



PAINWeek 2012: Ready to Address the Epidemic of Chronic Pain

Challenges cited in the 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report and the recent NEJM article have made PAINWeek the largest US pain conference for frontline practitioners.

Montclair, NJ ([PRWEB](#)) January 31, 2012 -- The relevance and urgency of PAINWeek was reinforced recently in a New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) perspective authored by two of the leading experts on the extent and impact of chronic pain in America.

Philip Pizzo, MD, dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine, and Noreen Clark, PhD, professor of health education at The University of Michigan describe chronic pain as a major, overlooked medical problem requiring improved education on multiple levels to combat.

Dr. Pizzo, chair of the Institute of Medicine committee that issued the seminal 2011 report, "Relieving Pain in America" observes that with fewer than 4000 pain specialists currently practicing in the US, patient access to knowledgeable care is a significant problem. Primary care providers must become better prepared to provide effective pain management, and this is the mission of PAINWeek.

PAINWeek, the largest national conference on pain for frontline practitioners, is preparing significant enhancements to its 2012 course agenda, including a new therapeutic track on the management of pain conditions often associated with diabetes. This track will augment the annual offering of approximately 12 different tracks in the PAINWeek curriculum, the most comprehensive program of certified pain management education available.

Debra Weiner, director of program development for PAINWeek observed, "The focus of PAINWeek is in perfect sync with the mandate issued by the IOM report last June, and again by this perspective in the NEJM. An additional challenge is that less than 13% of US medical schools offer pain management curricula. At PAINWeek, we bring together a multidisciplinary faculty and cooperating advocacy organizations to provide the best pain education and practice tools to frontline clinicians from all medical specialties."

In 2011, PAINWeek welcomed over 1500 healthcare practitioners from a variety of medical specialties, compelling evidence of the significant interest in pain management by frontline clinicians. Conference keynote speaker, Kevin Pho, MD, a nationally recognized physician voice in social media, commented "There is an education gap, not only between primary care doctors and pain management specialists, but between patients and providers as well. We need to bridge that gap, so having pain management specialists talk to us, teach us, and tell us what they know, is tremendously valuable going forward."

About PAINWeek

PAINWeek is the nation's largest pain conference for frontline practitioners with an interest in pain management. Convening for its 6th year on September 5-8, 2012, at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, PAINWeek will again welcome over 1500 physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals for a comprehensive program of course offerings, satellite events, and exhibits. Over 100 hours of continuing medical education activities will be presented. To learn more and register for PAINWeek 2012, visit www.painweek.org.

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