

May 23, 2017

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TO: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants who will prescribe medication assisted treatments for opioid use disorders

RE: Scholarship and Mentoring Opportunity to attend the CSAM Essentials of Addiction Medicine Conference and 4-Day Mentored Learning Experience

MERF – CHCF-sponsored Community Clinic Primary Care Provider MAT Addiction Medicine Scholarships.

The Medical Education Research Foundation for the Treatment of Addiction (MERF), in partnership with California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), is sponsoring scholarships for primary care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physical assistants) who have or plan to have DEA buprenorphine waivers to offer medication assisted treatment (MAT) to their primary care patients. Preference is given to those who are committed to being a champion to bring MAT to their primary care site.

In our efforts to improve and expand addiction medicine treatment, buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorders in particular, we invite you to apply for 2017 scholarship opportunities to participate in the MERF mentored learning experience at the California Society of Addiction Medicine's (CSAM) 2017 Essentials of Addiction Medicine Conference at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square on **August 24-27**. For more detailed information about the conference, see www.csam-asam.org. These scholarships are supported by a grant from the California Health Care Foundation. All details and the application forms can be found at www.merfweb.org. **The deadline for applications has been extended to June 21, 2017.**

This program is designed to help physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who have or intend to get DEA buprenorphine waivers become clinical champions for integrated addiction treatment in primary care clinics. You are invited to apply for a MERF scholarship to participate in this 4-day (Thursday through 1 p.m. Sunday) mentored learning experience. Priority in scholarship selection is given to physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants with the greatest need to learn more about addictive disease and desire to expand and improve pharmacotherapy with buprenorphine (and other medication assisted treatments). The first day, Thursday, August 24, is devoted to preconference workshops, one workshop should be selected to match the learning needs of the provider and their program (please see conference brochure at www.csam-asam.org).

Scholarships include conference registration, and a stipend to offset travel and overnight costs. All recipients will have the opportunity to meet an addiction medicine physician mentor who will be available for ongoing consultation throughout the grant period, from August 24, 2017 – May 31, 2018.

Scholarship recipients are expected to be present throughout the conference, sit together, and participate fully from Thursday, August 24, 12:00 p.m. until the close of the conference at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 27. Scholars earn CME and receive a Certificate of Completion.

Scheduled activities during the conference include dinners on Thursday and Friday and a dessert reception Friday evening. Friday morning 12-step meetings and case discussions on Friday and Saturday include meals. The conference will conclude with a morning meeting on Sunday, followed by the last plenary session.

*Our mission
is to prevent the harm being
done to patients
by physicians who lack
the knowledge, skill and
training to recognize and
treat addiction.*

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MERF is a non-profit,
public benefit corporation
qualifying for tax-deductible
contributions under Section
501 (c) (3) of the Internal
Revenue Code.
Tax ID: 94-2788893

Please send this information to your physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who might be interested. Applications are available from the website <http://merfweb.org/scholarships> and must be completed by **June 21, 2017**. Please note: Letters from your Clinic or Program Administrator are required and must be received by **June 21, 2017**. This letter should describe the applicant's commitment and qualities that would be deserving of a scholarship. Applicants will receive notifications of acceptance by June 21, 2017. This scholarship is not available for county or state employees who file form 700 reports. The amount of the scholarship exceeds the legally allowable annual gift amount from a 501c4 organization such as the California Health Care Foundation. Please contact Kelly Pfeifer if you have questions about this issue: kpfeifer@chcf.org

For details regarding the benefits of being a MERF Scholar and what is expected of MERF Scholars please visit the MERF website <http://merfweb.org/scholarships>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Eickelberg, MD
President, MERF