



# American Board of Addiction Medicine

P.O. BOX 70728 • Chevy Chase, MD 20813

## OFFICERS

### President

Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.

### President-Elect

Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.

### Treasurer-Secretary

Kathleen T. Brady, M.D., Ph.D.

## SPECIALTY DIRECTORS

### Emergency Medicine

Gail D'Onofrio, M.D., M.S.

### Family Medicine

Richard D. Blondell, M.D.

### Internal Medicine

Jeffrey H. Samet, M.D., M.A., M.P.H.

### Obstetrics and Gynecology

Robert J. Sokol, M.D.

### Pediatrics

Hoover Adger, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.

### Preventive Medicine

Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.

### Psychiatry

Kathleen T. Brady, M.D., Ph.D.

### Surgery

Larry M. Gentilello, M.D.

## AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H.

### Surgery

Lon R. Hays, M.D., M.B.A.

### Psychiatry

Elizabeth F. Howell, M.D.

### Psychiatry

Michael M. Miller, M.D.

### Psychiatry

Edward V. Nunes, M.D.

### Psychiatry

Patrick G. O'Connor, M.D., M.P.H.

### Internal Medicine

Martha J. Wunsch, M.D.

### Pediatrics

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

James F. Callahan, D.P.A.

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Christopher Weirs, M.P.A.

Welcome to the American Board of Addiction Medicine Website!

The American Board of Addiction Medicine, or ABAM, is the nation's first medical specialty board that certifies addiction medicine physicians across a range of medical specialties. The board sets standards for physician education, assesses physicians' knowledge and requires and tracks life-long education.

ABAM was formed in order to increase access to and ensure the quality of evidence-based medical treatment for addiction, no matter where a patient is seen. Although one in five Americans has an addictive disorder, there has not been a medical specialty board to ensure physician competence in all aspects of addiction care – until now.

ABAM-certified physicians use the full range of evidence-based treatments available to treat addictions and drug use disorders. These can include behavioral therapy (such as individual or group counseling, cognitive therapy, or contingency management), medications, or their combination. The specific type of treatment or combination of treatments will vary depending on the patient's individual needs and, often, on the types of drugs they use. The severity of addiction and previous efforts to stop using drugs can also influence a treatment approach. Finally, people who are addicted to drugs often suffer from other health (including other mental health), occupational, legal, familial, and social problems that should be addressed concurrently. ABAM-certified Addiction Medicine physicians address these issues and work with other members of the health care team to ensure that patients' needs, and those of their families, are adequately met.

The new medical specialty board is being launched at a time of increasing promise for addiction treatment. Recent discoveries have added to the preponderance of evidence that addiction is a chronic disease of the brain, with unique vulnerabilities and pathology, and a predictable course if not interrupted by effective treatment. An increasing number of medically based addiction treatments have become available, and more are on the horizon. Given the proper training, tools, and resources, physicians can be the first line of defense against substance abuse and addiction-- identifying drug use early, preventing its escalation to abuse and addiction, and referring patients in need to treatment.

Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Kevin B. Kunz, M.D., M.P.H.  
President

Phone: (301) 656-3378 • Facsimile: (301) 656-3815  
[www.abam.net](http://www.abam.net) • E-mail: [email@abam.net](mailto:email@abam.net)