Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

MD-DCSAM 2027 Annual Conference Agenda

Saturday, February 20, 2027

Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland

7:15am-8:00am: Networking Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

8:00am-8:15am: Opening Remarks

8:15am-9:45am: "Acute Care Addiction Medicine: Clinical Challenges, Treatment Strategies, and Transitions of Care"

Nicholaus J Christian, MD, MBA, FACP, FASAM
Assistant Professor
University of Maryland, Baltimore

Drew Fuller, MD, MPH, FASAM, FACEP
Medical Director/Founder
BrightWell Health

William Garneau, MD, MPH, MHS
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Abstract: The evolving landscape of fentanyl and polysubstance use presents increasingly complex challenges for clinicians managing substance use disorders in acute care settings. This 90-minute session will explore practical, evidence-informed approaches to addiction treatment across emergency department, inpatient, and outpatient settings. Through three clinical scenarios, presenters will address MOUD initiation, fentanyl-associated withdrawal, complex inpatient management including benzodiazepine withdrawal and acute pain. The session will also examine strategies to improve continuity of care following hospital or ED discharge, including bridge prescribing, linkage to outpatient treatment, and interdisciplinary care coordination. Emphasis will be placed on practical clinical decision-making, implementation challenges, and strategies applicable across diverse healthcare settings, including a review of relevant ASAM guidelines.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand evidence-informed approaches to MOUD initiation and withdrawal management in acute care settings in the era of fentanyl.

2. Discuss complex clinical scenarios involving polysubstance use, medication transitions, and acute pain among hospitalized patients with substance use disorder, managed by inpatient consult service teams.

3. Apply practical strategies to strengthen transitions from acute care to outpatient addiction treatment, including bridge prescribing, linkage-to-care models, and improved communication across clinical settings, with a review of ASAM guidance.

9:45am-10:30am: "From Dispensary Shelf to Clinical Counseling: High-Concentration THC Cannabis Products in Maryland"

Deondra Asike, MD
Clinical Associate Anesthesiologist
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Dawn Berkowitz
Managing Director, Public Health and Education
Maryland Cannabis Administration

Abstract: Since the legalization of cannabis for adult use in Maryland, the Maryland Cannabis Administration has monitored cannabis supply and sales statewide across product types, including flower, vapes, edibles, and concentrates. Inconsistent terminology and a lack of standardization across products make concentration and potency difficult for consumers to understand, and sales data show a trend toward higher-THC products. Product THC concentration is not the same as the dose a person receives; delivered dose also depends on the amount consumed and the route of administration, and THC's effects are dose dependent. Some medical cannabis patients use high-concentration products, but current evidence does not support a therapeutic advantage for them, and higher THC concentration is consistently associated with increased risk of psychosis and cannabis use disorder. Clinicians may also encounter cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome and more significant withdrawal in high-tolerance users. Using case-based examples, we will review how providers can discuss potency, formulation, and route of administration with patients to support safer, evidence-informed decisions about cannabis use.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe how the Maryland Cannabis Administration monitors cannabis sales and

summarize current THC concentration trends across product forms available in the medical and adult-use markets.

2. Explain how THC concentration, route of administration, and dose-dependent effects determine delivered dose and clinical effect.

3. Summarize the evidence on harms associated with high-concentration THC products and apply an evidence-informed, lower-dose approach when counseling patients, including those using cannabis for chronic pain.

10:30am-10:45am: Networking Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall

10:45am-12:00pm: "Implementing Long-Acting Buprenorphine in Non-Conventional Settings: Innovations Across the Continuum of Care"

Jess Friedman, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Treatment & Recovery Services
Chase Brexton Health Care

James Miller, MD
Director of Outreach Services
Health Care for the Homeless Baltimore

Joan Park, MD
Medical Director
Healthcare on the SPOT; Baltimore City Health Department; Johns Hopkins Hospital

Laura Pedone, MSN, CRNP, AGPCNP, GERO-BC
Director of Provider Services
MATClinics

Abstract: Long-acting buprenorphine offers an important treatment option for opioid use disorder, particularly for patients facing barriers to adherence, continuity, and access to traditional office-based care. Care teams have developed diverse workflows to deliver these medications in primary care settings, addiction treatment programs, mobile clinics, and street medicine settings. This session will review key regulatory, logistical, and reimbursement considerations for implementation and highlight practical strategies for medication access, pharmacy coordination, insurance coverage, staffing, workflow design, and follow-up. Through a moderated panel of clinicians representing different delivery models, attendees will gain real-world insights into barriers and solutions for initiating and sustaining long-acting buprenorphine treatment in settings that serve patients with complex

medical and social needs. The session is intended for clinicians, administrators, and implementation teams seeking actionable approaches to expand access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder across a range of care environments.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe key regulatory, logistical, and reimbursement considerations for implementing long-acting buprenorphine in non-conventional care settings.
2. Compare implementation strategies across diverse delivery models, including mobile clinics, street medicine, primary care, and addiction treatment settings.
3. Identify practical workflows and common barriers to initiation, dispensing, administration, and follow-up of long-acting buprenorphine, with attention to real-world solutions that support access and retention.

12:00pm-1:00pm: Networking Luncheon in Exhibit Hall

1:00pm-1:45pm: Student/MD Trainee Poster Session

1:45pm-2:30pm: "Spicy Debate: Should We Prescribe Stimulants for Stimulant Use Disorder?"

Sarah Kattakuzhy, MD, MPH
Professor
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Darius Rastegar MD
Professor of Clinical Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Abstract: Stimulant use disorder is a common problem with few effective treatment options. A number of studies have reported reductions in illicit stimulant use with provision of long-acting prescription stimulants. Moreover, recent guidelines from American Society of Addiction Medicine state that stimulants can be considered for treatment of stimulant use disorder. On the other hand, the evidence for use of long-acting stimulants is limited and there are concerns about medical complications and diversion. In this presentation, the speakers will each present the case for and against prescribing stimulants for stimulant use disorder.

Learning Objectives:

1. Evaluate the current evidence regarding the efficacy of long-acting prescription stimulants for the treatment of stimulant use disorder, including findings from clinical trials and recommendations from professional guidelines.

2. Compare the potential benefits and risks of prescribing stimulant medications for stimulant use disorder, including treatment effectiveness, cardiovascular and psychiatric complications, misuse, and diversion.

3. Apply evidence-based clinical reasoning to identify patients for whom prescription stimulant treatment may be appropriate and describe strategies for patient selection, monitoring, and risk mitigation.

2:30pm-3:30pm: **"Research Greatest Hits "**

Marc Fishman, MD
Medical Director, Maryland Treatment Centers
Professor, Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Abstract: This Research Greatest Hits session will review recent papers from the addiction medicine scientific literature. We will move quickly through several articles, emphasizing critical interpretation of studies, translation from research to the real world, and implications for clinical practice.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify results from key recent addiction research papers
2. Identify strengths and limitation of conclusions to drawn from research results
3. Recognize implications of research results for clinical practice

3:30pm-3:45pm: **Closing Remarks**

3:45pm: **Conference Concludes**

[SEEKING 6.0 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 CME CREDITS – PENDING APPROVAL]