RECENT NATIONAL ATTENTION

Three recent newspaper articles brought national attention to buprenorphine’s role in addiction treatment. On November 17, *The New York Times* published a front-page article with the first of a two-part series entitled “The Double-Edged Drug”. The first installment (Addiction Treatment With a Dark Side – In Demand in Clinics and on the Street, ‘Bupe’ Can Be a Savior or a Menace) focused on buprenorphine education for the layperson. The article presented a history of buprenorphine up to the present-day difficulties inherent in addictions, treatment, patients, and prescribers. Multiple perspectives were explored through the lenses of individual circumstances. Positive and negative points of view came from a variety of involved parties.

The next day, *The Times* followed with At Clinics, Tumultuous Lives and Turbulent Care. This article offered an in-depth exploration of two clinics which are geographically close, but philosophically different. The perspectives of two groups of patients and their providers are extremely enlightening.

*The Washington Post* responded on November 23 with This Drug Could Make A Huge Dent In Heroin Addiction. So why isn’t it used more? An addiction researcher gave a short overview of buprenorphine care and a long interview with Dr. Peter Friedmann, an addiction physician with strong leadership credentials in the field. The interview reads more like a conversation and includes detailed descriptions of how buprenorphine works, their take on the complex difficulties in addiction treatment, and their reaction to *The Times*’ articles.

BIV’S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

The BIV’s monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, January 14th at 1:00pm EST. *Induction* will be the topic. As with December’s first installment, the webinar will be held in Lync online meeting and VANTS conference call formats. Additionally, the slides used in the presentation will be made available ahead of the call for those that are not able to connect via Lync. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite soon which will invite you to the webinar.

Additionally, your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome and time will be set aside during the presentation to address them. The topic list will be finalized in an ongoing fashion and submitted questions will be addressed during each webinar. Please submit to John.HardingJr@va.gov.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. Feds Raid Reckitt Benckiser Offices; Criminal Probe Underway
2. French Watchdog Fines Merck, Reckitt in Subutex Generics Dispute

RESEARCH UPDATE
