



ASAM The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Volpe, Director,
Marketing, Communications and
Membership
(301) 547-4108
kvolpe@asam.org

ASAM Applauds CASA's Newest Report: Supports Increased Focus on Diagnosing and Treating Addiction within the Context of the Medical System

***The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University Releases its
report: "Addiction Medicine: Closing the Gap between Science and Practice"***

Chevy Chase, MD, June 26, 2012 – The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) applauds the release of CASA's newest report: "Addiction Medicine: Closing the Gap between Science and Practice."

CASA's report recognizes addiction as a brain disease, and that health care practice needs to be reformed to incorporate the scientific knowledge about treatment and prevention into medical practice, physician and provider training, certification and accreditation programs.

ASAM supports CASA's focus on addiction prevention and treatment. In particular, ASAM is pleased that the report incorporates ASAM's definition of addiction. The report supports the expansion of the addiction medicine workforce, including the expansion of funding for addiction medicine residency programs, and recognition of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

"CASA's report speaks to the core of ASAM's mission, goals and objectives, namely to promote the physician's role in preventing and treating addiction and to bring recognition to addiction medicine," offers Dr. Stuart Gitlow, Acting ASAM President. "ASAM looks forward to supporting the implementation of the key recommendations in this report."

ASAM Commits to Improving the Treatment of People Suffering with Addictions

ASAM is an association of physicians dedicated to improving the treatment of alcohol, drug and other addictions, educating physicians and medical students, promoting research and prevention, and enlightening and informing the medical community and the public about these issues. ASAM members practice in a wide range of primary care and specialty care settings and, have firsthand knowledge of the enormous benefits that treatment confers on both the addicted patient and the community in which they live.

The Public Needs to Know



ASAM The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Addiction is a chronic disease and it is treatable like other chronic illnesses. Forty million Americans age 12 and over (16 percent) have addiction involving nicotine, alcohol or other drugs – more than those who have diabetes, cancer, or heart conditions. Millions of Americans are living productive lives in recovery. Even so, millions of those currently in need of treatment are unable to access the broad range of effective interventions and treatments. The new CASA report details the problem and offers specific recommendations and includes steps that health care professionals and policymakers can take to close the gap between science and practice.

For more information on CASA: <http://www.casacolumbia.org>

###

The American Society of Addiction Medicine is a national Medical specialty society of 3,000 physicians. Its mission is to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, to educate physicians, and other health care providers and the public, to support research and prevention, to promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addictive disorders, and to establish Addiction Medicine as a specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers, and consumers of health care services and the general public. ASAM was founded in 1954, and has had a seat in the American Medical Association House of Delegates in 1988.