

The Public's Health and the Law in the 21st Century
5th Annual Partnership Conference

Concurrent Session

**Chronic Pain and Healthy Communities: Legal, Ethical and
Policy Issues in Improving the Public's Health**

Tuesday, June 13, 2006
10:30-12:00 pm

Moderator: Benjamin W. Moulton, JD, MPH, Executive Director, American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Boston, MA

Panel: Sandra H. Johnson, JD, LL.M., Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law and School of Public Health, St. Louis, MO

Knox Todd, MD, MPH, Director, Beth Israel Pain and Emergency Medicine Institute, New York, NY

Session Purpose:

Chronic pain has been identified as a public health problem of wide-reaching proportions. The experience of chronic pain interferes with activities and relationships required for productive work and healthy lifestyles. This session will address the incidence of avoidable or remediable chronic pain; its impact on healthy communities; and its disparate impact on communities of color, women, and the aged. The session will identify efforts at the policy and institutional level to improve access to effective prevention and remediation of pain, with special attention paid to social structures that encourage or inhibit prevention and to the role of law. The session will also analyze the intersection of efforts aimed at prevention and control of substance abuse with efforts to respond to chronic pain populations. The panel will address a variety of settings in which effective interventions could produce positive results.

Knox Todd will report on research concerning the impact of pain on healthy communities, including the disparate impact of chronic pain on racial minorities, women, and the aged. He will address the intersection of substance abuse prevention and treatment in the medical setting through the lens of social and professional structures.

Sandra Johnson will identify particular policy and legal issues that arise in the private and public response to chronic pain, including issues relating to licensure, DEA enforcement of federal prescribing regulation, and others.

Learning Objectives:

By the close of this session, conference participants will be able to:

- Identify the impact of remediable chronic pain on the public's health;
- Understand current policy, social, and institutional supports and obstacles to improving the health status of pain patients; and,
- Understand the convergence of drug abuse prevention and chronic pain policy.

Session Convener:

The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Resource Materials:

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Vol. 33.4, 2005.

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Vol. 31.1, 2003.

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Vol. 29.1, 2001.

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Vol. 26.4, 1998.

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, Vol. 24.4, 1996.