Savage, M.D., M.S.; *Speakers:* Charles Inturrisi, Ph.D.; Gilbert J. Fanciullo, M.D., M.S.; Seddon R. Savage, M.D., M.S.

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

Workshop G: Extended-Release Naltrexone (XR-Ntx) in General Medical Settings

Organizer: Joshua D. Lee, M.D., M.Sc.; *Speakers:* Ellie Grossman, M.D.; Kathleen Hanley, M.D.; Andrea Truncaii, M.D.; Marc N. Gourevitch, M.D., M.P.H.

12:00 Noon

Conference Ends

Mutual Help Meetings

Mutual help meetings will be held each morning and evening of the conference. Meeting times and locations will be listed in the final conference program, or check at the Conference Registration Desk.

Exhibit Hall

The Exhibit Hall will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 15th. On Friday, April 16th, the hall will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Saturday, April 17th, the hall will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 4:15 p.m. Continental breakfast and daily refreshment breaks are among the events planned for the Exhibit Hall. The final conference program will include a list of exhibitors and contributors.

WOULD YOU LIKE A RECORDING OF A MEMORABLE PRESENTATION TO ADD TO YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY?

Recordings of sessions at the Med-Sci conference, the Common Threads course, and the Ruth Fox course can be purchased on-site or ordered from

Digital Conference Providers at 630-963-8311.



Candidates Nominated for ASAM Officer, Board Positions

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Michael M. Miller, M.D., FASAM, Chair, Nominations & Awards Council* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A slate of outstanding candidates has been selected by the Nominations & Awards Council for the 2010 ASAM elections. Profiles of the candidates will appear in the Summer issue of **ASAM News**. The same information will appear on ASAM's website.

Ballots will be sent to all ASAM members in good standing in October 2010. Completed ballots must be returned by December 1, 2010. Votes may be cast by paper ballots or online.

Officers will serve from 2011 to 2013. Directors will serve from 2011 to 2015. ASAM campaign guidelines prohibit written or electronic campaign communications, either by the candidates or on their behalf.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICER POSITIONS

Nominees for President-Elect, Treasurer or Secretary must be current members of the Board of Directors or have served on the Board within the past four years. An exception may be made in the case of a nominee for the office of Treasurer, who may be a member who possesses the other qualifications for the post and who has served on the Finance Committee within the past four years. The candidates are:

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT:

Stuart Gitlow, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FAPA
A. Kenison Roy III, M.D., FASAM, DFAPA

FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Herbert L. Malinoff, M.D., FACP, FASAM
C. Chapman Sledge, M.D., FASAM
(*incumbent*)

FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

Lori D. Karan, M.D., FACP, FASAM
Penelope P. Ziegler, M.D., FASAM

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Candidates for Director-at-Large must have been active members of ASAM for at least three years; must have demonstrated a commitment to ASAM's mission through service on a committee, task force, or other significant national or state endeavor; and must be willing to attend two Board meeting a year for four years at his/her own expense. The following individuals are candidates for the post of Director-at-Large.

M.D. NOMINEES (5 TO BE ELECTED)

Paul H. Earley, M.D., FASAM, Atlanta, GA
Margaret A.E. Jarvis, M.D., FASAM, Waverly, PA (*incumbent*)
Lori D. Karan, M.D., FACP, FASAM, San Francisco, CA (*incumbent*)*

Mark L. Kraus, M.D., FASAM, Waterbury, CT (*incumbent*)

Petros Levounis, M.D., M.A., FASAM, New York, NY

Judith A. Martin, M.D., San Francisco, CA

Daniel J. McCullough, M.D., Beverly, MA

Laura McNicholas, M.D., Ph.D., Philadelphia, PA

A. Kenison Roy III, M.D., FASAM, DFAPA, Metairie, LA*

Marvin D. Seppala, M.D., FASAM, Center City, MN (*currently Region VIII Director*)

C. Chapman Sledge, M.D., Hattiesburg, MS*

Berton J. Toews, M.D., FASAM, Casper, WY

Michael Weaver, M.D., FASAM, Richmond, VA

Martha Wunsch, M.D., FASAM, Blacksburg, VA

D.O. NOMINEES (1 TO BE ELECTED)

Scott B. Smolar, D.O., San Francisco, CA (*incumbent*)

John C. Tanner, D.O., FASAM, Jacksonville Beach, FL

**also a candidate for an Officer position*

POLICY APPROVED BY THE ASAM BOARD

Before the names of candidates for Officer/Regional Director positions are submitted to the Board for approval, candidates must complete and sign a conflict-of-interest form entitled "ASAM Disclosure of Interests and Affiliations."

SAM-CERTIFIED INTERNIST OR PSYCHIATRIST



Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, an affiliate with Drexel University School of Medicine, seeks a full-time SAM-certified internist or psychiatrist to oversee substance abuse services in the medical center. The incumbent will provide direct patient care and have administrative and supervisory responsibilities for the following substance abuse services; inpatient detox, substance abuse rehabilitation, residential program, outpatient buprenorphine program, and the development of an outpatient detox program. Applicants must possess USA citizenship and be board-certified in internal medicine or psychiatry. Coatesville VAMC offers excellent federal benefits, competitive salaries and a faculty appointment. Incentive pay will be considered. Coatesville VAMC is located in a scenic environment in close proximity to Philadelphia.

Please contact: Theresa Englerth — Human Resources Specialist
Coatesville VAMC 610-384-7711 x 4680 • email Theresa.Englerth@va.gov

DSM-V Draft Criteria Open for Comment through April 20th

The American Psychiatric Association is seeking comments on proposed criteria for the fifth edition of its *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V)*. The DSM-V draft criteria are posted on the APA's website ([HTTP://WWW.DSM5.ORG](http://www.dsm5.org)), where comments can be submitted through Tuesday, April 20th.

In a Feb. 11th letter to addiction professionals, Nora Volkow, M.D., Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, wrote that "This is the first complete revision of the DSM since 1994.... In light of the advances in research on substance abuse and addiction since the last revision, many suggested changes have been proposed in this revision. Therefore, this is an important opportunity to offer your comments on the new criteria."

Following the comment period, the DSM-V Task Force and Work Groups plan to spend two years reviewing and refining the proposed criteria based on comments received and the results of field trials, which will be conducted in three phases to test some of the proposed diagnostic criteria in real-world clinical settings. The final DSM-V is expected to be published in May 2013.

Changes in Substance Disorder Criteria

The DSM Substance-Related Disorders Work Group* has tentatively agreed to re-title the category "Addiction and Related Disorders," following extensive discussions of use of the word "addiction." According to the APA, there is general agreement that "dependence" as a label for compulsive, out-of-control drug use has been problematic. In fact, the term was adopted for the DSM's fourth edition by just a single vote, according to Charles O'Brien, M.D., Ph.D., who chairs the Substance-Related Disorders Work Group. In a May 2006 editorial in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, Dr. O'Brien and co-authors Nora Volkow, M.D. and T-K Li, M.D. (then head of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism) wrote that "Experience over the past two decades has demonstrated that this decision was a serious mistake.... The term 'dependence' has traditionally been used to describe 'physical dependence,' which refers to the adaptations that result in withdrawal symptoms when drugs, such as alcohol and heroin, are discontinued. Physical dependence is also observed with certain psychoactive medications, such as antidepressants and beta-blockers. However, the adaptations associated with drug withdrawal are distinct from the adaptations that result in addiction, which refers to the loss of control over the intense urges to take the drug even at the expense of adverse consequences."

Accordingly, the work group has proposed limiting use of the term "dependence" to physiological dependence, which is a normal response to repeated doses of many medications, including beta-blockers, antidepressants, opioids, anti-anxiety agents and other drugs. Under the proposed criteria, the presence of tolerance and withdrawal symptoms would not be diagnostic of a substance use disorder when they occur in the context of appropriate medical treatment with prescribed medications.

Expanding Addiction Category

The new category of addictive diseases would include a variety of "substance use disorders" broken down by drug type, such as "cannabis use disorder" and "alcohol use disorder." Diagnostic criteria for these disorders in the DSM-V would be "very similar" to those found in the current DSM-IV, according to the APA. However, the symptom of "drug craving" would be added to the criteria, while a symptom that referred to "problems with law enforcement" would be eliminated because of cultural considerations that make the criteria difficult to apply internationally, the APA said.

Also proposed for the DSM-V are diagnostic criteria for "cannabis withdrawal," which the work group says is caused by "cessation of cannabis use that has been heavy and prolonged," and which results in "clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning," and is characterized by at least three of the following symptoms: irritability, anger or aggression; nervousness or anxiety; sleep difficulties (insomnia); decreased appetite or weight loss; restlessness; depressed mood; and/or physical symptoms such as stomach pain, shakiness or tremors, sweating, fever, chills, and headache.

The work group also proposes expanding the addiction category to include non-substance addictions. At present, the new criteria for "behavioral addictions" would apply to a single disorder: gambling addiction. An APA press release says that Internet addiction was considered for this category, but work group members decided there was insufficient research data to do so, so they recommended it be included in the manual's appendix instead, with a goal of encouraging additional study. "There is substantive research that supports the position that pathological gambling and substance use disorders are very similar in the way they affect the brain and neurological reward system," explained Dr. O'Brien. "Both are related to poor impulse control and the brain's system of reward and aggression."

In another change, the work group recommended a new classification for patients who suffer withdrawal symptoms when they stop taking tricyclic antidepressants and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. These "miscellaneous discontinuation syndromes" fall outside the definition of substance use disorders, but share some common traits with use of addictive drugs. "If the substance is abruptly discontinued, in some cases the body responds with a rebound effect that creates unpleasant, and sometimes serious, symptoms of withdrawal," noted Dr. O'Brien.

For more information or to submit a comment, visit [HTTP://WWW.DSM5.ORG](http://www.dsm5.org).

* In addition to Dr. O'Brien, members of the DSM-V Substance-Related Disorders Work Group are Marc Auriacombe, M.D., Guilherme Borges, M.D., Kathleen Bucholz, Ph.D., Alan Budney, Ph.D., Thomas Crowley, M.D., Bridget Grant, Ph.D., Deborah Hasin, Ph.D., Walter Ling, M.D., Spero M. Manson, Ph.D., and Nancy Petry, Ph.D.

The DSM-V draft criteria are posted on the APA's website ([HTTP://WWW.DSM5.ORG](http://www.dsm5.org)), where comments can be submitted through Tuesday, April 20th.

RUTH FOX MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

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CONTACT: Lianne Harris,
New England Health Search
PHONE: 207-866-5680
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Dr. Ruth Fox

Dear Colleague:

The 2010 Ruth Fox Donor Reception is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday evening, April 16th,

during ASAM's Medical-Scientific Conference in San Francisco. The reception honors the generosity of those who have made donations to the Fund. As in years past, the cost of the reception has been underwritten by generous gifts from ASAM members Dr. Tommie F. Lauer and Dr. Joseph E. Dorsey and Mrs. Dorsey.

The Ruth Fox Memorial Endowment Fund was established to assure ASAM's continued ability to provide ongoing leadership in newly emerging areas affecting the field of addiction medicine,

to continue its commitment to educating physicians, to increasing access to care and to improving the quality of care. An important component of this mission is fulfilled each year when the recipients of the Ruth Fox Scholarships — an outstanding group of physicians in training — join us at ASAM's Annual Medical-Scientific Conference. The scholarships cover travel, hotel and registration expenses for recipients to attend the Med-Sci Conference and Ruth Fox Course, as well as one year's free membership in ASAM. The scholarship recipients for 2010 are:

- Christopher Holden, M.D., New York University School of Medicine
- Nicole Terese LaVelle, M.D., University of California, San Diego
- Ronald S. Yearwood, M.D., M.S., University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York
- Min Zhong, M.D., Griffin Memorial Hospital, Norman, Oklahoma

For information about making a pledge, contribution, bequest, memorial tribute, or to discuss other types of gifts in confidence, please contact Claire Osman by phone at 1-800/257-6776 or 1-718/275-7766, or email Claire at ASAMCLAIRE@AOL.COM. She welcomes your calls. All contributions to the Endowment Fund are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Max A. Schneider, M.D., FASAM
Chair, Ruth Fox Memorial Endowment Subcommittee

Claire Osman
Director of Development

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Administration Issues Rules Implementing Parity Act

The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury have issued interim final rules implementing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which covers consumers enrolled in group health plans who need treatment for substance use or mental health disorders. The final rules will be effective for health plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2010.

The Wellstone-Domenici Act is named for two prominent figures in the long struggle for parity: the late Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN), who was a vocal advocate for parity throughout his Senate career, and former Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), who first introduced legislation to require parity in 1992. Champions of the legislation also include the bipartisan team of Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and former Representative Jim Ramstad (R-MN). In releasing the rules, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius lauded "the long-standing and bipartisan effort that made these important new protections possible."

The struggle for parity dates back more than 40 years to President John F. Kennedy, and also was supported by President Clinton and the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

The Act requires that any group health plan that includes benefits for substance use and mental health disorders must treat them equally with standard medical and surgical coverage in terms of out-of-pocket costs, benefit limits, and practices such as prior authorization and utilization review. For example, a plan may not apply separate deductibles for treatment related to substance use or mental health disorders and medical or surgical benefits—they must be calculated as one limit. The Act applies to employers with 50 or more workers whose group health plan offers benefits for substance use and mental health disorders.

Comments on the interim final rules are still being solicited, particularly on the sections addressing so-called "non-quantitative" treatment limits, such as those that pertain to the scope and duration of covered benefits, how covered drugs are determined (formularies), and the coverage of step therapies. Comments also are being specifically requested on the regulation's section on "scope of benefits" or continuum of care. The draft rules can be viewed, and comments submitted, through May 3, 2010, at [HTTP://WWW.REGULATIONS.GOV/](http://www.regulations.gov/) (enter document number CMS-4140-IFC).

Panel Recommends Changes in Federal Privacy Law

A new proposal to amend a landmark federal privacy law is meeting resistance from recovery advocates and others, as the addiction treatment and recovery community struggles to strike a balance between the need for integration with mainstream medicine and privacy concerns surrounding the use of electronic medical records.

Under the federal Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records Act of 1972, health care professionals are barred from accessing records pertaining to individuals' alcohol and other drug treatment without the patient's written authorization, except in emergency situations. Designed to protect persons with addiction from stigma and discrimination, some health professionals say the law can inhibit effective service delivery, such as case management and use of screening and brief intervention programs.

On February 5th, the Patient Protection Coalition released a draft proposal that would amend the federal law to allow some disclosures of information about addiction treatment to health care providers and health plans "for purposes of treatment, coordination of care, recovery support, quality improvement, disease management and payment."

The proposal would "carve out an exception to the statute that would allow health care providers to access a minimal amount of data without getting explicit permission," according to Eric Goplerud, Ph.D., head of the Center for Integrated Behavioral Health Policy at the George Washington University Medical Center, who is facilitating and disseminating the coalition's work.

More Access, Tougher Penalties

Specifically, the proposed amendment to the statute (42 USC 290dd-2) would allow health care providers to access demographic information, diagnosis, medications, laboratory results, and identification of past or current treatment providers.

At the same time, the draft statute would explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of information in addiction treatment program records; limit use of patient information in criminal and civil investigations or proceedings; strengthen civil and criminal sanctions against unauthorized disclosures; and give individuals the right to pursue civil remedies against anyone who violates the statute, according to the coalition, which is led by Richard J. Bonnie, director of the Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy at the University of Virginia School of Law.

Dr. Goplerud noted that the current statute calls for only a \$500 fine for those who violate patient privacy, compared to the \$1.5 million fines that can be imposed on those who violate the privacy protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Also, many persons with addiction problems are unprotected by the 1972 law because it applies only to those treated in specialty addiction programs, not to other medical settings, where only the HIPAA rules apply.

The coalition "did a very serious piece of work that would simultaneously allow core information about an addiction diagnosis and medication to be included in a medical record that can be seen by other treating personnel, and adds new confidentiality protection for addiction-related information to cover circumstances that did not exist when the current rules were drafted decades ago," said David Rosenbloom, Ph.D., director of Join Together.

Although groups such as Faces and Voices of Recovery, the Legal Action Center (LAC), and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) have declined to endorse the proposed changes to the law, Prof. Bonnie said he was pleased that the Patient Protection Coalition's proposal had provided a jump-start to what he called a much-needed debate. "We know these are very sensitive issues," he said. "The process of consensus-building takes detailed discussion.... There is common ground here and there should be a way to work it out. This is a start."

ASAM CONFERENCE CALENDAR

ASAM EVENTS



April 15, 2010
Ruth Fox Course for Physicians
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California
[8 Category 1 CME Credits]

April 15, 2010
Pain & Addiction:
Common Threads
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California
[8 Category 1 CME Credits]

April 15-18, 2010
41st Annual Medical-Scientific
Conference
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California
[18 Category 1 CME Credits]

October 14-16, 2010
ASAM Review Course
in Addiction Medicine
Westin O'Hare Hotel,
Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois
[21 Category 1 CME credits]

Except where otherwise indicated, additional information is available on the ASAM website (www.asam.org) or from the ASAM Department of Meetings and Conferences at 4601 No. Park Ave., Suite 101, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4520; phone 301/656-3920; fax 301/656-3815; email EMAIL@ASAM.ORG.

OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE

April 22-23, 2010
Blending Addiction Science and
Practice: Evidence-Based Treatment
and Prevention in Diverse
Populations and Settings
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Sponsored by the National Institute
on Drug Abuse
[For more information or to register,
visit [HTTP://WWW.SEISERVICES.COM/
BLENDINGALBUQUERQUE](http://www.seiservices.com/blendingalbuquerque)]



April 23-24, 2010
Addiction Medicine 2010
Embassy Suites Airport Hotel,
Greensboro, NC
Sponsored by the NC Governor's
Institute on Alcohol and Substance
Abuse and the North Carolina
Society of Addiction Medicine
[For more information or to register,
visit [WWW.SA4DOCS.ORG](http://www.sa4docs.org)
or phone Tyler Van Steinburgh
at 919-256-7411]

June 12, 2010
Linking Health Care and Substance
Use Disorders:
10th Annual Satellite Session of the
College on Problems of Drug
Dependence
Scottsdale, Arizona
Sponsored by SAMHSA's Center for
Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
[For more information, contact
Peter Edwards at
PEDWARDS@JBSINTERNATIONAL.COM
or phone 240-645-4130]

July 26-28, 2010
4th National Conference on Women,
Addiction and Recovery: Thriving in
Changing Times
Chicago, Illinois
Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Services Administration
[For more information or to register,
visit [HTTP://WWW.SAMHSAWOMENS
CONFERENCE.ORG](http://www.samhsawomensconference.org)
or email [SAMHSAWOMENSCONFERENCE
@AHPNET.COM](mailto:SAMHSAWOMENSCONFERENCE@AHPNET.COM)]

October 23-27, 2010
Building Partnerships: Advancing
Treatment & Recovery —
American Association for the
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REGISTER NOW for the 2010 ABAM Certification Exam

Certification is recognized throughout the world as signifying excellence in the practice of Addiction Medicine. It demonstrates that a physician has met rigorous standards through intensive study, assessment, and evaluation. Certification is designed to assure the public that a medical specialist has successfully completed an approved educational program and an evaluation, including a secure examination designed to assess the knowledge, experience, and skills requisite to the provision of high quality patient care.

The next Certification Exam will be offered by the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) on December 11, 2010. The 2010 Certification Application is posted on ASAM's website ([WWW.ASAM.ORG](http://www.asam.org)) and on ABAM's website ([WWW.ABAM.NET](http://www.abam.net)). The sites also contain information about eligibility to sit for the examination, fees and deadlines.



Announcing ASAM's 2010 Review Course in Addiction Medicine!

Register now for ASAM's 2010 Review Course in Addiction Medicine, which meets Thursday, October 14th through Saturday, October 16th, at the Westin Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois, adjacent to Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

This course is designed to meet the needs of multiple audiences, including:

- ◆ Physicians who are preparing to take the ABAM Certification/Recertification Examination;
- ◆ Addiction specialists who seek an update on recent developments in addiction practice; and
- ◆ Primary care physicians, nurses, counselors and others who seek a concise review of the knowledge needed to successfully identify and manage patients whose medical problems are caused or complicated by alcohol, tobacco or other drug use.

*Course registrants will receive a detailed Syllabus as a printed handbook and on CD-Rom.
The course is expected to be approved for up to 21 Category 1 CME credits.*

For additional information or to register for the Review Course, visit the ASAM website at [WWW.ASAM.ORG](http://www.asam.org) or contact ASAM's Department of Conferences & Meetings at 301/656-3920.