

April 12, 2017

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TO: Substance Abuse Service Expansion (SASE) Grantee Program Directors and Medical Staff

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

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 for Substance Abuse Service Expansion (SASE) grantees 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**. 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. Please refer to the special application for SASE grantee physicians. **The deadline for applications has been extended to May 31, 2017.**

This program is designed to help physicians become clinical champions for integrated addiction treatment in primary care clinics. The scholarship is only available for clinics awarded SASE funding from HRSA. 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 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 physician 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 a 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.

Please send this information to your physicians who might be interested. Applications are available from the website <http://merfweb.org/scholarships> and

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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must be completed by **May 31, 2017**. Please note: Letters from the grant director or administrator are required and must be received by **May 31, 2017**. Physicians will receive notifications of acceptance by June 1, 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