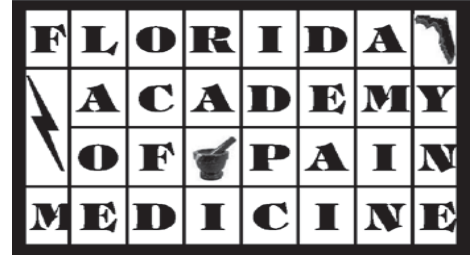


PAINInfo



NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PAIN MEDICINE ♦ VOL 10, NO. 3 ♦ Fall, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fred A. Furgang, M.D.

An important process is taking place within the State of Florida to advance access to pain therapy to a higher level. The various professional organizations that interface with pain patients have formed a coalition to further the interests of these patients. It is said, a well-functioning team is "more than the sum of its parts." Indeed, the Florida Pain Coalition (FPC) has the potential to become such a team. Membership now includes the American Cancer Society, Florida Nurses Association, Florida Pharmacy Association, Florida Society of Anesthesiologists, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Care, among others. The Florida Academy of Pain Medicine is a member, and I have been invited to join the steering committee of the FPC. I will be attending the next meeting of the committee on December 2, in Orlando. Look inside this issue of PainInfo for a report of the October meeting, "FPC: A New Initiative in Pain Management."

It is important to recognize that the strength of any coalition comes from the united support of its members for the coalition policies; policies which must not be subservient to the interests of any particular member group. Each organization is, of course, entitled to promote its own agenda, using its own political capital. However, FPC policy must be seen as representing the interests of the pain patient *per se*.

The last two hurricane seasons have made me acutely aware of the discrimination in prescription drug policy working against the pain patient. Since patients on opioid therapy, in most cases, are limited to a 30 day supply of medication, there is no "stocking up" in anticipation of an interruption in supply. Many pain patients therefore get caught short on their drugs when a storm blows across

the state. Physicians' offices and pharmacies close, the supply of fuel becomes critical, transportation systems grind to a halt, mail delivery ceases, all serving to disrupt the orderly flow of prescription medications to patients. I am certain that many patients suffered needless withdrawal symptoms and increased pain resulting from Katrina's and Wilma's destruction and interruption of our medical infrastructure. There is no acceptable reason that pain patients should be discriminated against; they are just as entitled to refills and 90-day supply of medications as is a diabetic or hypertensive patient. When a storm threatens, they too should be able to secure a sufficient supply of their medication in advance.

I propose that the FPC adopt as one of its policies the liberalization of prescriptive drug laws to permit the refill of class 2 narcotics for chronic pain patients. I have stated, in a previous edition of Pain Info, my reasons for a liberalization of drug policy. I believe that the FPC is an excellent position to start garnering support on this issue.

I suggest that members of the FAPM let me know of any other issues which they feel would be appropriate for FPC policy; all suggestions will be considered; please feel free to get in touch with me anytime. (Dr. Furgang can be reached at (305) 243-4238, or ffurgang@med.miami.edu)

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Florida Pain Coalition: A New Initiative in Pain Management

Robert P. Yeziarski, Ph.D., President, Florida Pain Initiative

Trish Ollen, Florida Pain Initiative Activities Coordinator

(Edited by Fred A. Furgang, M.D.)

Since the beginning of 2005, a priority of the Florida Pain Initiative has been the creation of a new pain coalition; a group of healthcare and consumer organizations committed to improving the quality of life for all Floridians affected by chronic pain. During the inaugural meeting (March 7, 2005) of this coalition, efforts were made to identify the goals and objectives for what would be called the Florida Pain Coalition (FPC). Part of the discussion focused on general areas of interest including public awareness, education, legislative and regulatory initiatives. An important component of the first meeting was the recognition that uniting the resources of multiple organizations with common concerns would increase the impact of statements and increase the likelihood of achieving the goal of improved pain management within the state. In addition, it was recognized that collaborative partnerships among coalition members would be a key ingredient to achieving future goals related to legislative initiatives having a positive impact on both patients and health care providers.

At the second meeting of the FPC (October 7, 2005), attendees made an effort to draft a charter. It was concluded that the mission of the FPC would be to serve as a policy advocate for individuals and their families, providers, and communities on local, state, and national pain management issues and initiatives. During the early stages of development the FPC would be directed by a steering committee consisting of volunteer members from 15 organizations that have expressed their support. The steering committee will develop an organizational

strategy and action plan for achieving the goals of the Coalition. It was emphasized that an important objective of the FPC is to unite professional and consumer organizations that have common objectives related to improving the quality of life of Florida residents who suffer from pain. An additional objective is to provide an environment that will reduce excessive regulatory burdens on health care providers who manage pain.

It was also recognized that each member organization is likely to have issues important to their respective constituents. However, if the coalition is to be successful it will be important to identify specific objectives that can be embraced by all organizations. To accomplish this goal all members were asked to submit a list of high priority objectives from their respective organizations. From this list the steering committee will identify items to adopt as the initial goals of the Coalition. All present agreed that the concept of a statewide coalition working towards the ultimate goal of improving pain management in Florida, was an exciting new strategy that has tremendous potential. This effort will require identifying state leaders in healthcare policy and educating them about the condition of pain management in Florida. The FPC represents over 8,000 health care providers in Florida who will work towards improving pain management for an estimated 10 million Floridians directly, or indirectly, affected by pain (Florida Pain Survey, 2003). Pain is a significant healthcare problem in our state and the FPC is committed to finding ways of making pain management a high-priority issue in Florida.

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Lorry S. Davis, M.Ed.,
Executive Director

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FAPM Represented at FMA Specialty Society Section Meeting

Thank you to *Felix S. Linetsky, M.D., FAPM Secretary, and Susanti K. Chowdhury, M.D., FAPM Member-at-Large*, who represented FAPM at the October, 2005, FMA Specialty Society Section Meeting in St. Petersburg. Dr. Chowdhury writes, "It was an eye opening experience. I have been a member of the AMA for 20 years. I have not been a member of the FMA because of the perception I had of them and especially my local county society. Furthermore, in the past, you could not join the FMA without joining your county society. This has changed.

The FMA is active in helping all specialties. I made comments at this meeting about concerns the FAPM had on certain issues (i.e., CRNAs opening pain centers). The FMA was already on top of certain issues and would look out for any changes in others.

I urge all FAPM members who are not members of the FMA to join. Also, I recommend looking into joining your county medical society. Funding is necessary for the Medical Associations to look out for fellow physicians."

Florida Medical Association Pain Management Journal

Congratulations to *Andrea M. Trescot, M.D., FAPM Legislative Liaison, and Fred A. Furgang, M.D., FAPM President*, who have been selected from the Florida Academy of Pain Medicine to participate on the Contributing Editorial Board for the FMA's upcoming Pain Management Journal. The Journal is not to be an academic treatise, but rather a practical journal about prescribing narcotics. The journal will go to all 65,000+ MDs and DOs in the State of Florida, regardless of whether or not they are FMA members.

Congratulations to *Edward J. Frankoski, D.O., and Dennis J. Patin, M.D.*, who have been selected from the Florida Society of Anesthesiology to participate in this endeavor, and who are also FAPM members!

Here are some excerpts from the FMA's official memorandum dated October 21, 2005, and email communication dated November 1, both from Bernd Wollschlaeger, M.D., Chair, FMACME Committee and Editor, FMA Journal on Pain Management:

The FMA is working in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General of Florida to publish a **CME Journal on Pain Management and the Role of Physicians in Controlling the Abuse of Pharmaceutical Narcotics and Other Pain Medications**. At the end of this article, you will find attached a document that outlines generally what we hope to accomplish by publishing this journal.

Based on the recommendation of peers and professional organization(s), the following have been chosen to participate on the Contributing Editorial Board for the FMA CME Journal on Pain Management:

FL Academy of Pain Medicine: Fred A. Furgang, M.D. (UMSOM) & Andrea M. Trescot, M.D.

FL Society of Anesthesiology: Edward J. Frankoski, D.O. & Dennis J. Patin, M.D. (UMSOM)

FL Society of Addiction Medicine: Joseph Molea, M.D. & Bernd Wollschlaeger, M.D.

FL Academy of Family Physicians: Penny Tenzer, M.D. (UMSOM)

Project GRACE: Sloan Karver, M.D., President/Chair

FL PRN: Raymond Pomm, M.D., Medical Director

FL Board of Medicine: Larry McPherson, J.D., Executive Director

UF/Shands JAX Pain Clinic: Gary Reisfield, M.D. & Robin Moorman, Pharm.D.

USFCOM/USF Drug Course: Joseph J. Krzanowski, Jr., Ph.D.

(continued on page 4)

Florida Medical Association Pain Management Journal (cont.)

We hope to publish the journal during the first quarter of 2006 with an anticipated mailing date of approximately April 1, 2006. The FMA considers this project to be a wonderful opportunity to serve physicians and patients in Florida, and we are especially grateful to the specialty organizations and other groups who have agreed to be involved.

An educational journal/monograph is an excellent way to present detailed, objective information about a particular topic and reach a large audience immediately. The following outline is a general description of what the FMA anticipates:

I. Introduction:

- a. Explanation of the problem
- b. Rationale for the Journal
- c. Emphasis on physician education versus punitive action
- d. Collaboration between FMA and the AG's office

II. Explanation of Pain

- a. Overview of pain pathophysiology
- b. Clinical assessment tools
- c. Pain as a vital sign
- d. Acute versus chronic pain

III. Pharmacotherapy

- a. Overview
- b. Treatment principles

IV. Clinical Conditions & Pain Management

- a. Cancer
- b. Neuropathic Pain
- c. Nonmalignant Pain

V. Pain Management and Treatment in Different Populations

- a. Children
- b. Older adults
- c. Women & Pregnancy

VI. Pain Management and Substance Abuse Concerns

- a. Pain treatment & addiction
- b. Substance abuse issues
- c. Methadone treatment
- d. Office-based opioid treatment programs
- e. Role of forensic urine testing

VII. Legal & Ethical Aspects of Prescribing Scheduled Drugs

VIII. Addendum Materials:

- a. Pain management protocols
- b. Treatment guidelines
- c. Forms & templates (initial exam, F/U exams, drug screening, etc.)

Work Comp Conference Session on Pain

The annual Florida Workers' Compensation Educational Conference will have a session on "Lumbar Spine Pain Focus: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Controversies" on Monday, August 14, 2006, 1 – 4 pm, at the Orlando World Center Marriott. Continuing education credits will be available. Topics in this session will include, but are not limited to, history and physical exam, MRI and new standing flexion and extension MRI, discography, electrodiagnostics, CT myelography, posterior facet injections, IDET, epidural injections, botulinum toxin type A injections, nucleoplasty, new advances in physical therapy, prolotherapy, rhizotomy, and narcotics. *Andrea M. Trescot, M.D., FAPM Executive Board*, will be on the faculty and will discuss in particular prolotherapy and rhizotomy techniques. *Felix S. Linetsky, M.D., FAPM Secretary*, has promised to be at the microphone on the floor of this session, and anyone else who would like to attend this session should go to the FWCI's website for details: <http://www.fwciweb.org/>.

Get Ready for the 2006 FAPM Conference!

Ronald B. Tolchin, D.O., FAPM President-Elect and Program Chair

The 2006 Florida Academy of Pain Medicine Annual Meeting and Conference will be held Friday – Sunday, July 14 – 16, at The Breakers in Palm Beach. The Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians will meet with us again this year. You can watch the event developing on our website, <http://fapm.med.new.net>, and one can already make hotel reservations. Call **The Breakers at 561 655 6611** (ask for reservations) or their toll free number, **888 273 2537, option #2**. Tell them you're with the Florida Academy of Pain Medicine to get the excellent rate of \$170.00 per night.

The Exhibitor/Sponsor Prospectus is on the website and if any of you have particular vendors you think should be there, please point them to the Prospectus. You can also contact FAPM's Executive Director, Lorry Davis (904 270 8886, Lorry4@earthlink.net), give her the vendor information, and let her contact them in follow-up.

We are very excited and pleased with the program development to date (please keep in mind that this is still a work in progress and not yet "carved in stone").

On Friday, as usual, we will offer two different 4 hour workshops in the morning, and two different 4 hour workshops in the afternoon. One of the a.m. workshops will be a cadaver

course (topic/presenter not yet determined) and the other a.m. workshop will be a detailed Anatomy of Pain course given by **Felix S. Linetsky, M.D., FAPM Secretary**, to lay the predicate for his afternoon cadaver workshop on Regenerative Injection Therapy. The other afternoon workshop will be given by **Anthony J. Dorto, M.D., FAPM Member**, on Impairment Rating/Disability Evaluation. Participants will be invited to bring their own challenging cases for ratings determination.

On Saturday and Sunday, our exhibit hall will be open for continental breakfasts, coffee and beverage breaks, and Saturday's highlight, the President's Reception.

The program will continue on Saturday and Sunday with 10 hours of continuing education in the form of lectures. The meeting will end midday on Sunday. Stay tuned to the website and watch for further program and meeting details also in upcoming issues of this newsletter, PainInfo.

For those of you not yet FAPM members, there is an application enclosed. Please consider joining us and among other benefits, you'll get discounted rates for the aforementioned conference.





Florida Academy of Pain Medicine

Membership Application

Mail with check to: Lorry S. Davis, M.Ed., Executive Director
P.O. Box 330298, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-0298
Ph. 904 270 8886, Fax 904 246 9233

I am a Licensed Physician in good standing. I am enclosing my application fee of \$275.
(Send check if mailed. If faxed, include Visa/Master Card # and Expiration Date.)

Name: _____

Degrees: _____

Please indicate how you would like your name & degrees to appear on documents

Company/Institution: _____

Office Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone : _____ Fax: _____

Email (Important!) _____

Primary Speciality _____

Secondary Speciality _____

Other Areas of Professional Interest _____

Please List Professional Organizations to which you belong: _____ FMA? Yes NO

Board Certification (s) _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Spouses Name _____ Home phone: _____

Home Address: _____

PLI Carrier: _____

State (s) in which you are Licensed to Practice Medicine: _____

License Number(s): _____

Signature _____

Why We Are Here

The Florida Academy of Pain Medicine is dedicated to:

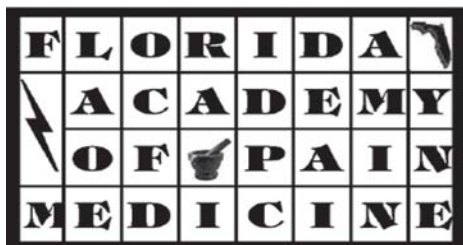
- ◆ The pursuit of a high standard of excellence in the practice of pain medicine;
- ◆ The promotion of the interest of patients suffering from pain;
- ◆ The enhancement of the scope and level of knowledge on pain disorders;
- ◆ Educating physicians to enhance their knowledge in clinical evaluation and treatment of patients with persistent pain disorders through continuing education activities; and
- ◆ Promoting a healthy socio-economic climate conducive to patients suffering from persistent pain to receive high quality and specialized medical care.

Active membership in the Academy is available to all physicians who have an interest in the specialty of pain medicine, including but not limited to: anesthesiologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, physiatrists, and any other physician who specializes in and desires to learn more about treating patients with pain disorders.

Membership Benefits

- ◆ Educational programs designed to keep you up-to-date on the latest developments in pain medicine.
- ◆ Information resources to provide practical insight into dealing with third party payers and regulatory agencies.
- ◆ Opportunities for the exchange of information and experiences with colleagues who have encountered problems similar to those with which you are dealing.
- ◆ PainInfo, the Academy's periodical newsletter, which keeps you informed as to upcoming meetings, Academy activities, and economic, legislative and regulatory information (both state and national) which affects your practice.
- ◆ Representation within Florida's recognized organized medicine body, the Florida Medical Association, both via a seat in the FMA House of Delegates, and a seat on the FMA Specialty Council.





P.O. Box 330298

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-0298

The background of the conference title is a photograph of a large, multi-story resort building with a central tower, surrounded by lush greenery and palm trees. The sky is blue with some clouds.

THE FLORIDA ACADEMY OF PAIN MEDICINE
THE 2006 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

July 14-16, 2006

The Breakers

Palm Beach