

Teaching Busy Doctors How to Treat Pain

UCSF Pain Management Center and UCSF PainCARE – Center for Advanced Research and Education, San Francisco

Creating and expanding pain management education programs for busy practitioners has been a major achievement of this program and PainCARE’s director, Pamela Pierce Palmer, M.D., Ph.D. “Our goal is to strengthen knowledge about pain and pain management at the clinical level, as well as to provide top-quality multidisciplinary pain care to our patients,” she said.



Pamela Pierce Palmer, MD,

PMC faculty have developed patient-care policies and education programs for use at UCSF and beyond, teaching almost everywhere from community-based grand rounds to international conferences. PainCARE has partnered with the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion since 2003 to present *Challenges in Managing Pain*, a quarterly seminar broadcast in real time to centers throughout northern California, and also launched its *Postgraduate Certificate in Pain Management-Online Program* in 2004. The only intensive online pain management education initiative of its kind in the U.S., the curriculum was created as part of an international pain education program developed in collaboration with the Universities of Sydney and Edinburgh.

David Lee, M.D., medical director of the UCSF Pain Management Center and director of UCSF’s ACGME-accredited fellowship program, noted that PMC practitioners have extensive experience with multiple pain conditions and treat more than 10,000 patients a year, 70 percent of which are seen for chronic non-cancer pain.

“We don’t want to be the people in the ivory tower,” said Palmer. “UCSF PainCARE and the UCSF Pain Management Center are working together to transform the conventional treatment center by integrating state-of-the-art clinical care with research, training for healthcare professionals and patients, and community, media, and government outreach to foster true collaboration between patients, policymakers, and healthcare providers.”