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**Welcome to CSAM's Member Bulletin—where you'll find key policy developments, event updates, and member perspectives—all aimed at supporting your work and advancing the field.**



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**CSAM**  
California Society of  
Addiction Medicine



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## Message from Conference Chair



I am honored to invite you to the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM) 2025 Annual Conference. As the Chair of the Planning Committee, I have been privileged to work with sixteen brilliant and dedicated physicians under the common goal of creating a truly stellar conference. All of us look forward to the CSAM conference every year. It is a place to catch up with old colleagues and network with new ones. The presentations, posters, and educational sessions are uniformly engaging and thought-provoking. By nurturing a respect for scientific evidence and fostering an

unwavering commitment to empathy and inclusion, each CSAM conference feels like a sanctuary. When I am at CSAM, I know I won't have to convince anyone

### CSAM Early Bird Registration Rate Extended!

Haven't had the chance yet to register? You are in luck! The Board of Directors have extended the Early Bird registration deadline until July 17, 2025 at 12:00 noon!

[Visit our Website](#)

### Now is the Time to Come Together!

"This year, in the face of historic budget and funding cuts, socio-political uncertainty, and

that addiction treatment saves lives or that those with addiction have lives that are worth saving.

This year, in the face of historic budget and funding cuts, socio-political uncertainty, and an evolving drug landscape, the refuge that is the CSAM conference is as important as ever. Our theme this year, Street to Symposium, Clinic to Capitol, is a nod to the many roles that we as addiction providers must inhabit. Because we must literally and figuratively meet patients where they are, this year's conference will have sessions that focus on the primary care of people who are unsheltered as well as sessions that focus on the lives and experiences of people who use drugs. This will include special attention to substance use among women, the interfaces between sex and substance use, and an optional evening workshop that will provide a hands-on tutorial on the equipment of substance use and harm-reduction. As we must always practice at the height of the scientific evidence, this conference will highlight the latest understanding in starting medications for opioid use disorder, the potential to use GLP-1 agonists in addiction, and the modern landscape of online gambling. In service to our role as clinicians first and foremost, several sessions will focus on direct patient care issues including how to care for wounds associated with xylazine use, comparing long-acting injectable buprenorphine formulations, and how to most compassionately manage opioid overdose.

We as addiction providers must be advocates for our patients. To help us to make our voices heard, this conference will hold sessions that advise us on current and upcoming legislation, guide us in supporting people experiencing incarceration, and provide us a roadmap for influencing policy decisions in our institutions and governments. Most importantly, every session of this conference will be practical. It is my goal that at the end of every lecture, spicy-debate, or panel, each of us will have learned something that will change the way we practice.

evolving drug landscape, the refuge that is the CSAM conference is as important as ever".

Jon Watson

CSAM Conference Chair

In these challenging times, we do not have the luxury to sit back. We must come together to galvanize each other, to learn, and to prepare ourselves to lend our support to our patients wherever it is needed. From the street to the symposium and from the clinic to the Capitol.

I look forward to seeing you there.

— Jon Watson  
MD

## CSAM Convenes State Leaders for Legislative Action Day



### CSAM Members Join in Sacramento

Under the leadership of Dr. Randolph Holmes, CSAM convened sixteen addiction medicine physician leaders from across the State of California to advocate for our industry and our patients on May 7, 2025. The primary focus was to advocate for AB 408 (Berman) the Physician Health and Wellness Program, and the team also spoke with legislators about AB 669 (Haney) which would prohibit concurrent or retrospective review of medical necessity for the first 28 days of an inpatient substance use disorder stay.



Senator Bob Archuleta with CSAM Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Randy Holmes, Dr. Sarah Gonzalez, Dr. Alyssa Thomas and Dr. Joshua Capanzano.



Assemblymember Robert Garcia with CSAM Government Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Randy Holmes, Dr. Sarah Gonzalez, Dr. Alyssa Thomas and Dr. Joshua Capanzano.

### Nominate a Colleague for a CSAM Award!

CSAM is seeking nominations for our two annual awards. **The Vernelle Fox Award and the Community Service Award.** The **Vernelle Fox Award** recognizes physicians who have made noteworthy and lasting contributions in line with the mission of CSAM: contributions which improve the quality of health care services, increase

communication and education among providers of care and add to the research on which the understanding of the field is based and on which the health care services are built.

The **Community Service Award** recognizes a non-physician who made outstanding contributions to the community. This CSAM award is presented based on merit and since 1985, it has been awarded to a wide variety of legislators, activists, and community leaders.

**Please email your nominations to CSAM Executive Director Cheryl Marcell at [Cheryl@csam-asam.org](mailto:Cheryl@csam-asam.org) no later that COB on Friday July 25, 2025. The award winners will be reognized during the annual conference in August.**

### **All Members Meeting!**

Don't forget to join us virtually on Thursday July 24th from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. for the CSAM Annual All Members Meeting. We will be intrtroducing the new Officers for 2025-2027, the newly elected Board of Directors for 2025-2027 and you will hear from our committee chairs about the important policy work of the Society. Please use the link below to connect to the meeting.

## [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

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# Message from CSAM President

**Sharone Abramowitz MD, DFASAM**



As I move towards ending my tenure as CSAM's president, I feel proud and disheartened. I'm proud of how we navigated a challenging time for our organization, stabilizing financially and administratively, with the help of McDonald Association Management

The support and advocacy CSAM provides during these challenging times is more crucial than ever for our patients and colleagues who may be harmed by federal policy changes. CSAM provides much needed community that can combat pessimism and helplessness in tough times.

Founded when few cared about addiction treatment, and the odds were stacked against them, CSAM's founders created a health movement that continues to make an immense difference for many. Let's continue in that spirit of fighting for what is right and join for our annual conference in Anaheim August 13-16, 2025. Dr. Jon Watson will chair this year's conference whose theme is, "Street to Symposium, Clinic to Capital". [Registration](#) is



Company and our enthusiastic new executive director, Cheryl Marcell. Despite this challenging time of transition, we had a highly successful 2024 conference in San Francisco under the leadership of Dr. Farah Zaidi. Our Board and Committees continue to promote excellent addiction medicine policy and education. In particular, the Medical Board of California's agreement to ask the state legislator to create a Physician's Health and Wellness Program is an achievement that CSAM along with CPPPH have been advocating for many years. I want to give a special shout out to our immediate past president, Dr. Karen Miotto, and CSAM's first executive director, Gail Jarra, for their persistence with this project.

I am also disheartened by how the restructuring of our federal government presents ongoing challenges for our field. SAMSHA faces potential elimination under Secretary Kennedy's plan to merge it into the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), which may dilute its impact on reducing overdose deaths and addressing substance use and mental health issues. Both the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) are under SAMSHA, so it's unclear what their fate will be. NIH research faces massive cuts, though for now NIDA and NIAAA have been spared, the cancellation of \$11.4 billion in COVID-era funding for addiction and mental health programs will gravely impact our field. Medicaid also faces potential deep cuts, affecting

open. I can't think of a better theme for these challenging times.

— **Sharone Abramowitz, MD, DFASAM**  
CSAM President

### CSAM Leaders and Future Leaders Gather to Focus on CSAM 2030



President-Elect Dr. Dana Harris recruited nearly 30 current and future leaders of CSAM to meet virtually on June 28th in our bi-annual Leadership Retreat. With the theme of "Leadership and Advocacy in Challenging Political Times". The group heard from ASAM's Chief Advocacy Officer Kelly M. Corredor as well as Journalist Bernard Wolfson from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

nationwide drug and alcohol treatment coverage. Medicaid (Medi-Cal here in California) provides the largest single source of insurance coverage for drug and alcohol treatment nationwide.

CSAM's own Dr. David Tian led an exercise story telling and crafting your message Dr. Veronica Losso moderated a panel discussion featuring Dr. Randy Holmes, Dr. Mario San Bartolome and Grey gradner, the California State Director for the Drug Policy Alliance.

The day rounded out with Dr. Mason Turner leading a visioning session. He asked attendeees to imagine what CSAM will look like in 2030 and then challenged the group to examine how our strategy and governance today will make our vision of 2030 possible.

The leadership team will meet in person at the conference in Anaheim to continue this vital dialogue.

**If you have forgotten to renew your ASAM/CSAM membership for 2025, you still have one last chance to do so before the end of July!**



**Receive 50%**  
**off the 2025**  
**membership rate!**



**Renew now to receive**  
**member pricing for the**  
**CSAM Annual**  
**Conference!**



**Join us in advocacting**  
**for our patients and the**  
**addiction medicine**  
**profession.**



**Contact ASAM Membership staff at  
(310) 656-3920 or  
membership@asam.org before July 28, 2025.**



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