PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

AAPM Shared Interest Groups (SIGs): Bringing Together Members with Shared Interests

During my time with the Academy, I have witnessed significant growth in both membership and in our missions and interests. We now have clearly defined missions related to pain care, education, research, and advocacy. We also recognize that members may have shared interests in one or more of these particular mission areas and need a mechanism to come together, network, and help advance their interests. Therefore, we have created “American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) Shared Interest Groups (SIGs)” to facilitate networking, advancing shared interests or discussion of a particular field or topic. AAPM SIGs are multidisciplinary and open to any AAPM member.

Why “Shared” and Not “Special” Interest Groups?

The term “Special Interest Groups” originated on CompuServe—an online service provider that was popular in the 1980s through mid-1990s—that provided a section of their online service to members with particular interests. The special interest groups organized by CompuServe were technical in nature, but that term has since been widely applied. A more recent term—“shared interest group”—describes groups whose members interact with each other because they share an interest in a topic, often nontechnical. Examples include academic institutions’ alumni who meet in person or virtually to network and discuss a common interest. Hence their, and now AAPM’s, use of the term “Shared Interest Group.”

How Do I Form a SIG?

Contact Mary Kay Ams at mams@connect2amc.com (in the near future, we will have a web form). Get 20 AAPM members with a shared interest. Include the name of your proposed SIG. Describe the proposed focus of your SIG (or a mission statement) and the names of the founding members. Define an initial chair or cochairs of your SIG. Then submit your letter of application to Mary Kay at mams@connect2amc.com. The proposal will then be reviewed by the AAPM executive committee or board of directors to make sure there is no overlap with other SIGs. The AAPM president will provide written or verbal notification of the decision to the SIG chair or cochairs.

What Resources Will the SIGs Be Provided?

We will provide your SIG space at the annual meeting to meet. We will send communications to AAPM members on your behalf and provide announcements in the AAPM E-news (electronic newsletter), assistance in coordinating SIG meetings and mailings, and pages on the AAPM website.

What Are Your Responsibilities in Running a SIG?

We would ask that your SIG help advance the mission and uphold the image of AAPM. Each year, you should elect (or reelect) a chair or cochair. Submit a midyear and annual progress report to be reviewed by the AAPM board of directors. The SIG chair will be a liaison to the Annual Program Planning Committee to ensure that the topics or lectures given at the SIGs do not overlap with the main meeting sessions.

Are There Any Existing AAPM SIGs?

Yes. We have several (http://www.painmed.org/membercenter/sharedinterestgroups).

Specifically, we have the Primary Care SIG chaired by Bill McCarberg, MD (AAPM President-Elect). The Primary Care SIG has met and interacted with all the major primary care organizations to strengthen our shared goal of helping patients in pain. Additionally, we started an Acute Pain Medicine SIG (http://www.painmed.org/acute/) and an Interdisciplinary Pain Medicine SIG (http://www.painmed.org/membercenter/interdisciplinary-pain-medicine-shared-interest-group/). The Acute Pain SIG is already off to an amazing start under Trip Bucenmaier’s leadership. They have a published mission statement (http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pme.12191/full). They put together a proposal to the AAPM Foundation to help advance their mission. After further consideration to ensure that AAPM resources could support the efforts described by the Acute Pain SIG, the Foundation was asked to approach industry for grant dollars. This resulted in donations totaling approximately $500,000 over 3 years to:
• Advance the science of acute pain medicine
• Promote acute pain medicine education for patients and continuing medical education for health care providers
• Advocate for safe and effective evidence-based practice of acute pain medicine via the acute pain service team model

There will be more to discuss about the Acute Pain Medicine SIG in future messages. The Interdisciplinary Pain Medicine SIG cochaired by Ravi Prasad, PhD and Brandon J. Goff, MD had their first meeting at the Phoenix AAPM Annual Meeting. A description of this SIG can be found at http://www.painmed.org/membercenter/interdisciplinary-pain-medicine-shared-interest-group/.

Finally, we have the Military/VA SIG cochaired by Trip Buckenmaier, MD and Rollin M. Gallagher, MD, MPH (Pain Medicine’s Editor in Chief). Please reach out to the SIG leaders to join their group.

Let’s build on the successes of these SIGs and develop more. SIGs are an excellent way for you to get more involved, to network with people with similar interests, and to help truly advance our goals of improving pain care, education, and research.

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