PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Headline: Your Attendance at the 29th Annual Meeting Is Vital—Now More Than Ever!

It is my distinct privilege to invite you to the American Academy of Pain Medicine’s (AAPM) 29th Annual Meeting to be held on April 11-14, 2012 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. If there is one compelling reason that should cause you to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, it is “Now more than ever!”

With the amount of pain that is updated in the news every day, our society needs us, more than ever, to maintain a strong stance as pain experts to the medical community. And, now more than ever, the world needs pain physicians who understand the cadre of pain therapies and treatments: physicians who are grounded in pain science and can properly assess risk, navigate treatments, manage patients’ expectations, and supervise ongoing pain care. Finally, now more than ever, our world needs the hope that dedicated pain physicians can offer... a hope for improved quality of life!

The 2013 meeting will provide the information you need on the latest science and advancements in the treatment of pain. It will provide you with more pain resources and connections so that you have the most current information from the frontlines of Pain Medicine.

AAPM is pleased to promote an excellent lineup of expert faculty who will address the latest science and the most relevant topics facing pain practitioners today, including interventional and military tracks, as well as pharmacology and practice management workshops, and more. Register today to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting and network with fellow Pain Medicine practitioners and nationally recognized leaders in the field.

New Collaborations

I am pleased to announce that the International Spine Intervention Society (ISIS) will present a series of sessions at the 29th Annual Meeting. The sessions will focus on improving interventional pain through accountability, evidence, research, and education. One of the founders of ISIS, Nikolai Bogduk, MD PhD, will moderate the sessions that will provide an overview of interventional spinal procedures and discuss accountability to the ISIS Practice Guidelines: Spinal Diagnostic and Treatment Procedures, 1st edition. The sessions will address several procedures utilized by spine interventionalists such as the cervical medial branch block and cervical radiofrequency. Other topics that will be discussed include basic interventional techniques utilized in the performance of basic lumbar and cervical procedures, with special emphasis on the various risk factors and outcomes for these procedures.

Another important Academy collaboration is our participation in the Council of Pain Physician Societies (CPPS), which is composed of the AAPM, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, ISIS, and the North American Neuromodulation Society. The CPPS was formed in the hope that a unified voice representing diverse specialties and stakeholders will be able to make significant and lasting progress in advocating for better patient access to quality care, including guideline formation, public policy, and certification. This past fall, Phil Saigh, Executive Director of AAPM, and I met with the CPPS group at ASA’s Annual Meeting in Washington DC and invited the group to AAPM’s Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale. This is a significant step toward a unified voice for Pain Medicine, and we will keep you abreast of the group’s progress.

At last year’s Annual Meeting, AAPM piloted its Safe Opioid Prescribing Initiative—Reversing the Trend: A National Health Priority, a patient safety, Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)-compliant comprehensive continuing medical education intervention for all prescribers of opioids, with a particular focus on those prescribers within primary care. This curriculum is the foundation of AAPM-organized REMS programming and represents an asset that AAPM can share with other organizations seeking to educate clinicians about safe opioid prescribing.

This past December, AAPM was invited to present the Safe Opioid Prescribing Initiative live at the Florida Academy of Family Physicians (FAFP) as part of its Family Medicine Winter Meeting. Assuming that there are many groups like the FAFP that will need this education, but simply do not have the time or expertise to develop a comprehensive REMS curriculum, the Academy stands prepared to provide a REMS learning solution for multiple other organizations in the future. This is but one example of how AAPM continues to achieve its professional educational goal “to expand its education offerings in the areas of content, learners, and format in a way that reinforces AAPM’s mission.”

The Academy is making significant strides in accomplishing its mission and vision, and I encourage you to make
time to attend the Annual Meeting. This meeting provides an excellent forum to gather together and embrace the latest knowledge on the science, practice, and advocacy issues surrounding pain today. Register today at painmed.org for the 2013 Annual Meeting because now, more than ever, people with pain need your clinical expertise. I look forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, April 10–14, 2013.

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