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**The 28th Annual American Academy of Pain Medicine Meeting:  
The Time is Now to Eliminate Pain as a Major Health Crisis**

***Research, Policy, Treatment and New IOM Report to Paint Brighter  
Solution to Solving Pain for 116 Million Suffering Americans***

February 16, 2012, Glenview, IL—The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) brings together decades of scientific research, evidence-based medical knowledge and a new analysis by the Institute of Medicine to help solve the pain epidemic in America.

“With definitive research, evidence, and regulation supporting better pain management, and the release of the Institute of Medicine’s seminal report: *Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education and Research*, the time is *now* to learn how to bring these elements together to start eradicating one of the most ignored medical conditions in our lifetime,” said the Academy’s President Perry G. Fine MD.

The problem of pain constitutes a major health crisis—pain and addiction affects more people than any other medical condition: one death an hour from misuse, 116 million people suffering from chronic pain in America, costing the nation between \$560 - \$635 billion annually. However, now, with leadership from the AAPM, a new IOM report on pain and the recent mandates related to Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS), there is a brighter outlook for treating pain, alleviating suffering and eradicating abuse.

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“Our goal in designing the conference was to bring state-of-the-art information about pain together at one conference to provide a path forward for the research, medical, and regulatory community to better treat and manage pain,” said Sean Mackey, MD, PhD, AAPM’s Vice President for Scientific Affairs and Associate Professor of Anesthesia (and of Neurology and Neurological Sciences by courtesy) and Chief of the Pain Management Division at Stanford University. “This translates to a meeting that goes beyond lectures and provides evidence-based knowledge to support conclusions. We’ve also included more focus on alternative treatments such as medical marijuana and mindful meditation as well as help for physicians to manage their day-to-day practices in ways that support safe opioid prescribing and reduce misuse.”

Additionally, sessions are focused on helping practicing clinicians throughout the medical community apply or translate several decades of high-level science and clinical research on pain to everyday private practice. Other programming offers clinicians the opportunity to learn how current government policies and healthcare reform will affect the practice of pain medicine both now and in the future—and how they can manage their everyday treatment of patients in light of these changes.

To learn more: [www.painmed.org/annualmeeting](http://www.painmed.org/annualmeeting)

### **About AAPM**

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is the premiere association for 2,400 pain physicians and their treatment teams. Now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year of service, the Academy's mission is to optimize the health of patients in pain and eliminate it as a major public health problem by advancing the practice in the specialty of pain medicine. More information is available at [www.painmed.org](http://www.painmed.org).

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