



GSAM 2025 Annual Conference

July 25-26, 2025

South University, Savannah, Georgia
Live, In-Person Event

Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder, Evidence-Based Treatment, Medical Marijuana in Clinical Practice, Best Practices, Pain & Addiction, Networking, ADHD & Dual Diagnoses, Fellow Presentation, Pregnancy & OUD, Student/Medical Trainee Poster Competition, Patient Support.



Presented by the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Hosted By:

South
UNIVERSITY™

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025

1:00pm - 4:30pm: SHORT COURSES

Learners may choose one of two 4-hour Short Courses to attend. There will be a 15-minute Coffee Break mid-way through each course.



Short Course: “Closing the Treatment Gap: Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder”

Instructor: Chelsea Tersavich, PA-C -Clinician Lead and Psychiatric Clinician, Mindbloom

This half-day training hosted by the Providers Clinical Support System – Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (PCSS-MAUD) will provide an overview of alcohol use disorder (AUD), medications to treat AUD, withdrawal management, and treatment approaches to co-occurring conditions, such as liver disease. The training will build skills and knowledge to identify, diagnose, and treat AUD using FDA-approved MAUD, as well as how to assess for and manage alcohol withdrawal syndrome and co-occurring conditions. Through case discussions, training attendees will also have the opportunity to engage with their peers and the presenter and practice applying learned skills to manage and treat complex clinical cases. This course is eligible for three (3) CE credits. The audience of focus includes pharmacists, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician associates/assistants, counselors, and social workers.

5:00pm - 6:00pm: WELCOME RECEPTION



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SATURDAY, JULY 26 2025

7:15am-8:00am: Continental Breakfast

7:30am-8:00am: GSAM Annual Business Meeting



8:00am-8:10am: Welcome & Opening Remarks
Michael Hall, MD
President, Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine



8:10am-9:40am: KEYNOTE: Understanding Medical Marijuana in Clinical Practice:
Legal and Ethical Considerations
Merrill Norton Pharm.D., D.Ph., CMAC, CCS
CEO, Chemical Health Associates Inc., Athens, GA

Georgia's new medical marijuana law allows certain qualified persons to legally possess up to 20 fluid ounces of "low THC oil," which is derived from the marijuana plant. It authorizes the Georgia Department of Public Health to issue a "Georgia Low THC Oil Registry Card" to qualified persons, which will prove that they are authorized to have the oil in their possession. Georgia's law is much more limited than some other states' medical marijuana laws. For example, it does not legalize the sale or possession of marijuana in leaf form. It does not authorize the production or sale of food products infused with low THC oil or the ingestion of low THC oil through vapor. It does not authorize physicians to prescribe marijuana for medical use. It is intended solely to protect qualified persons from criminal prosecution for possessing low THC oil for medical purposes. Medical practitioners have reported being unsure about the current state of the "low THC oil" use in patients and exactly what do they need to know on how to manage these patients. This presentation will address the current pharmacology of the approved "low THC oil", legal ramifications, and ethical concerns for medical practitioners.



9:40am-10:40am: Pain & Addiction Medicine
Donald Taylor, MD, FASAM
Physician, Comprehensive Pain Care PC, Marietta, GA

This presentation will cover the similarities between the management of chronic pain and the management of addiction, the use of buprenorphine for pain in patients with and without addiction. It will introduce the novel drug, Suzetrigine, which is a new non-narcotic analgesic.

10:40am-11:00am: Coffee Break



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SATURDAY, JULY 26 2025 (Continued)



11:00am-12:00pm: ADHD: Why Objective Testing is Essential
Rachel Lacy, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
Board Certified Neuropsychologist, Rachel Lacy, Psy.D.,
P.C, Private Practice, Lawrenceville, GA

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is more than a set of behavioral symptoms. Yet, many people are diagnosed with a behavior checklist which may not be accurate, leading to mislabeling and inappropriately treating the wrong condition. We will discuss how to assess patients suspected of having this disorder, and how to distinguish it from other disorders with which ADHD may be confused. This presentation will assist providers in avoiding the inappropriate prescription of stimulant medication.

12:00pm-12:30pm: Fellow-in-Training Presentation

12:30pm-1:30pm: Networking Luncheon

1:30pm-2:00pm: Student/Medical Trainee Poster Session



2:00pm-3:00pm: Treating Pregnant Patients with OUD
Lulu Zhao, MD, FACOG, FASAM
Associate Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western
Reserve University School of Medicine
Case Western SOM; Cleveland Clinic

Opioid use disorder impacts 1 in every 200 pregnant individuals. Only about half receive treatment during pregnancy. Of those who are engaged in care, treatment decisions are complicated by limited clinical research and the need to balance risks/benefits for the maternal- fetal dyad. This presentation will utilize patient cases to empower you to deliver individualized and patient-centered treatment that optimize your patient's chances for healthy pregnancy and recovery.

3:00pm-4:00pm: Panel Discussion with Conference Speakers

4:00pm-4:10pm: Awards and Closing Remarks
Michael Hall, MD
President, Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine

4:10PM: Conference Concludes

The GSAM 2025 Program Planning Committee is seeking nine-and-one-half (9.5) AMA PRA Category 1 CME credits (pending approval).



GSAM 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HOST CITY & VENUE

Savannah, Georgia is a coastal city best known for its southern hospitality, lively riverfront, and oak-lined streets. A top cultural destination in the Southeast, Savannah offers historical tours, unique museums, and many live music and theatre venues.

South University is a private academic institution dedicated to providing educational opportunities for the intellectual, social, and professional development of a diverse and growing student population. South University's main campus, located in Savannah, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Nursing, Pharmacy, Business & Technology, Healthcare, Criminal Justice and Public Health.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

GSAM has secured a group rate/courtesy block at a nearby hotel. Please note, transportation is not provided to and from South University, but Uber/Lyft is readily available. Parking at South University is available free-of-charge.



Courtyard Savannah Midtown is the closest to South University (~2 miles from campus)

Hotel Address: 6703 Abbecon Street Savannah, Georgia 31405

Rate: \$135 per night, plus applicable taxes

Parking: \$8 Self Park

RESERVE A ROOM.



REGISTRATION

	Early Bird Registration (by May 31, 2025)	Regular Registration (June 1 – July 11, 2025)
GSAM/ASAM Member	\$179	\$209
GSAM/ASAM Resident Member	\$119	\$149
Non-Member	\$279	\$309
Student	\$79 Fee Waived- Presenting Poster Fee Waived - South University Student	\$109
Additional Flagship or Event Sponsor	\$179	\$209

Registration fee includes: Short Course (3.5 CME), Coffee Break and Welcome Reception on Friday, July 25 th ; all Plenary Sessions on Saturday, July 26 th (6 CME), continental breakfast, coffee break, networking luncheon and access to PPTs post-event. Late registration (July 12 th through event) will be available for an additional \$100.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

Flagship Sponsor - \$4,000; Event Sponsor - \$2,600; Exhibitor - \$1,500

[Click here to view benefits!](#)

A CURRENT LIST OF EVENT SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

QUESTIONS AND SPONSOR/EXHIBITOR INQUIRIES

Contact the GSAM Annual Conference Planners, Alicia Standridge & Molly Poisant:

events@gsaminfo.org

