

2026

9th ANNUAL CHRONIC PAIN CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18

THE HYTHE, VAIL

715 West Lionshead Circle, Vail, CO 81657

800.648.072



9th ANNUAL CHRONIC PAIN CONFERENCE
AGENDA
OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

Friday, October 16, 2026

1:45 PM *Welcome and Opening Remarks - Dr. Rachael Rzasa Lynn, President*

2:00 – 3:00 PM CME (1.0) Dr. Eric Shoemaker

Whiplash, Concussion, and Post-Concussion Syndrome: A Neurophysiologic and Clinical Framework for Accurate Diagnosis

Learning Objectives:

1. Apply the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's diagnostic criteria for concussion/mild traumatic brain injury.
2. Understand the natural history and physiologic evolution of concussion-related symptoms.
3. Review whiplash injury, especially cervical facet-mediated pain.
4. Describe the mechanisms of whiplash-associated symptoms other than neck pain.
5. Recognize the overlap of symptoms between whiplash-associated disorder (WAD) and post-concussion syndrome.
6. Review the evidence regarding the response of WAD symptoms, other than neck pain, to facet pain treatment, including RFN.

3:00 – 4:00 PM CME (1.0) Dr. Justin Moon

Cervicogenic Headache and When It Is Not

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand ICHD3 criteria for cervicogenic headache
2. Consider alternative primary headache diagnosis

4:00 - 4:30 PM *Refreshment Break with Exhibitors*

4:30 – 5:30 PM CME (1.0). Dr. Ernest E. Braxton, Jr.

Enhanced Recovery and Multimodal Pain Management: Lessons from Awake Spine Surgery

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the components of a spine-specific Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathway, including multimodal analgesia, regional anesthesia with erector spinae plane catheters and ambulatory pumps, early mobilization, cognitive interventions, and nutrition, and explain how each reduces perioperative opioid use.
2. Summarize the history and evidence supporting awake spine surgery under regional anesthesia, and identify the patient selection criteria, anesthetic protocol elements, and program requirements needed to adopt it safely.

5:30 - 6:00 PM CME (0.5)

Panel - Q&A / Discussion

6:30 - 9:30 PM *Non-CME Dinner Presentation*

Saturday, October 17, 2026

6:45 - 7:45 AM *Breakfast*

7:45 – 8:15 AM *Colorado Pain Society Annual Business Meeting*

8:15 – 9:15 AM CME (1.0) **KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Usman Latif**

A Primer on AI and the Future of Neuromodulation

Learning Objectives:

1. Evaluate machine learning models in predicting spinal cord stimulation outcomes compared to conventional screening trials.
2. Differentiate key AI and machine learning models, from regression and support vector machines to neural networks, utilized in pain medicine.

9:15 – 10:15 AM CME (1.0) **KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Usman Latif**

PNS: From Today's Evidence and Guidelines to the Future

Learning Objectives:

1. Apply the 2025 ASPN PNS Consensus Guidelines to standardize patient selection and evidence-based indications for neuropathic pain.
2. Compare clinical efficacy and durability across emerging PNS modalities, from temporary 60-day systems and micro-IPGs to non-invasive magnetic stimulation.

10:15 - 11:00 AM *Morning Break with Sponsors*

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CME (1.0) **Dr. Gary Ghiselli and Dr. Scott Bainbridge**

Percutaneous vs. Open Surgical Lumbar Decompression for Stenosis

Learning Objectives:

1. The audience will be able to describe the clinical picture of lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS) with neurogenic claudication and its pathoanatomic correlates.
2. The audience will be able to discuss the pros and cons of using the percutaneous approach for treating LSS.

12:00 - 2:00 PM *Break for Lunch and Outdoor Activities*

2:00 – 3:00 PM CME (1.0) **KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Aaron Calodney**

Complex Discogenic Pain in 2026: Integrating Evidence, Outcomes, and Advanced Interventions

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify with appropriate diagnostic techniques the presentation of discogenic pain.
2. Evaluate existing clinical evidence and emerging treatment options to optimize best practices for treating discogenic pain.

3:00 – 4:00 PM CME (1.0) **KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Aaron Calodney**

Implications of Exosome Based Therapy

1. Evaluate the complex physiological mechanisms associated with the synthesis and release of exosomes from tissue-resident cells.
2. Assess current clinical study outcomes as an indication of potential best practices for using exosomes in clinical therapies.

4:00 – 5:30 PM - *Cocktail Reception with Sponsors*

5:30 – 6:30 PM CME (1.0) **Dr. Scott Bainbridge**

Advanced Spine Decision-Making: Facet, SI Joint, Vertebrogenic Pain, and Procedural Sequencing

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to discuss the diagnostic options for the selection and direction of treatment towards anatomic low back pain targets.
2. Participants will be able to discuss cost, access, and medical policy influence on procedural sequencing in the treatment of low back pain.

6:30 – 7:00 PM CME (0.5)

Panel - Q&A / Discussion

Sunday, October 18, 2026

7:30 - 8:30 AM *Breakfast*

8:30 – 9:30 AM CME (1.0) **Dr. Toya Ellis**

Chronic Pelvic Pain

Learning Objectives:

1. Apply a focused medical history and exam for initial evaluation of a patient with chronic pelvic pain.
2. Implement an initial diagnostic work-up for common causes of chronic pelvic pain and evaluate the need for referral to a chronic pelvic pain specialist.
3. Understand the general principles of pharmacological and nonpharmacological treatment for chronic pelvic pain.

9:30 - 10:30 AM CME (1.0) **Dr. Stacy Fischer**

Psilocybin and End of Life Wellbeing

Learning Objectives:

1. Evaluate the scientific rigor of structure, including set and setting, of effective interventions contributing to the evidence base for psilocybin, assisted therapy efficacy.
2. Understand critical gaps in the knowledge base of psilocybin assisted therapies for psychosocial, Emotional and pain related distress.

10:30 - 11:00 AM *Break with Sponsors*

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CME (1.0) **Dr. Brent Van Dorsten**

Pain and Pain-Related Behavioral Sequelae Affecting Cognition

Learning Objectives:

1. Delineate the effect of pain intensity and pain related lifestyle factors (e.g., mood, sleep impairment) on cognitive performance.
2. Identify clinical strategies to mediate cognitive struggles to improve treatment outcome.

12:00 - 12:30 PM CME (0.5)

Panel - Q&A / Discussion

12:30 - 1:00 PM *Giveaway Drawing, Closing Remarks - Dr. Rachael Rzasa Lynn, President*

~ MEET THE SPEAKERS ~

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Aaron K. Calodney, MD, FIPP, ABIPP, Precision Spine Care, Tyler, TX 75701.

Dr. Calodney is a board-certified anesthesiologist with subspecialty certification in pain management through the American Board of Anesthesiology. He is a partner physician and Director of Clinical Research at Precision Spine Care in Tyler, Texas.

Dr. Calodney is Past President of the Texas Pain Society (TPS) and the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP). He is also the founding and current President of the World Institute of Regenerative Medicine (WIRM).

He earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri School of Medicine and completed his anesthesiology residency and interventional pain management fellowship at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He also completed a fellowship in pediatric anesthesia at Denver Children's Hospital.

A recognized leader in interventional pain management, Dr. Calodney's clinical and research interests include spine care, neuromodulation, intrathecal drug delivery, regenerative and biologic therapies for degenerative disc disease, and radiofrequency ablation. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and textbook chapters, contributed to evidence-based treatment guidelines in interventional pain and opioid management, and has delivered hundreds of invited lectures in the United States and internationally.

Dr. Calodney previously served for many years on the board of the International Spine Intervention Society, including as Director of Education. He was also appointed by the Governor of Texas to serve on the Advisory Committee on the Regulation of Controlled Substances Act.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Usman Latif, MD, MBA is a board-certified interventional pain specialist and Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Health System, where he built the Division of Advanced Analytics and Informatics. He completed Anesthesiology residency (Chief Resident) at Johns Hopkins Hospital, followed by an Interventional Pain fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital. Earlier, he trained in Internal Medicine at Wake Forest, served on faculty at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and led Phase I trials at Pfizer. He holds an MBA and later earned a certificate in Value-Based Healthcare Delivery from Harvard Business School.

Dr. Latif focuses on innovative applications of neuromodulation and minimally invasive spine procedures. He frequently lectures internationally, conducts clinical trials, and serves as an Associate Editor for *Pain Practice*. Extensively published, Dr. Latif engages in product development and has taken many products through studies to FDA approval.

Beyond medicine, Dr. Latif is a serial entrepreneur and co-founder of two data technology ventures specializing in deployment-ready machine learning solutions. He serves on the advisory board of most major companies in the pain field. He has also contributed to federal healthcare policy, testifying before the Pew Charitable Trusts on drug shortages and advising Congressional focus groups on the opioid crisis.



J. Scott Bainbridge, MD, Greenwood Village, CO received his medical degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, graduating as an officer of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Society. He completed his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, where he served as Co-Chief Resident. Dr. Bainbridge has achieved board certification through the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (1992), American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine (1996), and American Board of Pain Medicine (2010). He founded The Denver Spine & Pain Institute, (www.DenverPainInstitute.com), formerly Denver Back Pain Specialists, in 2012.

Dr. Bainbridge is a senior spinal injection procedure instructor and has served on the Board of Directors as the Research Committee Chair, and Treasurer, for the International Pain & Spine Intervention Society. He has been a board examiner for the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and has been the president of the Colorado Pain Society. Dr. Bainbridge is actively

involved in carrying out clinical research.

J. Scott Bainbridge, M.D. has been providing spine and musculoskeletal care for over 30 years and strives to offer the highest quality spine, musculoskeletal, and pain care with compassion, integrity, and excellence. The services provided by The Denver Spine & Pain Institute cover the full spectrum of spine and musculoskeletal diagnostic and treatment options. These include medical diagnosis and individualized treatment planning, fluoroscopically and ultrasound guided spine and extremity injections including regenerative medicine (PRP), the use of electromyography (EMG) for diagnosis, and education regarding medication, exercise, and lifestyle management of painful conditions. DSPI also offers advanced procedures and FDA authorized research trials, including regenerative (stem cell), ablative, and neuromodulation trials to treat spine, nerve, joint and other painful disorders.

Scott is thankful to have worked with many talented colleagues and staff over his career, including the good fortune of working with the “Founding Fathers” and other incredible mentors at the Spine Intervention Society. He identifies with the quote of Hippocrates: “Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there also is love of humanity”. Scott enjoys time with his family, biking, Tai Chi, and the simple joys of life.



Ernest E. Braxton, Jr., MD, MBA, FAANS, is a board-certified neurosurgeon and Partner of Vail Summit Orthopaedics and Neurosurgery in Vail, Colorado. His practice focuses on minimally invasive and outpatient spine surgery, cervical and lumbar disc arthroplasty, and awake spine surgery under regional anesthesia. He is a founding collaborator of the Awake Spine Research Group and co-editor of the textbook Awake Spine Surgery (Thieme, 2026), and his recent publications include an umbrella review of awake versus general anesthesia in lumbar surgery, a 180-patient comparison of perioperative narcotic use after awake and general anesthesia TLIF, and a review of postoperative anesthesia and ERAS care pathways for spine surgery.

Dr. Braxton serves as a site principal investigator for several FDA IDE trials in spinal fusion and cervical arthroplasty, and as President of the Colorado Neurosurgical Society. A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, he completed his neurosurgery residency at Allegheny General Hospital and holds an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University. He served ten years on active duty in the Air Force, including a deployment to Afghanistan and a term as Chief of Neurosurgery at San Antonio Military Medical Center, and has served as a physician for the US Ski Team.



Toya Ann Ellis, MD, FACOG Clinical training is in Obstetrics and Gynecology and I was employed by Kaiser Permanente Colorado from 1999 until I retired October 2025. My principal clinical interests and expertise include: chronic pelvic pain, medical and surgical management of pelvic endometriosis, vulvar pain syndromes, trauma informed care and minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

In 2014 I developed and instituted the Kaiser Permanente Colorado formal gynecologic pelvic pain curriculum along with instituting a clinic for the multidisciplinary regional care of chronic pelvic pain patients. I served as regional director of chronic pelvic pain and the senior pelvic pain gynecologist for 12 years.

I also have longstanding interests in resident education and co-directed the minimally invasive surgical rotation program for the Saint Joseph’s OB/Gyn residency program from 2016-2025.



Stacy Fischer, MD is a Professor in General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a board-certified Geriatrician and Palliative Care clinician. She is also a Program Leader in Cancer Prevention and Control at the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center and serves as the Scientific Advisor for American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Her overarching research vision is to improve palliative care outcomes for underserved and vulnerable populations through developing and testing innovative interventions. She is leading the NIH funded INSPIRE Consortium, a six-site network of institutions conducting psychedelic research with healthy older adults, preparing for trials in older adults with chronic pain. She is also currently co-leading an NCI funded multi-site clinical trial of psilocybin assisted psychotherapy for adults with serious cancers to improve anxiety, depression, and existential distress. She is also co-leading two large observational studies of Medical Aid in Dying from patient/caregiver and physician perspectives.



Gary Ghiselli, MD, board-certified, fellowship-trained spine surgeon, Dr. Ghiselli is a recognized expert in spine surgery and has performed extensive research on problems in the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine. He has published multiple peer reviewed articles and book chapters throughout his career. He is a board member of the Colorado Orthopedic Society, Guideline Committee Member for the North American Spine Society (NASS), a frequent lecturer and member for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery (AAOS) and a member of the Colorado Medical Society. He takes pride in his expertise in cervical spine surgery after training with Dr. Henry Bohlman in Cleveland, Ohio and is one of the few elected members of the Cervical Spine Research Society (CSRS) practicing in the state of Colorado. His research interests in anti-microbial substrates, stem cell and regenerative technologies and long-term outcomes have influenced his practice and benefitted his patients. Dr. Ghiselli has been a lead investigator and co-investigator in FDA trials involving motion preservation in the lumbar spine, cervical total disk replacement and stem cell applications in the spine.

Dr. Ghiselli is currently the 2-year president of the Colorado Orthopaedic Society.



Justin Moon, MD most recently comes from the world-renown Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where he completed fellowship. He is a national expert in the areas of headache-facial pain and Alzheimer's therapeutics. He grew up in Arizona and grew up as the son of steelworker. After putting himself through college with a B.S. in Cell Biology, he completed a Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) and his Doctorate of Medicine (M.D.) at the University of Arizona. He completed his internship and neurology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has an academic distinction of being a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and Fellow of the American Headache Society.

He is the Director and Founder of the Denver Neurological Clinic. He is board certified in Neurology and sees general neurology patients and subspecialty referrals for headache and facial pain and Alzheimer's Disease. Moon educates neurology residents from HCA Swedish Neurology Residency Program. He performs medical trials on cutting edge medications.

Dr. Moon is also an industry consultant assisting on the development of medical therapeutics for Fortune 500 companies. He is a former consultant physician to University of Denver Pioneers NCAA teams, MMA, and a former consultant to the Colorado Avalanche.



Eric Shoemaker, DO, FAAPMR, DABPM is a triple board-certified, fellowship-trained interventional spine and musculoskeletal physiatrist. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine with highest honors, where he received the Welch Scholars Grant, was on the Chancellor's List or the Dean's List each academic semester, and was inducted into the Psi Sigma Alpha national scholastic honor society. He went on to complete his physical medicine and rehabilitation residency training at the University of Colorado, followed by the sports medicine and interventional spine fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis under Dr. Heidi Prather. He is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, sports medicine, and pain medicine.

Dr. Shoemaker has been practicing medicine for over a decade and is an assistant clinical professor at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is an instructor, committee member, and recurring speaker with the International Pain and Spine Intervention Society, where he was awarded Instructor of the Year for 2026. Dr. Shoemaker was selected for both the spine and shoulder physician advisory panels for the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation. He has a special interest in the biomechanical interrelationships between the spine and other musculoskeletal conditions.



Brent Van Dorsten, PhD

President, Colorado Center for Behavioral Medicine
Past President, Colorado Pain Society

Dr. Brent Van Dorsten is a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in health and pain psychology and behavioral medicine assessment and treatment at the Colorado Center for Behavioral Medicine. At the CCBM, Dr. Van Dorsten provides cognitive-behavioral assessments and treatments to a diverse patient population referred by physician specialists in Primary Care, Surgery, Anesthesiology/Pain Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedic Spine, Occupational Medicine, and Neurology among others. This clinical service includes assessment, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and CBT treatment for pain, functional limitations, physical injury and delayed recovery in worker's compensation, assisting physicians in the management of patients on long-term opioids, mild traumatic brain injury/concussion, and pre-surgical behavioral assessments for patients being considered for spine surgery and implantable spinal cord stimulation.

Prior to opening the Colorado Center for Behavioral Medicine in 2012, Dr. Van Dorsten was an Associate Professor for over 23 years at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedics Spine Center, and Anesthesiology Pain Medicine. He is certified with a variety of national credentialing services including the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology and is a Life Fellow of both the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the American College of Forensic Examiners.

This activity is jointly provided by
MEDICAL EDUCATION RESOURCES and COLORADO PAIN SOCIETY



AUDIENCE

This activity has been designed to meet the educational needs of pain management specialists, primary care providers with a clinical interest in pain management, psychologists, addiction medicine specialists, anesthesiologists, physiatrists, neurologists, surgeons, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, and healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with acute and chronic pain.

CME CREDITS

Maximum of 13.50 total CME

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, the participant should be better able to:

- Discuss the general principles of pharmacological and nonpharmacological treatment for chronic pelvic pain.
- Describe the clinical picture of lumbar spinal stenosis (LSS) with neurogenic claudication and its pathoanatomic correlates.
- Discuss cost, access, and medical policy influence on procedural sequencing in the treatment of low back pain.
- Apply the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's diagnostic criteria for concussion/mild traumatic brain injury.
- Recognize the overlap of symptoms between whiplash-associated disorder (WAD) and post-concussion syndrome.
- Discuss ICHD3 criteria for cervicogenic headache.

DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Medical Education Resources ensures balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all our educational activities. In accordance with this policy, MER identifies relevant financial relationships with its instructors, content managers, and other individuals who are in a position to control the content of an activity. Reported relevant financial relationships are mitigated by MER to ensure that all scientific research referred to, reported, or used in a CE activity conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, and analysis. MER is committed to providing learners with high-quality CE activities that promote improvements or quality in health care and not the business interest of an ineligible company.

ACCREDITATION FOR 3 DAY CONFERENCE



JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Medical Education Resources (MER) and Colorado Pain Society. MER is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) Credit



This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive up to 13.5 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credit for learning and change.

Physician Credit

Medical Education Resources designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nursing Credit

Medical Education Resources designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.5 ANCC nursing contact hours. Nurses will be awarded contact hours upon successful completion of the activity.

Physician Assistant Credit



Medical Education Resources has been authorized by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for up to 13.5 AAPA Category 1 CME Credits. Physician Assistants should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Psychologist Credit



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ASSOCIATION

Continuing Education (CE) credits for psychologists are provided through the co-sponsorship of the American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Continuing Education in Psychology (CEP). The APA CEP Office maintains responsibility for the content of the programs.

Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Credit

Completion of this course will help satisfy the required hours of The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) CME requirements for the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act.

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Credit



Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to 13.5 MOC points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. Participants will earn MOC points equivalent to the amount of CME credits claimed for the activity. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA) Credit



This activity contributes to the CME component of the American Board of Anesthesiology's redesigned Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology[™] (MOCA[®]) program, known as MOCA 2.0[®]. Please consult the ABA website, www.theABA.org, for a list of all MOCA 2.0 requirements.