

America's Opioid Epidemic



The Opioid Epidemic is a severe reminder of the magnitude of drug addiction in the United States. This health and social problem is the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 55. This epidemic continues to grow and negatively impact every demographic and geographic region of the United States.

Professor Bertha Madras

Bertha Madras is Professor of Psychobiology, Harvard Medical School (HMS, 33 years), directs the Laboratory of Addiction Neurobiology at McLean Hospital, and is cross appointed at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.

Research: Her laboratory focuses on neurobiology, brain imaging, and medications development. She has published over 200 manuscripts, essays, articles, monographs and authored or co-authored books: Cell Biology of Addiction; The effects of drug abuse on the human nervous system; imaging of the human brain in health and disease; Update of Cannabis and its Medical Use. World Health Organization; President's Commission Report on Combating Drug Addiction and Opioid Crisis (US).

Dick Dyer

Dick Dyer is an attorney and advocate for recovery who knows what it's like to be on both sides of the law. He overcame his struggles from heroin addiction, homelessness and incarceration, received a Governor's pardon and presently practices law in the same court he was sentenced out of over 8 times. He has appeared in numerous national and international publications and broadcasts.

Antje Barreveld, MD MPH

Assistant Professor Anesthesiology, Tufts University School of Medicine
Medical Director, Newton-Wellesley Hospital Pain Management Center
Director of Education and Outreach, Newton-Wellesley Hospital Substance Use Services

Catharina Armstrong, MD MPH

Catharina Armstrong, MD MPH is Associate Director of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital Substance Use Service. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Addiction Medicine, and is an Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine. She is Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Boston, and serves as the Hospital's Addictions Consultant for inpatients and outpatients. Her clinical and research interests are in prevention and management strategies to support high risk groups with the intersect of addictions and infectious diseases and incarcerated populations. She is the Program Director for the Boston Medical Center site Addictions Fellowship. Dr. Armstrong serves on the Board of Directors for the Boston Bull Dogs, a nonprofit running club established to provide anonymous and safe community support for those adversely affected by addiction.

Jack Pilecki, Police Chief, Wellesley, MA

Chief Pilecki is a 34-year veteran of the Wellesley Police Department, appointed to the department in July of 1983. In 2013, Chief Pilecki was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief where he oversaw the day to day operation of the department, as well as large scale events and incidents. Chief Pilecki implemented much of the changes that occurred to Boston Marathon security in Wellesley following the 2013 Boston bombings. Chief Pilecki also currently serves as the chair of the Wellesley Traffic Committee

Richard Delorie, Fire Chief, Wellesley, MA

Richard is Fire Chief and responsible for First Responder Coordination, Wellesley, MA

Linda Corridan, M.Ed, BSN, RN, Dept. Head For Nursing Services, Wellesley Public School System. Ms. Corridan is charged with the important responsibility of developing and managing the programs and activities that protect the wellness of all students in the Wellesley Public School System, including the management of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral Treatment Program.