



Longwood
SEMINARS

The Science of Pain Management

March 28, 2018

We all experience pain in our lives, but can the cure be worse than the condition? In this seminar, Harvard Medical School experts explore the science of pain, the realities of prescription drug dependence and new discoveries and treatments that may lead to better, safer pain management.

#HMSMiniMed



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About the Speakers

Dr. Clifford Woolf, PhD

Dr. Woolf is Harvard Medical School professor of neurology and neurobiology, director of the F. M. Kirby Neurobiology Center and associate director of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center at Boston Children's Hospital. He is also co-leader of the Nervous System Diseases Program of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. His research focuses on pain and on the regeneration and degeneration of the nervous system. Over the course of his career, Dr. Woolf has received many honors and prizes, including the Gill Distinguished Scientist Award and the Reeve-Irvine Medal, both in 2017, the 2015 Frederick W. L. Kerr Basic Science Research Award from the American Pain Society, an American Academy of Pain Medicine Founders Award and being named an honorary fellow of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland.

Dr. Bertha Madras, PhD

Dr. Madras is Harvard Medical School professor of psychobiology at McLean Hospital with a cross-appointment at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her research focuses on neurobiology, imaging and medications development for neuropsychiatric disorders. In public policy, she was deputy director for Demand Reduction in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, a presidential appointment confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. In 2017, she was appointed as one of six members of the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. She is a recipient of an NIH MERIT Award, a NIDA Public Service Award and other honors and awards.

Dr. James Rathmell, MD

Dr. Rathmell is the Harvard Medical School Leroy D. Vandam Professor of Anaesthesia and head of the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He devotes his time to clinical practice in the pain clinic and operating rooms, research, and education. Dr. Rathmell's research has included a mixture of investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored trials examining the effectiveness of new and emerging treatments for pain. Dr. Rathmell currently serves as a director and past president of the American Board of Anesthesiology and as an executive editor for the scientific journal *Anesthesiology*. He lectures internationally and has delivered hundreds of lectures to students, medical professionals and members of the public.



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Supplemental Reading

Articles

Pain Points

Harvard Medical School

<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/pain-points>

WH Opioid Commission Member Weighs In On Progress Made In Addressing Crisis

NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2018/03/01/590022613/wh-opioid-commission-member-weighs-in-on-progress-made-in-addressing-crisis>

Report highlights the dangers of opioid painkillers

Harvard Health

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/report-highlights-dangers-opioid-painkillers-201501157615>

Does the Dose Make the Poison?

Harvard Medical School

<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/does-dose-make-poison>

Videos

The Opioid Crisis: HMS Responds With Education

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFOXQ3gwqLg>

Understanding Pain in less than 5 minutes, and what to do about it!

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_3phB93rvI

Further information can be found at **Harvard Health Publications** (<https://www.health.harvard.edu/>).

Sign up for **Harvard Medicine News** (<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/sign-email-communications>) to receive weekly updates on scientific research, medical education and community news from Harvard Medical School.

Sign up to receive future issues of **Harvard Medicine** (<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/sign-email-communications>). The magazine of Harvard Medical School presents topics ranging from space-based medical research to climate change and human health. The magazine captures the work of the HMS faculty, students, and alumni and illuminates their contributions to human health.

