



The Florida Academy of **PAIN MEDICINE** Integration & Innovation

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From the President

This is the month you all will be receiving your [dues notices for the 2012 year for FAPM membership](#). I want to take this opportunity to review for you reasons why your membership value has gone up significantly this year.

This past August, your FAPM put on its most successful and up-to-date Annual Educational Meeting. The papers presented were first class, we had excellent faculty with prominent named speakers, the largest attendance in our history, and excellent feedback from attendees. We pledge to continue this for our 2012 meeting in June.

In addition to our excellent annual meetings, however, FAPM has had to jump into the legislative arena to protect our patients and the legitimate practice of Pain Medicine within the state of Florida, which has been on a crusade to rid our state of abuse and diversion of controlled substances by pill mills. We support that effort and have worked diligently for the last three years to become part of the solution.

Over the course of 2011, your FAPM worked closely developing a very sound relationship and presence within the FMA as the premier pain specialty society. This has been largely through the efforts of Raul Monzon, MD, our immediate past president. Raul served as the FAPM delegate to the FMA last year and he continues to do so this year. He has networked diligently with FMA. I served as the Alternate Delegate, and also continue to do so this year. We have placed members onto the education committee, the Legislative Council, the Specialty Section Council, and we have attended the House of Delegates meetings all year. FAPM has worked with the FMA leadership and their lobbyists regarding the recent wave of legislation affecting Pain Medicine practice in the state of Florida. We have coordinated with other specialty societies within the FMA, including FSN, FSA, FSPM&R, FSIPP, FPS, and others to work toward improving the practice of Pain Medicine within our state.

This year, FAPM has also hired a lobbyist to assist us with our Legislative Committee, chaired by our President Elect, Jeff Zipper, MD, to help us craft a glitch bill, that has been submitted for consideration in the 2012 legislative session, which started last week. We are indebted to Senators Bogdanoff and Fasano for their efforts in this glitch bill. This bill is designed to enable legitimate pain docs in Florida to continue to provide pain care with less encroachment from

the legislation from last year that is meant to help us all shut down pill mills and stop inadvertent deaths in Florida from misuse and abuse by inappropriate persons. We are also indebted to attorney Jennifer Lieberman who consults with Dr. Zipper's practice for advice on this glitch bill, and also to the FMA for its interest and support in helping us move it forward. Our current state legislature is a very busy one, and it is a rather complex process to undergo gathering support, writing a piece of legislation, getting legislative sponsors for it, having it submitted, and the next step of sending messages to the appropriate legislative committee members emphasizing our need for their support of this bill. All this, and then we have to hope it passes a floor vote.

Our ability to continue to practice the best pain care possible would be significantly hampered without these efforts. They are not free and not inexpensive, but your FAPM recognizes the importance and the need to protect all of its members who do practice legitimate and compassionate pain care, and their patients, from being thrown out with the greedy pill mill crooks. There are individual counties that are trying to pass local legislation which is even more stringent on pain care practice than the state law, and our legislative committee has also been working with them to minimize the impact on legitimate pain patients and their medical care.

To aid the FAPM's ability to support our proposed legislation and the compassionate legislators who really care that their constituents receive good sound pain care, FAPM has formed a PAC. This PAC needs funding.

Therefore, I encourage all of our current members to continue their membership in the FAPM for 2012 and to also donate to the FAPM PAC, in order to allow FAPM to continue this vital legislative activity level for the sake of all of our patients. You will soon be receiving your dues statements, along with a request for donations to the PAC. Please be generous when responding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Ray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Ray, MD
President

Attached: Member Application