



Newsletter of the California Society of Addiction Medicine



Greetings CSAM members,

I am delighted to become the 24th CSAM president. Many of the past presidents are still close colleagues who, like you, are deeply committed to improving the care of individuals with addiction. I am honored to join the list.

We are in a prolonged pandemic, which has impacted both patients and clinicians. You know firsthand that health risk is not equitable, particularly in the time of COVID-19. Some groups, such as people with addiction and their families, carry a higher risk burden. Mental health is not binary; we are not healthy or sick. This reality holds true for us and our patients. Supporting the well-being of our own community is critical to providing optimal care for our patients and families, and I am particularly interested in how CSAM activities can be a source of peer communication and interaction that contribute to each member's own personal and professional well-being.

I am deeply grateful for all of you who worked on or attended our successful virtual 2021 Review Course in August. I also acknowledge how much we have missed the benefits of seeing each other at conferences. That is why we are so looking forward to gathering in San Diego August 24 to 27, 2022 for the 2022 State of the Art Conference. Drs. Mitika Kanabar and Jesse Ristau have already begun the planning for the conference at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. We hope to see you in-person there. There is also an array of activities right outside the back door of the conference hotel, including stand up paddle boarding. Personally, paddle boarding helps me find balance. When I pass my friends when paddling out near Redondo

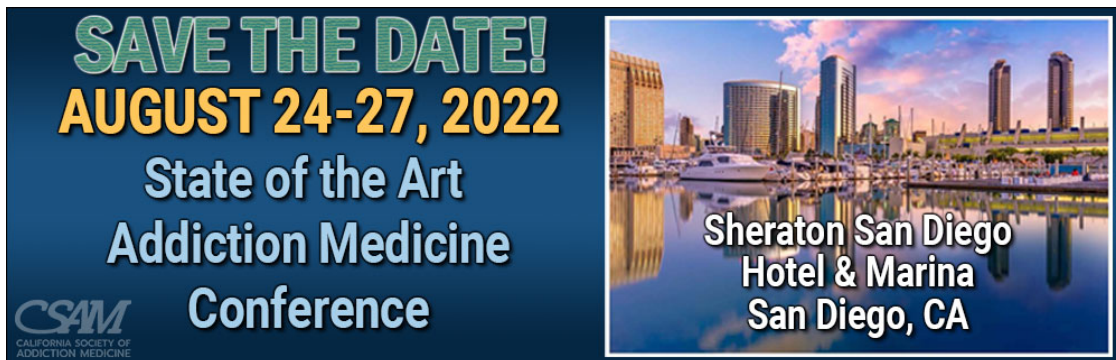
Beach on Sunday mornings, we often say to each other, "Any day on the water is a good day!"

This past year and a half has brought unprecedented challenges and we all have experienced some tough moments. In my first year as your president, I want to hear about your experiences. I ask for your thoughts on how CSAM can foster hope and optimism in our work and support you as you continue to care for your patients. Please stay tuned for a member survey so we can hear more about the work you plan to be engaged in over the next two years.

Happy Holidays,

Karen Anne Miotto, MD, DFASAM
CSAM President

**After two years of virtual meetings, CSAM is excited
to return to in-person meetings in 2022!**



The California Society of Addiction Medicine is accredited by the California Medical Association (CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians..

Additional information and registration details will be available on our **website** soon!

CSAM Members Recognized by the Greater Sacramento Smoke and Tobacco Free Coalition for their role with AB541

CSAM members **Cathy McDonald, MD** and **Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen, MD** were recognized on November 10th by the Greater Sacramento Smoke and Tobacco Free Coalition for their role in initiating and

Assistance with AB 541

- AB541, signed by the Governor on August 31, 2021, requires Assessment Of Tobacco Use In Licensed Recovery And Treatment Facilities.

- Honorees include:

- Governor Newsom
- Assemblymember Marc Berman, District 24
- Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen, MD, FACP, FASAM
- Cathy McDonald, MD, MPH



Governor Gavin Newsom



Assemblymember Marc Berman



Dr. Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen



Dr. Cathy McDonald

developing **AB541**, a tobacco assessment and treatment legislation.

Assemblymember Marc Berman, sponsor of the bill, and his main staffer Elizabeth Schmitt who helped craft the legislation, along with Governor Gavin Newsom who signed it into law, were also recognized for their critical roles in making this law that goes into effect January 1, 2022.

This all began when Dr. Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen expressed her concerns during Assemblymember Berman's coffee klatch gathering at a local library, about the perpetual failure to address tobacco use disorders in substance use treatment programs. Berman's staffer Elizabeth Schmitt worked tirelessly on the language of the bill, collaborating with both Drs. Chen and McDonald, as well as engaging various stakeholder such as the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) which resulted in CSAM, ACP (American College of Physicians) and CCAPP becoming co-sponsors and supporters of the bill.

Despite California having the second lowest rate of tobacco use in the country, there is a serious social justice problem when our *SUD programs* rank the **lowest** 25% in the nation in addressing tobacco use (2018 MMWR). This bill is intended to provide support for those receiving treatment for substance use disorder to become free of tobacco or nicotine addiction rather than initiating vaping or smoking or continue to use a drug that sustains all the behaviors associated with their other addictions.

What does this mean for substance use disorder agencies licensed or certified in California?

All such programs will need to screen for and a) identify tobacco dependence in all clients, b) provide information on how this might affect their long-term recovery from other substances, and c) recommend treatment or refer for tobacco use disorder treatment. Currently the California Department of Health Care Services is developing plans to inform and monitor agencies regarding implementation of this new law.

View the Press Release of Governor Newsom Signing AB 541



SACRAMENTO – Governor Newsom has signed AB 541, authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park), which will help patients in drug treatment programs quit smoking. In 2019, Dr. Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen from Stanford School of...

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Assembly Hearing - Dr. San Bartolomé Testimony



The link provided below is the video of the hearing that was held on December 13, 2021 for the Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review where Dr. Mario San Bartolomé testified. He begins at about the 33:15 mark.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Family Physician Urges Primary Care Docs to ‘Own’ Addiction Treatment

Written by: Randolph Holmes, MD, FASAM; CSAM Chair, Committee on Public Policy



Randolph Holmes MD, FASAM, DFASAM, remembers that during his Family Medicine Residency, the image he had of people with substance use disorders (SUDs) was that of...

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