Dr Benninger invited as VIP guest at Dr Volkow Conference lecture

Recently Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Addiction, gave a formal lecture at the Portland Conference Center. Dr. Brion Benninger, Clinician and Neuroscientist, was an invited personal guest of Lines for Life, which is a unique public service group for addiction and suicide. Lines for Life were one of the few companies nationwide to host a pilot project for military personnel who are struggling with mental issues. Dr. Benninger was very honored to be seated next to Dr. Volkow. The lecture was attended by scientists, physicians, outreach groups, and educators. Dr. Volkow presented her work on the mechanism and behavior of addiction, as well as prevention and treatment. Dr. Benninger was interested in the integration of teaching the mechanism behavior and prevention of addiction to health-care professional students during their basic science years. The United States has one of the highest drug addiction rates of any country in the world. Interestingly, it is not street drugs, but rather prescription drugs. Addiction is multi-factorial. One situation that leads to addiction is that of pain. Dr. Benninger is interested in the neuromuscular medicine that osteopathic students are taught for one of the modalities to treat pain. He believes that certain causes of pain can be treated without the typical cocktail of pharmacological agents that lead to addiction. He feels there is value in offering specialized courses to learn pain-relieving techniques as part of a family practitioner’s armament for treating pain. He also feels that with the colossal number of prescription drug addicts that health care institutions need to address this issue at the basic and clinical science level for our future clinicians to combat and diffuse this epidemic. Programs such as Lines for Life would benefit from knowing which clinicians in the surrounding area can help treat pain, both non-pharmacologically and pharmacologically, who have a foundation in the understanding of addiction.