Opening Pandora’s Bottle: Law, Policy, and America’s Opioid Epidemic

LIVE SITE:
SIU School of Law, Carbondale, Illinois

INTERACTIVE SIMULCAST SITES:
Illinois State Bar Association Chicago Office, Chicago, Illinois
SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois
To aid in identifying both the issues and the solutions, the 2018 Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH)-Southern Illinois University (SIU) Health Policy Institute seeks to provide an informative and engaging dialogue aimed at striking the right balance and bringing to bear effective solutions to the opioid epidemic impacting our country and our communities.

PROGRAM

LOCATION: SIU School of Law Carbondale, Illinois

8:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Lunch
3:15 p.m. Break
4:15 p.m. Adjournment

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
CHRIS BEHAN, JD, Acting Dean and Professor of Law, SIU School of Law

OVERVIEW
The nation is embroiled in an epidemic that, while not contagious, impacts all sectors of society and devastates communities, especially rural communities. Opioid misuse, including abuse of prescription pain killers and heroin, has led to more than 33,000 deaths nationwide in 2016 and nearly 2,000 deaths in Illinois during that same year. And these statistics, counted in lives, continue to rise at alarming rates.

National, state, and local governmental bodies fight to stem the tide of this rampant killer. Law enforcement officials, courts, attorneys, and social agencies are caught in the web of this very human tragedy and its tragic consequences. Hospitals, physicians, and health care providers struggle daily to care for patients, between managing patient pain and restricting prescription opioids, while simultaneously averting actions that feed addiction and protecting their professional credentials from scrutiny.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of this educational program, participants will be able to:
1. Understand the scope and impact of the opioid crisis;
2. Identify competing needs that arise in the patient-care milieu, including pain management, social and criminal justice, mental health, and addiction medicine;
3. Comprehend how various solutions from the legal, medical, and policy arenas feed into the overall strategy for managing the present crisis; and
4. Participate more effectively in discussions related to the nation’s opioid epidemic and proposed solutions on the national, state, and local levels.

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PRESENTERS

Christina Porucznik
Christina Porucznik, Ph.D., MSPH, is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine of the University of Utah School of Medicine. Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Porucznik served in the capacity of an epidemic intelligence service officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the Utah Department of Health and published one of the first papers on the increase in prescription-drug-related deaths. Dr. Porucznik was appointed to the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) for CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, served on the Core Expert Group for development of the CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, and chaired the Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain Workgroup of the BSC. She received her master’s degree in public health and her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

Edward C. Covington
Edward C. Covington, M.D., trained at Mayo Clinic and is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in psychiatry with added qualifications in pain management and addiction medicine. He is also certified by the American Board of Pain Medicine. Dr. Covington founded and directed the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program at the Cleveland Neurological Institute at Cleveland Clinic Foundation; he also established the Cleveland Clinic’s Neurological Center for Pain. Dr. Covington is on the editorial review board of Pain Medicine, served on the FDA’s Anesthetic and Analogic Drug Products Advisory Committee, and chaired the Opioid Advisory Committee of the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Valarie K. Blake
Valarie K. Blake, JD, MA, an associate professor law at West Virginia University (WVU) College of Law with public health expertise in prescription drug monitoring programs (PMPs) and drug enforcement. She has published in numerous journals, including Social Science & Medicine, Law & Social Inquiry, Mobilization, Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics; and the Annual Review of Sociology. Dr. Blake has served on the FDA’s Anesthetic Drug Products Advisory Committee, served on the FDA’s Anesthetic Drug Products Advisory Committee, and was cross-appointed to the Americas Team at Purdue University. She is currently a fellow in the Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics. She has a law degree from the University of Miami School of Law and a master’s degree from Case Western Reserve University.

Dennis A. Wichern
Dennis A. Wichern is a partner with Prescription Drug Consulting (PDC), focusing on policy and legal initiatives to protect health care providers. Prior to joining PDC, Mr. Wichern completed 30 years of public service in Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) law, last serving as the agent in charge of the Chicago Field Division. Before transferring to Chicago, Mr. Wichern oversaw BSA operations in Indiana, observing the effects of the prescription drug and opioid epidemic.

Monique A. Anawis
Monique Anawis, MD, JD, is the medical director and an assistant attorney general for the Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. As a faculty for the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute, Dr. Anawis lectures on opioid use disorder and prescription drug monitoring programs (PMPs) and is a technical advisor to the Illinois PMP. She is a practicing board-certified ophthalmologist; an assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; the treasurer and a fellow of the American College of Legal Medicine; and the vice chair of programming for the珠江视图 Interest Group of the American Bar Association’s Health Law Section.