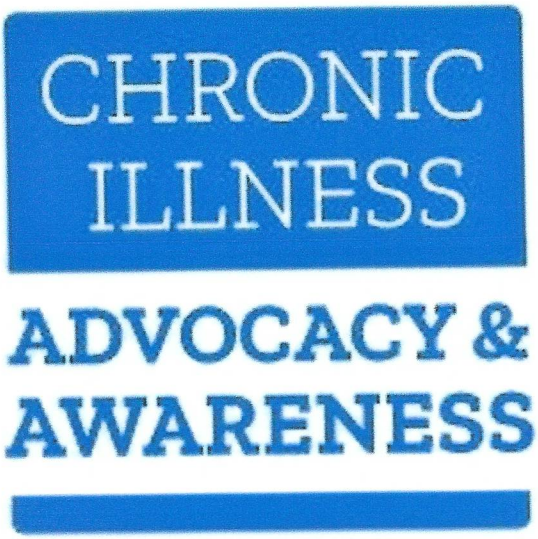

April 2018

About Us

The Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group, Inc. (CIAAG) is a national non-profit organization that promotes both a common-sense, compassionate and research-based approach to palliative care along with the responsible prescribing of opioid medication to those experiencing chronic pain and illnesses, including: Chronic Pancreatitis, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Arachnoiditis, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Sarcoidosis, Multiple Sclerosis, failed spinal surgery, Chiari malformation, Endometriosis, Interstitial Cystitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Crohn's Disease, trauma from irreparable accidents and veteran combat wounds, and other painful autoimmune diseases and incurable conditions.

CIAAG has formed various coalition groups across the United States, assembling over a million supporting members in total. The chronic pain community comprises the largest population of responsible users of prescription opioid medication. This population uses opioid medications to manage the symptoms of their incurable illnesses and/or conditions. Unfortunately, many members of this community now represent the "collateral damage" brought about by the response to the opioid crisis. We have become medical refugees who have, by necessity, begun partnering with other patients, physicians, surgeons, nurses, attorneys, commercial insurance specialists and pharmacists in order to be heard and adequately treated for our illnesses.

Statistics show that 95% of opioid pain medication is prescribed for legitimate FDA-approved pain treatment. CIAAG maintains that effective pain relief is a human right and that opioid medication is critical for 9 million of the over 25 million American citizens that have medically-documented intractable pain, which requires, in some cases, up to 24-hr pain relief in order to maintain an acceptable quality of life. CIAAG works to shed light on the field of mainstream pain management and the responsible use of opioid medication, which is separate from the issue of opioid addiction and abuse.

CIAAG's mission is to work collaboratively with legislators in crafting the policy changes and legislation enacted to combat opioid abuse (including heroin and illegally-obtained fentanyl) in a way that does not restrict patients' access to their medication. Restricting access is not just a problem for the individual; it negatively impacts the nation's public and economic health, resulting in previously functioning members of society being forced into unemployment and disability in response to the relentless, inhumane and debilitating pain they experience. Intractable pain and forced isolation often leads to depression and other mental health crises as well. Unfortunately, some patients have turned to the street to find unsafe alternatives (including dangerous counterfeit pills) in a desperate effort to relieve their untreated pain, while others have succumbed to suicide as a final escape.

CIAAG offers lawmakers and other decision-makers fact-based research on prescription opioid use from qualified physicians, as well as policy white papers, testimonials and other resources to aid in crafting sensible policies around opiate use.

Meet Our Team

Lauren Deluca, President and Founder of CIAAG, graduated Nichols College and was inducted into the Zeta Alpha Phi Honors Society with a Bachelors in Business Administration and Finance. She also maintains active membership in the Charter Property Casualty Underwriters Association in Boston, Massachusetts since 2012. She holds an Associates in Personal Insurance (AINS) and a Commercial Lines Charter Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designations and specializes in the Life Science and Pharmaceutical Industry. She is the founder of Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group, Inc., which was formed in 2017 as a result of her personal experiences in struggling to get the appropriate healthcare after being diagnosed with Chronic Pancreatitis, which resulted in her disability and becoming an intractable pain patient.

Lauren Deluca has been featured in Prevention Magazine "The Other Opioid Crisis" by Peter Moore; Front page story on Worcester, MA local paper - the Telegram & Gazette; she was featured in the U.S. Pain Foundation "PAINS monthly update"; as well as in Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Weekly's article "Patients with chronic pain forced into opioid tapers by their prescribers" She was a guest on "The Jordan Levy Show" here she discussed her legislative work locally as nationally various State and United States Elected Officials to discuss health care policies and the public health emergency thrust upon the chronically ill, disabled constituents and those suffering from chronic and/or intractable pain. She appeared as a featured guest "Fountains of Change" on BATV; Interviewed by "Arkansas' Ozarks at Large"

She is the Host of "World of Pain," Produced by Jayne Flanders, a Video Podcast which discusses current and pending legislation effecting the chronically ill and disabled. She interviews various guests to help raise awareness of the impeded access to the vital opioid analgesic medications to combat the painful symptoms of their primary illness or condition. World of Pain is designed to help educate others on the critical issues, foster information sharing and impower individuals with the knowledge of how to advocate for themselves and together as a community.

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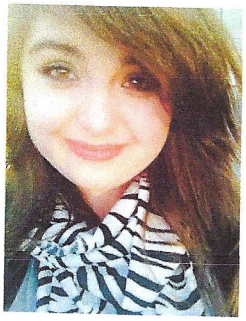
Meet Our Team



Jayne Flanders, Vice President & Director of Communications, graduated from Germanna Community College in 2015 with an Associate's degree in Psychology. She has genetic diseases, including (but not limited to) Elhers Danlos Syndrome, Dysautonomia, Chiari Malformation, Mast Cell Activation Disorder, Endometriosis, Lupus, that she has been battling her whole life, and has been in chronic, intractable pain since the age of twelve. She received her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2010 for her volunteer work throwing un-birthday parties for underprivileged children. This consisted of her collaborating with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of America, Girl Scouts USA, and her local domestic violence shelters.

Jayne has been Interviewed by the "Circa News" in Washington D.C., where she discussed he struggle living with multiple co-morbidities since birth, her experience with the health care system and how it has impacted the treatment of her 8 illnesses as well as her work as Co-Founder of CIAAG and our work to ensure proper legal protections are put in place to protect the chronically ill, disabled and those suffering from chronic and/or intractable pain.

She produces the Video Podcast, "World of Pain" hosted by Lauren Deluca. Jayne is the Director of Communications, she manages and designs content as well as oversees the media team for CIAAG's 2018 campaign to #DisableTheVote the all social media and grassroots advocacy efforts.

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