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## **“Training Doctors To Fight Opioid Drug Addiction Epidemic”**

### **Philadelphia Doctor Takes A Major Initiative To Train and Educate Healthcare Professionals In Addressing the Prescription Abuse and Drug Addiction Problem**

Philadelphia/Bala Cynwyd, PA – It is estimated that over 91 people die in the U.S. from opioid overdose and the number is increasing. From 2000 to 2016, more than a half a million people died from drug overdose. 250 million prescriptions are written every year for opioids – that’s one bottle of opioids for every adult in the US. 75% of opioid addiction starts with patients receiving prescriptions from their doctors. “With some exceptions, most healthcare providers have received minimal training on how to recognize substance abuse in their patients,” according to Dr. Mansoor Madani, director of the Bala Institute of Oral Surgery, based in Bala Cynwyd, PA. “Most medical and dental as well as other health professional schools do not provide in-depth training on substance abuse; often substance abuse education is limited to classroom or clinical electives,” added Madani. After graduation, most of these professionals receive very limited training on treating pain.

Until now and in many states, most doctors and prescribers receiving their DEA licenses were not required to have additional training on a regular basis. “As prescribers, we all have a role to play in reducing prescription drug misuse and abuse. This requires continuing education and training on how to manage pain, when it’s appropriate to give narcotics, how much and how often,” says Dr. Madani, who is also an Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Temple University in Philadelphia and is organizing a comprehensive continuing education course in pain management and drug addiction. A crucial step in tackling the problem of prescription drug abuse is to raise awareness through the education of parents, youths, patients and healthcare providers.

“We are taking a major initiative to review the history of opioid treatment and the problem of prescription abuse and drug addiction. We hope to have a serious impact on educating healthcare professionals of this unfortunate epidemic that kills almost 4 individual every hour in the U.S.” says Madani. He will present this extensive course to healthcare professionals at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, and will continue to repeat the presentation on other dates and locations thereafter.

For more information, visit [www.snorenet.com](http://www.snorenet.com).

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