

Florida Academy of Pain Medicine

President's Message **Raul Monzon, MD**

Needless to say, the FAPM has been busy the past few months with a variety of activities and events. With the completion of our annual conference, the passing of SB 2272, the FMA Specialty Society meeting, and joint state board meetings, FAPM has been at the forefront of these events.

First of all, thanks to everyone who attended our annual conference at the Breakers. It was a great event with a record attendance. Therefore, we plan to hold our 2011 FAPM Conference at the Breakers on August 18-20. So, plan now to attend this event as we continue to provide an excellent program at a great location.

Following the conference Lorry Davis left our Academy after ten years of service. We want to thank her for a job well done, and wish her every success with her future endeavors. In her place, the FAPM Board approved the hiring of Kenneth E. Webster, Ed.D., as Executive Director. Dr. Webster has served in a similar capacity for the past twenty-three years and brings a wealth of experience to our Academy.

At the FMA Specialty Meeting in July in Orlando, FAPM was able to present Resolution 10-312 focusing Pill Mill Rules on Pill Mills. Joined by four other medical societies the resolution passed. The resolution resolves:

That our FMA work with all medical specialties in Florida to define legislative and other language to prevent unintended and substantial negative impact on patients and physician practices related to overly broad definitions and legislation of “pain management clinics”, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this be accomplished utilizing current FMA resources by the end of the 2011 legislative session.

We have further been involved with seeking a delay in the implementation of SB2272-Pain Management Clinic Law that became effective on October 1, 2010. While the court did not delay the implementation of this legislation, we are now involved with proposing changes to the law via the legislature. We will keep you informed as this process proceeds. However, according to the Florida Department of Health, they will begin the inspection of registered pain management clinics in November, 2010. Please check their website for details at www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical/me_pain.html.

Members of our board have attended several meetings regarding pain management issues including: joint meetings of the FBM and FBOM; Prescription Drug Abuse Summit, Pain Action Initiative – National Strategy Seminar, and the FMA Teleconference on “pill

mill” issues. My thanks to the following attendees at these events: Albert Ray, M.D., Eduardo Dieguez, M.D., Jeffrey Zipper, M.D., Kenneth E. Webster, Ed.D. and Chris Nuland, J.D.

Our pain medicine clinics are under attack at the county, state and federal level. We must maintain the integrity of our profession and not allow our clinics to be categorically thrust into the “pill mill” conflict. The FAPM will continue to represent our members in the best possible way. Now it is up to our members to stand together in this crisis to preserve the safe practice of pain management for our patients.