

WELCOME TO VASAM

Quarterly Bulletin

we're so glad you're here!



President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Your VaSAM board has been hard at work planning a year of exciting opportunities!

Our quarterly WHAM series will be starting up next month. Dr. Colin Greene, the Special Advisor to the Governor will be our guest speaker for our first session, discussing treatment for opioid use disorder in the primary care setting. Please join us for this important topic.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the national ASAM 2024 Annual Conference, April 4 - 7, in Dallas, Texas, at the Gaylord Grapevine Resort. Your Virginia chapter will have a hospitality suite at the Gaylord and a special reception for attendees from our state. Please see the article in this newsletter for other activities at the conference.

Ajay Manhapra, MD, Section Chief, Pain Medicine at Hampton VAMC Pain/Addiction and one of our board members at large will be speaking this year at the national ASAM Conference during the Pain and Addiction Pre-Course on Thursday, April 4, 2024, from 11:45am-12:15pm, titled, "Complex Persistent Opioid Dependence." If you are interested in this course, please see registration and rates [here](#).

The Georgia Society for Addiction Medicine will be holding its first in-person annual conference on July 19-20 in Savannah, Georgia. Registration for our chapter members is the member rate, and several of us will be attending. Contact a board member if you are also interested in attending; we are arranging a car pool and some fun activity in Savannah.

Finally, you should have on your calendars our own VaSAM Annual Conference, to be held November 1 - 2, 2024, at the Westin Dulles in Herndon, Virginia. We are well into planning the content for this conference, but it's not too late to submit a topic to our education committee.

Warmest Regards,

Debra O'Beirne, MD, FASAM
President, Virginia Society for Addiction Medicine

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WHAM 2024 Webinar Series

Back by popular demand, VASAM is pleased to present the "What's Hot in Addiction Medicine." This four-part webinar series will be held quarterly in 2024. WHAM 2024 is free for all VASAM Members, and \$49 per webinar for non-members.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN !



Join us March 19, 2024, from 6:30pm -7:30pm
for our 1st WHAM this year!

Colin M. Greene, MD. MPH
Special Advisor on Opioid Response, Commonwealth of Virginia

will present a talk on

**“Many Hands Make Light Work: The Primary Care Provider's Role in
Timely Access to OUD Treatment”**

Future WHAM 2024 Schedule

“Fentanyl Era - High Dose Buprenorphine and Methadone Starts”

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Vania P. Rudolf, MD, MPH, DFASAM,
Medical Director, Addiction Recovery Services

“42 CFR Part 8: HHS Updates for OTP's”

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Diane Oehl

State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA)

Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental services

“Modernizing Methadone Treatment in 2024”

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, from 6:30pm-7:30pm

Ruth A. Potee, MD, DFASAM, FAAFP

Director of Addiction Services, Behavior Health Network

ASAM Corner

The ASAM 55th Annual Conference, "Innovations in Addiction Medicine & Science," will take place at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. The event begins at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 4, 2024, with an opening welcome reception and concludes at 11:30 am on Sunday, April 7, 2024. [Learn more here!](#)

Dates & Times:

These are the dates and times for the main conference content. Pre-conference courses, regional meetings, special interest group discussions, and some fun and fitness activities take place outside of these times. Please check the [full schedule](#) for more information. Pre-Conference Courses take place Thursday, April 4, 2024, and are subject to an additional registration fee.

- Thursday, April 4, 2024 | 5:30 pm - 8:45 pm
- Friday, April 5, 2024 | 7:30 am - 7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 6, 2024 | 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
- Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 7:30 am - 11:30 am

Full Conference Registration includes:

- Three exciting general sessions and 60+ concurrent sessions*
- Dynamic Poster Hall with 100+ posters and live presentations from the poster authors.
- Daily breakfast, lunch, refreshment breaks, and networking receptions.
- Robust Exhibit Hall with relevant and engaging company booths.
- Dedicated networking time to build connections with colleagues and new friends.

*All content will be recorded and made available on-demand in the ASAM eLearning Center within 2-4 weeks following the live event. All full conference registrants will get access to this content until April 22, 2027.

Registration Details are available [here](#).

Virginia Chapter Meet & Greet at ASAM National Conference in Dallas, Texas

You are invited to join the VASAM Board for a Meet & Greet on Friday, April 5th from 5pm-6pm during the ASAM National Conference, at the Gaylord Hotel, in Dallas, Texas. No cost to attend, light refreshments will be served. [RSVP required by March 22nd.](#)

Region V Meeting at ASAM National Conference

The Virginia Chapter of ASAM will take part in the Region V Meeting during the ASAM National Conference. All Members are encouraged to attend. The Region V Meeting will take place Saturday, April 6th from 12:15pm-1:15pm in the San Antonio Rooms 1-3 on Level 3 of the Gaylord Hotel.

The Region V Meeting will include representatives from Virginia, Delaware, DC, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia.



Legislative Committee Update

*Update provided by VaSAM Legislative Committee Chair,
Douglas A Brown, MD,
Medical Director, Addiction Recovery Center of Virginia*

2023 was a good year for VaSAM exposure at the General Assembly. My main direction was meeting with as many Delegates and Senators as I could. I wanted each of them to be aware of our State Chapter of ASAM. My objective was to explain who we are as an organization and provide them with access to our expertise in the field of Addiction Medicine.

With the elections complete, many Delegates and Senators who were reelected, I have established communication with at the General Assembly in 2023 and through email communication. I look forward to speaking all of them again at the 2024 General Assembly.

I had the pleasure of meeting newly elected Delate Amanda Batton during her campaign. Delegate Batton expressed great interest in learning about VaSAM and what is happening with the Addiction crisis in our Commonwealth. I will stay in touch with Delegate Batton and all our Delegates and Senators.



VaSAM Merchandise



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Orders Must be placed by March 15, 2024 for delivery before the ASAM National Conference!

Save the Date for VaSAM 2024

November 1-2, 2024

The Westin Washington Dulles
Herndon, Virginia



VASAM's 2024 Annual Conference will feature Workshops and a Welcome Reception on Friday, November 1, 2024. Saturday, November 2nd will include a Keynote address, a series of Invited Speakers, a Student Poster Competition and various networking opportunities.

The Program Planning Committee is working on the Schedule of Events now and additional details will be announced in the coming months.

The Westin Washington Dulles Hotel is conveniently located at 2520 Wasser Terrace in Herndon, Virginia. The hotel recently underwent a major renovation to their first-floor event space, where VASAM 2024 sessions will take place. The Westin has an onsite restaurant, a 24-hour fitness center, and is in close proximity to dozens of shops and restaurants at the Reston Town Center.

Hotel rooms are available to VASAM 2024 attendees for a special group rate of \$109, plus applicable taxes, per night, on a first-come-first-served basis. [Book your hotel room now!](#)

Sponsorship & Exhibition opportunities for VASAM 2024 are available now! Contact the VASAM 2024 Annual Conference Planners, alicia.standridge@vasam.net or molly.poisant@vasam.net to secure your sponsorship!

Bookmark this [webpage](#) for regular updates between Member Bulletins!

Meet the Member

Jason Bard, Medical Student, Eastern Virginia Medical School and VaSAM Student Engagement Liaison for the term 2023-2025.

Hello VaSAM! I'm Jason, a fourth-year medical student at EVMS and the Student Engagement Liaison for VaSAM. I grew up in Lorton, VA and then attended the College of William and Mary, where I studied psychology and biochemistry. I am currently applying to psychiatry residency with interests in addiction, HIV and community psychiatry. Working with oftentimes stigmatized and marginalized populations is what I find truly fulfilling. In my free time, I enjoy cooking a variety of cuisines (currently going through an Indian cookbook I bought this past summer!), bouldering, as well as practicing meditation and yoga.



Joining VaSAM, in addition to ASAM, was initially important to me because of the paucity of addiction didactics in the medical school curriculum. My interest in addiction was sparked by my experience in the Summer Institute for Medical Students (SIMS) program the summer after my first year of medical school. I realized how important it was to address substance use disorders after listening to the lived experiences of those struggling with addiction. It's rejuvenating to be part of state and national organizations that support what I find to be critical to our communities and serve as platforms for research and collaboration.

My role as the Student Engagement Liaison entails increasing student participation in VaSAM and the field of addiction medicine, in general. This is the first year VaSAM has had a student leadership role. Some of my responsibilities have included reaching out to schools across Virginia to advertise our organization and its annual conferences. I have a strong interest in research, and so a goal has been to increase the number of student/trainee posters presented at meetings. I'm also hoping to introduce aspects of mentorship and educational resources based on student member feedback.

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