



Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

3/4/2020

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is a national nonprofit medical association and is the primary professional organization of medical toxicologists. ACMT's mission is to

Medical toxicologists are specially trained physicians who diagnose, treat, manage and prevent human poisonings such as overdoses from drugs of abuse (including opioids and novel psychoactive substances), childhood exposures to lead, and bites from venomous snakes. Specific to opioids, medical toxicology plays a critical role in treating and managing opioid use disorder, preventing deaths from overdose, as well as increasing awareness and understanding of this disorder.

Medical toxicologists are opioid experts in:

- Management of patients with intoxication and overdose from substances of abuse
- Antidote use including naloxone and other opioid reversal agents
- Addiction management with a focus on medication-assisted therapy
- Epidemiology and public health implications of emerging drugs of abuse including opioids (fentanyl derivatives)
- Adverse drug reactions and events
- Forensic toxicology, and
- Risk communication

ACMT members are located primarily in academic centers across the county; they provide consultation and bedside care to patients with a variety of opioid disorders including intoxication, overdose, and withdrawal. Ninety percent have completed residency in emergency medicine training; some have also completed residencies in pediatrics, internal medicine, preventive medicine and psychiatry. All have completed a 2-year fellowship in medical toxicology after residency.

