



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Pa. doctors commit to education on opioids, abuse

(HARRISBURG, PA Nov. 22, 2017) Family physicians from across Pennsylvania recently convened in Reading, Pa. for three days of continuing medical education, with a particular focus on the opioid abuse epidemic that continues to affect millions in the Keystone State and across the nation.

At the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians' (PAFP) Reading CME Conference on Nov. 17-19, family physicians delved into numerous sessions educating them on opioids, abuse, addiction, and pain management. Topics covered included the neurobiology of addiction, treatment alternatives for substance abuse, pain relief and osteopathic treatment approaches, an update on medical marijuana for debilitating conditions, and utilizing evidence- and guideline-based strategies for risk assessment, management, and monitoring of opioid therapy.

"Rarely have family physicians faced a crisis of such a magnitude as the opioid abuse epidemic," said PAFP President Edward Zurad, MD of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County. "As health care providers and caregivers for Pennsylvania's nearly 13 million residents, family physicians are aware of our role in combating the disease of opioid addiction.

"The family physician community and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians are in front of this epidemic, taking a proactive approach in prescribing practices and treatments, and ensuring that doctors are equipped with the latest, most advanced education and information we need to make this public health emergency a thing of the past," Zurad said.

The PAFP is dedicated to further continuing medical education on opioid abuse, alternative treatments and therapies, and caring for patients battling addiction; more live sessions on this topic will be on the schedule at the PAFP's Philadelphia CME Conference, March 2-4, 2018. Continuous updates are also provided on pafp.com.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure physician-coordinated, personalized, and comprehensive quality health care for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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