

**For Immediate Release**

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**OPIOIDS IN PAIN MANAGEMENT: The Fusion of Science and Practice**

**Boston, MA – June 8, 2017** – The sixth annual **International Conference on Opioids (ICOO 2017)**, is being held June 11-13, 2017, at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston, MA. The conference will explore emerging opioid research and clinical applications aimed at improving patient care and impacting the current opioid epidemic. Highlighting three days of cutting-edge topics and a wide range of world-renowned presenters Sharon Walsh, PhD, a Professor in the Departments of Behavioral Science and Psychiatry, and Director of the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research in the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky, Dr. Lynn Webster a leading voice in trying to help physicians safely treat pain patients and much sought after expert in the field of pain management, and Kana Enomoto, Acting Deputy Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). "For five years we have been able to host renowned thought-leaders in opioid therapies", says Paul A. Sloan, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the **Journal of Opioid Management**, presenter of the conference, "ICOO is making a positive difference in how clinicians prescribe opioids for their patients."

The conference is designed to enlighten primary care physicians, pain specialists and others with an interest in applied opioid pharmacology with the public health aspects of opioid therapy and present them with new data, essential information and best practices they need to know when prescribing these powerful medications. As the clinical use of opioids has risen over the past two decades, opioid-associated harm has risen in parallel. Researchers, educators, practitioners and policy makers are all intently working to address this challenge.

"Taken as prescribed, opioids can be used to manage pain safely and effectively. However, when abused, even a single large dose can cause severe respiratory depression and death".<sup>1</sup> Opioid drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem and has been classified as an epidemic

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Education for prescribers is the key to effective opioid use and avoidance of misuse, abuse, addiction and death.

“We are fortunate to have the most impressive gathering of opioid experts anywhere this year,” says Dr. Michael J. Brennan, conference co-chair. The **International Conference on Opioids** ([www.opioidconference.org](http://www.opioidconference.org)), presented by the **Journal of Opioid Management**, provides a unique forum to address the proper and responsible use of opioids, and the growing problems associated with misuse, abuse and addiction. "We plan an evidence based educational conference" added Brennan, "and look to provide the latest research on opioids, as well as a spirited debate on the future of opioid therapies."

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The Journal of Opioid Management ([www.opioidmanagement.com](http://www.opioidmanagement.com) ) is the only professional, peer-reviewed journal focused exclusively on the safe and responsible use of opioids. With an editorial staff and review board of the world's leading experts in the field, the Journal provides guidance to physicians and healthcare professionals on how to safely prescribe and responsibly manage these drugs. The Journal of Opioid Management, ISSN 1551-7489, is published bi-monthly by Weston Medical Publishing, LLC.

1. NIDA. (2015). Health, United States. Retrieved from National Institute on Drug Abuse:  
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/prescription-drugs-abuse-addiction/opioids/>