



## Newsletter of the California Society of Addiction Medicine

Dear CSAM Members,

The pathway out of this dark time of social isolation, disease, and death finally seems within reach! With over half of eligible Californians receiving their first COVID-19 vaccine and over 1/3 being fully vaccinated, we are making significant progress in reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with this horrible pandemic. Having lost a family member and a close friend to COVID-19, I am excited about the progress. Unfortunately, I have also experienced the challenge of friends, co-workers, and patients who still do not believe the vaccine is beneficial, or that COVID is real and dangerous. In dealing with them, I need to practice my own “recovery skills,” realizing I can only teach, but not impart insight or change anyone’s mind. The only things I can really manage are my attitude and personal boundaries, both of which need to be kept safe, and positive.

I want to give a special shout-out to our Education Committee for receiving accreditation to provide CME (*AMA PRA Category 1*) from the California Medical Association through 2024. As CME regulations get more complex, this job gets tougher with each accreditation cycle. Thanks to Kim Andosca and Felicia Price from AMG, Erin (our CME consultant), and the Education Committee members for making sure that our conferences are packed with CME, CEU, CE, and MOC credit availability for participants. Our Review Course and Test Taking Track planners are busy putting together a terrific virtual conference this year. You can find more information about the course in this newsletter and take the opportunity to register early. We have opted against offering a “co-location” option this year, but we look forward to 2022 when we plan to have a live, face-to-face conference together at the San Diego Sheraton.

Despite the challenges, we have made significant legislative progress this year. Elimination of the X-waiver has the potential to significantly improve access to life-saving pharmacotherapy to treat opioid addiction. Providers desiring to use these therapies will continue to need training and mentoring. The approval of safe injection sites also has the potential to save many lives and open the opportunity for recovery to underserved and marginalized populations.

As this is my last newsletter message as your CSAM president, I want to personally thank you again for your hard work, flexibility, and creativity in caring for patients with addiction during this dark season. Our specialty exists to offer healing to those with mental and physical illness. It is a privilege to do what we do, but when you are exhausted, sometimes it does not feel that way. Please remember that what you do is seen and appreciated.

Stay safe and well,



Anthony Albanese, CSAM President

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## MERF Connects With a Record 85 Scholars in 2020!



As the pandemic continues to kill thousands, it is important to recognize that our patients with SUDs are disproportionately affected. Supporting MERF Scholars is one of many steps to provide appropriate, compassionate care by knowledgeable clinicians to prevent overdoses and respectfully offer treatment to all, especially to those most vulnerable. Many MERF Scholars are or will be faculty and your support increases exponentially in their educating new professionals.

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## Next CSAM Conference

Virtual

### CSAM Addiction Medicine Review Course and Board Exam Preparation Track

Aug 25 - Sep 3, 2021



### Essentials and Beyond: Moving Forward from the Pandemic

The 2021 all-virtual CSAM conference continues the biannual tradition of reviewing the essentials of addiction treatment while incorporating current evidence-based practices in this ever-changing field. The planning committee has selected engaging, dynamic speakers. These experts will share their knowledge and wisdom including how addiction treatment has been tailored in times of COVID, and what we can do as we move forward from the pandemic. The ever-popular board exam preparation track, pre-conference workshops, and case discussions among other activities make their return.

You won't want to miss the Keynote Address by Senator Scott Wiener. He will share his thoughts and positions on addiction treatment needs in California, how he learned about evidence-based treatments such as contingency management and safe consumption sites and incorporated these into bills, any current barriers/challenges that he sees with more effective addiction treatment in the state, and how our physician-attendees might become involved in political advocacy.

Additional information and registration details can be found on our [website](#) **!!**.

## Prepare for Important ACTION on Tobacco Use Addiction

ASAM president-elect Brian Hurley, MD has renewed the commitment to “standardizing the delivery of individual addiction care, particularly including smoking cessation, and... adequate health insurance coverage for individuals with substance use disorders, particularly tobacco use disorders.”

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## CSAM Legislative Update



The Legislature in Sacramento is slowly moving out of COVID-19 restrictions and getting on with the work of government. There have been limitations placed on the number of bills a member can carry over to the other side, so some of CSAM's bills have been moved to the 2022 calendar. Here are some important notes and bills CSAM is sponsoring for 2021:

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**CSAM** CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF  
ADDICTION MEDICINE

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