

MASSACHUSETTS PAIN INITIATIVE

MassPI Spring Bulletin 2005 Volume 5



If you have events to share or would like more information about MassPI, please visit MassPI website at <http://www.masspaininitiative.org> or contact Amy Goldstein at the New England Division of the American Cancer Society, (508) 270-4653, amy.goldstein@cancer.org.

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MassPI's 7th General Meeting on Wed, May 18, 2005

"Addressing Disparities in Pain Management: Are Pain and Suffering Equal Opportunity Maladies?"

Richard Payne, MD, Director, Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life, Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA, 8-11:00am for general audience, MassPI Working Councils meet 11-12:30. Continuing education for MD, RN, SW. Registration at <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/invite%205.18.05.pdf>

Important Highlights

Pfizer Suspends Sales of Bextra

At the request of the Food and Drug Administration, Pfizer has suspended the sales of Bextra (valdecoxib), a COX-2 pain reliever. Rare but serious skin reactions have been reported in a few patients receiving Bextra. The FDA has also announced a requirement for new warning labels on all non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including over-the-counter NSAIDs, and a "black box" warning of cardiovascular risks with Celebrex (celecoxib).

Massachusetts Responds to DEA Request for comment

- Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly, along with 31 other Attorneys General, sent comments to the DEA on "Dispensing of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain." The AGs are promoting the best pain relief available while addressing concerns about abuse and diversion.
- MassPI also authored comments to the DEA. This letter can be found on MassPI website, or by sending an inquiry to the MassPI Coordinator at amy.goldstein@cancer.org.

MassPI Partners to Achieve Professional Education

MassPI is focusing efforts to join collaboratively with organizations to promote good pain management.

- On May 4-5, MassPI/Massachusetts College of Pharmacy joint sponsorship of a Pain Symposium
- On May 18, the Massachusetts Medical Society is co-sponsoring MassPI's Seventh General Meeting.
- Last November, MassPI partnered with the Central Massachusetts Partnership for Improving Care at the End of Life to provide pain education in Central Massachusetts.
- MassPro partnered with MassPI last year by donating funds to print the MassPI Pain Management Pocket Tools.

Two Collaborative Efforts to Reach out to Veterans in Pain and at End of Life

Many Americans are unaware that more than 50,000 veterans die each month – roughly 28 percent of all deaths in the United States.

- Ensuring that all veterans receive compassionate, quality care at the end of life is a priority of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Administration Hospice and Palliative Care Initiative. The national network of Hospice-Veterans Partnerships is an important part of this effort. The

Hospice-Veteran Partnership in Massachusetts is a statewide coalition whose goal is to improve end-of-life care for veterans both within the VA system and in the community throughout the Commonwealth.

- The American Pain Foundation (APF) has begun a new program to reach out to veterans who are in pain and provide them with educational information and support to improve their pain care, decrease their sense of isolation, and encourage them in their pursuit of a better quality of life for themselves and their families. APF is working with veteran's organizations and other concerned groups to develop information and support opportunities that are specific to the particular needs of veterans, their loved ones and caregivers. More information at APF's website - www.painfoundation.org - or email them if you would like to be involved to contribute stories, articles, suggestions.

FSMB Workshop to Promote Balance and Consistency

The Federation of State Medical Boards is offering workshops around the country titled "Promoting Balance and Consistency in the Regulatory Oversight of Pain Care." The most recent workshop was at the Hyatt Harborside in Boston on April 7-8. Six members of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine attended. The MassPI Coordinator and other ACS Government Relations staff also attended. Feature speakers included June Dahl, PhD, Scott Fishman, MD, Ed Covington, MD, and Myra Christopher.

MassPI Will Revise Pain Management Pocket Tools for Summer Distribution

This is an excellent tool for all professionals who are working in pain management. The tool includes principles of pain management, management of breakthrough pain, switching from one opioid to another, opioid equianalgesic chart, adjuvant analgesic drugs, commonly used non-opioid analgesics, and management of opioid side effects. You may request 25 tools for your facility, at no charge. For more than 25, cost per tool will range from 50 to 75 cents, depending on number requested. To order tools, please contact amy.goldstein@cancer.org or call 508-270-4653.

MassHealth Issues

Please email Amy (amy.Goldstein@cancer.org) with any of your professional or personal concerns about MassHealth prior authorization requirements for pain medications for Medicaid patients. MassPI will continue to gather information from membership in order to analyze how to focus our efforts.

New Reports, Policies, Guidelines, Commissions, etc.

Commission on Drug Abuse Holds Public Hearing – Need More Balanced Testimony

In an effort to tackle the problem of the abuse of both prescription and illicit drugs the Massachusetts legislature established a commission to explore these issues, including prescribing, dispensing, treatment and education. The commission is to submit a report to the legislature by June 15 with a list of recommendations. MassPI was successful in lobbying to have Dr. Robert Jamison, a healthcare practitioner with a pain management background, appointed to the commission. The first public hearing took place on March 28 at North Shore Community College in Lynn. Twenty-eight people testified including law enforcement and substance abuse treatment professionals, parents, and recovering addicts. Only two people spoke to the medical benefits of prescription pain medications and the needs of legitimate pain patients: Dr. Lewis Hays, Medical Director and Dr. Colleen Reid – Director of Palliative Care, both from Hospice of the North Shore. Two or three additional public hearings are expected to be held. **The next hearing will be on Monday May 23 at Framingham State College at 10:00am.**

MassPI hopes to have more balanced testimony at these upcoming hearings and is looking pain clinicians and patients interested in testifying. Contact Amy Goldstein at 508-270-4653 for more information.

DEA Given New Authority Over Drug Approvals

The U.S. Congress gave the Drug Enforcement Administration the authority to review the labeling, promotion, and risk management plans related to the approval of controlled substances. Under the new law, the DEA may hold up the manufacture of the drugs until it completes its review.

Pocket Guide Promotes Cultural Competence in Cancer Care

The Office of Minority Health of the Health Resources and Services Administration in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine/Intercultural Cancer Council and Meharry Medical College announced the availability of "Cultural Competence in Cancer Care: A Health Care Professional's Passport." This pocket Guide details in simple terms widely accepted cultural mores of various ethnic groups including African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians. Within each ethnic group, the guide discusses and describes cultural and language nuances. This guide was designed to fit into the health care provider's coat pocket. The information conveyed in the guide helps providers and patients better communicate in order to make more accurate medical assessments regarding cancer care. For more information or to purchase this pocket guide (\$4.00 +shipping) contact the Intercultural Cancer Council, 6655 Travis, Suite 322, Houston, TX 77030-1312
Tel: 713.798.4617, E-mail: info@iccnetwork.org.

American Pain Society Issues New Clinical Guideline For Treatment of Cancer Pain

On January 31, the American Pain Society announced publication of a new, evidence-based clinical practice guideline to help clinicians and patients better control the often-intractable pain associated with the disease. An interdisciplinary panel of 13 prominent cancer pain experts, who examined all relevant medical literature and scientific evidence to date, developed the APS publication, *Guideline for the Management of Cancer Pain in Adults and Children*.

New Book Explores Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)

The International Association for the Study of Pain has published a new book titled "CRPS: Current Diagnosis and Therapy". The book presents validated diagnostic criteria for CRPS, and summarizes all reported treatments and evaluates the scientific evidence for each. A treatment algorithm is presented. To view a table of contents or order a copy visit <http://www.painbooks.org/BkCRPS05.htm>

American Pain Foundation (APF) launches on-line advocacy center

The internet is now a powerful force in American politics. Millions of people use online advocacy tools to get news and information and to voice their concerns to their elected officials. APF believes in the power of the voices of people with pain. To help channel that power, APF has launched an online advocacy center. The first advocacy action is to support the National Pain Care Policy Act (H.R. 1020), which intends to improve access to pain management services, improve pain education for physicians, and increase research on pain conditions. Please go to APF's website - www.painfoundation.org - and take action. It is a quick and simple way to contact your representatives to encourage them to co-sponsor H.R. 1020 – the first necessary step. Your voice, added to the millions of others who suffer from chronic pain, will make a difference!

Power Over Pain (POP) Update

Power Over Pain (POP), MassPI's grassroots public awareness program in Massachusetts, is growing stronger but still needs your help. The goal of this program is to educate healthcare professionals and communities in Massachusetts to understand and advocate for good pain management. You can learn more about POP by visiting <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/power.htm>. If you would like to become a trained POP volunteer or want more information, please contact Amy Goldstein, MassPI Coordinator at amy.Goldstein@cancer.org or 508-270-4653. Trainings for presenters last about 2 hours and are done around the state.

We are looking for more presenters to become trained as we have a big agenda for the year. The goal of the Public Awareness Council is to do POP for the 353 Councils on Aging throughout the state! Also, the goal of the Professional Education Council is to do POP for the 38 nursing programs in MA.

Recent/Upcoming POP sessions:

Lions Club –Northampton 4/12	Groton Council on Aging 6/1	Littleton Council on Aging 6/14
Hannah's last night 4/11	Pepperell Council on Aging 6/14	Townsend Council on Aging 6/20

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Mayday Pain & Society Fellowship: Call For Applications

The Mayday Fund, a New York City foundation dedicated to alleviating the incidence, degree, and consequence of human physical pain, announced today that it will begin accepting applications for the 2005 Mayday Pain & Society Fellows Program. This is the second year of the program designed to equip physicians, nurses, social workers, scientists, and legal scholars with the necessary skills to become effective advocates and spokespeople about pain issues in the United States and Canada. Developing their leadership and communications skills, the six fellows chosen will be poised to move the field forward with their willingness to educate and work with the media, policymakers, advocates, and health and business leaders. Apply online at <http://painandhealth.org/maydayfellows/fellows.html> by June 1.

New England News

New Hampshire Cancer Pain Initiative Gains Coordinator

The New England Pain Relief Program of the American Cancer Society (ACS) is pleased to welcome Deborah Kimball, MSW, LICSW to the position of Cancer Pain Initiative Coordinator for New Hampshire. Deb will be working with ACS staff and the state pain and end of life community to rejuvenate the NH Cancer Pain Initiative and will co-chair the palliative care workgroup of the NH Cancer Control Plan. For more information about how to get involved in New Hampshire call the ACS office at 603-472-8899.

Connecticut Allows Faxing Scripts For Hospice Patients

The Connecticut Cancer Pain Initiative is pleased to announce that Connecticut drug control authorities will allow schedule II prescriptions for hospice patients to be faxed by a prescribing practitioner or his/her agent to the dispensing pharmacy and that the prescription transmitted via facsimile will be accepted as the original prescription. There is no longer a need to have the practitioner send the original prescription to the pharmacy. This interpretation brings Connecticut's law into line with federal regulations.

MassPI Working Council Updates

Public Awareness Council, Chair Hannah Lyons, RN, MSN, AOCN

This spring, the Council is focusing their Power Over Pain activity in the elderly population. Two POP's have occurred at Councils on Aging (COA) and four more are scheduled. The ambitious goal is to reach all 353 COA in the Commonwealth. This will be accomplished through providing packets of information to volunteers to reach out to their local COA, and training more POP presenters. Partnering with community organizations to promote pain education and increasing public outreach through media outlets are also a focus of this council for the spring.

Professional Education Council, Chair Anne Marie Kelly, BSN, RN C

The Professional Education Council is focused on expanding outreach of Power Over Pain for healthcare professionals. This spring, the council will reach out to the 38 Nursing Programs in Massachusetts to offer free education to faculty and students. This council will be organizing the second revision of the Pain Management Pocket Tool and reaching out for ways to disseminate the information widely. Professional Education Council members have had one successful conference call since their January meeting to keep plans on track.

Legislative Issues & Access To Care Council, Chair Srdjan Nedeljkovic, MD

MassPI continues communication with the Healthcare Regulatory Boards, Attorney General, and Massachusetts Medical Society to discuss pain management education and outreach. MassPI is on the June 2 agenda to meet together with the Managers of the Boards of Registration in Pharmacy, Nursing and Dentistry. This council continues to identify and respond to legislative barriers to effective pain management in Massachusetts.

MassPI Website, Chair Tom Quinn, RN, MSN

MassPI is looking for volunteers to help with the website <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/> in order to make it useful for healthcare professionals and the members of all our communities. We need help with writing and editing pertinent content articles as well as technical support for modifying and updating website. You can contact me at tquinn1@partners.org.

Resources, Continuing Education, and Training **Registration Opens For Palliative Care Training**

The nation's six Palliative Care Leadership Centers (PCLCs) are now accepting registrations for 2005. Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Center to Advance Palliative Care, the PCLCs provide on-site training and mentoring to hospitals attempting to start or grow palliative care programs. Healthcare institutions can bring a team to any of the Centers and receive intensive training and a full year of follow-up mentoring in how to design and launch a successful program. Teams develop a business plan, program structure, and cohesiveness, plus educational resources from the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), audio conferences with mentoring from top palliative care experts, and a comprehensive Guide to Building a Hospital-Based Palliative Care Program. Participants can choose from any of the six Palliative Care Leadership Centers. Teams must register for the Palliative Care Leadership Centers by visiting www.capc.org/pclc or by calling 212-201-2683.

American Pharmacists Association: Pain Management CE Book

The American Pharmacists Association has published "Implementing Pain Management Services in Pharmacy Practice," a continuing education monograph for pharmacists; <http://www.pharmacist.com/>.

CME educational content for physicians and nurses

Medtronic Pain Management is partnering with WebMD/Medscape to provide this resource. To access this free CME/CE activity, visit Medscape: www.medscape.com/clinicalupdate/chronicpain. First time visitors: register free at www.medscape.com.

Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics

The Tufts University School of Medicine Master of Science in Pain Research, Education and Policy has introduced a new Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics. The goal of the program is to provide targeted postgraduate education for healthcare professionals in the evolving field of pain. Join Master's program students in a dynamic and richly rewarding educational experience that fosters intellectual development. Certificate program students choose a specialty and enroll in one of three tracks: Research, Education, or Policy. Students will complete a total of 20 credit hours of graduate-level courses to earn the Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics.

Summer, 2005 Course Offerings · Patient-Provider Interaction · Principles of Biostatistics · Principles of Epidemiology

Fall, 2005 Course Offerings · Neuroanatomy, Neurochemistry & Pharmacology · Public Policy, Legislative and Forensic Issues · Ethical and Sociocultural Aspects of Pain · Professional Communications · Health Behavior & Health Communications · Principles of Biostatistics · Principles of Epidemiology

For more information, visit www.tufts.edu/med/prep or contact Jeanne Connolly at jeanne.connolly@tufts.edu or phone 617-636-3631.

For a list of other resources and links, please visit: <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/links.htm>

Upcoming Events Calendar 2005

Massachusetts General Hospital Chronic Pain Rounds

Time: Mondays 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Clinics Building, 3rd Floor, Clinics 3 Amphitheater

Contact: Tina Toland, 617-724-6102

- May 23—Can Intrathecal Steroids Induce Neurotoxic Effects? Jianren Mao, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital
- June 13—Persistent Foot Pain: Diagnostic Issues. Jeffrey Coen, DPM, Boston, MA, Fellow, American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons, American College of Foot & Ankle Orthopedics
- July 11—Complementary and Alternative Medicine Approaches to Pain. Steven Scrivani, DMD, D.Med.Sc. Tufts School of Dental Medicine, Craniofacial Pain Center, Tufts University
- Aug 1—Post Concussion Syndrome: the Assessment and the Evidence. Nancy Hebben, Ph.D. Neuropsychologist Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital

Wed, April 20, 2005

“Living with Grief: Ethical Dilemmas at the End of Life”, 1:30-4:00PM Eastern Time. Brought to you by Hospice Foundation of America and moderated by Cokie Roberts, this teleconference will examine issues regarding the social perspectives of medical ethics and how various health care settings may influence ethical decisions in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. For more information, please visit <http://www.hospicefoundation.org>

Wed and Thurs, May 4-5, 2005

“A Prescription for Pain: Promoting Pain Relief for Patients”, a pharmaceutical care program for all registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. 8-3, May 4 in Waltham, May 5 in Springfield. Sponsored collaboratively by MA College of Pharmacy, MassPI, and MA Pharmacists Association. Registration form at <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/MassPI%20MCP%20program.pdf>. For more information contact MCPHS-CE at 617-732-2081

Tues, May 24, 2005

CancerCare Connect Telephone Education Workshop, Part II of Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer: Long Term Side Effects: Fatigue and Memory, 1-2p EST. Second workshop in a three-part series. Funded by educational grants from Lance Armstrong Foundation and National Cancer Institute, offers cancer survivors, their families, friends and healthcare professionals practical information to help them cope with concerns and issues that arise after treatment ends. Workshops free, pre-registration required. Go to the following link to register <http://www.cancercare.org/Feedback/Feedback.cfm?r=21>

Thurs-Sat, June 9-11, 2005

16th Annual Meeting of the American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives (AACPI), Exploring New Gateways to Pain Management, Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, MO, Keynote Speaker: The Honorable W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma and a national leader in efforts to improve end-of-life care. <http://www.aacpi.wisc.edu>

Tues, June 14, 2005

CancerCare Connect Telephone Education Workshop, Part III of Cancer Survivorship: Health Promoting Behaviors: Things You Can Do, 1-2p EST. Third workshop in a three-part series, Cancer Survivorship: Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer. Funded by educational grants from Lance Armstrong Foundation and National Cancer Institute, offers cancer survivors, their families, friends and healthcare professionals practical information to help them cope with concerns and issues that arise after treatment ends. Workshops free, pre-registration required. Go to the following link to register <http://www.cancercare.org/Feedback/Feedback.cfm?r=21>

Thursday, June 16, 2005

“Honoring and Caring for Veterans at the End of Life” by the Massachusetts Hospice-Veteran Partnership 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA, registration form is available at www.hospicefed.org. For more information contact hospicefed@aol.com.

MassPI Steering Council Members:

Carol Curtiss, RN, MSN,
Ginger Newell-Stokes, MS, RN
Ann Marie Harootunian, RN,MS,FNP,
Lewis Hays, MD
Jeanne Connolly-Horrigan, MS
Jennifer Cruickshank

Roberta Bernstein
Mary Whalen, RN, BA, MSN
Paul Ross Ed.D, M.Ed., S.B.Ed
Jane Gannon, BS, MS
Amy Goldstein, MSW