

**AMERSA NEWSLETTER****AMERSA's 29th National Conference: "Substances, Services and Systems' Change"**

On behalf of the 2005 AMERSA Program Committee, we invite you to AMERSA's 29th Annual National Conference on October 27-29, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, MD. AMERSA's commitment to disseminate the latest information about addiction education, research, prevention and treatment that challenge our students, trainees, patients, and us. To date, confirmed plenary sessions include:

- Michael L. Dennis, PhD, Chestnut Health Systems, speaking on *The Cannabis Youth Treatment (CYT) Experiments: A Summary of the Main Findings and Impact on the Field*
- Michael V. Pantalon, PhD, Yale University; Ronald F. Maio, MD, University of Michigan Health System; Linda C. Degutis, DrPH, Yale University, speaking on *Using Technology in Screening and Brief Intervention*
- Richard Rawson, PhD, UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, speaking on *Methamphetamines: New Knowledge Relevant to Treatment*
- Constance Horgan, ScD, Schneider Institute for Health Policy, speaking on *Addiction Treatment: Who Gets It and Who Pays For It?*
- William A. Gillespie, MD, Gillespie Consulting Group LLC, speaking on *Accelerating the Implementation of Screening and Brief Intervention in Clinical Practice*

*Hope to see you in Bethesda!*

**Call for Exhibitors**

We cordially invite you to join a diverse group of health professionals who will be attending AMERSA's 29th annual conference. Your exhibit provides an excellent opportunity to present information on your organization and to develop new contacts. Conference participants can visit the displays throughout the day and during the welcome reception, poster session, continental breakfasts, and morning and afternoon breaks. Tabletop exhibits are on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are interested in exhibiting, please download and complete the application form at [www.amersa.org](http://www.amersa.org) and return it along with your payment by August 1st.

**Substance Abuse Conference Travel Awards**

If you've never been to an AMERSA conference, now is your chance! AMERSA has NIAAA funding to underwrite a limited number of travel/lodging grants for health professionals to participate in our annual conference. Full or partial awards are available for up to 20 new attendees. For additional information, visit [www.amersa.org](http://www.amersa.org) and click on "conference travel awards."

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## **Call for Nominations**

In order to support and recognize outstanding individual achievements in the field of substance abuse, AMERSA is now accepting nominations for the following awards:

The New Investigator/Educator Award is given to an AMERSA member who has made significant contributions to substance abuse education or research at an early stage in his/her career and demonstrates the potential for future achievements in the field. The recipient must have completed a doctoral level degree or post-doctoral advanced training (e.g. clinical or research fellowship) in any health-related profession within the five-year period preceding the award.

The Excellence in Mentorship Award is given to recognize an individual from any health-related profession who has provided outstanding mentoring to junior faculty and/or trainees, resulting in the faculty member's or trainee's increased scholastic productivity and career advancement in the area of substance abuse education or research.

Criteria and nomination procedures for each award can be found at <http://www.amersa.org/cfn.asp>.

## **Hazelden's Faculty Training Program on Addiction**

Jointly sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Medical School, this five-day training program combines didactic sessions led by experts in the field of addiction medicine, with a unique experiential component giving participants one-on-one contact with patients in recovery at Hazelden facilities. You will come away from this intensive week with the tools to integrate substance abuse education into your institution's curriculum.

The Faculty Training Program on Addiction is CME Accredited for 30 hours in category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Hazelden is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. Hazelden's Graduate School of Addiction Studies maintains responsibility for the program. 20 CEs are offered for attendance at the Faculty Training Program. For more information about the Faculty Training Program on Addiction, including a course syllabus and registration form, please contact Leslie Engel at 212-420-9520, ext. 112, or [lengel@hazelden.org](mailto:lengel@hazelden.org).

**SAMHSA-funded Physician Clinical Support System (PCSS)** is designed to assist practicing physicians, in accordance with the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000, to incorporate into their practices the treatment of prescription opioid and heroin dependent patients using buprenorphine. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), in consortium with other specialty addiction medicine, psychiatric, pain and general medicine societies, created the PCSS to assist physicians in the appropriate use of this medication. An AMERSA member sits on the National Steering Committee of the PCSS.

The essential elements of the PCSS are a National Network of trained physician mentors with expertise in buprenorphine treatment and skilled in clinical education, who will be supported by National Experts in the use of buprenorphine and a Medical Director. The PCSS service offers support to clinicians on the many topics, including: patient selection; induction; dosing and patient monitoring; and treatment of poly-substance dependence or co-morbid conditions. It is estimated that the PCSS will provide clinical support services to primary care physicians, pain specialists, psychiatrists and other non-addiction medical practitioners and affect the care of patients receiving this form of treatment. The PCSS is

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designed to significantly increase access to buprenorphine treatment among the millions of untreated opioid dependent patients.

PCSS clinicians are practicing physicians. PCSS physicians will be available within reason and based upon demand, to provide services via telephone, email, or at their place of clinical practice. This means that they can allow others to observe them providing office-based treatment with buprenorphine at a time that is mutually convenient to both parties. The PCSS service is a free service that is available to interested physicians and staff, to assist in implementing office-based treatment of opioid dependence with buprenorphine. Getting involved in this nationwide mentoring network is simple. Contact staff to find a PCSS clinician in your locale or region, to become a PCSS mentor, or for more information about the project. Call, email or fax us at [bup.conference@asam.org](mailto:bup.conference@asam.org), tel. 301-656-3920, fax. 301-656-3815.

### **SAMHSA Releases a New Treatment Improvement Protocol**

SAMHSA announces the availability of Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 41, Substance Abuse Treatment: Group Therapy. "Group therapy offers participants a critical pathway for the hope, support, and encouragement necessary to break free from the destruction of substance abuse," SAMHSA Administrator Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W., said. "Because of its effectiveness and economy of scale, group therapy has gained popularity, and the group approach has come to be regarded as a source of powerful curative forces that are not always experienced by the client in individual therapy," he added. TIP 41 contains detailed information about group therapy modalities, techniques, and practices that are valuable to substance abuse treatment counselors as well as supervisors and trainers of counselors. It describes five group models that are common in substance abuse treatment: 1. Psychoeducational groups—educate clients about substance abuse 2. Skills development groups—cultivate the skills needed to attain and sustain abstinence 3. Cognitive-behavioral groups—alter thoughts and actions that lead to substance abuse 4. Support groups—buoy members and provide a forum to share pragmatic information about maintaining abstinence and managing day-to-day, chemical-free living 5. Interpersonal process groups—delve into major developmental issues that contribute to addiction and can interfere with recovery. TIP 41 also offers information about specialized types of groups that do not fit neatly into the five-model classification. To order your FREE copy of TIP 41, Substance Abuse Treatment: Group Therapy, contact SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI). Ask for publication order number BKD507.

Phone: 800-729-6686 or 301-468-2600 800-487-4889 (TDD hearing impaired)  
877-767-8432 (toll free) Hablamos Español Web: [www.ncadi.samhsa.gov](http://www.ncadi.samhsa.gov)

### **Faculty Position – Addiction Psychiatrist**

The University of Vermont (UVM) College of Medicine is seeking an Addiction Psychiatrist for the full-time faculty. This position is being offered at the Assistant or Associate Professor level on a clinical non-tenure track. This psychiatrist will join a nationally recognized substance abuse research program. This individual will further develop empirically-based substance abuse treatment programs offered by our affiliated health care system, Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC), located on the university campus. As part of this clinical role, he/she will serve as Medical Director of the first methadone treatment program in Vermont located at the FAHC/UVM campus. This psychiatrist will also be responsible for strengthening training programs and providing direct teaching to medical students, residents, and other FAHC/UVM trainees in substance abuse treatment. This individual will be

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strongly encouraged to participate in ongoing NIH-funded research and scholarly activities within the Department of Psychiatry and will have the opportunity to develop his/her own research agenda. For further information contact Stacey C. Sigmon, Ph.D. at [stacey.sigmon@uvm.edu](mailto:stacey.sigmon@uvm.edu).

Applications will be accepted until this position is filled but we strongly encourage submission of required materials as soon as possible. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. Applications from women and individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

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