

Leadership Milestones: California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM)

- 1960s The New York Society on Alcoholism started as meetings in Ruth Fox's living room. It grew into the American Society on Alcoholism (AMSA), then became AMSAODD (American Society on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies), then ASAM. Name changed to American Society on Alcoholism (AMSA) – still focused on alcoholism only and still an east coast phenomenon.
- 1972 **Founding of CSAM:** CSAM started as the “California Society for the Treatment of Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies” independently of AMSA and AMSAODD.
- 1981 **Founding of MERF:** Incorporation of the Medical Education and Research Foundation (MERF). As a sister organization to CSAM, MERF draws upon the physician members of CSAM for their clinical experience, research, educational and training expertise.
- 1985 **Addiction Medicine Certification Exam:** CSAM developed the Certification Exam and gave it to ASAM at no cost.
- 1987 **State Chapter of ASAM:** The CSAM Executive Council decided to apply to be recognized as a state chapter of the then-named AMSAODD.
- 2000 **Proposition 36 (Treatment vs. Incarceration):** CSAM joined a number of formidable health care and substance abuse treatment associations in support of Proposition 36, a measure that promoted treatment vs. incarceration. CSAM President Peter Banys, MD, provided a supporting argument that stated CSAM's position on the California voter pamphlet. Several CSAM leaders, including Gary Jaeger, MD, advocated evidence-based treatment options and endorsed this initiative.
- 2003 **CMA Award for CME Innovation:** CSAM received the Samuel R. Sherman Award for innovation in Continuing Medical Education (CME) planning and performance improvement, awarded by the California Medical Association (CMA).
- 2005 **CSAM Leadership Retreats:** First CSAM Leadership Development Retreat was held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, CA. The biennial CSAM Leadership Development Retreat provides a forum that reflects the values and interests of CSAM members, helps participants understand how to work effectively in hierarchical systems, improves each participant's communications skills, and enhances
- individual leadership abilities through increased knowledge and understanding of organizational structures and interpersonal relations. *(CSAM is preparing now to hold its seventh such retreat in Monterey, CA.)*
- 2011: **Youth First Cannabis Report:** CSAM adopted *Youth First: Reconstructing Drug Policy, Regulating Marijuana, and Increasing Access to Treatment in California*. The report was designed to reduce the harm to young Californians from marijuana use and from ineffective and punitive regulations, and to address the serious treatment needs of those adolescents who become harmfully involved with marijuana
- 2014 **Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ) Commendation:** As an accredited provider of Continuing Medical Education, CSAM receives re-accreditation with commendation from the Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ). Six-year accreditation is the highest accreditation awarded by the IMQ and is awarded to only a small percentage of CME providers.
- 2015 **California Health Insurance Scorecard:** CSAM published: *Consumer Guide & Scorecard: Health Insurance Coverage in California for Substance Use Disorders & Mental Health*, a comprehensive review of health plans to help consumers choose health care coverage, including mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- 2016 **White Paper Reports on Insurance Benefits:** Following on the heels of the 2014 Consumer Guide in an effort to further address the wide gap between minimum standards and what is provided by insurance coverage, CSAM adopted a series of three reports on insurance benefits for patients with Opioid Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, and Nicotine and Tobacco Use Disorder.
- 2017 **Major Education & Policy Grants:** CSAM has become a national standard bearer in addiction medicine training, providing state-of-the-art physician education and training, and public policy advocacy. To help support its quality initiatives, CSAM has received educational and public policy grants from multiple organizations including: the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), the Open Society Institute (OSI), the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

NOTE: In addition, CSAM's recent public policy success include: sponsoring legislation to allow medical services by physicians in residential facilities, encourage SBIRT, repeal outdated UPPL law, create Physician Health Program for California, facilitate Naloxone distribution, and more.