



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CENTER SACRAMENTO  
1130 K Street, Suite LL22  
916-445-5900  
Sacramento, California 95814

## UC CENTER SACRAMENTO CAPITOL INSIGHTS PANEL: ADDRESSING THE OPIOID CRISIS IN CALIFORNIA

SACRAMENTO: The University of California Center Sacramento will be hosting a panel, “Addressing the Opioid Crisis in California,” on **Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 3:30-5:00pm**. The event will feature presentations by three expert panelists, followed by a discussion and questions from the audience.

According to the CDC, opioids (including prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl) killed more than 42,000 people in 2016, and 40% of those deaths involved a prescription opioid. Rural California, in particular, faces a crisis on par with states experiencing the highest rates of opioid deaths (LA Times). Reducing the number of deaths connected to opioid use will require addressing the issue from multiple angles. Dr. Joshua Elder will discuss the crisis from a clinical and prescriber perspective. Professor Daniel Ciccarone will talk about the connection between prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl. Lisa Aliferis will describe the community-based efforts to address opioid use in California.

The moderator of the panel discussion will be **Assemblymember Kevin McCarty**, who represents the 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes Sacramento, West Sacramento and parts of unincorporated Sacramento County. He currently serves as Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance. In 2017, Assemblymember McCarty introduced legislation to expand intervention and rehabilitation services for those impacted by the growing opioid and heroin addiction epidemic in California.

The featured panelists will be:

**Dr. Joshua Elder (UC Davis), MD, MPH, MHS** is a practicing emergency physician with a research focus on health care innovation and policy. He is currently working on efforts to implement innovative clinical tools to help patients struggling with addiction.

**Dr. Daniel Ciccarone (UCSF), MD, MPH** is a Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. He is currently leading the Heroin in Transition study which aims to examine the recent rise in heroin use and the expanding diversity of heroin source-forms and illicitly-made synthetic opioids and their relationship to increases in opioid-involved deaths.

**Lisa Aliferis (California Health Care Foundation)** is the senior communications officer for CHCF’s High-Value Care team, where she works on the foundation’s behavioral health and opioid safety projects. Prior to joining CHCF, Lisa worked as a health journalist for 25 years, most recently at KQED News in San Francisco, where she was founding editor of “State of Health,” a daily blog focusing on health policy and public health in California.

Following the panel discussion there will be a reception from 5:00-6:00pm at the UC Center Sacramento. To attend, please RSVP by February 26<sup>th</sup> at: [uccs.ucdavis.edu/events](http://uccs.ucdavis.edu/events).

Contact: Richard Kravitz, Director (916-445-5100)  
Cindy Simmons, Associate Director (916-445-7300)