

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the MAT-VA program was honored to host Dr. Ajay Manhapra of Hampton, Virginia. His presentation, titled, “The conundrum of long-term opioids for pain: Darned if you do, darned if you don’t”, covered several timely topics. The 45 minute presentation answered questions about how to identify neurobehavioral mechanisms in pain relief and how they interact with opioids and other addictive substances while also describing the neurobehavioral mechanisms of the evolution of opioid dependence and addiction with regular use of opioids for pain relief. Dr. Manhapra also described in detail, the gray area between simple opioid dependence and opioid addiction and how to assess the impact of complex persistent dependence on pain and functionality in the context of the continuation and discontinuation of long-term opioids. At the close of his presentation Dr. Manahpra, described some strategies on how to manage patients with complex persistent opioid dependence. This presentation, along with slides and the original article can be accessed by using this [link](#).