



Praxis

Training for Massachusetts Addiction Professionals

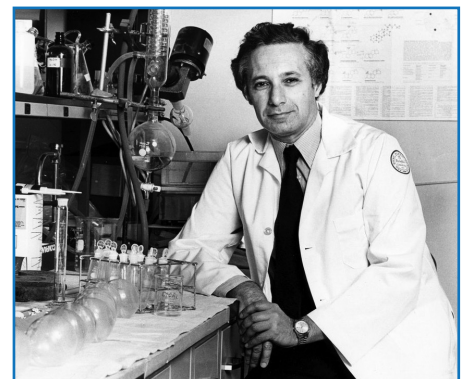
The Unsung Hero of Overdose Prevention

This December marks the third anniversary of the death of Jack Fishman, the man who invented naloxone. His peers have described him as a brilliant yet humble man whose life was filled with many ironies.

Fishman was born in Poland in 1930. He fled before the Nazi invasion and eventually immigrated to the United States. During his early 30s, he worked for a small private lab in New York City. It was there, while trying to come up with a way to treat constipation caused by opioid use, that he invented naloxone. In 1961, when Fishman and his business partner applied for a patent for naloxone, they had no idea how many lives their invention would save. More than 40 years after inventing naloxone, Fishman lost his own stepson to a heroin overdose.

Though naloxone would go on to become standard treatment for opioid overdose in ambulances and emer-

gency rooms across the country, Fishman did not benefit financially from his discovery. Once his original patent expired, the cost of acquiring another was too expensive. He did not reapply, allowing his invention to be snapped up by pharmaceutical companies. He died not knowing the true impact of his invention or how many second chances it has afforded to those who struggle with substance use disorder.



Jack Fishman

Praxis provides training to all Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services funded substance use disorder treatment programs on

- Harm Reduction
- HIV/AIDS Care Integration
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Opioid Overdose Prevention
- Viral Hepatitis Care Integration

**Contact us to request training or technical assistance:
www.center4si.com/praxis/trainings
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Scott County, Indiana – One Year Later

Nearly 200 people have tested positive for HIV in Scott County, Indiana since an outbreak linked to sharing needles was identified in 2015. In response, Indiana has extended the public health emergency declaration in Scott County through May 24, 2017. The declaration addressed the HIV and Hepatitis C outbreak and prompted a state law allowing syringe exchange programs for the first time. The extension will allow the county to continue to operate its syringe-exchange program in attempt to curb the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C among intravenous drug users.

In total, 20 of Indiana's 92 counties have begun the process of applying to open a syringe exchange. According to the new state law, a county seeking to establish a syringe exchange must first have its health officer declare to the county legislative body that there is an outbreak of Hepatitis C or HIV that has been primarily transmitted through injection drug use.

The CDC estimates the cost to prevent one HIV infection through a needle exchange program is between \$4,000 and \$12,000. The Indiana State Department of Health spent more than \$2 million in 2015 to suppress the Scott County HIV outbreak.



New Hope for Massachusetts Residents Living with Hepatitis C

Beginning August 1, 2016, Mass-Health began covering the cost of Hepatitis C medication for everyone who seeks the treatment. The State of Massachusetts negotiated a deal with pharmaceutical company Gilead to reduce the cost of its Hepatitis C medications, Harvoni and Sovaldi, to make them available to more people. Massachusetts was also successful negotiating with Bristol-Myers Squibb who makes Daklinza, which treats certain genotypes of Hepatitis C.

Estimates show more than 8,700 people in Massachusetts are infected with Hepatitis C.

Between 2014 and 2016, Mass-Health covered treatment for 2,800 people. The high cost of treatment

has prevented many people from getting this life saving medication.

The Gilead medicines, which have cure rates exceeding 90 percent, cost from \$63,000 to \$94,500, depending upon the drug and regimen. The price tags helped spark a firestorm over the cost of prescription medicines, even though Gilead argued that its drugs represent value compared with longer-term costs of liver disease, cancer, and transplantation.

The exact details of the price negotiations have not been made public; however, a spokesperson from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services said in a June press release they are able to extend access at no additional cost.

Upcoming PAC-Net Meetings

Boston and Metro West: October 17
(Center for Social Innovation, 200 Reservoir St, Needham)

Northeast: October 18
(Northeast Regional Health Office, 365 East St, Tewksbury)

Southeast: October 21
(SSTAR, 386 Stanley St, Fall River)

Central: October 24
(Central Regional Health Office, 180 Beaman St, West Boylston)

Western: October 25
(Western Regional Health Office, 23 Service Center Rd, Northampton)

Boston and Metro West: October 27
(Center for Social Innovation, 200 Reservoir St, Needham)

All meetings are held from 10 am-1 pm.

