**An Appeal from CSAM’s President**

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**THE MISSION OF CSAM**: The mission of CSAM is to advance the ethical and compassionate treatment of addiction through physician-led and expert-informed education of health professionals, patients, and the public. The Society promotes evidence-based and best practices, research, prevention, implementation of sound and socially just drug policies, and public education. We advocate for the wellness of individuals struggling with addictions, their families, clinicians, and other support systems at all stages of care.

With over 700 members in California, CSAM is the largest state chapter of the [American Society of Addiction Medicine](https://www.asam.org/) (ASAM). CSAM is a thriving, growing Society that contributes to our national organization (ASAM) with impactful education, effective advocacy for members and their patients, and a track record of contributing to the establishment of access to high quality addiction treatment for all.

**CSAM VALUES STATEMENTS:**
§ **W*hole health***: support the spiritual, socioeconomic, lifestyle, and interpersonal health of people struggling with unhealthy and addictive disorders.
§ **I*nclusiveness***: foster inclusivity within addiction medicine leadership, membership and systems of care through intentional focus on race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and geographic diversity.
§ **S*ocial justice***: advocate for elimination of unfair structural and social determinants of care and racist and other unjust drug enforcement policy, and promote equitable access to quality addiction healthcare.
§ **E*mphasize*** ***prevention***: focus on youth, the intersection between trauma and addiction vulnerability, and public education.

Dear CSAM Supporters,

I want to thank each of you for your support, whether it’s been through your volunteerism, attendance at our conferences or webinars, membership fees, or donations. As addiction medicine clinicians or those who support addiction medicine treatment, I know you understand the importance of CSAM’s advocacy and education mission (see above). Our excellent 2024 State of the Art Conference in San Francisco with its theme, Social and Commercial Determinants of Health, was proof. I invite you to save the date for our next conference, which will be in Anaheim on August 13-16, 2025.

I want to reassure you that as we face changes in our national political leadership—including healthcare leadership—CSAM will remain vigilant and committed to its mission to advocate for addiction medicine clinicians, our patients, and loved ones suffering from addiction. We will continue to advocate for increasing access to treatment based on evidence-based and expert-informed best practices. Facing stigma and marginalization due to addictions and substance use problems cuts across political affiliations and other societal differences. Additionally, many of you treat folks or you also belong to vulnerable communities that political policy changes may especially impact. CSAM members--just to name a few--work in federally qualified health centers that treat immigrants, in non-profits that serve the unhoused, in clinics focused on LGBTQ+ health, in emergency departments and safety-net hospitals that serve low-income communities, in women’s healthcare, in youth settings, and in correctional healthcare. As the pandemic taught us, increased societal stress worsens substance use problems and addictions, which strains already challenged health care systems.

During these uncertain times, it is also important that we support one another. Many of us are currently facing personal uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. Our *Inclusivity and Social Justice Advisory Group* would like to invite you to join a Zoom Meeting on, **December 12th from 6:30-8:00 pm** to participate in ***Listening Circles***: we will go into break-out groups to give space for all of us to express ourselves and support one another. We also hope that out of this, more ideas on ways we can support one another will emerge. **The zoom link is:**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358717542?pwd=W2Z3TWKNwf28DTrOzmff8DFaaF6aJl.1**

**Meeting ID: 863 5871 7542**

**Passcode: 445599**

Now, more than ever, due to the health care system and health policy challenges ahead, CSAM will be a vital advocate for quality and accessible addiction medicine. As many of you know, CSAM is undergoing financial challenges. While we are volunteer based from our board members to our committee members, we employ a management team headed by our executive director to run our operations, and sometimes our projects require hired consultants. We need your help! Thank you in advance for considering these options:

* If you aren’t already, please [**become a CSAM member**](https://csam-asam.org/membership/): https://www.asam.org/membership
* To support our meaningful work, I’m asking you to consider making a lasting impact on CSAM by [**donating to our nonprofit organization**](https://csam-asam.org/resources/donations/) and to our sister organization, MERF, and gaining a tax-deduction before the year ends. *And if you could forward this email to anyone you know who may be able to support CSAM with a donation (think about folks who may have been directly impacted by addiction), we would appreciate that*.

 [Cheryl, will need to add a box to check if they want an acknowledgement or anonymous. Also on our donation page, should be an address for those who still like to mail checks.]

* + Let us know whether you want us to acknowledge your donation
	+ Your donation to our general fund supports all this:
		- Addiction medicine education for clinicians & clinicians-in-training
		- Addiction treatment policy advocacy in the California Legislature, such as aligning California methadone rules with the federal rules and strong advocacy with the California Medical Board for a physician well-being program
		- The fight against California’s opioid epidemic
		- Treatment of California youth with drug and alcohol problems
		- Development of a new CSAM subcommittee on *Addiction Services Quality and Safety* in California
		- Development of a health guide for primary care providers who care for patients who use drugs and alcohol
		- Development of training programs in addiction medicine best practices for administrative & medical leadership of drug treatment programs and for primary care providers
* Consider, if you have not yet, joining one of the CSAM committees:
	+ Education
	+ Opioids
	+ Government Affairs
	+ Youth & Prevention
	+ Membership & Communications
	+ Integration & Access to Systems of Care (IASC), which will include our new subcommittee on Addiction Services Quality & Safety
	+ Inclusivity & Social Justice Advisory Group

Email CSAM Executive Director Cheryl Marcell regarding joining a committee. She can be reached at Cheryl@csasm-asam.org.

Thank you for your support of CSAM and may you all have Happy Holidays,

Sharone Abramowitz, MD, DFASAM

President, California Society of Addiction Medicine