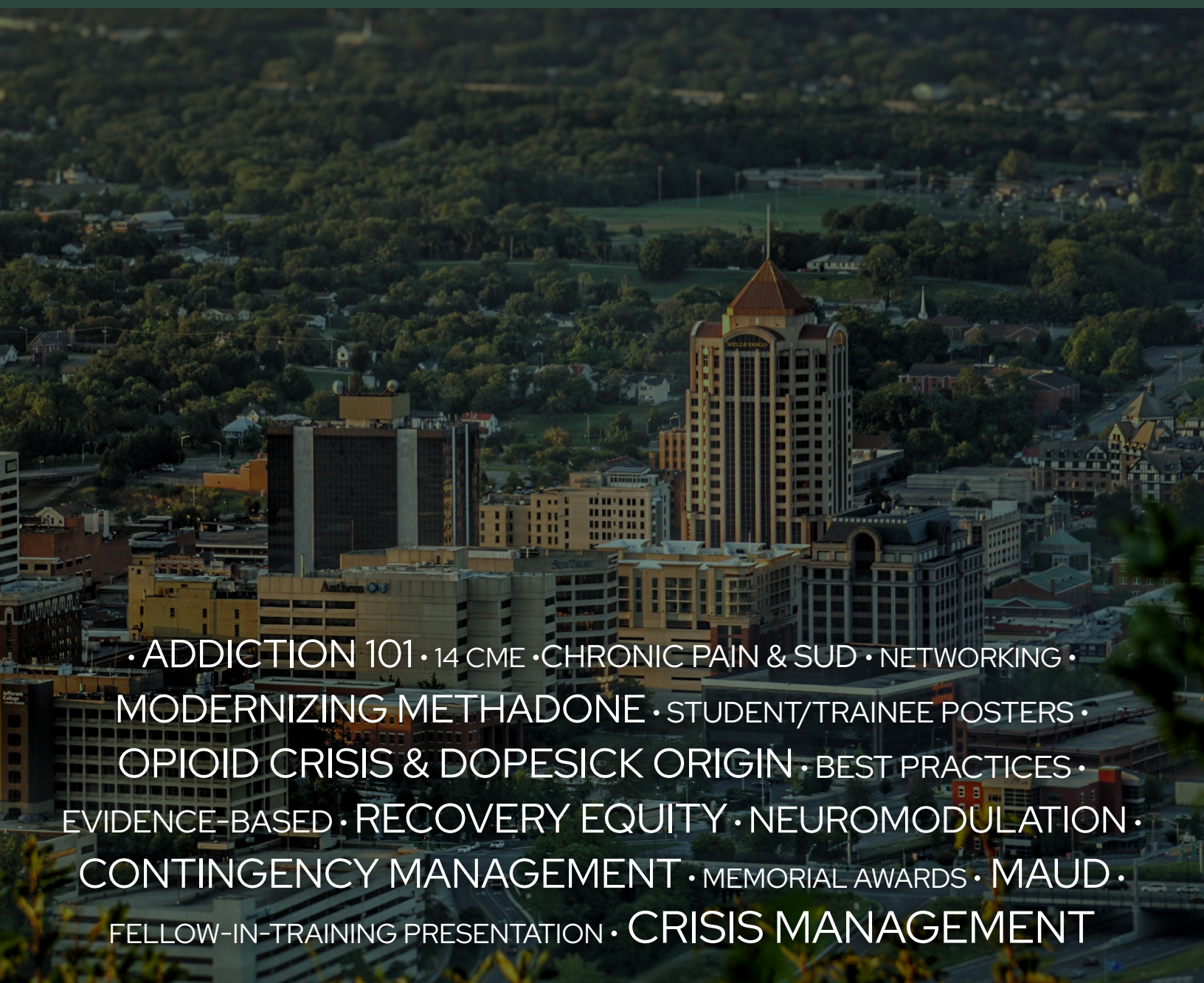




VaSAM 2025 Annual Conference

November 7-8, 2025
Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia

Presented by the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine

An aerial photograph of Roanoke, Virginia, serves as the background for the bottom half of the image. The image shows a dense urban area with various buildings, including the prominent Hotel Roanoke with its distinctive tower. The city is surrounded by green, tree-covered hills. The text for the conference topics is overlaid on this image in a white, sans-serif font.

• ADDICTION 101 • 14 CME • CHRONIC PAIN & SUD • NETWORKING •
MODERNIZING METHADONE • STUDENT/TRAINEE POSTERS •
OPIOID CRISIS & DOPESICK ORIGIN • BEST PRACTICES •
EVIDENCE-BASED • RECOVERY EQUITY • NEUROMODULATION •
CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT • MEMORIAL AWARDS • MAUD •
FELLOW-IN-TRAINING PRESENTATION • CRISIS MANAGEMENT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

8:30am - 12:15pm

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUMS

Learner Chooses One to Attend

ADDICTION 101

Hannah Kissel-Smith, MD

Assistant Professor in Addiction Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, VA



What really is addiction? How should we approach it? Can we treat it? Addiction Medicine 101 is a sweeping introduction to addiction basics—from definitions and language to pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment. This pre-conference session is great for any professional interested in gaining a foundational understanding of addiction and how you can help care for people with substance use disorder and addiction in your community. In this course we will explore the biopsychosocial impact of substance use, how this translates to behavioral and medical consequences, and an approach to triage and treatment of substance use disorders.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS TO MANAGE THE RECOVERY OF PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC PAIN AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Ajay Manhapra, MD

Section Chief, Pain Medicine, Hampton VA Medical Center, Hampton, Virginia



About 25% of U.S. adults with substance use disorders (SUD) report debilitating pain which significantly impedes their recovery, more so after SUD remission. Treatment of chronic pain among people with SUD are a complex challenge especially for providers working in low resource settings where access to specialized care is limited. This workshop will provide didactic education regarding the fundamentals of chronic pain, the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) classification of chronic pain, the role of pain in recovery, the role of substance use in pain relief and chronic pain recovery, the problems of long-terms substance use in chronic pain and treatment of chronic pain and SUD. The participants will then provide training on techniques of developing a biopsychosocial explanation for their chronic pain conditions. The participants will also get training in developing and delivering a comprehensive recovery-oriented treatment with minimal resources.

12:15pm - 1:15pm

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025, CONTINUED

1:15pm – 5:00pm

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA: “REVAMPING RECOVERY: MODERNIZING METHADONE FOR A NEW ERA OF TREATMENT”

Stephanie Peglow, DO, MPH, FAPA, FASAM

Interim Chief Medical Officer & Regional Medical Director, Behavioral Health Group (BHG), Hampton Roads, Virginia



Kelly S. Ramsey, MD, MPH, MA, FACP, DFASAM

Addiction Medicine Physician and Addiction Medicine/Harm Reduction Consultant, Kelly S. Ramsey Consulting, LLC, Olivebridge, NY

In this 3.5 hour pre-conference symposia, the speakers will unpack the updated federal 42 CFR Part 8 rules for methadone; address implementation preparation strategies for the rules in Virginia’s opioid treatment programs (OTPs); explore use of methadone in the era of dominance of high potency synthetic opioids, like fentanyl and the nitazenes, and implications for initiation and continuation dosing; discuss cutting edge issues with respect to methadone to expand its use to decrease mortality among persons with opioid use disorder; and share insights through utilization of relevant case studies.

5:00pm – 6:00pm

WELCOME RECEPTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

6:30am – 7:30am

FRIENDS OF BILL W MEETING

7:30am – 8:00am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00am – 8:05am

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Masaru Nishiaoki, MD

President, Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine



8:05am – 9:05am

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: “BEHIND THE SCENES OF DOPESICK: THE WILD HISTORY FROM POPPIES TO PILLS”

Stephen D. Loyd, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Cedar Recovery, Director, Office of Drug Control Policy of West Virginia, Mount Juliet, Tennessee



Beth Macy

Award Winning Author & Journalist, BrightSight Speakers, Roanoke, Virginia

This session explores the historical and ongoing impact of the opioid crisis in the United States, drawing from Beth Macy’s *Raising Lazarus* and *Dopesick*. Through key themes of harm reduction, justice, and recovery, participants will examine innovative, community-based solutions and hear the powerful personal story of Dr. Steven Loyd—a physician in recovery whose journey Macy has chronicled to humanize the epidemic. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and renewed insight for addressing the crisis at both local and national levels.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025, CONTINUED

9:05am - 9:50am

"BUILDING BACK STRONGER: STRENGTHENING RECOVERY EQUITY WITH YOUR PATIENTS"

Anika Alvanzo, MD, MS, FACP, DFASAM

Physician Principal, Health Management Associates, Baltimore, Maryland



Recovery equity is the ability for every individual to receive culturally responsive healthcare and have an equal chance to recover from Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and related health issues. Recovery equity is only possible when we closely examine inequities within the treatment and services we are providing and then address those inequities with evidence-based interventions. The aim of this session is to assist learners in recognizing the critical role of data in identifying recovery inequities in SUD healthcare settings and empower them to examine recovery equity within their own practice and to incorporate strategies to better ensure that the care environment they provide is supportive and healing for patients from diverse communities.

9:50am - 10:05am

Q&A SESSION WITH MORNING PRESENTERS

10:05am - 10:25am

COFFEE BREAK

10:25am - 11:10am

"RE-WIRING THE BRAIN FOR RECOVERY: THE PROMISE OF NEUROMODULATION IN ADDICTION CARE"

Nassima Ait-Daoud Tiouririne, MD

Addiction Medicine Training Director, Vice Chair of Clinical Services, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, VA



Substance use disorders (SUDs) remain a persistent challenge, marked by high relapse rates and the limited effectiveness of current pharmacological and behavioral interventions for many patients. Neuromodulation techniques, particularly Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), are emerging as promising strategies to improve outcomes in SUD treatment by targeting neural circuits involved in addiction. This Focus Session will provide an overview of the latest developments in neuromodulation for SUDs, highlighting the use of TMS for smoking cessation and its expanding applications in the treatment of stimulant, opioid, and alcohol use disorders. In addition, we will explore Focused Ultrasound, a novel and non-invasive neuromodulation technique that offers highly targeted brain stimulation. Its potential role in regulating brain regions implicated in SUDs represents an exciting frontier in the field of addiction care.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025, CONTINUED

11:10am – 12:10pm

"REWARDING CHANGE: BASIC SCIENCE AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT"

David H. Epstein, Ph.D.

*Tenure-Track Investigator, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Intramural Research Program, Baltimore, Maryland*



David R. Gastfriend, M.D., DFASAM

Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer, DynamiCare Health, Inc., Wareham, MA

In contingency management (CM), patients agree to behavioral goals that are monitored and reinforced via operant principles. Clinicians manage the contingencies (i.e., control the consequences) attached to the targeted behaviors. The application of CM to addictive disorders has profound implications: it shows that seemingly compulsive or inflexible drug-related behaviors can change, in an orderly fashion, with availability of nondrug rewards—if the delivery of the rewards is reliable and predictable. This casts addiction in a fundamentally different light from how it has been described in both scientific and lay discourse. Equally important, however, is that CM does not work for every patient who tries it. This presentation will suggest that nonresponse to CM demarcates a subtype of addiction that is less responsive to contextual changes and more in need of biomedical treatment, though the two approaches can also complement each other. It will also review findings from CM studies led or co-led by the presenter, addressing such issues as: the need to increase the duration of CM's effects after discontinuation; the need to target multiple drugs without unduly driving up the cost of nondrug reinforcers; and the need for translation to community settings with very few resources.

Over 100 papers and a dozen meta-analyses in the scientific literature demonstrate that contingency management (CM) and related reinforcement-based treatment is the best evidenced, most clinically effective, cost-effective, and most durable behavioral approach for patients suffering from substance use disorders (SUD). Best practices are well established. In 2024, ASAM declared CM to be the standard of care, particularly for Stimulant Use Disorder. Adoption of CM, however, has been poor. Patients cannot access CM due to stigma, ethical concerns, logistical challenges, accounting burdens, and lack of reimbursement. Recently, however, technology has been harnessed to ease the burden-of-effort on providers, overcome access obstacles for patients, avoid ethical challenges and legal jeopardy, and assure protocol adherence with CM. Recent independently reported research has demonstrated CM's ability to double abstinence rates as well as serving harm reduction in the real-world, for various substance use disorders and populations. Data on clinical outcomes, feasibility and patient satisfaction are now driving payer coverage, opening opportunities to finally deliver on the promise of 60 years of CM research.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025, CONTINUED

12:10pm - 12:25pm

Q&A SESSION WITH LATE MORNING PRESENTERS

12:25pm - 1:25pm

NETWORKING LUNCHEON

1:15pm - 1:45pm

STUDENT/MEDICAL TRAINEE POSTER SESSION

1:45pm - 2:15pm

FELLOW-IN-TRAINING PRESENTATION

2:15pm - 3:15pm

"MEDICATION MATTERS: SELECTING THE RIGHT MAUD AND OPTIMIZING OUTPATIENT MEDICALLY MANAGED WITHDRAWAL"

Kristen Martin, DO, MS, FAAFP, FASAM, FACOPF

CEO, River Valley Medical Wellness, presenting on behalf of Providers Clinical Support System – Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder



In 2023, 28.9 million people aged 12 and older had alcohol use disorder, yet less than 10% received any treatment, less than 2% received a medication to treat their alcohol use disorder. This session, hosted by Providers Clinical Support System – Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder (PCSS – MAUD), aims to close that treatment gap by building skills and knowledge of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals to identify, diagnose and treat AUD using FDA-approved MAUD, and how to assess for and manage alcohol withdrawal syndrome in outpatient or inpatient settings.

3:15pm - 4:00pm

"TURNING CHAOS INTO CARE: MASTERING CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN ADDICTION TREATMENT"

Mel Ramage, MSN, FNP-BC, CARN-AP, LCAS

Interim Director, NC Perinatal Substance Use Disorder Network, Asheville, North Carolina

Olivia Caron, PharmD, BCACP, CPP

Clinical Pharmacist, Program Director, Pharmacy Residency PGY2 Ambulatory Care, Director of Research, Project CARA, Asheville, North Carolina



Disasters disrupt healthcare systems, but for patients receiving medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), service interruptions can be life-threatening. This session, Turning Chaos into Care: Mastering Crisis Management in Addiction Treatment, will immerse participants in the real-life events that unfolded during Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina, when an opioid treatment program (OTP) and an office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) clinic faced sudden and total loss of essential services. Using a simulation-based approach, this 45-minute session will guide participants through the sequence of events, including immediate crisis response, decision-making under pressure, and overcoming logistical barriers to delivering addiction medicine. Participants will gain insights into disaster preparedness strategies, including emergency take-home dosing, communication plans, and inter-agency coordination. By the end of the session, attendees will be better equipped to anticipate challenges and implement proactive solutions to sustain addiction treatment services when disaster strikes.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025, CONTINUED

4:00pm – 4:15pm	Q&A WITH AFTERNOON PRESENTERS
4:15pm – 4:30pm	AWARDS AND CLOSING REMARKS Masaru Nishiaoki, MD <i>President, Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine</i>
4:30pm	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

The VASAM 2025 Pre-Conference Symposia & Annual Conference will offer a total of 14 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit (s)[™] (pending approval).



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (STUDENT/MEDICAL TRAINEES):

Students and Medical Trainees are encouraged to participate in VASAM's Student Poster Competition. Up to twelve (12) \$100 travel scholarships will be awarded to student presenters.

VENUE & HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

The historic Hotel Roanoke, an enduring American icon, has been hosting guests in The Roanoke Valley for over a century, since 1882. Their stylish guest rooms and state-of-the-art conference center seamlessly blend the charm of the past with modern-day essentials, such as complimentary Wi-Fi, providing a perfect stay and experience just a few steps away from Downtown Roanoke.

Hotel rooms are available to VASAM 2025 attendees for a special group rate of \$209, plus applicable taxes, per night, on a first-come-first-served basis. [Book your room today!](#)



REGISTRATION

	EARLY BIRD Until 9/15/25		REGULAR REGISTRATION 9/16/25 - 10/15/25		LATE REGISTRATION 10/16/25 - 11/7/25	
	Full Reg	One-Day	Full Reg	One-Day	Full Reg	One-Day
VASAM/ASAM Member (MD, DO, PharmD)	\$399	\$369	\$449	\$419	\$499	\$469
VASAM/ASAM Member (Non-Physician)	\$299	\$269	\$349	\$319	\$399	\$369
Non Member (MD, DO, PharmD)	\$499	\$469	\$549	\$519	\$599	\$569
Non Member (Non-Physician)	\$399	\$369	\$449	\$419	\$499	\$469
Student w/Poster	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	NA
FLAGSHIP SPONSOR	\$4,750					
EVENT SPONSOR	\$2,700					
EXHIBITOR	\$1,500					
ADD'L SPONSOR REG (Flagship/Event Sponsor Only)	\$399	\$369	\$446	\$419	\$499	\$469

Registration fee includes: All Sessions & CME for day(s) attendee is registered and post-event access to presentations; Friday: Coffee Breaks, Networking Luncheon and Welcome Reception. Saturday: Continental Breakfast, Coffee Breaks, Networking Luncheon.

REGISTER HERE

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QUESTIONS AND SPONSOR/EXHIBITOR INQUIRIES:
Contact VASAM Administrators & Annual Conference Planners
Molly.Poisant@vasam.net or Alicia.Standridge@vasam.net