



What's Hot In Addiction Medicine Webinars "WHAM Series 2023"

Virtual – Live Activity – Presented by the Virginia Chapter of ASAM

WHAM #1: The Opioid Abatement Authority: Changing How Virginia Thinks About Addiction

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Instructor: James Thompson, MD, Founder and Chief Medical Officer, Master Center for Addiction Medicine

Abstract: In 2019, the attorneys general of 26 states, including Virginia, won a multi-billion-dollar settlement against Purdue Pharma and other manufacturers and marketers of prescription opioids. The funds are divided among the states to help address the devastating harm of opioid addiction and overdose crisis. The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) was established by the Virginia General Assembly through the passing of HB 2322 (Herring) and SB1469 (Barker), making Virginia one of the first states in the nation to have a legislative framework for the expenditure of opioid litigation funds. These funds, over \$500 million, are placed in the Opioid Abatement Fund (OAF) that will be carefully distributed by the Opioid Abatement Authority. The mission of the OAA is to “abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support from the Fund, in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth.” Its existence creates an unprecedented opportunity for addiction treatment providers and educators to apply for and receive funding for existing or newly created projects that can demonstrate their effectiveness in helping achieve that mission. This presentation by a member of the Authority will inform the membership of OAA progress and inspire the involvement of the VASAM board and members in making the most of this once in a generation opportunity to advance our field and help our patients.

Educational Goals & Objectives:

- 1) Review the mission, structure, and function of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA);
- 2) Discuss the process of identifying and developing worthy projects that might serve the OAA mission and to present those projects to the OAA for funding and support;
- 3) Explore and examine how the OAA might prove instrumental in expanding access to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder.

WHAM #2: Treating Hepatitis C in the Addiction Treatment Setting

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Instructor: Debra O'Beirne, MD, FASAM, Director of Addiction Medicine Services, Fairfax County CSB

Abstract: Rates of hepatitis C (HCV) infection remain high amongst people who use drugs (PWUD). Newer direct acting antivirals cure HCV at high rates. However, barriers remain in providing standard, non-stigmatizing care to PWUD. This presentation will review the epidemiology of HCV with a focus on PWUD. It will describe the simplified HCV treatment regimens now recommended as well as barriers relevant to PWUD who are seeking treatment for HCV. It will foster discussion on how to incorporate HCV treatment into centers that provide addiction treatment.

Educational Goals & Objectives:

- 1) Understand the benefits of addressing Hepatitis-C in the Addiction treatment setting;
 - 2) Be able to identify appropriate patients and perform initial screening for Hepatitis-C treatment;
 - 3) Learn at least one Hepatitis-C treatment protocol.
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WHAM #3: Buprenorphine Boot Camp

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Instructor: Brandon Wills, MD, FASAM, Medical Director, MOTIVATE Clinic, VCU Health

Abstract: Opioid Use Disorder continues to be a serious health care crisis and one of the leading causes of death among young adults. Buprenorphine had been shown to be an effective treatment for this disease. This presentation will address an important aspect of Buprenorphine treatment, transitioning patients onto or off long-acting injectable buprenorphine.

Educational Goals & Objectives:

- 1) Identify appropriate candidates for long-acting injectable buprenorphine.
 - 2) Be aware of medical issues that may arise during the transition to/from oral treatment.
 - 3) Discuss potential medical protocols for transition from oral to injectable, or from injectable to oral buprenorphine treatment.
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WHAM #4: Auricular Neural Stimulation as a New Non-Invasive Treatment for Opioid Withdrawal

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, from 6:30pm-7:30pm ET

Instructor: Douglas A Brown, MD, Medical Director, Addiction Recovery Center of Virginia

Abstract: The recent opioid crisis is one of the rising challenges in the history of modern health care. New and effective treatment modalities with less adverse effects to alleviate and manage this modern epidemic are critically needed. The FDA has recently approved two non-invasive electrical nerve stimulators for the adjunct treatment of symptoms of acute opioid withdrawal. These devices, placed behind the ear, stimulate certain cranial nerves with auricular projections. This neural stimulation reportedly generates a prompt effect in terms of alleviation of withdrawal

symptoms resulting from acute discontinuation of opioid use. Current experimental evidence indicates that this type of non-invasive neural stimulation has excellent potential to supplement medication assisted treatment in opioid detoxification with lower side effects and increased adherence to treatment. Here we review current findings supporting the use of non-invasive neural stimulations in detoxification from opioid use. I will briefly outline the neurophysiology underlying this approach of auricular electrical neural stimulation and its role in enhancing medication assisted treatment in treating symptoms of opioid withdrawal. Consider the growing deleterious impact of addictive disorder on our society, further studies on the emerging treatment modality are warranted.

Educational Goals & Objectives:

- 1) Understanding the Mechanisms of Auricular Neural Stimulation;
- 2) Why Transcutaneous Neural Stimulation as an Adjunct Treatment for Acute Opioid Withdrawal;
- 3) Understanding Why Opioid Dependence is One of the Emerging Challenging Public Health Issues.

VaSAM has applied for four (4) CME Credits for four (4) one-hour Webinars. Pending Approval.

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