CO*RE NEWS

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Perspectives

PATIENTS. One hundred sixteen million people, or a third of the United States population, suffer with chronic pain. But what do such numbers mean at the level of the individual? How did pain come into their lives? What does the pain feel like? How do they tolerate and cope with pain? National Public Radio provides us with eight minutes of listening perspective from three very different individual patients.

CO*RE NEWS

Shared Success!

Contribution of each partner—organization and individual—is appreciated.

CO*RE received the Outstanding Educational Collaboration Award January 15th at the Alliance Meeting in Grapevine, Texas. Fittingly, all those in attendance squeezed on to the stage to receive and celebrate our recognition (see above). In addition to the awards ceremony, we also exhibited an explanatory poster (right) describing our collaborative methods and means.

Congratulations Team CO*RE!
CO*RE Profile: American College of Emergency Physicians

With the new-year, we welcome our newest member: American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

Founded in 1968 and 34,000 members strong, ACEP is the oldest and largest national medical specialty organization. ACEP holds an annual Scientific Assembly (6.5K+) and offers a wide variety of online coursework. While sharing CO*RE’s commitment to the fundamental principles of professional continuing education and public information & research, ACEP also provide a different front-line perspective. For instance, few EP prescribe ER/LA drugs, but they treat nearly all of the overdoses. So ACEP will be adding new educational resources to enrich CO*RE curriculum and presentations.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.
Opiate addiction treatment overwhelms local healthcare institutions. Vermont is successfully taking action to address the situation. As a smaller state, they look to involve their entire community. With a system of “hub and spokes”, regional centers provide intensive treatment while local doctors and therapists deliver ongoing care. But a shortage of counselors and a reluctance of primary care physicians to engage, hinder greater success. This four-minute radio report provides the perspective of a wide variety of healthcare professionals involved in addressing this crisis. \(>>\) more.

MARKETING MARVEL OF THE MONTH
Mary Ewert and her AOA crew sent out 36,000 CO*RE postcards (about Medscape and the iBook) in December. Way to go, Mary!
Marijuana and Opioids

Medical cannabis use and opioid analgesic overdose mortality?

An October 2014 JAMA Internal Medicine article investigates the statistical correlation between use of medical cannabis and the opioid analgesic overdose mortality rate. Significantly, states with legal medical marijuana recorded a nearly 25% lower opioid overdose mortality rate. Researchers recommend further research to determine how medical cannabis laws may interact with policies aimed at preventing opioid analgesic overdose. >>more.

No High, No Problem?

Non-Addictive Opioids Close. Research released by Cara Therapeutics claims its new opioid drug is less likely to produce a “high” and therefore less prone to abuse. While a potent analgesic and anti-inflammatory, CR845 works on a different set of receptors, which do not cross the blood-brain barrier lessening side effects and addiction. >>more

“Abuse Deterrent” Enough?

Hysingla, Zohydro, and Targiniq come to market with questions, controversy. In the last several months a new set of long-acting opioid drugs have been FDA approved and marketed. With each of the new drugs, the pharma-manufacturers are delivering stronger, purer pain relief packaged in tablets which are “abuse-deterrent”—difficult to break, crush, or dissolve—to discourage abuse. Nonetheless, addiction-treatment officials are concerned and note the new more powerful drugs are not abuse-proof. >>more.