



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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PAFP prepared for opioid state of emergency Armed with resources, education, Pa. family physicians up to task

(HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 10, 2018) In response to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's declaration of a state of emergency over the state's opioid epidemic, Pennsylvania's family physicians stand unified with a simple message: We are up to the task of combating this deadly and pervasive crisis.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) is continuing its dedication to education and resources for family physicians in the midst of the opioid epidemic across the practice spectrum, including prescription opioids, abuse, addiction, and pain management. Recent educational topics covered at PAFP education conferences include the neurobiology of addiction, treatment alternatives for substance abuse, pain relief, osteopathic treatment approaches, and utilizing evidence along with guideline-based strategies for risk assessment, management, and monitoring of opioid therapy.

"It is not only appropriate, but necessary, for Gov. Tom Wolf to declare a state of emergency at this critical point in Pennsylvania's fight against the abuse of prescription painkillers, as well as illicit substances like heroin and fentanyl," said PAFP President Edward Zurad, MD. "Pennsylvania's family physicians have been working tirelessly to ensure that addicts get the treatment and care they need, and are committed to ensuring that our patients don't become addicted to painkillers through the use of alternative therapies and treatments and adherence to the latest evidence-based guidelines."

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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