

Georgetown University Medical Center Commitment Statement

National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The entities that make up Georgetown University Medical Center -- the School of Medicine, School of Nursing & Health Services, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center and the biomedical research and education programs -- are guided by the Catholic, Jesuit tradition of *cura personalis*, or care of the whole person.

Georgetown's School of Medicine supports and encourages its faculty to continuously develop and implement evidence-based curricular initiatives on opioid prescribing, pain management best practices and the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders. These ongoing initiatives are integrated into all four years of the curriculum. They include didactic lectures as well as clinical experiences with patients at risk for opioid use disorder through the continuum of treatment and recovery.

In collaboration with partners from other campuses, the University has broad training programs in pain and opioid management and conducts relevant symposia on opioid conflicts and controversies. In addition, the School of Medicine with Georgetown College and the Georgetown Law are actively developing a comprehensive Master's degree focused on addiction policy and treatment.

Georgetown faculty working with MedStar Health, our clinical partner, have helped in developing extensive programs related to opioid prescribing, use and misuse. Its recent initiatives include participating in the expansion of certification of primary care physicians to use Suboxone, tightening the rules for postsurgical administration of opioids and new guidelines and programs to assist patients with substance use disorders in emergency rooms. Physicians and nurse practitioners administer buprenorphine and counsel patients regarding the risks of opioid addiction which includes arranging follow-up appointments with community-based health care providers within 24 hours after the patients leave the hospital. In the OR, Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center's Arts and Humanities program is engaged in research regarding the use of music to research for pain management in the post-op.

Georgetown's laboratory research activities in the area of opioids include a number of studies related to basic mechanisms that underlie addiction and overdose. At the School of Nursing & Health Studies (NHS), work is underway using preclinical animal models to explore the use of acupuncture to control pain management.

NHS faculty mentor several graduate students in research activities including sustaining substance misuse recovery, provider attitude about pain management and use of opioids in the emergency department.

NHS faculty extend their work to the community including a recent faculty-led service trip to an underserved area in West Virginia to assist with a community-based opioid training program.

Georgetown faculty are also engaged in clinical and systems research utilizing artificial intelligence techniques to examine health records and delineation of operational consequences.

Georgetown University Medical Center is pleased to join the National Academy of Medicine and the supporting organizations in the efforts to improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities affected by the opioid crisis.