In response to the crisis in pain care delivery and opioid use in the US so powerfully outlined in the 2011 IOM Report “Relieving Pain in America”, the DoD and VA have undertaken a joint pain care education and training initiative: the Joint Pain Education Project. The objectives of the project are to standardize DoD/VA pain care delivery by standardizing pain care education and providing joint trainings for teams in both organizations, to enhance pain care transition for individuals transferring care from one organization to the other and to promote patient centered, team based pain care that is aligned with Pain Directives of VA and DoD as well as with the emerging patient centered models of care (medical home in DoD and Patient Aligned Care Team or PACT in VA) in the two health care organizations.

The JPEP curriculum consists of over 30 educational modules created from adaptations of existing pain care educational resources as well as including original content provided by inter-disciplinary subject matter experts drawn from DoD, VA as well as from the broader academic and clinical communities. The curriculum is organized to support four courses: Pain Education for Primary Care Teams, Patient Education, Pain Care Transitions and Subspecialty Pain Care.

This session will describe the pain care needs of military service members and Veterans in general, unique considerations when providing pain care for individuals who have been deployed to combat theaters and the importance of inter-professional pain care education and training to support a shift towards a more appropriate balance between traditional biomedical models of pain care and the emerging integrated, biopsychosocial approaches. The role of the JPEP curriculum in this process will be highlighted. Implications for pain care delivery in settings outside of DoD and VA will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the general pain care needs of military service members and Veterans
2. Recognize the importance of inter-professional team based training in building pain care competencies for practice in the medical home or PACT models
3. Be knowledgeable about the content and potential ways to use the JPEP curriculum