



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION MEDICINE (ASAM)

DANA
Scholarship
2018
Professional
Development

PAIN & ADDICTION
Common Threads
Course

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San Diego, CA

“I was impressed before I left Australia....”

By Debra Furniss CNC Coffs Harbour D & A Service, MNCLHD.

My successful application for the DANA Scholarship enabled me to attend the ASAM (American Society of Addiction Medicine) Pre Conference – Pain & Addiction Course. As Codeine preparations had just left our pharmacy shelves, I wanted to hear what America was doing to address the OTC Opiate crisis.

I was impressed before I even left Australia with the Conference organisation and accessibility as I was able to use the conference App by Cadmiumcd – Eventscribe to preview the PowerPoint presentations and then access them on my device during the conference to write notes directly to the presentation. Post conference, I am now able to refer back to my incorporated notes. This was very useful.

The day was interesting, and mostly affirming, that we are not that far behind with treatment options. The

course validated current approaches we are using here in Australia & provided some insights to treatments that are on our horizon eg. Intranasal Narcan and Depot Naltrexone.

The day included a tour of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Outpatient service (San Diego). The 2014 amalgamation of these 2 world renowned treatment providers making it the nation’s largest nonprofit entity who see themselves as “ a force of healing and hope for individuals, families & communities affected by addiction to alcohol and other drugs. “ I was very interested in their COR-12 (Comprehensive Opioid Response) program which integrates the 12 Steps with Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder & included ER Naltrexone. Overall, the presentations encouraged the audience mostly of GP/Physicians to “deep dive into challenging

Topics”. While learning to distinguish between physiological dependence and SUD, misuse etc in the context of pain. The main aim was to assure clinicians that they can develop and implement an integrated pain and addiction practice whilst emphasizing the complexities of this approach .There was a message of hope and encouragement to contribute to positive outcomes for our clients.

Anecdotally, I saw a multitude of TV ads that marketed the latest medications. One such drug was “Contrave” (Naltrexone/Bupropion) to take control of cravings to lose weight, with Free Home Delivery! And the local San Diego Reader (paper) had many ads for Cannabis purchase and even the offer to “ grow your strain for you in our next harvest”. The trip to California was enlightening in many ways!

My DANA supported attendance of the ASAM course was a professionally valuable experience. I would like to Thank the Management Committee for the opportunity.