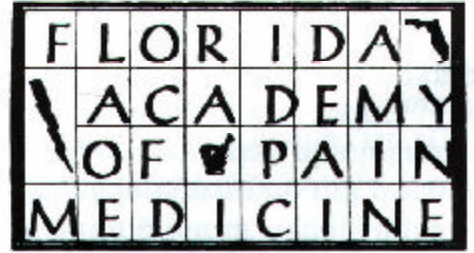


# PAINinfo



NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PAIN MEDICINE ♦ VOL 7, NO. 3 ♦ Fall 2002

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary W. Jay, M.D.

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It has been an interesting time since the 2002 FAPM Annual Meeting. Florida physicians have been facing a number of challenges, many of which you are aware, such as the medical malpractice crisis.

At this year's meeting of the Florida Medical Association (FMA), which I attended as a member of the Specialty Society group, Tort Reform was a major thrust of the deliberations. A Tort Reform package was endorsed, and the FMA will be polishing and implementing it.

A major change took place in the FMA membership rules. Physicians may now join the FMA without having to ALSO join their County Medical Society, and visa versa.

Of more immediate importance to the FAPM members, Specialty Societies, including the FAPM, are represented on the FMA's Physician Advisory Committee to the Three Member Panel (Department of Insurance) in designing Workers' Compensation reform. The stated purpose of this reform, from the physicians' viewpoint, would be the establishment of fair reimbursement (150% of Medicare), reduction of administrative burdens and improving access to quality care. Money is involved, of course, with the desired voluntary contribution being \$40 per member.

It should be noted that the FMA will not be supplying lobbying support, as this year they have given priority to the Tort Reform measures.

This Workers' Compensation initiative, called "FairCare" is interesting. It has apparently been adopted by the Department of Insurance on October 28, 2002. It does include allowing the practice of "objective, evidence-based medicine without intrusion by non-physicians," as well as "fair reimbursement to induce the return and addition of quality physicians to the system."

The proposed plan can be accessed at <http://www.fspmr.org/WC.htm>. I have read this and I have concerns regarding the ability of patients to obtain good care. The clinical aspects of the plan, as you will see when you read it, are, in my opinion, biased against patients. I will be representing the FAPM in this committee, and I would certainly be interested in the opinions of other members of our organization. Please call me (407 687 3007) or email me at [drgwjay@aol.com](mailto:drgwjay@aol.com).

(Continued)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Gary W. Jay, M.D.

I have also been looking at the issues brought up when I spoke about voluntary Pain Center accreditation by the FAPM. One of our members stated that our bylaws did not allow us to be involved in doing this. This member was incorrect, as our bylaws state (Chapter 2, bullet 7) that the FAPM is dedicated to, among other things, "The promotion of accreditation by FAPM of facilities and physicians providing medical care to individuals suffering from persistent pain." You may read this at <http://fapm.med.new.net/By-Laws.htm>. This was in the bylaws prior to my bringing it up at our last meeting. This gives me additional impetus to achieve my stated goal, the voluntary accreditation of pain centers by the FAPM, making us the only organization in the state looking that closely at providing the public some needed information. Lorry Davis, our executive director, has a copy of the guidelines that were developed, and she would be happy to email them to you if you ask.

To achieve this goal, however, I am discussing with other members of the board and Lorry the possible need to start a corporation that would be a part of the FAPM that could more easily deal with the myriad of issues that needed to be looked at, in order for this process to proceed.

I will report to you at the next annual meeting where and how we will move ahead to perform this function.

I wish you and your families a wonderful and safe Holiday Season.

*Gary W. Jay, MD*

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**Executive Director's Message**

*Please mark your 2003 calendars now and plan to be with us for the 2003 FAPM Annual Meeting!*

Since FAPM's 2002 annual meeting, we have been hard at work on the 2003 annual meeting. Here's the scoop so far: Our annual meeting will be Friday – Sunday, May 16 – 18, 2003, at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort. For those of you with online capability, please visit FAPM's website at <http://fapm.med/>. This is the home page on which you can find links to tell you all about the hotel, rates, program, etc. Elsewhere in this issue see "Why Families Will Like the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort."

The hotel room rate, single/double, is \$140 + tax. Reservations may be made by calling 800 753 3954, and by stating that you are with the Florida Academy of Pain Medicine. Identifying yourself as part of the group is critical to getting the \$140 rate. This rate is available through April 15, 2003.

We are trying a slightly different format this year. The workshops for the 2003 conference will be held on Friday, May 16. We received feedback last year that having a 4 day event (Thursday – Sunday) was difficult, as it required you to be out of your offices for 2 production days. Having a 3 day conference, and having to be out of your office for only 1 production day may allow more of you to participate not only in the conference as a whole, but also in the workshops.

Elsewhere in this issue of PainInfo, you will find a draft of FAPM's 2003 program. Ashraf Hanna, MD, FAPM President-Elect and this year's program chair, has been working to get this program in place. Looks good, doesn't it?

You'll also find in this issue the FAPM 2003 Annual Meeting Exhibitor/Sponsor Prospectus. Some of you like to exhibit/sponsor yourselves, and all of you have drug reps and other types of vendors whom you can share this with. Please feel free to copy it and distribute it to your vendors whom you think will be interested in participating. This is the type of grassroots support and effort which make our meetings successful. Thank you.

*Lorry S. Davis, M.Ed.*

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Medicine

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## ***FSPMR to Meet in Conjunction with FAPM Annual Meeting 2003***

We are pleased to announce that the Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (FSPMR) has accepted our invitation to have their spring 2003 meeting in conjunction with FAPM's 2003 annual meeting. They will meet on Sunday, May 18, 12:30 – 3:30 pm, after the conclusion of FAPM's meeting. FSPMR members will receive conference announcements, registration flyers, etc, just as FAPM members do. FAPM is supplying FSPMR with a meeting room on Sunday, and in return we hope to get more of the physiatrists attending our meeting.

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### ***ASIIP and Other Matters***

Andrea M. Trescot, MD, FAPM Immediate Past President

Things are changing for the Florida pain doctor. Florida Medicare has approved several changes. 27096 (sacroiliac joint) will only be paid if it is done under fluoro. Only four sets of trigger point injections will be approved per year. Blue Cross/Health Options (at least in Jacksonville) is requiring a visit for evaluation prior to approval for any injections (including trigger point injections). Bilateral multilevel facets are apparently being denied, as well as Racz catheters (“no evidence based studies”), vertebroplasty, percutaneous discectomy, and annuloplasty.

Purdue has joined with Attorney General Butterworth to develop software to monitor narcotic prescribing. Meanwhile, nationally, ASIIP has sponsored a “National All Schedule Electronic Monitoring” (NASPER) bill in Congress for a national monitoring system that would allow the treating physician and pharmacist to contact the data bank for information on a patient.

It is important that all pain doctors in Florida stay active in societies such as FAPM, so that we can share information and fight for our practices. Please let me know about documented denials. If we band together we have the chance to reverse this trend. (You can reach Dr. Trescot: ph. 904-276-9311, amt57@aol.com)

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### ***FAPM Members Quoted in Prescription Drug Overdose Article***

FAPM members, Fred A. Furgang, MD (a Member-at-Large on FAPM's Executive Committee and the head of the pain clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami), and Rafael Miguel, MD (a speaker at FAPM's 2002 meeting on the topic of “Opioids and Regulation,” a member of the Florida Board of Medicine, and Professor of Anesthesiology and Oncology at USF in Tampa) are both quoted in the November 13, 2002, South Florida Sun-Sentinel article “Increasing Overdoses Alarm Doctors, Officials; Prescription Deaths Rise 31% This Year.”

The article says that prescription drug deaths now exceed deaths from cocaine and heroin, and that deaths from methadone showed the largest increase. Dr. Furgang stated, “Growing numbers of doctors are prescribing methadone as a painkiller, and some of that supply is being sold illegally to drug abusers...It's falling into the wrong hands.”

Dr Miguel said that “some doctors....may not be cognizant of drug abusers...We're seeing pain management being taken up by doctors without any formal training.”

Methadone, hydrocodone and oxycodone are the three prescription drugs causing the most deaths.

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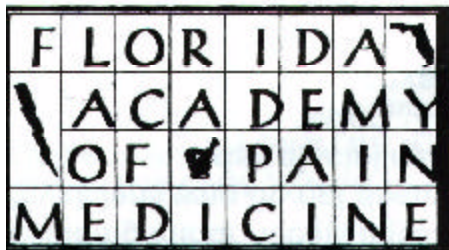
<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/palmbeach/search/sfl-prxoxy130nov13.story> .

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### ***Congratulations!***

FAPM's President, Gary W. Jay, MD, was elected to the Board of Directors of the 6000 member American Academy of Pain Management, during their September meeting in Reno, Nevada. We would like to hear from others of you who have achieved leadership roles, or received honors, or are involved in something pertinent to practitioners of pain medicine. Please let us hear from you and we will let the rest of the FAPM membership read about it.

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The Florida Academy of Pain Medicine is proud to present the  
**2003 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

May 16 - 18, 2003  
Orlando, FL  
Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort

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US AT THE BEACH!  
SEE INSIDE FOR  
CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

