

Maixner ON PAIN: Future of Pain Research

Milwaukee—In episode 2 of the **ON PAIN** series, William Maixner, DDS, PhD, the president of the American Pain Society; and a co-director of the Duke Center for Translational Pain Medicine, the Joannes H. Karis, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology, and the vice chair of research at Duke University, in Durham, N.C., discusses the future of pain research.

Recently, due to the HEAL initiative and other federal initiatives, more money is becoming available for discovery, Dr. Maixner said. The amount of money available to the National Institutes of Health has increased significantly and is being distributed by NIH agencies to researchers working to make progress on target identification and to understand the underlying neuromechanisms leading to acute and chronic pain.

The federal government has taken initiative to begin empowering discovery with the hope of resolving both the pain and opioid epidemics. Dr. Maixner explained that through discovery, target identification is likely for intervention in the pain space as well as the opportunity to

bring existing drugs into the pain space for treatment.

For the “On Pain” series, Dr. Maixner sat down with *Pain Medicine News* to discuss topics ranging from the challenges of addressing the dual epidemics of chronic pain and opioid use disorder to the future of pain research and education.

A Q&A with Dr. Maixner also appeared in print in the June double issue of *Pain Medicine News*, which also can be found on our website. New episodes of **ON PAIN** will appear every Thursday at www.PainMedicineNews.com/Multimedia.

—Michael DePeau-Wilson, Donald M. Pizzi and Anna DeNelsky

Editor's note: The views expressed in this commentary belong to the interviewee and do not necessarily reflect those of the publication.