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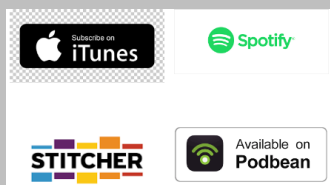
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Check out NASCOSA's Latest Podcast!

The Education Committee, chaired by Kari Shanard-Koenders, South Dakota Board of Pharmacy, reminds members of the availability of a number of exciting podcasts which are available [here](#) and on most platforms.

Our latest podcast "[The Pez Case - Etizolam and the near Death of Two Children](#)" is not to be missed.

NASCOSA Webinars

NASCOSA hosts periodic webinars exclusively for sponsors and members throughout the year. We have several exciting webinars planned throughout the year. Please visit our webinar listing [here](#) which will be updated frequently as details are finalized.

2022 Annual Conference Information

The 38th annual conference will be taking place in-person **October 24-27, 2022** in **Salt Lake City, Utah** at the **Salt Lake City Marriott City Center**. This will be the first time NASCOSA has held its annual conference in the beautiful state of Utah and we are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

The Program Committee has been hard at work and we have already confirmed speakers from the US Drug Enforcement Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as many other topics/speakers of interest to our members including Prescription Monitoring Program topics and a number of dynamic and interactive workshops.

More details will be provided in the coming months but in the meantime please save the date.

Public Citizen Petitions DEA and FDA to Classify Gabapentin as a Schedule V Controlled Substance

Last Week [Public Citizen](#) petitioned the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to add the prescription drugs gabapentin and gabapentin enacarbil to Schedule V under the Controlled Substances Act to more tightly monitor and regulate use of these drugs because they are increasingly being misused, abused, and diverted, leading to dependence and overdose deaths. To read the letter click [here](#) along with FDA's response to [date](#).

CDC Opens Up Comments for Updated Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control is in the process of updating the 2016 [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#). As of today, the draft updated Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids is available for public comment

Please Update Your Information

Members are asked to take a few minutes to view [state profiles](#) and let us know of any changes for both state controlled substances authorities contacts as well as Prescription Monitoring Program information. You can use the "contact us" form to provide any updates on the same page.

Additionally, please let us know if there are changes in address, titles, phone numbers and staffing changes (both departures or new hires).

And as always, we are always looking for news from all of our members including sponsors.

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors

NASCSCA wishes to extend a very special thanks to our sponsors who help support NASCSCA during the conference and throughout the year. A list of sponsors including our latest sponsor [Pharma Solutions](#) can be viewed [here](#).

NASCSCA Needs Your Help

NASCSCA is looking for your help on a number of items:

- Ideas for resolutions;
- Suggestions for speakers, topics, workshops for the annual conference;
- Suggestions for speakers/topics for future webinars and/or podcasts.

Please contact Kathy Keough at Kathykeough@nascscs.org with your suggestions.

NASCSCA Committee Assignments

The NASCSCA Committee

in the Federal Register. The public comment period will be open for 60 days, through April 11, 2022. We encourage all patients, caregivers, providers, and others who care about safe, effective, and informed pain treatment options to submit their comments via the Federal Register [docket](#).

DEA Announcement - Licensure/State Controlled Substances Registration

The Drug Enforcement Administration's Registration and Program Support Section has identified countless Practitioners and Mid-Level Practitioners' DEA Registration numbers whose Medical State Licensure and/or their Controlled Substance licensure numbers past their expiration date, which is in direct violation under **Title 21 U.S.C. 823**. To assist DEA's registrant population, DEA is implementing a proactive alert email to remind registrants to renew their state authority in lieu of facing termination of their Federal DEA Registration number.

In the event DEA recognizes an expired state license, the registrant will receive an email 5 days after the expiration of the license, as a reminder to renew the license as soon as possible. If the license has not been corrected 30 days after expiration, the registrant will receive a second notification stating the registration is in jeopardy of having an Order to Show Cause terminate the registration due to non-compliance with Federal law and state compliance. More information is found [here](#).

FDA Takes Steps Aimed at Fostering Development of Non-Addictive Alternatives to Opioids for Acute Pain Management

Last week the U.S. Food and Drug Administration took new steps aimed at fostering the development of non-addictive alternatives to opioids to manage acute pain and decreasing exposure to opioids and preventing new addiction. The agency [issued draft guidance](#) to provide recommendations to companies developing non-opioid analgesics for acute pain lasting up to 30 days, typically in response to some form of tissue injury, such as trauma or surgery. This guidance supports the [HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), which focuses on four priority areas — primary prevention, harm reduction, evidence-based treatment and recovery support.

Congressional Committees Hold Hearings on Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders

assignments is complete and can be found [here](#) along with a list of responsibilities.

NASCSA is on Twitter

NASCSA is pleased to announce that it is now on Twitter and the number of followers continues to grow each month so please follow us at [@NASCSA](#).



Dues Time is Right Around the Corner

Annual Membership Dues run from July 1 through June 30 of each year. Membership Dues will be mailed in mid-May, however if you prefer an electronic invoice to be sent please contact Kathy Keough at kathykeough@nascsa.org.



Sponsor Spotlight

A very special thanks to Platinum Sponsor RxGov by [Tyler Technologies](#). RxGov™ is a leading Prescription Monitoring Platform (PMP) that improves access to clinical data pertinent to a patient's medication history and the risk factors associated with substance use disorder through the capture, analysis, proactive monitoring, and open sharing of a state's prescription dispense details.

The system is one of the most interoperable, integrated and intuitive on the market. It also includes complete oversight and compliance with the state's current PDMP system, including statewide mandates. RxGov allows the PDMP administrator

On Feb. 1, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing entitled "Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Responding to the Growing Crisis." The purpose of the hearing was to analyze the growing crisis as mental health and substance use disorders rise during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee discussed how adolescents, educators, and caregivers are experiencing profound mental health issues and that the mental health workforce is stretched too thin. The members agreed that there is a strong bipartisan collaboration in their committee to combat this crisis. Additional details are available on the committee [website](#).

On Feb. 2, the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing entitled "America's Mental Health Crisis." The committee leaders also acknowledged that the ongoing pandemic exacerbated and compounded the mental health crisis in America. At the hearing, the issue of access to services and removing the stigma around mental health were the major themes. A recurring subject of the hearing was an AMGA top advocacy priority which is expanding telehealth services beyond the pandemic. Additional details are available on the committee [website](#).

Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking Issues Report

The Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking, established under Section 7221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, was charged with examining aspects of the synthetic opioid threat to the United States—specifically, with developing a consensus on a strategic approach to combating the illegal flow of synthetic opioids into the United States. This final report describes items involving the illegal manufacturing and trafficking of synthetic opioids, as well as the deficiencies in countering their production and distribution, and includes action items directed to appropriate executive branch agencies and congressional committees and leadership. The report can be read [here](#).

DEA Launches New Initiative to Combat Drug-Related Violence and Overdoses in Communities

WASHINGTON – The Drug Enforcement Administration last week announced a new initiative, Operation Overdrive, aimed at combatting the rising rates of drug-related violent crime and overdose deaths plaguing American communities. Last fall, DEA

unprecedented access to insightful data sets, such as query history and compliance reports at all levels: state, region, organization, and individual prescriber. Freely accessible data, enhanced by useful visualization tools, is central to RxGov.

To learn more about RxGov and how the platform can help state governments fight the opioid crisis, email rxgov@egov.com or [click here](#).



initiated a data-driven approach using national crime statistics and CDC data to identify hot spots of drug-related violence and overdose deaths across the country, in order to devote its law enforcement resources to where they will have the most impact: the communities where criminal drug networks are causing the most harm.

Operation Overdrive, which launched February 1, 2022, uses a data-driven, intelligence-led approach to identify and dismantle criminal drug networks operating in areas with the highest rates of violence and overdoses. DEA, working in partnership with its fellow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, has mapped the threats and initiated enforcement operations against those networks in 34 locations across 23 states in the initial phase of Operation Overdrive.

Read the full press release [here](#).
