

## CSAM Releases Consumer Guide and Scorecard on Health Insurance Coverage in California for Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health

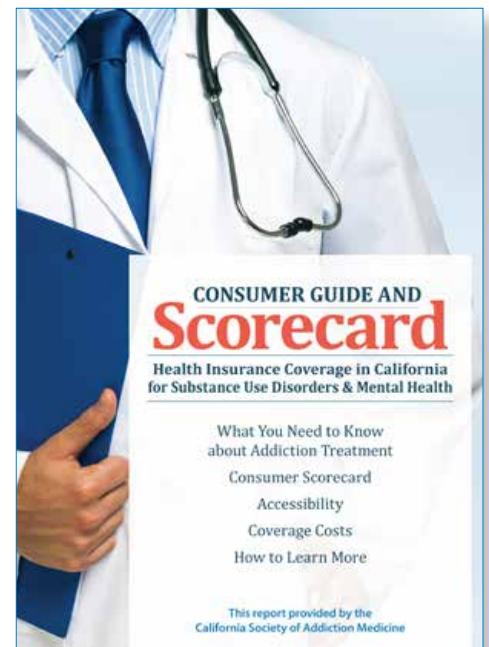
FROM THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY DAVID KAN, MD AND ITAI DANOVITCH, MD

**W**ith the advent of new health care legislation, the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) saw the opportunity to rate the quality of and access to addiction care. The scorecard is a guide to educate consumers shopping for health care plans about where to find the best addiction treatment coverage.

Under the Affordable Care Act individuals can no longer be denied coverage for having a preexisting condition like addiction. Individuals and families can now select a health plan that best covers the conditions that they care about.

By sharing what we know, both about addiction treatment and current health care services in California, we hope to demystify treatment and make the process of selecting an appropriate health insurance plan less daunting. Though all plans cover substance use disorders, and there is some degree of standardization in pricing policies, we have identified several areas such as methadone treatment and pharmacy benefits, where there are significant differences among plans. ■

*The resulting report is included with this issue of CSAM News.*



## Victory at the Ballot Box and at the Governor's Desk

BY CHRISTY WATERS, MD, CHAIR, CSAM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC POLICY



CHRISTY WATERS, MD

**T**his has been a busy and productive year on the public policy front. The CSAM Committee on Public Policy reviewed and took positions on nearly 30 pieces of legislation and two ballot initiatives. Our committee was quite pleased with the outcome of many bills that CSAM took a position on, along with the outcome of two ballot initiatives.

Here's how things turned out.

Voters voted down Proposition 46, which would have made California the first state in the country to impose random, mandatory drug testing of all physicians. If the initiative had passed, a positive test result would have triggered immediate license suspension and reporting to hospitals prior to a hearing. CSAM, along with a broad

bipartisan coalition, opposed this measure, which had been placed on the ballot by trial attorneys in a thinly veiled attempt to raise the medical liability cap for non-economic damages. The measure would have tripled trial lawyers' legal fees in the non-economic damages portion of medical lawsuits filed against doctors and hospitals.

Voters passed Proposition 47 and California is now the first state to end felony sentencing for simple drug possession. California's new law will change sentencing from felonies to misdemeanors for six low-level, nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft. This will reduce the number of people spending time in prison, and calls for the estimated \$200 million saved in prison costs each year to fund programs that rehabilitate drug addicts, treat mental health needs, keep kids in school, and support crime

*continued on page 6*

# Community Service Award Presented to Assembly Member Tom Ammiano

CSAM's Community Service Award was presented to California State Assembly Member **Tom Ammiano** in recognition of dedicated public service as a teacher, civil rights leader, educator, and legislator, and for authoring legislation that established San Francisco as the first city in America to provide universal health care access, in addition to being an advocate for improving access to health care services. Through his efforts he has greatly improved the lives of families and patients suffering from the disease of addiction, as well as saving lives.

As a member of the California State Assembly, Ammiano has been responsible for getting signed into law:

- Assembly Bill 755 – calls for life-saving suicide barriers for bridges across California
- Assembly Bill 472 (the "911" Good Samaritan Law) provides protection from liability for those who witness an overdose and call for help
- Assembly Bill 635 – expands access to naloxone so that family and friends of drug users are able to reverse overdoses at home with this easy to administer injectable drug and when administering this medication, they will be protected from liability ■



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN TOM AMMIANO. FROM LEFT: ROBERT HARRIS, CHRISTY WATERS, MD, TIMMEN CERMAK, MD, STEVEN EICKELBERG, MD, ITAI DANOVITCH, MD, JUDITH MARTIN, MD, ASSEMBLY MEMBER TOM AMMIANO, JEFFERY WILKINS, MD, JEAN MARSTERS, MD, DAVID KAN, MD, KERRY PARKER, CAE

## CSAM Receives Re-accreditation with Commendation from CMA/IMQ

On November 20, 2014, CSAM's education program was awarded a 6-year re-accreditation "with commendation" by the California Medical Association/Institute for Medical Quality. Six-year accreditation is the highest accreditation awarded by the CMA/IMQ and is awarded to only a small percentage of CME providers. While CSAM's CME activities have long met CMA/IMQ's high standards, receiving Accreditation with Commendation is a first for CSAM.

The review of CSAM's educational program included an audit of individual activities and an extensive meeting with an IMQ physician surveyor who reviewed all aspects of CSAM educational activities from planning, use of commercial support and disclosure of financial relationships, evaluation of activities, continual improvement and engagement with the larger environment. The IMQ looks for documentation of learning outcomes that change physician practice and improve patient outcomes.

This recognition is testament to the high quality of CSAM's CME and the work of the Committee on Education (Chaired by Monika Koch, MD and Jean Marsters, MD for the period reviewed) and others involved in CSAM's education program.



# More than 700 Attend Addiction Medicine Review Course in Anaheim

More than 700 people attended the Addiction Medicine Review Course, September 3-6, 2014 in Anaheim, CA. The Review Course Planning Committee was chaired by Dana Harris, MD and co-chaired by Sharone Abramowitz, MD. Conference attendees included many sitting for the ABAM Certification Exam and also others: 24 Medical Education and Research Foundation Scholarship recipients from primary care residencies; physicians who want to be able to better treat their patients with substance use disorders; and experienced practitioners who wanted an update on the latest developments in the field.

Speakers included top experts in the field including Richard Ries, MD; Douglas Gourlay, MD; George Koob, PhD; Thomas Kosten, MD; Garrett O'Connor, MD; Peter Banys, MD; and many others.

Here is what people said about the Addiction Medicine Review Course:

*"Absolutely outstanding in terms of material presented. Found the conference stimulating, motivating and thought provoking. I feel the energy to change and educate the world about this epidemic of addiction that affects all of us."*

*"One of the best conferences ever attended; well organized, excellent and knowledgeable presenters, and friendly staff. It helped me to prepare for the exam and now I feel more confident to take the test." ■*



CONFERENCE PLANNERS

FRONT (FROM LEFT) JEAN MARSTERS, MD; DANA HARRIS, MD; SHARONE ABRAMOWITZ, MD; ASMA ASYYED, MD BACK (FROM LEFT): PY DRISCOLL, MD, ANGIE CHEN, MD, JOAN STRIEBEL, MD; MURTUZA GHADIALI, MD; WILLIAM BROSTOFF, MD, MASON TURNER, MD; ANNA LEMBKE, MD; TREY MEEKS, MD; ANTHONY ALBANESE, MD; ANGELLA BARR, MD (NOT IN PHOTO: JAMES GOLDEN, MD; KATIE McLANE, MD; STEVEN EICKELBERG, MD; AND SUMA SINGH, MD



THE CONFERENCE FEATURED FACILITATED CASE DISCUSSIONS TO ENCOURAGE INTERACTION BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS AND APPLICATION OF THE MATERIAL TO CLINICAL CASES.

## Vernelle Fox Award Presented to Steven Eickelberg, MD



VERNELLE FOX AWARD PRESENTED TO STEVEN J. EICKELBERG, MD (CENTER) ALSO IN PHOTO: ITAI DANOVITCH, MD (LEFT) AND JEFFERY WILKINS, MD

CSAM's Vernelle Fox Award was presented to **Steven J. Eickelberg, MD** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of addiction medicine as an educator and mentor.

His contributions over the past three decades have improved the quality of health care services, increased communication and education among providers of care, expanded the understanding of our patients and their treatment, and addressed – head on – the stigma of addiction.

The award also recognized his steadfast commitment to leading the Medical Education and Research Foundation for the Treatment of Addiction (MERF) and for the inspiration he provides in translating education into enthusiasm and hope for addiction treatment. ■

# In Memoriam: Max Schneider, MD

CSAM mourns the passing of **Max Schneider, MD**, a leading figure in the field of addiction medicine for the last 50 years. Among many accomplishments, he was also President of the California Society of Addiction Medicine and the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and served as chairman of the board of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.

Max was a board member of the Medical Education and Research Foundation for the Treatment of Addiction (MERF) and a tireless advocate of ASAM's Ruth Fox Fund.

CSAM News received the following from Ron Smelt, Max Schneider's partner of 44 years:

"Dr. Max Schneider (Uncle Max) died peacefully at his home in Orange on September 28th at age 92 with his family by his side.

An internist who retired at age 90, he leaves an impressive legacy in the world of addiction medicine.

Growing up in Buffalo, New York, he used to joke that he started practicing medicine at age 10 as he assisted a fireman who needed a Band-Aid after fighting a house fire next door.

From that moment on, he was a fixture at the firehouse, and in later years, after he became a doctor, he volunteered as the fire department's surgeon.

He practiced internal medicine and gastroenterology in Buffalo for 10 years before moving to Orange County in 1964.

His career turning point came when he was asked to cover a fellow doctor's practice that provided treatment to many patients who were alcoholics, and he went on to become a pioneer in the field of addiction medicine. Today, recovery programs throughout California and the country include elements that are based on his work.

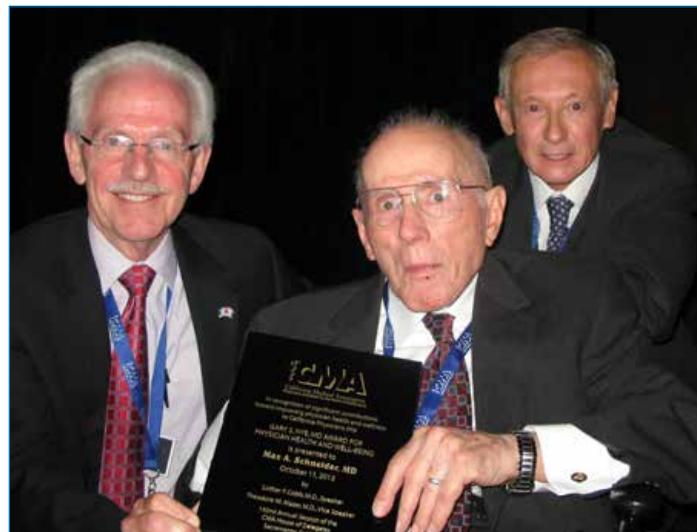
In the late 70's and early 80's he was involved with the Family Recovery Services at St. Joseph Hospital (Orange, California).

Max also had a career as an expert witness in cases involving drugs and alcohol. He testified more than 400 times.

From 1997 to 2012 he served as Chapman Medical Center's director of education in the Chemical Dependency Unit.

Dr. Steven Duckor, medical director of the Chemical Dependency Unit at Chapman Medical Center told *OC Register* columnist Barbara Venezia in 2012, 'We have him to thank for paving the road for all of us in addiction medicine. He basically developed the field. In the early 60's people didn't really want to deal with or take care of people with alcoholism. We owe this all to Max's development.'

During his career he produced 10 films and five booklets on addiction; authored over 60 papers; and lectured in 49 states,



RECEIVING THE GARY NYE AWARD FOR PHYSICIAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING  
IN 2013 FROM THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.  
FROM LEFT JIM HAY; MD, MAX SCHNEIDER, MD; RON SMELT

three Canadian provinces, and six countries.

Max served on the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration during the controversy over whether nicotine was a safe drug or not.

As an instructor, Dr. Schneider served as a faculty member at Harvard, the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, and the University of California Irvine College of Medicine.

In 1995, he was named "Doctor of the Year" by the Orange County Medical Association and was presented the "Golden Apple Award" for outstanding teaching by the 1995 University of California at Irvine Medical College graduating class.

In his very full and long life, Max blazed more than just the trail of addiction recovery.

'It was very difficult being a gay man back in the 1930's and 40's,' he told Venezia when she featured his July 29th 2012 90th birthday party in her *OC Register* column. 'My parents were accepting but I didn't tell them until I was in my 40's.'

Those who loved him for his wicked sense of humor, and his signature Mickey Mouse ties will remember Max.

Max's wish was he would live to see the day the federal government recognize gay marriage. He did, so Max and Ron got married.

Dr. Max Schneider lived an amazingly full life and many will miss him. He leaves a legacy that will live on through his philanthropy and the trails he blazed in addiction medicine and as a human rights advocate." ■

## Welcome New CSAM Members

Justin Altschuler, PhD, MD, *Sacramento*

Nicholas Athanasiou, MD, *Bakersfield*

Kimberly Brown, MD, *West Hollywood*

Thomas Bruff, MD, *San Diego*

Washington Bryan, II, MD, *Los Angeles*

Timothy Carpenter, MD, *Los Angeles*

Barry Cogen, MD, MPH, *Ventura*

Caroline Corriveau, MD, MS, *Fremont*

Jodie Escobedo, MD, *Santa Monica*

Joanna Eveland, MD, *San Francisco*

Gillian Friedman, MD, *San Bernardino*

Darrin Fryer, MD, MPH, *Newport Beach*

David Granovetter, MD, *San Jose*

Vanessa Greenwood, MD, *San Diego*

B. Colin Hamblin, MD, *Point Reyes Station*

Pascal Juang, MD, *Irvine*

Claudia Landau, MD, PhD, *Berkeley*

Jason Lulejian, MD, *Pismo Beach*

Paula Lum, MD, *San Francisco*

Kai MacDonald, MD, *San Diego*

Michael Malik, MS, MD, *Palm Desert*

Michael Martinez, MD, MPH, MS, *Richmond*

Enrico Melson, MD, *Encino*

Hamid Mirshojae, DO, *Woodland Hills*

Ryan Peterson, MD, *Los Angeles*

Natasha Pinto, MD, *Oakland*

Amin Shamal, MD, *Tracy*

Emily Tejani, MD, *Larkspur*

Patrick Thomas, Jr., MD, MPH, *Los Angeles*

Naga Thota, MD, *El Cajon*

Andrew Trent, MD, *Ventura*

Gary Tsai, MD, *Los Angeles*

Michael Wachter, MD, *San Francisco*

Robert Waldman, MD, *Marina Del Rey*

Kelly Woyewodzic, MD, *Los Angeles*

Jung Yi, MD, *San Diego*

## What Is Maintenance of Certification?

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a requirement of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) of all member specialties and subspecialties. The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) aspires to ABMS recognition and has adopted MOC criteria for its diplomates. MOC is designed to ensure that physicians are engaging in continuous professional development, have the practice-related knowledge to provide quality care and public confidence that ABAM-certified physicians maintain high standards of clinical care.

All Maintenance of Certification Programs consist of these four parts, although exact requirements vary between specialties.

### Part I: Licensure

- Valid full and unrestricted medical license in the USA, US territories or Canada.

### Part II: Life-long learning and self-assessment

- Complete 12 units of self-assessment by reading ABAM-selected articles and answering multiple choice questions (available at the ABAM MOC Portal);
- Complete 26 Category 1 CME credits every 2 years at least 13 of which must be ABAM-approved (most CSAM CME activities are approved by ABAM).

### Part III: Cognitive expertise

- ABAM Certification Exam must be taken every 10 years.

### Part IV: Practice performance assessment

- Complete an ABAM-approved performance improvement project designed to assess and improve patient care. ABAM is still developing this part. ■

## Confidential Assistance Over the Phone

The Physicians' and Dentists' Confidential Assistance Line is a 24-hour phone service providing completely confidential doctor-to-doctor assistance for physicians experiencing substance use or mental health issues.

**(650) 756-7787 (Northern California)**

**(213) 383-2691 (Southern California)**

# Victory at the Ballot Box and at the Governor's Desk

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victims. This went into effect immediately.

There were several pieces of legislation that CSAM supported this past year and Governor Jerry Brown signed. These included bills for increasing access to sterile syringes, and making the overdose antidote naloxone available in California pharmacies and for use by first responders and law enforcement. The governor and the legislature acted on the calls of addiction medicine physicians and others to prevent needless overdose deaths, curb the spread of disease, and prioritize saving lives over failed drug war policies.

## California Fair Sentencing Act (SB 1010)

Members of CSAM were vocal with the legislature and the governor about the unjust disparities (disproportionate application of harsh laws to Black and Latino Californians) between crack and powder cocaine sentencing. This law corrects the disparity in sentencing.

## Access to Hypodermic Needles and Syringes (AB 1743)

This law removes the cap on the number of syringes a pharmacist can provide to an adult without a prescription in an effort to make safe syringe access a permanent part of California's public health approach.

## Access to Naloxone from Pharmacists (AB 1535)

This law permits pharmacists to furnish naloxone hydrochloride, the opiate overdose reversal medicine pursuant to guidelines developed by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California.

## Access to Naloxone through First Responders (SB 1438)

This bill will save lives by making sure all Emergency Medical Technicians carry naloxone hydrochloride, and by making this drug available to all first responders, including law enforcement personnel.

## Changes to NTP Regulations (SB 973)

This law updates California regulations to become approximate to federal regulations for narcotic treatment programs (NTPs).

## Redefined Group Size for Counseling (SB 1045)

The law redefines the group size for outpatient treatment (counseling). Small counties often have trouble getting four or more people in a group, and larger counties have the opposite problem, when more than ten people show up for a group session. But in either case, the county cannot bill Medi-Cal for any of the services provided to these otherwise-eligible participants, because of this restriction. This bill resolves this group-size barrier to reimbursement.

## A Call for Member Involvement

As the CSAM Committee on Public Policy faces a new legislative year in January and a host of new measures and initiatives ahead, they need more members to join the Committee to help study, influence, respond, and advocate. We are seeking members to join the committee who have an interest in advancing sound public policy to end the war on drugs and improve access to evidence-based treatment.

In the months ahead, the Committee will be working with other stakeholders on a legislative measure to ensure that California has a statewide Physician Health Program (PHP) for clinically-based health services for physicians with physical, mental health or addiction issues, which, if undetected or not appropriately treated and monitored, could compromise the physician's ability to practice medicine safely. There have been three failed attempts to pass this legislation, but CSAM will continue the fight until this program is in place.

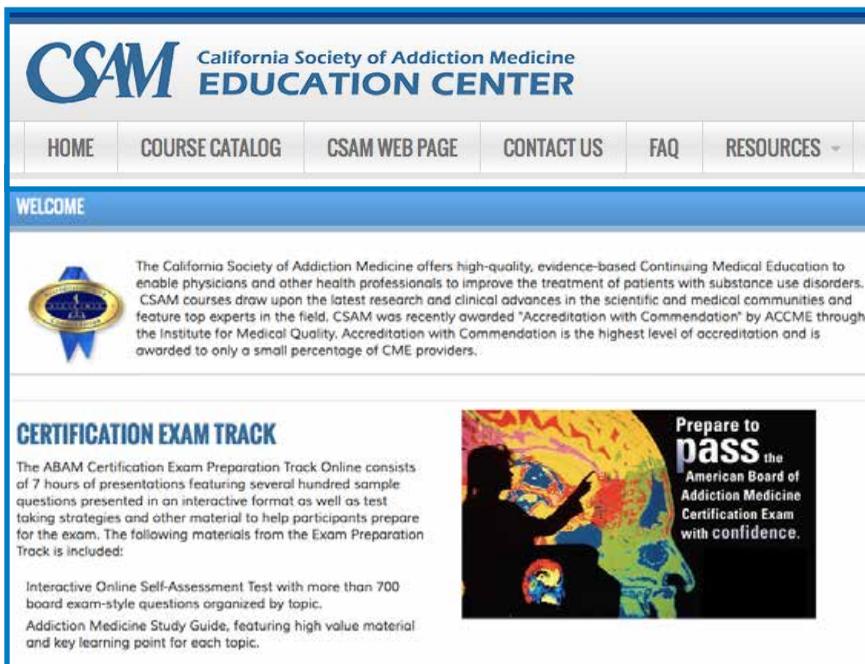
In addition, CSAM plans to introduce another bill this session to remedy an outdated regulation that makes it unlawful for physicians to provide medical treatment (e.g. medical detox) in recovery or residential facilities. CSAM's sponsored bill on this issue (AB 395 - Fox) did not make it out of committee in 2014, but there is renewed support for the measure and we plan to re-introduce it in 2015.

In Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia voters approved legal recreational use of marijuana and it now almost certainly will become an active issue in California, with a proposition expected no later than 2016. CSAM must work to ensure that the voice of addiction medicine is heard on this and other drug policy reform initiatives as they are being shaped and ultimately proposed.

We are seeking members interested in participating in public policy efforts in 2015. Won't you join us in these efforts? CSAM is a small specialty organization fortified by the strong determination of its members allowing our collective voice to be heard on issues important to our specialty and to our patients. We hope you'll join us. For more information, contact CSAM Executive Director Kerry Parker, CAE, (415) 764-4855 or [csam@csam-asam.org](mailto:csam@csam-asam.org)

CSAM thanks its public policy advisor Robert Harris and the members of the committee who worked diligently throughout the year to secure passage of these bills, along with CSAM's partner organizations. The Committee on Public Policy members include: **John Fullerton, MD, Timmen Cermak, MD, David Pating, MD, Randolph Holmes, MD, Cathy McDonald, MD, David Kan, MD, David Sack, MD, Ihor Galarnyk, MD, Lee Snook, MD, Mario San Bartolome, MD, Jeffery Wilkins, MD, Itai Danovitch, MD, Ken Saffier, MD, Peter Banyas, MD, and Judith Martin, MD** (consultant). ■

# CSAM Launches New CME Website: [cme.csam-asam.org](http://cme.csam-asam.org)



CSAM has launched a new and improved website to host its online CME activities. [cme.csam-asam.org](http://cme.csam-asam.org) will host recordings of annual conferences, webinars (with free CME credit for CSAM members all in one easy-to access location. Over the coming year the website will expand enabling more widespread access to CSAM educational materials both for addiction medicine specialists as well as primary care physicians.

The following materials are now available at [cme.csam-asam.org](http://cme.csam-asam.org):

## FULL CONFERENCE AND BOARD EXAM PREPARATION COURSES

### ■ ADDICTION MEDICINE REVIEW COURSE

The Review Course consists of 22 lectures presenting an overview of the core elements of addiction medicine, presented by top experts in the field.

### ■ THE ABAM CERTIFICATION EXAM PREPARATION TRACK ONLINE

Consists of 7 hours of presentations featuring several hundred sample questions. Includes a) Interactive Online Self-Assessment Test with more than 700 board exam-style questions organized by topic; b) Addiction Medicine Study Guide, featuring high value material and key learning points for each topic.

## WEBINARS (with free CME credit for CSAM Members)

- **Clearing the Air: Marijuana's Effect on Health** - Itai Danovitch, MD
- **Buprenorphine/Naloxone and Methadone Maintenance Treatment Outcomes for Opioid Analgesic, Heroin and Combined User**  
Jennifer Sharpe Potter, PhD, MPH
- **Naloxone for Opioid Safety: A Tool in California for Saving Lives**  
Phillip Coffin, MD, and Eliza Wheeler, MA, MS

## CSAM Executive Council

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(selected by MERF Board)  
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# SAVE THE DATE

## Addiction Medicine State of the Art 2015

October 21-24, 2015 • Hyatt Regency, San Francisco Airport



**Early Bird Registration Opens January 2015!**

Conference Chair: *Murtuza Ghadiali, MD*

The 4-day Conference presents an overview of the latest developments in the field and their relevance to clinical practice presented by top experts in the field.

