

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to present this special issue of *Journal of Opioid Management* (JOM) titled *Abuse Deterrent Opioids: Clinical and Public Policy Implications*. It is the culmination of months of work by the authors, our JOM Editorial Review Board and our special issue editor, Dr. Lynn R. Webster, MD, FACPM, FASAM. To Dr. Webster, our reviewers and these authors, we extend our sincere thanks.

Abuse deterrent (AD) opioids present a unique opportunity to address a public health crisis with a new pharmaceutical class of opioids. Time will tell if man's ingenuity will ultimately outstrip pharma's ability to produce new AD formulations in a timely manner. Abuse deterrent opioids do not directly address the rotation of previously addicted patients to heroin and other illicit drugs. They also do not deal with the extensive psychosocial issues that come with opioid abuse. They will hopefully reduce the downstream diversion and abuse of opioids into more powerful "hacked" compounds. Abuse deterrent opioids are one more tool for healthcare providers to utilize in creating a personalized patient-centered treatment plan.

Do abuse deterrent opioids have a place in solving the heroin and fentanyl abuse and death crisis in America? That has yet to be seen but if we can migrate those patients off of street drugs and on to a known dose, known quantity, known quality pharmaceuticals, we may be able to save more souls from the depths of addiction and/or death. It is possible that AD opioids will be considered part of the healing pharmacopeia used in Medication Assisted Treatment Programs. Maybe a unique off label application of the drug to assist those in the daily battle.

And, while the focus is on AD opioids, we need to continue to address the underlying etiology of abuse. We also as a species need to confront the stigma of addiction in all its forms and treat it as the chronic disease that it is. Then we can have a honest discussion of all the pathways (feeders) that bring this cohort together that ultimately comprises those 2.6 million people who battle addiction on a daily basis.

We will have a living issue of this special issue located on our journal website. This means that as future papers on this topic are published, we will collect them in one place on our journal website for your use.

Thank you for your dedication to this field.

Very truly yours,



Richard A. DeVito, Jr.  
Publisher