

Pain Relief Connection

The Pain Information Newsletter

Provided by MGH Cares About Pain Relief



Archived issues are available at <http://www.MassGeneral.org/PainRelief>

Volume 4, No. 3

March 2005

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In the News

- The [Mayday Media and Policy Fellows Program](#) began accepting applications on March 1, 2005. The deadline for applying to the 2005 program is June 1, 2005. Please see the [application page](#) for details on how to apply.
- Continued concerns about NSAIDs: recent revelations about COX-2 inhibitors raise important questions about all NSAIDs that so far have no answers. This makes for [difficult policy making](#), as well as for prescribers trying to advise patients.
- Will the new technologies for [brain imaging](#) finally provide objective evidence of the presence of pain? Technical, legal, and ethical questions remain.
- The first meeting of a Massachusetts commission to study the “impact and effects” on youth of OxyContin and other drugs of abuse was held March 28. [Massachusetts Pain Initiative](#) member and Brigham and Women’s Pain Service psychologist Robert Jamison, PhD is a member of the commission. Much of the initial testimony focused on the tragic circumstances of addiction. However, former MGH Palliative Care Service physician (now at North Shore Medical Center), Coleen Reid, MD spoke about the importance of access to opioid analgesics for patients with legitimate medical needs. The commission’s report is due in June.

Patient Resources

- The [National Pain Foundation](#) has added a new [pelvic pain](#) page to their web site.
- [Time](#) magazine’s Feb. 28, 2005 cover story was devoted to pain. The content is available for a nominal fee.
- [New York Times](#) health columnist Jane Brody has written a series of articles (Feb 8, Feb 15, Mar 8) about the pain of her knee replacement. The articles can be purchased online for a nominal fee. Read a summary, [here](#).

Journal Watch

 (journal titles followed by [M] have full text free access on MGH computers; [O] = open access)

- Sachs C. [Oral Analgesics for Acute Nonspecific Pain](#). *American Family Physician* [O] 1 Mar 2005;71(5):913-18
- Deng G, Cassileth B. [Integrative Oncology: Complementary Therapies for Pain, Anxiety, and Mood Disturbance](#). *CA: Cancer Journal for Clinicians* [O] 2005;55(2):109-116. Free CME available.
- Dieppe PA, Lohmander S. [Pathogenesis and management of pain in osteoarthritis](#). *The Lancet* [M] 12 Mar 2005;365(9463): 965-973.
- Wilber ST, Burger B, et al. [Reclining chairs reduce pain from gurneys in older emergency department patients: a randomized controlled trial](#). *Academic Emergency Medicine* Feb 2005;12(2):119-23.
- Gilron I, et al. Morphine, Gabapentin, or Their Combination for Neuropathic Pain. *New England Journal of Medicine* [M] Mar 31, 2005;352(13):1324-1334. See also the editorial on pages 1373-1375.

Pain Education on the Web

- [Cancer Pain Release](#) [O] is a World Health Organization print and online quarterly publication (online version is free). Each issue focuses on a particular topic. The most recent issue ([Vol 17 #4](#)) is devoted to breakthrough cancer pain. The previous issue ([Vol 17 #3](#)) focused on e-learning and included links and articles related to both online resources and continuing medical education. One link, [cmelist.com](#), contains an annotated list of several pain-related CME opportunities.
- [Neuropathic Pain: New Strategies to Improve Clinical Outcome](#). Free CME.

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Pain-Related Education Opportunities

- May 4 (Wed—Waltham, MA) or May 5 (Thu—Springfield, MA) **Pain Management Symposium**. CE for pharmacists.
- May 18 (Weds) 8:00am – 12:00N. **Addressing Disparities in Pain Management: Are Pain and Suffering Equal Opportunity Maladies?** Richard Payne, MD. [Massachusetts Pain Initiative](http://www.massachusettspaininitiative.org) quarterly meeting. Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA. More info: Amy.Goldstein@cancer.org or 580-270-4653. CE for MDs, RNs, and MSWs.
- June 22 – 26 (Wed – Sun) **Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine**. Harvard Medical School CME. Boston
- The **EPEC** (Education in Palliative and End-of-Life care) curriculum has been revised and is available online. There are 3 pain-related modules available for \$30 each and awarding 1 CME for each. <http://epec.net/EPEC/webpages/index.cfm>
- **Master of Science in Pain Research, Education, and Policy**, Tufts University Medical School. An interdisciplinary postgraduate program. For info call 617-636-8541 or e-mail jconnolly@tufts-NEMC.org. (<http://www.tufts.edu/med/prep/>)
- **Coordinating Care at the End of Life: The Role of Hospice**. The [American Hospice Foundation](http://www.americanhospice.org) announces a new electronic (CD-ROM) CE course with contact hours for nurses, social workers and case managers. Contact Marsha Nelson, at 202-223-0204, Ext. 206 or mnelson@americanhospice.org. (<http://www.americanhospice.org/news/SelfStudy.htm>)

MGH Pain Calendar

- Apr 14 (Thu) 11:00am – 12:00N **Coping with Cancer Pain** (for patients and families), featuring Annabel Edwards, ANP, Cancer Pain Team Nurse Practitioner. Cancer Resource Room, Cox 1st floor. Sponsored by HOPES Program.
- April 21-22 (Thu – Fri) 7:30am – 4:30pm **Annual Pain Relief Champions Course**. Multidisciplinary. Walcott Conference Room, Wang 1. [Application](#) deadline Apr 15. Contact Tom Quinn at 617-726-0746, or tquinn1@partners.org.
- **Chronic Pain Rounds are held Mondays at 12:00N in the Clinics 3 amphitheatre. Of note:**
 - Apr 4: Screening and Chronic Opioid Therapy—Robert Jamison, PhD
 - Apr 18: Pediatric Pain Management: Cognitive Behavioral Approaches for Coping—Laura Greve, PsyD
- **Cancer Pain Rounds are held Wednesdays at 12:00N in the Cox 8 Conference Room.**
- **Palliative Care Grand Rounds are held Wednesdays at 8:00am in the Ether Dome**
 - Apr 30: Opioids for Chronic Non-Terminal Pain—Jane Ballantyne, MD

MGH Pain Resources:

PainRelief web site: <http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/>

Previous issues of *Pain Relief Connection*: <http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Newsletter>

Previous Pain Topics articles: http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Pain%20Topics/mghpain_paintopics_index.htm

Patient Care Services Pain Resource Center: http://pcs.mgh.harvard.edu/Secure/Clinical_Resources/Pain_Resources.asp

CCPD educational offerings: http://pcs.mgh.harvard.edu/CCPD/Educational_Offerings/cpd_offerings_calendar.asp

Treadwell Library (Magic): <http://magic.mgh.harvard.edu/>

MGH Formulary (includes patient teaching handouts in 16 languages): <http://www.crlonline.com/crlsql/servlet/crlonline>

Partners Handbook: <http://is.partners.org/handbook/>

Primary Care Office InSite (PCOI) (Clinician and patient information): http://oi.mgh.harvard.edu/pcoi/frontpage_frames.asp

URL notes: **Hold your cursor over the link for a second to see the URL.** If you are reading this in hard copy, this month's links are:

Mayday Fellowship: <http://painandhealth.org/maydayfellows/about.html>

FDA & future of NSAIDs: <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2005/03/14/hlsa0314.htm>

Brain imaging: <http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/sciences/story/0,12243,1442065,00.html>

Massachusetts Pain Initiative: <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/>

Pelvic pain: http://www.nationalpainfoundation.org/MyPain/contentdirectory_PelvicPain.asp

Time: <http://www.time.com/time/>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Oral Analgesics for Acute Nonspecific Pain: <http://www.aafp.org/afp/20050301/913.html>

Integrative oncology: <http://caonline.amcancersoc.org/cgi/content/full/55/2/109>

Pathogenesis and management of pain in osteoarthritis: <http://tinyurl.com/66zy8>

Reclining chairs in ED: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=15692131

Cancer Pain Release: <http://www.whocancerpain.wisc.edu/>

Neuropathic pain CME: http://www.freecme.com/gcourse_view.php?course_id=5087

Pain Management Symposium for pharmacists: <http://www.mcphs.edu/ce.shtml>

Addressing Disparities brochure: <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/invite%205.18.05.pdf>

HMS Pain Medicine course: <http://cme.med.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/hmscme.cgi?SECTION=CLASSES&ID=00252424&SO=N>

Pain Relief Champions (PRC VI) course: http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Pn_Rlf_Champ_course/Pn_Rlf_Champ.htm

PRC VI Application: http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/Pn_Rlf_Champ_course/PRC_VI_Application.doc

Brody article in *St. Louis Times Dispatch*: <http://tinyurl.com/5c7m9>

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