

## NEW INSIGHTS IN OPIOID ANALGESIA

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Opioid pharmacotherapy remains central to the management of severe pain. The past ten years have seen major developments in almost all aspects of opioid pharmacotherapy and have impacted on clinical practice. This presentation will review new developments including: new understanding of opioid receptors and their diversity, the impact of new agents on clinical practice including: sustained release formulations, novel routes of administration, opioid use for moderate pain, selection of opioids for strong pain, opioid use in neuropathic pain and breakthrough pain. The issues of equianalgesic dosing, tolerance, abuse and management of adverse effects of opioids will be addressed. Finally, new directions in research and practice will be explored.