

WELCOME TO VASAM  
**Quarterly Bulletin**

*we're so glad you're here!*



## President's Message

Dear VASAM members,

I trust you are staying warm during this cold winter season! Even in the quieter months of the year, your VASAM board strives tirelessly to promote the cause of addiction medicine in our commonwealth. Behind the scenes, we continue to solicit and foster exciting collaborations with individuals and organizations alike to bring value to your membership.

As a designated “intensive partnership state” of our parent organization ASAM, Dr. Grawert of our advocacy and public policy committee was made aware of and ultimately led a charge to challenge outdated OBOT regulations at the Virginia Board of Medicine. We are immensely proud of Dr. Grawert and board members like her who are driven to fight for better patient care. We thank Parker Baird, state advocacy manager at ASAM, for his close collaboration and support from the national level.

VASAM members continue to lend our expertise to the VCU-OAA Toolkit STOP grant initiative through our learning collaboratives. Witnessing the growth of community engagement has been exciting to stay the least. As some members have already done, please reach out with any grant proposals that meet the unique needs of your patient populations, particularly if you work in the Hampton Roads and Richmond metro, as these regions are being prioritized currently.

As always, on behalf of the VASAM board, we thank you for your ongoing support of our state chapter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you we can assist you further in your professional endeavors.

Warmest regards,  
Masaru “Moose” Nishiaoki, MD, FASAM

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# WHAM 2026 Webinar Series

VASAM is happy to continue with their "What's Hot in Addiction Medicine" Webinar Series. Again, this year, the WHAM presenters will be announced in the bulletin, website and social media as each are confirmed. This four-part **webinar series** will be held quarterly in 2026. WHAM 2026 is free for all, but registration is required!



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN !

Join us **March 11, 2026, from 6:30pm -7:30pm**  
for our 1st WHAM this year!

**Joi Tramuel, EdS**

Colonial Behavioral Health/Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition

will present a talk on  
"SUDA 101"

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## Renewing your ASAM Membership

ASAM is the largest leading professional society actively seeking to define and expand the field of addiction medicine. ASAM membership offers the opportunity to develop treatment guidelines and protocol, network with peers and attend world-renowned courses in the field of addiction medicine and so much more. Besides being able to network with these doctors and share resources and best practices, there are numerous benefits of becoming a member.

### **Renew Your Membership HERE!**

#### Benefits include:

- The Journal of Addiction Medicine
- ASAM Fellow Designation
- Special Interest Groups
- Advocate for Your Profession
- Career Center Access
- CME - Member Exclusive Rates
- Networking & Local Chapters
- Health Insurance - Member Exclusive Rates

The VaSAM Membership Committee Chair and committee members will also be reaching out to you directly via email in the next few weeks if you have not yet renewed your membership.

#### Member Types and Descriptions:

- **Associate** - Open to individuals who teach, conduct research or provide clinical care for individuals who are at risk for having a substance use disorder. Associate members in a clinical setting must have a state clinical license. (An equivalent master's level certification accepted if no clinical licensure is available in their state.)
- **Early Career** - Physicians in their first two years after completing an accredited Residency or Fellowship program OR in the first two years of practicing addiction medicine on a full-time basis.
- **Regular** - Licensed to practice allopathic or osteopathic medicine.
- **Resident** - Interns, residents, or fellows serving in an approved hospital or fellowship program. Must have a valid license in localities where required or an equivalent certifying document.
- **Retired** - Completely retired from the practice of medicine.
- **Student** - Enrolled and in good standing in a formally accredited University and/or Institution.

# ASAM Corner



## The ASAM 57th Annual Conference - Innovations in Addiction Medicine and Science Connect. Learn. Inspire.

### What is the ASAM Annual Conference?

The ASAM Annual Conference is the defining event in addiction medicine, bringing together all professionals to connect, learn, and inspire. For 57 years, ASAM has been convening the addiction treatment community to showcase best practices and the latest science, research, and innovations in the field. This year, attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Connect and network with over 2,500 colleagues
- Learn from nationally recognized experts at 60+ sessions and 120+ posters
- Be Inspired by thought-provoking conversations with peers and powerful presentations highlighting actionable and practical skills

### Dates & Location

The ASAM 57th Annual Conference will take place at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA. The event begins at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 23, 2026, with an opening welcome reception and concludes at 11:30 am on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

The Manchester Grand Hyatt is located on the waterfront in the heart of downtown San Diego, just minutes away from the San Diego International Airport. Explore Southern California's eclectic culture and natural beauty with breathtaking views of the Harbor, Coronado Island, and the city skyline. Walking distance from the city's top attractions like the USS Midway, Museum, Gaslamp District, and Petco Park, it's the ultimate destination for conference attendees to learn and explore.

Full Conference Registration			
Rate Description	Super Early Bird	Early Bird	Regular
Deadlines	Until December 31, 2025	Until March 12, 2026	Until April 22, 2026
ASAM Member*	\$755	\$815	\$915
Non-Member	\$1,255	\$1,315	\$1,415
Retired Member*	\$655	\$715	\$815
Associate Member*	\$495	\$555	\$655
Resident Member**	\$275	\$275	\$275
Student Member**	\$195	\$195	\$195
Guests	\$225	\$225	\$225

\* ASAM Members must be up to date on their 2026 dues in order to receive the member registration discount for the 57th Annual Conference.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

# Public Policy/Advocacy Committee

*Update provided by VaSAM Legislative Committee,*

*Chair: Dr. Douglas A Brown*

*Committee Members: Dr. Lauren Grawert and Dr. James Thompson*



VASAM continues to stay closely aligned with the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) and actively monitors key state-level legislative efforts that directly impact addiction medicine, physician practice, and patient access to care. Through ongoing monthly coordination and policy tracking, VASAM is engaged in MSV's advocacy agenda as it advances legislation focused on protecting physicians, improving payer accountability, and strengthening Virginia's healthcare workforce.

This session, MSV is prioritizing several high-impact bills that are also closely followed by VASAM leadership, including preservation of the medical malpractice cap, banning non-compete agreements for healthcare providers, and addressing insurer downcoding practices.

VASAM leadership will be attending MSV's upcoming "lobby day" in Richmond on February 26th, for further in-person support of the current bills that would

- A) ban all healthcare non-competes and
- B) address problematic insurer downcoding practices.

Finally, at the end of January, VASAM leadership testified in support of HB172, which would remove the requirement that patients receiving MAT also receive therapy. HB 172 would make concurrent therapy encouraged and optional versus being mandatory. The bill passed the House health subcommittee and will be heard on the House floor for final vote later this month.

It's been a busy 2026!

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## Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority

**Stay informed on the latest news and updates from the VOAA.**

Subscribe to the mailing list and read the news releases [here](#)

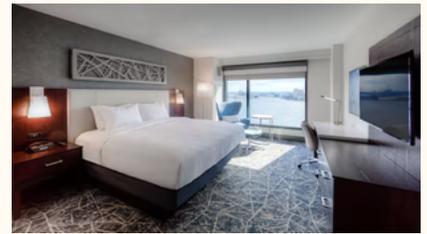
You may also learn about the grant process through the web-based portal. The VOAA offers a quick start guide, specific training videos for city and county managers.

If you would like to learn more about the VOAA, please visit their website: <https://www.oaa.virginia.gov/>

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# Save the Date for VaSAM 2026

October 23-24, 2026  
Hilton Norfolk - The Main  
Norfolk, Virginia



**Plans are already underway for the VaSAM 2026 Annual Conference to be held October 23-24, 2026, at the stunning Hilton Norfolk - The Main Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. Save the Date!**

VaSAM 2026 will feature a Pre-Conference Symposia, a Keynote Address, Invited Speakers, a Panel, a Student/Medical Trainee Poster Session and of course, CME and unprecedented networking opportunities! The full program will be released in April 2026 and updates are being added here weekly: <https://vasam.net/conference>

Hilton Norfolk The Main Hotel is located at 100 Main Street, Norfolk, VA, 23510. We have negotiated a fantastic room rate of \$209 per night. Reservations sold out quickly for 2025 conference so be sure to book early for 2026.

**Reservation can be made using this [link](#).**

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## Follow Us on Social Media

[FACEBOOK](#)

[LINKEDIN](#)

[WWW.VASAM.NET](http://WWW.VASAM.NET)  
[INFO@VASAM.NET](mailto:INFO@VASAM.NET)

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